FALL 2016 - CIHR FOUNDATION & PROJECT GRANT COMPETITIONS

Research Services Office Info Session
September 29th, 2016
Objectives

Foundation:
To contribute to a sustainable foundation of new and established health research leaders, by providing long term support for the pursuit of innovative and high impact research programs.

Project:
To capture ideas with the greatest potential to advance health related fundamental or applied knowledge, health research, health care, health systems and/or health outcomes. It supports projects with a specific purpose and a defined end point.

Broadly speaking, Foundation funds PEOPLE, and Project funds IDEAS
Funding - Foundation

- Total envelope of $225 million
- Mid-Career/Senior Investigators: 7-year grants
  New/Early Career Investigators: 5-year grants

- Average per-grant value awarded in the last competition = $3.5 million (U of T awards only)
- Budgets were cut at highly variable rates. Some applicants received their full budget request, while others were cut by nearly half

- At this application stage (Stage 1), you do not request budget at all. Should you be invited to submit to Stage 2, CIHR will provide you with your baseline budget – the suggested amount to request (you can request more though!)
Funding – Foundation (cont’d)

- CIHR establishes baseline budgets by looking at prior CIHR funding history data in the CCV. If no prior CIHR funding, they will contact you with instructions on what to submit so that your baseline can be calculated.

- For the MRA, enter the same amount requested that you did for the Registration in ResearchNet.
Funding - Project

- Total envelope of $137.5 million
- Budget request must be < $12.5 million

- Average per-grant value awarded in the last competition = $713,000 (U of T awards only)
- Budgets were cut at a standard rate. Virtually every successful applicant received 76.45% of what they requested

- Total budget request: rounded to a multiple of $25K
  Individual budget category: rounded to a multiple of $1K
Enter the budget request for the entire duration of the grant. CIHR takes this total amount and divides equally across your proposed period of support.

The budget will not be factored into the scientific assessment of the application; however, CIHR will seek advice of peer reviewers on the budget requested.
Deadlines

**Foundation**
- Internal U of T Deadline October 6th
- CIHR Deadline (Stage 1) October 13th

**Project**
- Internal U of T Deadline October 11th
- CIHR Deadline October 18th

*All that is required for the internal deadline is the MRA (My Research Applications). You can attach a draft proposal to the MRA, and have right up to the CIHR Deadline to work on and submit your proposal. So submit your MRA ASAP!
Career Stage:
Senior, Mid, or New/Early?

- Both grants now ask you to classify yourself by career stage. The definitions for each are, from a specific date*, you have:
  
  New/early career investigator: < 5 years since appointment
  Mid career investigator: Between 5 – 15 years since appointment
  Senior investigator: > 15 years since appointment

- Why is CIHR tracking this?
  They’ve earmarked dedicated funds for New/Early Investigators. They can’t say how much $, because that’s a variable determined by the amount and proportion of submissions received.
  There is no competitive difference between Mid and Senior Career; it’s for statistical purposes only

*For Foundation – this date is July 27th, 2016.
For Project – it’s September 20th, 2016 (the registration deadline)
Leaves of absence will be reflected in this calculation (i.e. deducted from your total), and needs to be reflected in the Employment section of the CCV.

If you’ve indicated a leave in the CCV, and your leave was within the last 7 years, you can attach an Additional CV Information document in ResearchNet’s “Identify Participants” subtask. This allows you to include additional publication data, from > 7 years ago, that won’t otherwise be included in the CCV.
## Foundation - Statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Competition</th>
<th># Stage 1 App</th>
<th># Accepted to Stage 2 App</th>
<th># Funded Total</th>
<th>Success Rate (Funded/Stage 1 Apps)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>National</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FS LP1 09/2014</td>
<td>1,375</td>
<td>467</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>11%</td>
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<tr>
<td>FS LP2 09/2015</td>
<td>910</td>
<td>265</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FS LP2 New Inv.</td>
<td>265</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>12%</td>
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<tr>
<td>FS LP2 Established Inv.</td>
<td>645</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>13%</td>
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<td><strong>U of T</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>FS LP1 09/2014</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>FS LP2 09/2015</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FS LP2 New Inv.</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>FS LP2 Established Inv.</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>21%</td>
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</table>
## Project - Statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Competition</th>
<th># Applications</th>
<th># Funded Total</th>
<th>Success Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>PS LP1 03/2016</td>
<td>3,819</td>
<td>618*</td>
<td>16%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>U of T</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PS LP1 03/2016</td>
<td>202</td>
<td>37**</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* 127 of these were only approved for "Bridge Funding", ~ $100K
** 3 of these were only approved for Bridge Funding
Foundation – Application Process
Adjudication Criteria (Stage 1)

- **Criterion 1: Caliber of the Applicant(s) (75%)**
  - Leadership (25%)
  - Significance of Contributions (25%)
  - Productivity (25%)

- **Criterion 2: Vision and Program Direction (25%)**
Eligibility

• First Foundation competition where the restriction criteria for Program Leaders (associated with the Pilots) have been lifted
  – Competition is now open to all independent researchers with an academic or research appointment (regardless of grant expiry dates)

• The following policies remain in place:
  – If you are successful in the Foundation Competition, all of your existing CIHR Open grants held as a Nominated Principal Applicant will be rolled into your Foundation grant
  – Applicants cannot submit the same or similar application to overlapping competitions. If, at Stage 2, it becomes obvious that the same application was submitted to the Project Grant competition, you will be asked to withdraw one of the applications.
Canadian Common Foundation CV

Funding CV - List of Sections

* Funding Source: CIHR
* CV Type: CIHR Foundation CV

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Included/Entries</th>
<th>Last Updated</th>
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<tbody>
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<tr>
<td>Website</td>
<td>0/0</td>
<td>No Entry</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CIHR Foundation Grant CV

• Your CV should be customized at Stage 1 to reflect the focus and requirements of this stage

• Point to relevant examples in your CV, as appropriate, to demonstrate:
  ▪ Leadership
  ▪ Significance of Contributions
  ▪ Productivity

• If applying with other Program Leaders, you must include relevant examples of joint activities in your CV (e.g., authorships, grants and publications) to illustrate synergy, co-leading history and joint efforts
Adjudication Criteria

• Application sections align with the Foundation Grant adjudication criteria

• You will address each section in a defined text box with a specific character limit, which includes spaces

• Adjudication Criteria Stage 1 focuses on:
  ▪ Caliber of the Applicant(s)
    ✓ Leadership
    ✓ Significance of Contributions
    ✓ Productivity
  ▪ Vision and Program Direction
Application

• No other participants may be added to the application at stage 1

• Program Experts can be added only at stage 2

• Applications must be submitted by the Administrative Coordinator – Program Leader using ResearchNet

• It is your responsibility as the Program Leader/Administrative Coordinator to ensure that your application is complete and sent to your institution paid as part of the eApproval process
Multiple Program Leaders

• All Program Leaders have access and edit rights to the application but only the Administrative Coordinator can submit the application.

• Program Leaders are responsible for including their own information in ResearchNet:
  – Linking their CIHR Foundation CV to application
  – Identifying their career contributions
  – Adding additional CV information – Leaves of absence
  – Providing their consent

• Team must convincingly demonstrate synergy, a history of co-leading research, evidence of joint efforts that resulted in the achievement of tangible benefits and impact, and the co-generation of research output.
  – Assessment of each adjudication criterion will consider both the individual and joint research contributions of the Program co-Leaders.
Project – Application Process
Adjudication Criteria

- **Criterion 1 - Concept**
  - Significance and Impact of the Research (25%)

- **Criterion 2 – Feasibility**
  - Approaches and Methods (50%)
  - Expertise, Experience and Resources (25%)
Step A

Complete a Canadian Common CV

Complete either the Project Biosketch CV or Co-applicant CV

Nominated Principal Applicants (NPA) and Principal Applicants (PA)

- Project Biosketch CV

Co-Applicants

- Project Grant Co-Applicant CV

- The Canadian Common CV (CCV) for the Project Grant application now includes publications from the past seven years.
- NPA and PA will be able to upload a PDF document in ResearchNet to supplement the CCV information if they have taken leaves of absence in the past seven years.
Project Grant: Fall 2016 – Applicants

- The applicant who initiated/opened the Registration is the Nominated Principal Applicant (NPA).
- The NPA must remain unchanged between Registration and Application.
- The NPA adds participants to the application in ResearchNet:
  - Role and participant type
  - Name
  - Validated CIHR PIN;
- Other participants can be added, removed, or changed roles between Registration and Application.
- Applicants ensure that their application is complete prior to submitting it to CIHR.
- Only the NPA has the functionality to submit the application.
New Participants – Roles and Participant Types

**Principal Applicant**
- Independent Researcher – New/Early Career Investigator
- Independent Researcher – Mid Career Investigator
- Independent Researcher - Senior Investigator
- Knowledge User

**Co-Applicant**
- Independent Researcher – New/Early Career Investigator
- Independent Researcher – Mid Career Investigator
- Independent Researcher - Senior Investigator
- Knowledge User
- Trainee
- Other

**Collaborator**
- No participant type
Participants - Subtasks
Task 2: Enter Research Proposal Information

Application

- Applications are “free-form” 10 pages (including figures and tables).
- It is the applicants responsibility to ensure adjudication criteria are addressed in their free form proposal.
- Applicants have the option to attach Response to Previous Reviews and/or Project References PDF documents

Please refer to the Project Grant: Fall 2016 Application Instructions for more details on what to include in your application.
Task 3: Research Summary

• The Research Summary you submitted at registration is pre-populated in the application and can be updated at application.

• In addition to the six descriptors, the summary submitted at registration is a key source of information used to determine the type of expertise required to review your application.

• Thus, it is recommended that minimal changes be made to the Research Summary at the Application stage.
In the Proposal Information – Details task, you are asked “Does your application include a partner and/or a knowledge user?

- If you say Yes, then you must list either a partner (an organization) and/or a knowledge user (a person)
- If you say No, then you can still list partners and/or knowledge users if you want to, but you’re just not being considered as a partnered iKT proposal. For instance, your knowledge user/partner is only involved at end-of-grant, rather than integrated KT
Task 4: Identify Application Partners (Optional)

- Only applicants who identify partners are required to complete this section
- Collects information on all partners involved in your application
- If you do identify partners,
  - You have an additional budget page to disclose the yearly contributions (cash or in kind)
  - You also need to provide a signed letter of support from every partner to detail the yearly cash/in-kind contributions
Proposal Writing & Submission Tips
General Tips for Writing Grant Proposals

1. Start early
   • Get the ideas down – even in incomplete form. This process of brainstorming is an essential first step. At this point avoid self-criticism and do minimal editing.

2. Develop and clarify your ideas
   • As you develop your ideas and create a detailed plan, focus on answering the “why”: Why is this project significant and original? Why should it be funded?

3. Revise, revise, revise
   • Even the best writers have drafts that are disorganized, disconnected, dense, and too long. Revise for coherence, clarity, and concision.
Clarity

Making your meaning transparent

1. Use the active voice
   • Make important actions the verbs of your sentences.
   • Make main characters the subjects of those verbs.

“Prof. X’s more effective presentation of her study resulted in success, despite stiff competition from other researchers.”

Who is the main character? Prof. X
What is she doing? Presenting and succeeding

“Prof. X succeeded because she presented her study more effectively than the other researchers.”
2. Avoid jargon

- Grant reviewers include non-specialist readers. Avoid using technical or discipline-specific language.
- If such language is necessary, be sure to explain the term(s).
- Have a colleague from another discipline read your proposal.

"The requested chocosphere capacitor will synthesize the production of anandamide to promote a response within the euphoria matrix."

"The requested chocosphere capacitor, a supercapacitor for the production of high quality chocolate, will enable the synthesis of anandamide, the ‘bliss molecule,’ in order to increase happiness in Canada and, ultimately, throughout the world."
Clarity cont.

3. Use precise words
Choosing the right word(s) has a huge impact on successfully expressing your ideas.
   • Avoid vague words like *it, this, there, that, aspect, kind, sort, issue.*
   • Use a thesaurus to ensure you have the right word.

“This important aspect shows the impact of the requested nanoindenter on my research.”

“The ability to measure the structural integrity of X provided by the requested nanoindenter will lead to the creation of a new Y.”
4. Use concrete language
Include concrete nouns and verbs (words that evoke the five senses) to make your writing more vivid.

“The modes of feeding of insects are believed to be a result of the formation of their mouths, and are considered to have evolved to various degrees of specialization as a direct consequence.”

“Insects suck, chew, parasitize, bore, store, and even cultivate their foods to a highly sophisticated degree of specialization.”
Peer Review Administration

- This Task is available for both Foundation & Project
- Suggest reviewers to INCLUDE (Canadian or International)
- Suggest reviewers to EXCLUDE (you must provide a rationale)

This is optional... but highly recommended. CIHR values your opinion!
Foundation Grant - Links

- Funding Opportunity (ResearchNet)
- Stage 1 Application Instructions
- Foundation CV – Quick Reference Guide
- Peer Review Manual
- CIHR e-Learning Modules
Project Grant - Links

- Funding Opportunity (ResearchNet)
- Application Instructions
- Project Biosketch CCV – Quick Reference Guide
- Co-Applicant CCV – Quick Reference Guide
- Peer Review Manual
- CIHR Guide to iKT and End-of Grant KT
Both Grants - General Links

- CIHR Archived Webinars
- CIHR Investigator-Initiated Research FAQ’s
- CIHR Conflict of Interest/Confidentiality Policy for Peer Reviewers

- MRA (My Research Applications)
Contacts

Research Services Office:
- Jeremy Knight, Research Funding Manager, Health & Life Sciences
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- Bill Maurice, Research Funding Officer, Health & Life Sciences
  william.maurice@utoronto.ca

FOR MRA technical support – RAISE Helpdesk:
- Phone: 416-946-5000
- Email: raise@utoronto.ca

CIHR Helpdesk:
- Phone: 1-888-603-4178
- Email: support@cihr-irsc.gc.ca
Thanks and all the best on your proposals!