College-Industry Innovation Fund (CIIF)

Spring 2011
• Overview of the CFI
• CFI and Colleges
• College-Industry Innovation Fund
  – Overview and objectives
  – Eligibility
  – Partner contributions
  – Stream 1
  – Stream 2
• Created in 1997 by the Government of Canada
• Mandate to strengthen the research capacity of Canadian institutions
• Supports all fields of science
• Decisions based on excellence
• Funds up to 40% of research infrastructure costs
• Provides some operating support
• Encourages strategic planning
1999 – 2000
– College Research Development Fund

1999 – Present
– Innovation Fund
– Leading Edge / New Initiatives Funds

2010 – 2012
– College-Industry Innovation Fund (CIIF)
  • $25M to enhance research capacity
“The creation, adoption or adaptation of knowledge and technology to develop or improve a product, process or service, with the goal of improving the productivity and competitiveness of a company or a sector”
CIIF Objectives

- Stimulate competitive college-industry R&D partnerships that lead to **business innovation**
- Enhance college applied R&D capacity
- Provide highly qualified personnel with opportunities to participate in R&D activities
- Generate regional and national socio-economic benefits
Stream 1: CFI research infrastructure

- $20M for two competitions

Stream 2: Research infrastructure associated with 5-Year NSERC College and Community Innovation (CCI) Innovation Enhancement (IE) grant

- $5M for two competitions (CCI rounds 8 & 9)

- Up to $800K from the CFI
- Limit of one proposal per competition per stream
Streams 1 & 2 - Established R&D capacity

- Already received R&D funding
  (e.g. from CFI, NSERC-CCI, provincial programs, private sector contracts)

Colleges with an emerging capacity or expanding towards new fields should consider the CCI suite of programs to build capacity
Eligibility

- Colleges: primary mandate to grant college diplomas
- Institution must meet CFI eligibility requirements
  - Documents required prior to April 10, 2011
- Stream 2: must also be eligible at one of the Tri-Councils
- All eligible institutions must provide an updated Institutional Agreement by April and a Strategic Research Plan by the NOI deadline in June 2011
Eligible projects

- For R&D activities requiring research equipment
- Will be used by more than one researcher
- Strong involvement from the private sector
- One or more projects in a field of strategic priority
- In general, infrastructure must be located at the college
• Primarily used for research and research training by faculty, research partners and professionals, technicians and other HQP.

Examples:
- Student internships or part-time research positions
- Research project performed by a student within the research program of a faculty member

• Cannot be used for educational purposes
Eligible costs

CFI funds up to 40% of eligible costs:

– Equipment and components
– Computer software
– Scientific collections
– Databases
– Minor construction or renovations to house CFI infrastructure

Refer to section 4.5 of the Policy and programs guide
Non-eligible costs

- Purchase or lease of real property
- Access to high-speed national and regional networks (e.g., CA.net)
- Office and meeting room space, furniture
- Consumables
- Direct costs of research:
  - Teaching release
  - Travel
  - Student stipends
Eligible partners:

- Private sector
- Colleges
- Provincial and Federal Departments and agencies (except Tri-Council)
- NGO
- Suppliers

- Tri-Council funds are not eligible matching funds
- In-kind contributions count
- Must be secured within 9 months of funding decision
Timeline

2011

- 10 April: CFI eligibility + institutional agreement
- 10 June: Notice of Intent + Strategic Research Plan deadline
- 30 Sep.: Full proposal deadline

2012

- Jan.: CFI committee (MAC) meeting
- March: CFI Board decision and public announcement
- June: Notice of Intent deadline for competition 2

**Evaluation of proposals**

1. Expert reviews
2. MAC

Stream 1
Notice of Intent

1 p. • Cover page: title and project leader, lead institution, amount requested, field of the proposal, key words, signature

1 p. • List of key participants (max. of 8) – names and affiliations

1/2 p. • Principal industrial partners (max. of 5)

1/2 p. • Applied research and technology development program overview

1/2 p. • Infrastructure request

2 p. • Suggested Reviewers (min. of 6)

= 6 pages
Suggested reviewers:

• Expertise in the field of the proposal and/or private R&D process and/or college-based research
• May be from various sectors (e.g. academic, gov’t)
• Canadian and foreign nationals
• Fluent in the language of the proposal

A reviewer must NOT:

• Be from the same institution/organization as the participants/partners
• Appear in the NOI or in the proposal
• Have been a collaborator or student of any the participants/partners in the last six years

CFI makes the final selection

Stream 1
NOI On-line Submission

Steps

1. April: Eligible institutions will receive a password to access its institutional account on the CFI on-line system
2. Project leader and key participants can set-up their accounts
3. Project leader will create the NOI
4. Invitation and consent of key participants to the NOI
5. Submission by Project leader to institution
6. Revision of the NOI by the institution
7. Submission on-line by the institution to the CFI
8. By Mail: Signed copy of the NOI should be mailed to the CFI before June 10 (postmarked)
Full Proposal

• Project Summary
• College Capacity and Track Record
• Contribution to Business Innovation + up to 5 Letters of support + PDF file to include graphs and pictures
• Need for Infrastructure
• Sustainability of the Infrastructure + Operations and Maintenance budget
• Team: Key participants - expertise & complementarity
• Training of Highly Qualified Personnel
• Benefits to Canada
• Performance Indicators
  + Finance Module

Available on-line in May

Stream 1
1. Contribute to business innovation

2. Enhance the applied research and technology development capacity of colleges

3. Provide benefits to Canada
Two-step process:

1. Expert reviews
   - Assessment of strengths and weaknesses against the criteria

2. Multidisciplinary assessment committee
   - Using expert reviews, considers relative merit of competing proposals
   - Considers funding envelope and makes funding recommendations to the CFI Board of Directors
CIIF - Stream 2
CFI and CCI

- CFI participation in CCI-IE rounds 8 and 9
- Cost of research (NSERC) + infrastructure (CFI) in one request
- Streamlined application and review process
- Eligibility at one of the Tri-Councils and the CFI is required
Timeline

2011
- 10 April: CFI eligibility
- 3 June: Letter of Intent deadline
- August: Invitation to submit full proposal
- 28 Oct.: Proposal deadline
- Tri-Council eligibility

2012
- January: NSERC Selection committee meeting
- March: CFI Board decision and public announcement

1- LOI evaluation
2- Expert reviews
3- CCI Committee

Stream 2
CCI and CFI criteria combined

1. Potential to Contribute to Local or Regional Innovation
2. Excellence of the Proposal
3. Need for and Use of Resources

+ CFI criteria on infrastructure portion
Conforms to NSERC CCI-IE program guidelines and uses standard form 186:

• Budget justification includes a brief description of the proposed infrastructure and amount requested from the CFI

• LOI submitted directly to NSERC

Updated instructions available mid-April on NSERC site
Full Application

• NSERC CCI full application submitted to NSERC
• Abbreviated CFI application submitted to the CFI
  • Need for Infrastructure
  • Sustainability of the Infrastructure + Operations and Maintenance budget
  • Team: Expertise and Complementarity
  • Benefits to Canada
  • Performance Indicators
  • Finance Module
Tips & reminders

- Infrastructure needs must be aligned with institutional strategy
- Get partners involved early on to help develop the project strategy
- Identify potential reviewers
- Contact your assigned CFI Senior Programs Officer for any questions
- Confirm your CFI eligibility status
- Consult the *Call for proposals* and CFI *Policy and programs guide* online
April: Information sessions and webinars

Summer: Additional webinars on CIIF proposals for Stream 1

August: NSERC workshop on CCI-CFI proposals for Stream 2 (by invitation)
Next information sessions

Winnipeg: April 18
Webinar 1 (FR): April 19
Webinar 2 (EN): April 29
In-Kind Contributions

- Non-monetary resources that partners provide for projects, e.g.:
  - Equipment donations
  - Special supplier discounts

- Items must be reported at fair market value (= net price in $ + special CFI discount)

Refer to section 6.5 of the Policy and programs guide
CFI Eligibility

Requirements

1. established research and training mission;
2. provision of sufficient time, facilities and services that enable researchers to conduct their research;
3. no institutional constraints on the publication of research results; and
4. willingness and ability to administer CFI funding in accordance with the CFI’s requirements;
5. capacity to support and conduct research;
6. full qualification to carry out independent research and researchers with proven track records.

Policy and program guide
CFI Eligibility

- capacity to support and conduct research;
- full qualification to carry out independent research and researchers with proven track records

Supporting documentation
- a list of research staff and their qualifications, e.g. CVs;
- brief descriptions of a representative sample of the research conducted at the institution;
- a list of research contributions, such as publications, patents, technology transfer activities, conference presentations, etc, by the institution’s researchers over the last three years.
- a list of grants and contracts awarded to the institution and/or the institution’s researchers over the last three years.

Policy and program guide
Infrastructure Operating Fund:

– 30% of the CFI contribution is allocated in addition to the capital investment

– IOF covers a portion of the O & M costs to ensure optimal use of the infrastructure
  • Never expires – remains valid for the entire lifetime of the infrastructure
  • IOF may be claimed annually for eligible expenses incurred in the previous fiscal year
  • Eligible costs for the IOF: Salaries of technicians, services (electricity, security, cleaning), replacement parts, etc.

Refer to section 4.6 of the Policy and programs guide for eligible costs
The Strategic Research Plan should:

- describe the process by which it was elaborated and outline its major objectives;
- outline the priority areas of research and research training;
- describe past and planned institutional support to priority areas;
- describe planned collaborations;
- describe how it will measure success in meeting its objectives.

SRP will be provided to the review committee.
Partnerships

- Participation from the **private sector** is essential from the start (current and future partners)

- Partners to provide letters of support with the full proposal
  - Demonstrates interest, involvement and commitment

- Participation from other sectors permitted but not essential