College Fund
Information Session
February 2022
Agenda

Fund objectives

Timeline

Changes from 2021

Application process

Review process
About the CFI

The Canada Foundation for Innovation makes financial contributions to Canada’s universities, colleges, research hospitals and non-profit research organizations to increase their capability to carry out high-quality research.

The CFI invests in infrastructure that researchers need to think big, innovate and push the boundaries of knowledge. It helps institutions to attract and retain the world’s top talent, to train the next generation of researchers and to support world-class research that strengthens the economy and improves the quality of life for all Canadians.
Objectives of the College Fund

• Create and enhance partnerships with the **public, private or not-for-profit** sectors that lead to innovation. These innovations must address **social, business, health or environmental** needs of a Canadian industry or **community**

• Enhance and optimize the proven applied research capacity of the college that is related to the proposed applied research or technology development activities

• Generate social, economic, health or environmental benefits locally or nationally including the development of highly qualified personnel.
Competition timeline

- **Call for proposals**: January 18, 2022
- **Notice of intent**: April 7, 2022
- **Proposals**: June 7, 2022
- **Expert review**: July to September 2022
- **MAC**: October 2022
- **Decisions**: November 2022
Changes from 2021

Objectives

• Partnerships with public and not-for-profit sectors
• Social, health or environmental benefits

Equity, diversity and inclusion

• Approach based on Tri-agency New Frontiers of Research Fund
• Team criterion
• Benefits criterion, related to highly qualified personnel (in 2024)
Changes from 2021 (cont’d)

Number of proposals per college

- Increased to **three** per college per competition

Streamlined proposals & process

- Reduced requirements for proposals <$250K CFI
- Increased page limit for proposals written in French
- Proposals with two PS ratings or one NS rating will not move on to MAC
- MAC feedback reports only to projects who do not receive funding
Security considerations

Recipient institutions will

• conduct due diligence review of potential security risks for funded projects.
• implement timely measures to appropriately mitigate those risks.

Tools & guidance are available (Government of Canada)

Safeguarding Your Research Portal
National Security Guidelines for Research Partnerships
Safeguarding Science workshops

The CFI

• reserves the right to act upon security concerns
• see Call for Proposals for additional detail
Two-stage application process

Step 1 (mandatory)
Notice of intent

Step 2
Proposal
Notice of intent

SECTIONS
• Project information
• Team
• Project description (PDF attachment)
• At least six suggested reviewers

NOTE:
Advanced research computing infrastructure
• Consult with the Digital Research Alliance of Canada
Proposal

MODULES

- Project
- Finance
- Suggested reviewers

- Project information
- Plain language summary
- Project summary (PDF)
- Team
- Collaborating institutions
- Financial resources for O&M
- Assessment criteria (PDF)
MODULES

- Project
- Finance
- Suggested reviewers

Proposal

- Cost of individual items
- Construction/renovation plans (PDF), if applicable
- Contributions from eligible partners
- Infrastructure utilization
- Overview of infrastructure project funding
Applied research or technology development

The proposed applied research or technology development activities respond to clearly identified needs of an industry or community and have been developed in collaboration with partners to ensure the research achieves the intended outcomes.

Partnerships

The institution has demonstrated its ability to build and maintain productive partnerships with an industry or community. The institution has identified partners for the planned applied research activities. The institution has a plan to stimulate new partnerships with the industry or community.
Infrastructure

The requested infrastructure is necessary and appropriate to conduct the proposed applied research activities. It enhances and integrates with the college’s existing applied research capacity. The infrastructure will be optimally used and maintained to ensure continued collaborations with, and relevance to, the industry or the community.

Team

The team comprises the breadth of expertise and experience needed to conduct the proposed applied research activities and operate the requested infrastructure.
Generate social, economic, health or environmental benefits locally or nationally including the development of highly qualified personnel

**Benefits**

The proposed activities are likely to lead to social, economic, health or environmental benefits at the local or national level. The proposed activities will enable the development of highly qualified personnel.
Merit review process

July – September
Expert Committee
Assesses the strengths and weaknesses of proposals against the assessment criteria

October
Multidisciplinary Assessment Committee
Assesses proposals against the three competition objectives

November
CFI Board of Directors
Makes final funding decision
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people
labs
partnerships

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