

Update

April 2022



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Time for you to review the list of notices of intent for the 2023 Innovation Fund competition

We have now posted the [list of notices of intent \(NOIs\)](#) submitted to the 2023 Innovation Fund competition. If your institution submitted an NOI for this competition, we encourage you to review the list for projects that are complementary to those your institution submitted, or which may present opportunities for potential collaborations or multi-institutional initiatives. The list includes a short description of each proposed project as well as the names of the team leaders, administrative and collaborating institutions, and keywords identified by the applicants.

The deadline to submit a notice of intent was February 23, 2022. We received 310 notices of intent from 67 eligible institutions, requesting approximately \$1.14 billion in CFI funding.

By institution type

Institution type	# NOIs (%)	Total cost \$ (%)	Total CFI request \$ (%)	Average CFI request (\$)
U15 and affiliated hospitals	215 (69%)	\$2,172M (72%)	\$821M (72%)	\$3.82M
Other large universities	51 (16%)	\$421M (14%)	\$167M (15%)	\$3.27M
Small universities	37 (12%)	\$284M (9%)	\$104M (9%)	\$2.81M
Not-for-profit organizations	4 (1%)	\$112M (4%)	\$38M (3%)	\$9.66M
Colleges	3 (1%)	\$15M (1%)	\$6M (1%)	\$1.97M

By project size

CFI request (\$)	# NOI (%)	Total CFI request \$ (%)
More than \$10M	8 (3%)	\$130M (10%)
\$4M – \$10M	83 (27%)	\$500M (35%)
\$2M – \$4M	133 (43%)	\$392M (44%)
Less than \$2M	86 (27%)	\$115M (11%)
Grand total	310 (100%)	\$1,137M (100%)

Since we use notices of intent to assemble review committees, you will not be able to change the name of the team leader(s) or administrative institution in the CFI Awards Management System (CAMS) now that the notices of intent have been submitted. This is to avoid introducing potential conflicts of interest with review committee members. If you do need to make such a change, contact your Senior Programs Officer as soon as possible. We will make the change in CAMS on your behalf.

April 12, 2022: Proposals due for the Biosciences Research Infrastructure Fund competition for biocontainment laboratories and large-animal facilities

We are pleased to announce that we have resumed the Biosciences Research Infrastructure Fund (BRIF) competition for biocontainment laboratories and large-animal facilities. The revised call for proposals is available on Innovation.ca. Institutions that submitted notices of intent last fall are now invited to submit their proposals by April 12, 2022.

May 19, 2022: Notices of intent due for the integrated Canada Biomedical Research Fund and Biosciences Research Infrastructure Fund competition

We are also pleased to announce that the integrated **Canada Biomedical Research Fund (CBRF) and BRIF** competition was launched on March 21, 2022. Support for both of these funds was announced in the 2021 federal budget. The CBRF will invest up to \$225 million over four years to support high-risk, applied research, training and talent development while the BRIF will invest up to \$338 million to support infrastructure needs.

The CBRF, managed by the Tri-agency Institutional Programs Secretariat on behalf of the three federal funding agencies, and BRIF, managed by the CFI, are based on an ecosystem approach, designed to build on existing assets and infrastructure, and to forge partnerships across multiple sectors, including industry and government research facilities. To maximize impact and ensure investments complement and reinforce each other, the programs feature a two-stage, integrated competitive process.

Stage 1: Research hubs selection

Stage 1 of the competition will focus on the selection of three to five research hubs. For this stage, the deadline to submit notices of intent is May 19, 2022 and the application deadline for proposals is July 21, 2022.

Stage 2: CBRF research projects and BRIF infrastructure requests for the selected hubs

After the research hubs have been selected, there will be an open, national call for partnered applied research, research training, and infrastructure projects associated with the selected research hubs.

Funds awarded will contribute to the pipeline of highly qualified personnel and new technologies and will support the translation of academic research into applications and commercial products.

More information is available on the [CBRF–BRIF webpage](#) and will continue to be updated throughout the competition.

Spring 2022: Infrastructure Operating Fund payments

In spring 2022, we will make a payment to institutions for any unused portion of their Infrastructure Operating Fund (IOF) allocation that was made available before April 1, 2018. You will receive a letter in April if such a payment will be made to your institution, with the payment amount and calculation details.

Your institution can request additional payments from its allocation in its IOF annual report (due June 15, 2022) if the spring payment is insufficient to cover immediate needs.

For more information, visit the [IOF webpage](#) at Innovation.ca.

Changes to the “Infrastructure Operating Fund” page in the CFI Awards Management System

We recently changed the way your IOF allocation is presented in the “Infrastructure Operating Fund” page in CAMS. You can now view both the “unused available allocation” and the “unpaid available allocation” on the IOF page. We have also changed the way the “unused available allocation” is calculated and have updated the definitions below. These definitions can also be viewed in CAMS by clicking “Obtain description of allocation.”

Unpaid available allocation

This is equal to the IOF available allocation, less the total CFI Instalments. It represents the portion of the allocation that has not been paid to an institution. In its IOF annual report, an institution cannot request infrastructure operating funds in excess of the unpaid available allocation.

Unused available allocation

This is equal to the IOF available allocation, less the cumulative actual expenditures reported in the latest IOF annual report submitted by the institution. It does not factor in forecasted expenditures reported in the latest IOF annual report.

Changes to the “Institutional overview” page in the CFI Awards Management System

We have changed the look of the “Infrastructure Operating Fund (IOF)” section on your “institutional overview” page in CAMS. In addition, as shown in Figure 1 below, the unused available allocation is now based on the cumulative actual expenditures reported in your latest IOF annual report instead of being based on the payments you have received from the CFI. The “Institutional overview” page only shows a subset of your IOF information. Your full IOF details can be found in the Infrastructure Operating Fund” page in CAMS.

Figure 1 – New calculation of the IOF unused available allocation, as displayed in the “Institutional overview” page of CAMS

Infrastructure Operating Fund (IOF)	
Overall allocation	\$1,000,000
Award agreement	
Available allocation	\$800,000
Less actual expenditures per latest annual report 	(\$500,000)
Unused available allocation per latest annual report	\$300,000
Latest annual report submitted	2021-03-31
Status of latest annual report	Approved

We have also improved the “Financial reports” section to clarify the required actions for financial reports with outstanding issues.

June 30, 2022: Due date for project progress reports for 2021–22

Each year, through project progress reports (PPRs), we collect information on funded projects that have become operational. A project becomes operational when an institution submits a final financial report to the CFI, or the project or team leader answers ‘yes’ to the operational status question in the online CFI awards management system (CAMS).

Typically, questions in the PPR cover the following aspects:

- Any challenges encountered in implementing the infrastructure and its subsequent use and maintenance
- Quality and useful life of the infrastructure

- Sources of funds for infrastructure operation and maintenance
- Level of use
- Information on users
- Research collaborations and partnerships
- Research outputs (e.g., publications, conference presentations)
- Knowledge assets (e.g., intellectual property, licensing agreements, spin-off companies)
- Impact on the training of highly qualified personnel
- Benefits for Canadians

We use this information to report on the contribution of CFI investments to economic, social and environmental benefits and to support continuous improvement in the design and delivery of our programs.

The PPR module and operational status question for 2021–22 are now accessible in CAMS. The deadline for answering the operational status question and submitting a PPR is June 30, 2022.

Project and team leaders accessing PPRs in CAMS for projects submitted before October 2020 will first be asked to reclassify the project using the new **Canadian Research and Development Classification** (CRDC) system. This information will enable us to broaden the use of the CRDC in future analyses of CFI-funded projects, including those projects categorized according to our former classification model.

New in 2022: Annual project reporting for College-Industry Innovation Fund and College Fund awards

New this year, we are adding an annual progress reporting requirement for projects funded under the previous College-Industry Innovation Fund and the new College Fund. Institutions now need to complete a project progress report annually for a period of four years once the research infrastructure becomes operational.

The change to an annual reporting requirement is a reflection of the maturity of our support for colleges and the importance of college funding in our research ecosystem. We recently communicated the new reporting process to colleges including those that need to complete a project progress report this year. Please contact performance@innovation.ca if you have questions.

New communications initiative to help promote your CFI funding

On February 22, we launched a new communications initiative to reach out to researchers when their CFI-funded infrastructure becomes operational. We are hoping this will encourage them to think of the CFI when it comes to communicating about their infrastructure and the research that results from it.

Update

Moving forward, we will email project leaders when we receive a notice from CAMS that their infrastructure is operational. The email will encourage project leaders to raise awareness about the value of CFI funding by:

- Working with their institution's communications departments to [share](#) with the CFI potential communications activities related to their projects
- [Ordering](#) our branded stickers to affix to their CFI-funded infrastructure
- [Listing](#) their lab on the Research Facilities Navigator if they are interested in attracting research partnerships
- Following us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#) and using #CFIfunded in their posts
- [Subscribing](#) to our communications to receive updates on CFI activities.

We look forward to working with your institutions to ensure this initiative helps us communicate the positive impact of CFI funding.

Important upcoming dates

You can always find key dates for all the CFI's funding opportunities on our website. Here are a few important dates coming up:

April 7, 2022	Deadline to submit notices of intent for the 2022 College Fund
April 12, 2022	Deadline to submit proposals for the Biosciences Research Infrastructure Fund competition
May 19, 2022	Deadline to submit notices of intent for the Canada Biomedical Research Fund and Biosciences Research Infrastructure Fund – Stage 1: Research Hubs selection
June 7, 2022	Deadline to submit proposals for the 2022 College Fund
June 14, 2022	CFI Board of Directors meeting
June 15, 2022	Deadline to submit proposals for the 2022 Innovation Fund competition
June 15, 2022	Deadline for to submit proposals to the John R. Evans Leaders Fund – unaffiliated proposals
July 21, 2022	Deadline to submit proposals for the Canada Biomedical Research Fund and Biosciences Research Infrastructure Fund – Stage 1: Research Hubs selection

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