

Update

April 2026



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2025 Innovation Fund competition results

We have been busy reviewing the results and lessons from the 2025 Innovation Fund competition and gearing up for the year ahead. A big thank you to those who responded to our survey for team leaders and liaisons. Your feedback is very valuable to us. We're happy to share that at its December 2025 meeting, the CFI Board of Directors approved 92 proposals from 57 institutions (32 administrative leaders and 25 partners), for a total investment of \$424.7 million. They also approved an additional \$127.4 million in associated operating costs through the Infrastructure Operating Fund. You can find a complete list of awards by institution (administrative and collaborating) in the [press release for the funding announcement](#) for the 2025 Innovation Fund competition.

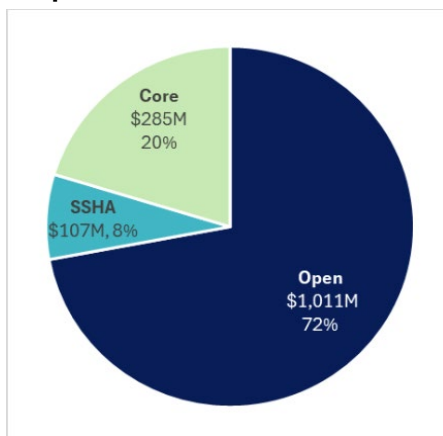
The 2025 competition featured three streams:

1. Leading edge of exploration and knowledge generation (open)
2. Leading edge of exploration and knowledge generation in the social sciences, humanities and the arts (SSHA)
3. Creation, renewal and upgrade of core facilities (core).

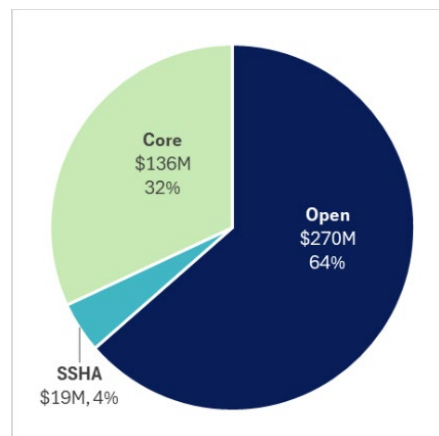
Figure 1 below shows the requested and recommended amounts by stream. The open stream was the most popular option, with the highest requested and recommended amounts. Of note, in 26 recommended proposals from the open stream, applicant institutions reported that a percentage of their requested infrastructure would be integrated into a core facility, which represents an estimated additional \$117 million from the CFI to support core facilities on top of the investments made through the core stream. The creation of the SSHA stream resulted in more submissions from, and an important increase in funding going to, proposals in the social sciences, humanities and the arts.

Figure 1: Requested and recommended amounts by stream

Requested amount



Recommended amount



For more data from this competition, consult our report called **2025 Innovation Fund competition: By the numbers**, which is now available. This analysis highlights various aspects of the review process, as well as the distribution of funding by competition stream, size of institution, region, requested amount, field of research, socioeconomic objective and so on. It also offers an overview of the team composition and shows Innovation Fund success and funding rates since 2017.

Draft call for proposals for the 2027 Innovation Fund competition

We published the **[draft call for proposals](#)** for the 2027 Innovation Fund competition on April 14. We welcome feedback from the Canadian research community and other stakeholders. We will consider this input when we prepare the call for proposals, which will be posted in June.

Information sessions

We will present the details of the call for proposals for the 2027 competition and provide an opportunity for potential applicants to ask questions at two virtual information sessions in June.

Recordings will be available for those unable to attend.

[Register here for the English session from 1 to 2 p.m. \(EDT\) on June 17, 2026](#)

[Register here for the French session from 1 to 2 p.m. \(EDT\) on June 18, 2026](#)

We look forward to receiving your feedback. Should you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact us at **innovation.fund@innovation.ca**.

Call for proposals for the Canada Impact+ Research Infrastructure Fund

We published the **[call for proposals for the Canada Impact+ Research Infrastructure Fund](#)** on March 31.

We will invest up to \$400 million in infrastructure and operations and maintenance to support Canada Impact+ Research Chairs. Canadian universities recognized as eligible by the CFI can apply to this program if they have accepted at least one Chair award.

Information sessions

We will present the details of the call for proposals and provide an opportunity for potential applicants to ask questions at two virtual information sessions in May.

[Register here for the English session from 1 to 2 p.m. \(EDT\) on May 6, 2026](#)

[Register here for the French session from 1 to 2 p.m. \(EDT\) on May 7, 2026](#)

Should you have any questions do not hesitate to contact us at **impactplus@innovation.ca**.

The CFI at the CARA conference

The CFI will be at the Canadian Conference on Research Administration in Richmond, British Columbia, from May 10–13. If you are attending the conference, we invite you to join us for two CFI-led sessions — CFI update; and CFI post-award requirements: compliance, reporting and management — as well as a third session in which we will discuss our approach to using digital object identifiers for awards and reviewer recognition.

The CFI update session will highlight key news on our funding programs, including the recently released 2027 Innovation Fund draft call for proposals and the Canada Impact+ Research Infrastructure Fund call for proposals. We'll share some of the statistics from the 2025 Innovation Fund competition and share updates and information from our colleagues in the CFI finance and communication teams.

The post-award requirements session will be an “ask us anything” format focused on all aspects of CFI post-award management. This interactive event offers participants the opportunity to ask questions, discuss challenges, share experiences and gain valuable perspectives from both CFI representatives and peers.

We're aiming for insightful discussions that everyone can benefit from — so come prepared to participate and ask away!

The CFI at the Canadian Forum for Social Innovation

The CFI will be present at the 4th edition of the Canadian Forum for Social Innovation (CFSI), taking place at the University of Calgary, in Alberta, from June 1–3. This forum will convene key stakeholders and prospective partners to help articulate a shared vision for Canada's science and innovation ecosystem. On June 3, a CFSI Symposium will convene senior leaders across sectors to launch the Strategic Science and Innovation Leadership Initiative (SSIL). This initiative aims to support the development of a coherent, shared vision for Canada's Science and Innovation Strategy. Building on collaborative work with stakeholders over the past year, both the forum and the symposium will explore several central themes critical to the future of research and innovation in Canada. We look forward to engaging with members of the research community during the event to listen, exchange perspectives and identify meaningful ways to better support their future and emerging needs.

CFI participation in BOREALIS

The CFI has engaged early with the Bureau of Research, Engineering and Advanced Leadership in Innovation and Science (BOREALIS), a Department of National Defence-led initiative to modernize Canada's defence and national security innovation ecosystem. This engagement is intended to support alignment between research infrastructure investments and mission-driven innovation priorities, particularly in emerging and dual-use technologies. Through a system level lens, the CFI contributes to broader federal efforts to ensure that foundational research capacity can connect effectively to secure downstream pathways critical to Canada's defence and security objectives.

Delegation from the OECD at the CFI

The CFI is proud to contribute to international policy discussions through its engagement with two expert groups of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's (OECD) Global Science Forum.

From June 1–3, we will host the in-person workshop of the expert group on “Optimising the operation of core facilities and services” at our office in Ottawa. The workshop will bring together leading experts from 13 countries to examine the value, governance, workforce and sustainable funding of core facilities, with the CFI serving as host and convener of these discussions.

The CFI is also participating in the OECD expert group on the Environmental Footprint of Research, which will hold an online workshop on May 26–27, 2027, open to Canadian institutions. Those interested in participating are invited to contact Lawrence Robinson (lawrence.robinson@innovation.ca) for further details.

Project progress report and project financial report deadlines approaching

The 2026 operational status question and project progress reports (PPRs) can now be accessed in CAMS. The deadline for answering the operational status question and submitting a PPR is June 30, 2026. We use PPRs as a key source of information to help us manage projects and to assess and report on the impact of our investments.

Interim financial reports for the period ending March 31, 2026, must be submitted by June 15, 2026, for ongoing infrastructure projects, as well as MSIs, that received CFI funds prior to this date. If your institution is planning to submit a final financial report by September 30, 2026, you do not need to submit an interim report by June 15, 2026. The list of reports that your institution needs to submit is available in CAMS. All financial reports must be submitted electronically in CAMS.

Infrastructure Operating Fund annual reports deadline approaching

Your institution's Infrastructure Operating Fund (IOF) annual report must be submitted by June 15, 2026. This report must include your actual expenditures up to March 31, 2026 and your projected expenditures for 2026–27. This report must be submitted electronically in CAMS and is due regardless of whether your institution had any actual or forecasted expenditures to report.

You can now find **updated electricity costs and facilities charges rate tables for 2025–26 on our IOF webpage**. You can use these tables to calculate electricity costs and facilities charges if you choose to report these costs in your IOF annual report using the simple method. The CFI has contracted a new service provider this year to establish these rates. In many instances, the 2025–26 CFI posted rates for facilities charges represent significant increases over last year's rates (very significant increases in the case of animal facilities). For those of you who are using your own calculated rates, it may be worthwhile comparing them with the new CFI posted rates. We update these tables annually, usually in April. Thank you for the time and effort your institution dedicates to reporting to the CFI.

Spring 2026 payments from the Infrastructure Operating Fund

We make payments from the IOF each spring, two years after the associated infrastructure award is finalized. As such, in spring 2026, we will make payments to institutions for any unused portion of their IOF allocation that was made available before April 1, 2024.

We use a risk-based approach for making payments to institutions. For example, an institution will receive this advance spring payment only if our analyses of its recent IOF annual reports suggest the institution would take no more than five years to use the funds.

You will receive a letter if such a payment will be made to your institution. The letter will include the payment amount and calculation details. Your institution can request additional payments from its allocation in its IOF annual report (due June 15, 2026) if the spring payment is insufficient to cover your needs for the year.

We will also notify institutions that will not receive the advance spring payment and explain the reason.

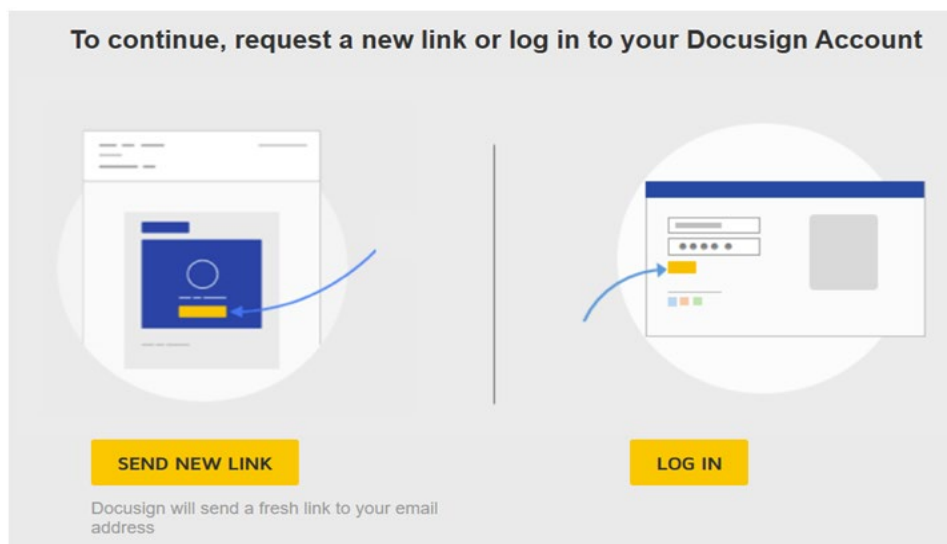
Visit the **IOF webpage** for more information.

Important information for signing award agreements and institutional agreements with DocuSign

The CFI uses a digital signature process via DocuSign to sign award agreements and institutional agreements. As a security precaution, all DocuSign links included in the email notification expire after 48 hours. If the recipient does not sign the document within that timeframe, they will need to either request a new link or log into their DocuSign account to access the documents requiring a signature.

Requesting a new link

When a user clicks on the original (expired) link, they will be redirected to another page for a new link (pictured on the left below). DocuSign will provide new links automatically without the CFI's intervention.



Logging into a DocuSign account

When a user clicks on the original (expired) link, they will be redirected to a page providing them with an option to login their account (pictured above).

If you have a DocuSign account (or if you sign up for one), you can login to your account and all documents requiring signatures will be accessible for a period of 30 days.

We encourage all users to sign up for a DocuSign account and to avoid forwarding the DocuSign email notification to another individual for their signature. If signatories have changed, you can request a change to the authorized signatory by replying to the DocuSign email.

For any questions or further clarification, please feel free to reach out to your institution's Programs Officer or Senior Programs Officer.

New outcome stories about research at your institution

We regularly promote stories about the research projects we fund. Check out our latest:

- [Making manufacturing smarter](#) (Red River College Polytech)
- [Catalyzing Canada’s quantum future](#) (University of Alberta)
- [Cooking up a quantum revolution](#) (University of British Columbia)

Important upcoming dates

May 6, 2026	Information session in English for the Canada Impact+ Research Infrastructure Fund call for proposals
May 7, 2026	Information session in French for the Canada Impact+ Research Infrastructure Fund call for proposals
May 14, 2026	Deadline to submit feedback on the draft call for proposals for the 2027 Innovation Fund competition
June 3, 2026	CFI issues call for proposals for the 2027 Innovation Fund competition
June 15, 2026	Deadline to submit proposals for the John R. Evans Leaders Fund competition
June 15, 2026	Deadline to submit interim financial reports for the period ending March 31, 2026, for ongoing infrastructure projects as well as MSIs that received CFI funds prior to this date
June 15, 2026	Deadline to submit Infrastructure Operating Fund annual reports
June 15–16, 2026	CFI Board of Directors’ meeting
June 17, 2026	Information session in English for the 2027 Innovation Fund
June 18, 2026	Information session in French for the 2027 Innovation Fund
June 30, 2026	Deadline to answer the operational status question in CAMS
June 30, 2026	Deadline to submit project progress reports (PPRs)
September 17, 2026	Deadline to submit proposals for the College Fund competition
September 29, 2026	Deadline to submit notices of intent for 2027 Innovation Fund competition
October 2026	Deadline to submit proposals for the Canada Impact+ Research Infrastructure Fund – Intake 1

Update

October 15, 2026	Deadline to submit proposals for the John R. Evans Leaders Fund competition
November 16–17, 2026	CFI Board of Directors' meeting

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