

# Overview of recent CFI changes to the Policy and Program Guide

Webinar presented on October 22, 2013

# Agenda

- **Chapter 1**  
Setting the context
- **Chapter 2**  
Overview of recent changes
- **Chapter 3**  
Questions and discussion

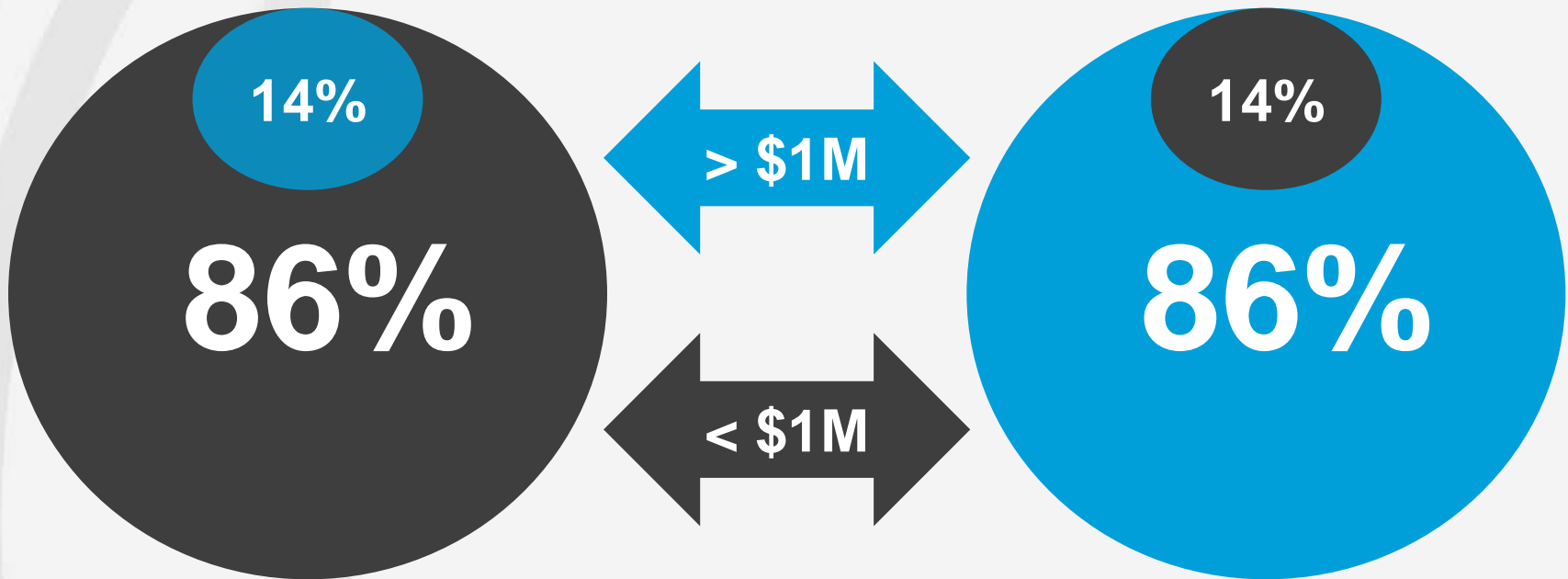
# Chapter 1

## Setting the context

# CFI awards

# of awards

CFI \$



# Off the rack, or tailored?

One-size-fits-all  
approach?



OR

Tailored  
approach?



# Chapter 2

Overview of recent changes

# Changes are being made on three fronts

1. Working smarter and reducing burden
  - *Transitioning to risk-based management*
  - *Shift to a portfolio-management approach*
  - *Revisiting other requirements and practices*
2. Addressing challenges to ensure we remain highly accountable
3. Continuously improving our practices to ensure we achieve expected results

# Transitioning to risk-based management

- Tolerance for risk (6.1)
- Tailored oversight practices
- Threshold of “\$1 million CFI contribution”

	PPG	<\$1 million	>\$1 million
Disbursements	6.3.3	one (at finalization)	several (as forecasted)
Frequency of financial reporting	6.7.1	every two years	annual



# Transitioning to risk-based management (cont'd)

- Streamlined award finalization (6.2.5)
  - Finalization documents
  - Updated budget/itemized list
  - Prior approval of infrastructure changes

# Transitioning to risk-based management (cont'd)

- Tool for Risk Assessment and Management (TRAAM) (6.1)
- Monitoring visits and audits (6.9)

# End result

More effective and  
efficient oversight  
mechanisms



# Shift to a portfolio-management approach

Allows institutions and the CFI to:

- ✓ Improve decision making
- ✓ Facilitate optimal implementation and efficiencies
- ✓ Enhance infrastructure sustainability



# Changes to facilitate a portfolio-management approach

- ✓ Considering projects as part of a portfolio (5.2 and 6.1)
- ✓ Increased flexibility to make acceptable infrastructure changes (6.6.1)
- ✓ Fewer amendment requests



# Changes to facilitate a portfolio-management approach (cont'd)

- ✓ Increased flexibility of CFI funding share up to 40% (6.3.1 and 6.3.5)
- ✓ Now allowed: Cost allocation of a single item shared between projects (6.4.3)
- ✓ Use of savings to cover cost overruns (6.6.4)
- ✓ Basket purchases (6.4.3)



# Revisiting other requirements and practices

- High Performance Computing (4.6.4): new section
- Infrastructure use (4.2)
- **Section 5: Application & review process**
  - Governing principles for reviewers (5.4.1): harmonized policy with CIHR, NSERC and SSHRC



# Revisiting other requirements and practices (cont'd)

- Procurement practices (6.4.1)
- Retention period for supporting documentation (6.4.3)



# Revisiting other requirements and practices (con't)

- **Section 7: Evaluation and outcome assessment**
  - Elimination of the Institutional reports
  - Project Progress Reports (7.3.1)
- **Section 8: Communicating research impacts**
  - Harmonized public communications policy with CIHR, NSERC and SSHRC

# Remaining highly accountable

- In-kind contributions (6.5)
- Fair market value
- Significant in-kind contributions
- Institutions involved at the outset

# Continuously improving our practices to ensure we achieve expected results

- Greater emphasis on sustainability
  - Overall O&M needs (6.8)
- Improving linkages with the private sector
  - The CFI Research Facilities Navigator



# Chapter 3

Questions and discussion

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