NFRF Exploration Full Application Webinar Q&A

General

Q: when will we know if our NOI has been approved and we can write the full application?
A: All applications have been transitioned to the Full Application Stage. You may view your application in the convergence portal. The status of the application will now read "in progress".

Q: How will applications from early career researchers be treated differently? -
A: The application is not treated differently. If the NPI and Co-pi are ECR, the application will be considered ECR led.

Q: Would there be a higher chance of success for ECR?
A: A proportion of the awards are reserved for ECRs (proportional to ECR-led Full applications that are submitted). We don't have data to share right now currently if this translates to a higher success rate.

Q: How many proposals were submitted this year?-
A: We received 577 NOI for this year's competition.

Q: For the proposed time, should we consider 1 year or can we consider 2 years?
A: This is a 2 year grant.

Q: Is the commercialization aspect of a proposal a consideration factor (part of feasibility maybe)?
A: If commercialization is considered the "obvious next" step for research it does not meet the criteria of High Risk for the program and shouldn't be submitted to Exploration. As every situation is specific, I suggest contacting the program at nfrf-fnfr@chairs-chaires.gc.ca for more details.

Q: Are examples of successful grants available?
A: Yes, you can see them under "Award recipients" on the web pages for past Exploration competitions. https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/exploration/2020/award_recipients-beneficiaires_du_financement-eng.aspx-

Team

Q: How many Co-PIs may there be? Can a co-App be part of another application in this competition?
A: There can be up to one co-PI. Co-apps can participate in only one Exploration application or grant at a time.

Q: If the NPI supervises someone, could this person be a co-applicant for the proposal? (This person is from a different discipline than the NPI)
A: Someone supervised by a team member cannot be a Co-Pi or Co-Applicant.

Q: Could industry partner be co-applicant?-
A: Yes, Co-applicants may be, but are not limited to, practitioners, policy-makers, educators, decision-makers, health-care administrators, Indigenous Elders, Indigenous Knowledge Keepers, community leaders, or individuals working for a charity. Co-applicants may be affiliated with a Canadian or international organization, but must not be affiliated with a federal, provincial, territorial or municipal government department or a for-profit organization. Students, postdoctoral fellows, research associates, etc.

Full Proposal Sections

Q: Are CRDC code selections locked at the NOI stage?
A: Yes CRDC code selections are locked at the NOI stage.

Q: Can reviewers determine the applicant's names by looking at the publications cited in the proposal?
A: Studies have shown that when reviewers guess the identities of applicants in double-blind processes, they are often wrong.

Q: How is the review double-blinded?
A: The external reviewers will receive the summary from the NOI, the GBA+ section, the research proposal, budget justification and the literature references. No personal information about the team members will be shared. Applicants must write these sections without identifying information.

Q: Are preliminary data expected?
A: No this is not mandatory for your application.

Q: Can you clarify - the proposal should discuss EDI in terms of the research plan (i.e. GBA+), whereas EDI in relation to the research team should be discussed in the EDI section on the portal?-
A: Yes that is correct. We have a guide with Best Practices in Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in Research that can be helpful for applicants: https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/edi-eng.aspx-

Q: Do the EDI sections need to be de-identified?
A: Yes, focus on the team's commitment to EDI, not on its EDI profile. However, Information that reveals team members' affiliations (including departments, lab groups, etc.) may be included in this section, if relevant. And to confirm, applications must not include any self-identifying information about members of the research team in the EDI section.

Q: Is the "Biographical information about the research team (maximum 2 pages)" also expected to be anonymous/de-identified? -
A: No, you can include information about yourself, your lab group and institution in the biographical section. The external reviewers do not receive that section of the proposal

Q: The literature references document allows a maximum of 5 pages (if written in English). Is the expected format of the literature references a list of cited papers and reports (similar to the reference list in a typical paper publication), or it allows other type of references (e.g., graphs, letters etc.)? Thank you.
A: This section is to provide a list of the references cited in the application. There should be no graphs or letters included.

Q: Can the research proposal contain appendices?
A: No appendices can be attached. You have only the maximum pages available for this section to enter your proposal.