

SPARC NFRF Exploration Information session June 15, 2022 Q&A

Q: After the NOI submission, do we wait for invitation to submit the full application?

A: The NOI is not competitive; it is used to determine eligibility and to identify potential reviewers. Once you submit your NOI, you will be able to access the Full Application in the Convergence Portal (access opens on July 5). In other words, you do not need to wait for an invitation from NFRF.

Q: Can a postdoc be co-PI?

A: No. Postdocs can be collaborators; however only if they are not supervised by the NPI, co-PI, co-applicant and/or another collaborator.

Q: If you are evaluating a medical device with a specific name, is that considered an identifying label?

A: You can refer to previous work, and include references, you just can't say it's yours. SPARC would certainly work some 'grantsmanship magic' if it's a prototype that you/a team member developed or was developed in a specific location.

Q: If you fail the EDI criteria and do not get funding, is this included in calculating the 23% success rate?

A: Yes, the success rate is the # of awards divided by the # of full applications received.

Q: If you are trying to communicate that your group has members from visible minority groups, would it be acceptable/advisable to indicate that e.g. we have members in our group from China, Iran, etc. to emphasize the level of diversity or would it be better to just say e.g. we have members in our group from visible minority groups? Of course not counting specific numbers of individuals from these groups!

A: Good question! You could say you have members from specific countries (without naming or including numbers, of course). However, NFRF reviewers are less interested in what you have currently than in what you will be doing together moving forward with NFRF Exploration funds. You may also communicate that you will be building on an already diverse group and their experiences/input to commit to your best practices.

Q: What about EDI in the research participants recruitment?

A: Yes, this is the EDI-RD (so, GBA+/SGBA) piece that should be included in your 4-page Research Proposal (rather than the EDI-RP (so, EDI) that is covered in the multiple text boxes in the Convergence Portal (e.g., Analysis of Context, Best Practices, and Relevance, Approach and Impact).

Q: How are patient partners viewed on the application? Say as collaborators

A: Yes, if it's relevant, then absolutely! But you can only name them in the Team Bio section vs mentioning (generally) patient partners in the Research Proposal section. If you include personal information, such as lived experience, in the team bio section, ensure you have permission to do so from the people involved.

Q: Can I say a director of the hospital provides an in kind office ...

A: Yes, this is fine, e.g., in the budget justification section, just without the hospital's or the Director's name.

Q: For SPARC NOI reviews do you mean that the window to send these to you is June 20-23

A: You can send it anytime now. 10am on Thurs, Jun 23 is the deadline for submitting your NOI to SPARC because our goal is to provide all feedback by end-of-day the next day (i.e., Friday).

Q: Who are the SPARC contact people for different competitions?

A: SPARC contact page: <https://sparc.ubc.ca/sparc-support-and-resources/contact-us>