

Policy on Awarding Research Grants By the Canadian Foundation of Women's Health

Purpose

In keeping with the mission of the Canadian Foundation for Women's Health (CFWH; the Foundation) to promote and advance the physical, mental and social health of women throughout their lifespan, the Foundation offers financial assistance through grant competition for innovative research/applied research that promotes women's health.

Guiding Principles

The CFWH Research Grants process upholds the following principles:

- Equity and Justice by supporting funding of research that will advance wellbeing for marginalized women, women subject to racial or ethnic inequities, women of the indigenous communities, and women of communities under-represented in academia and research.
- Non-Discrimination, inclusion and representation by ensuring that funding decisions will not discriminate based on race, ethnicity, nationality, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, religion, or age of the investigators.
- Community Impact by ensuring that the research benefits women's health in general, and of which results and conclusions can impact knowledge mobilization to promote the scientific evidence and policies pertaining to women's health.

Eligibility

- Applicants must be affiliated with a Canadian university or health care institution able to provide ethics review in compliance with Canadian research standards. Applicants must already have had ethics approval from their health institution to proceed with the research proposed. Preference is given to those projects led or supervised/mentored by researchers with a proven track record in research. Fellows, residents and students are also eligible applicants provided their work in the project is mentored and overseen by researchers of proven track records
- Preference will be given to applications where at least one applicant is a member in good standing of the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada.
- The focus of the research project should be women's health.
- The scope of the application can be basic science, clinical science, allied health, applied science, epidemiology, provision and access to care, public health, health policy, education or the law as applied to women's health.
- Research proposals submitted are preferably "stand-alone" projects but may be a research proposal attached to larger multidisciplinary, multicentered research project (e.g. secondary analysis, or subgroup analyses from a major project, or exploration of another aspect of the original research) of a larger nationally funded project. In this case, the research proposal to CFWH must have clear deliverables and must provide new or expanded scope of findings and conclusions in women's health of the original work.

- Priority will be given to projects that will be completed within two to three years and have potential for publication.
- The Award winner(s) must provide annual progress reports to the CFWH and a final report in addition to a copy of publication(s).

The Awards

The amount of funding awarded may differ for each grant/funding opportunity. (Refer to the CFWH website for the list of awards, amount of funding, and major donors).

The Application

- The annual application deadline is December 15th.
- Applications may be submitted in either English or French.
- All applications should be submitted electronically to research@sogc.com
- The application requirements are:
 1. A cover letter that includes:
 - a. The project title
 - b. Site of research and university affiliation(s)
 - c. Name and contact information for each member of the research team
 - d. A summary of the project
 - e. How the project upholds the aims and principles of the CFWH and the specific Grant.
 2. A detailed proposal up to 5 numbered pages that includes:
 - a. A 200-word abstract
 - b. Background information to justify the objectives of the project, targeted population, considerations of potential biases in research design and mitigation strategies
 - c. Project objectives and hypothesis
 - d. Anticipated primary and secondary outcomes
 - e. Methodology
 - i. Source of data
 - ii. Analysis plan
 - iii. Impact of results
 - f. Knowledge mobilization plan
 - g. Timeline (not to exceed 3 years)
 - h. References.
 3. Curriculum Vitae of the principal applicant. For trainees, include CV of trainee and CV of mentor/supervisor.
 4. Letter of institutional support.
 5. Itemized budget, with justification of each expense.
- Receipt of the proposal will be acknowledged within 5 days of receipt. INCOMPLETE PROPOSALS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

- Successful applicants are required to submit a final report upon completion of the project, as well as a final budget report and an abstract (500 words excluding title and names of authors and affiliations) of the project's results, with acknowledgement to the CFWH. The abstract in part or in whole, may be used at the discretion of the Foundation in articles and in presentations
- The applicant agrees to acknowledge the financial support of the CFWH for presentation or publication of the work.

Review Process

The grant review process is the responsibility of the Scientific Research Review Committee of the CFWH. The members of the Research Review Committee will:

- Have expertise in grant reviews and lived research experience
- Consist of members with the ability to review applications in English and French
- Maintain confidentiality of the review deliberations
- Identify any conflicts of interest, or any that could be perceived as conflicts
- Conduct themselves in a manner that is free of conscious and unconscious bias and racism, and be able to use equitable evaluation practices
- Rate each proposal independently by scoring based on:
 - Scientific or scholarly merit
 - Originality
 - Equity and inclusion
 - Impact on women's health
 - Feasibility
 - Knowledge mobilization.
- Ensure equitable consensus-based decision making once all scoring is completed.

Awarding of Research Grants

The recipient(s) awarded grant funding be contacted directly by the CFWH in February of each year cycle. The awards will be announced at the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada's Annual Clinical and Scientific Conference (ACSC).

Policy Review

The Policy on awarding research grants will be reviewed by the Foundation's Board of Directors every three years, or sooner if required.