

Q & A Session for New Frontiers in Research Fund 2020

Transformation Competition LOI Webinar

February 26, 2020

Session Name: NFRFT -
LOI Webinar - English

Session Number:
711715661

Date: Wednesday,
February 26, 2020

Starting Time: 10:06:00
AM

Question	Answer	Attende e Name	Submit ted On	Respon ded By	Respon ded On
what is the access code for the call in?	711 715 661	Jennifer Chen	10:58 AM	NFRF FNFR	10:58 AM
Is this webinar being recorded and will it be available later for viewing? Also I hear no sounds	Yes it will be recorded and sent to RGOs for distribution	faisal khosa	11:01 AM	NFRF- FNFR	11:01 AM
Is there a preference for projects that involve researchers from beyond one institution? one region? Canada?	The presentation will go over the interdisciplinary component of a project	Judith Chadwic k	11:07 AM	NFRF- FNFR	11:08 AM
Is there a preference for projects that involve researchers from beyond one institution? one region? Canada?	National, international and cross-sector collaborations are encouraged	Judith Chadwic k	11:07 AM	Jessica NFRF	11:08 AM
Might a project much shorter than the six year maximum term be funded?	The project can be up to 6 years	UCalgar y IPD	11:09 AM	NFRF- FNFR	11:10 AM

OK, but not asking about disciplinary representation...	International and other collaborations will be discussed shortly.	Judith Chadwick	11:10 AM	Jessica NFRF	11:11 AM
Does the ECR have to be the NPI, Co-PI or Co-App - or can they be the Collaborator?	They cannot be collaborators to count. They only count if they are a NPI, Co-PI or co-app	Christy McTait	11:10 AM	NFRF Guillaume	11:11 AM
Can ECRs lead teams?	Yes.	Lauren Kelly	11:10 AM	Jessica NFRF	11:11 AM
Can team members added at NOI be removed at LOI?	While additional members may be added, those identified at the NOI stage are expected to remain part of the project team.	Christy McTait	11:12 AM	Jessica NFRF	11:13 AM
Is there any advice on whether there is a maximum % of funding to be transferred to international team members? E.g., is it advisable to limit that to less than 50%?	Hi Jackie, this will depend on projects, there are no set guidelines for amounts that should be transferred nationally or internationally	Jackie Cooney-Birch	11:12 AM	NFRF-FNFR	11:13 AM
You indicated funds are not available for infrastructure. Is there a limit on use of funds to buy equipment needed for the research?	Hello, Here is the link to our website regarding the use of grant funds : https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/transformation/2020/competition-concours-eng.aspx#8	U of Alberta Research Office	11:13 AM	Melanie NFRF	11:16 AM
Are international co-applicants eligible to receive part of the funds?	Yes, they are eligible to receive part of the funds. Please refer to the Tri-Agency Guide on Financial Administration for more information! https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/InterAgency-Interorganismes/TAFA-AFTO/guide-guide_eng.asp	Ines Hessler	11:13 AM	NFRF Guillaume	11:15 AM

So NPIs do not have the ability to delete team members in the Convergence Portal?	Hi Christy, NPIs will be able to delete members at the LOI stage	Christy McTait	11:14 AM	NFRF-FNFR	11:15 AM
Is a US professor (US universities may be for-profit) eligible to be co-PI or co-applicant?	A US Professor is eligible to be co-PI or Co-applicant!	Tianshu Li	11:17 AM	NFRF-Guillaume	11:18 AM
416 or 460 NOIs?	460	Christy McTait	11:20 AM	Melanie NFRF	11:19 AM
Are individuals associated with local health authorities considered to work for government?	Hi Jackie, please send details to the NFRF-FNFR@chairs-chaire.gc.ca inbox with further details	Jackie Cooney-Birch	11:19 AM	NFRF-FNFR	11:20 AM
how many will be invited to full application?	30-40 will be invited	Lauren Kelly	11:20 AM	NFRF-FNFR	11:20 AM
When will the LOI application be available in the portal?	It is currently available!	OCAD U	11:21 AM	NFRF-Guillaume	11:21 AM
Will there be feedback given from the panel at the LOI stage?	ity criteria, as well as a pass, fail, or mixed assessment for the interdisciplinarity and EDI/ECR criteria. Comments from the review panel will be provided for LOIs that are discussed at the meeting. No comments will be available for those not discussed.	University of Waterloo (UW)	11:21 AM	NFRF-FNFR	11:22 AM
Will there be feedback given from the panel at the LOI stage?	Sorry my answer cut off! The first part should read: All applicants will receive the overall ratings for the high risk, high reward and feasibility criteria,	University of Waterloo (UW)	11:21 AM	NFRF-FNFR	11:22 AM
will the LOIs be adjudicated on line or in person?	In person.	Carole Estabrooks	11:23 AM	Jessica NFRF	11:23 AM

Does the review panel include suggested reviewers from NOI/LOI stage?	It might, but by coincidence. We will not be using the list of suggested external reviewers as we need to start building our committee now.	Jennifer Chen	11:21 AM	NFRF Guillaume	11:24 AM
Has the pitch element been removed from the application?	This is the jury stage of the full app	Emma Dering	11:23 AM	NFRF-FNFR	11:24 AM
Will we receive the adjudication forms with respect to weighting - at a more granular level than 60-20-20?	Do you mean the evaluation matrices? They are on our website: https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/transformation/2020/merit_indicators-indicateurs_du_merite-eng.aspx	Carole Estabrooks	11:24 AM	Jessica NFRF	11:25 AM
You can keep adding collaborators and co-is after LOI submitted? Will there be feedback on LOI?	While additional members may be added, those identified at the Notice of Intent (NOI) and LOI stages are expected to remain part of the project team.	Nicole Letourneau	11:25 AM	Jessica NFRF	11:26 AM
Can you comment on whether there are any advantages/disadvantages to naming investigators as Co-Applicants vs Co-PIs?	There are no advantages or disadvantages, however the roles are different. With the NPI for the direction of the proposed activities and may access grant funds. Co-applicants contribute to the execution of the research project and may access grant funds.	Sara A	11:25 AM	NFRF Guillaume	11:26 AM
from Karthik Shankar to host (privately): This is Karthik from ECE. What about Professors with spin-off companies? Are they eligible to be co-PIs or co-applicants ?	Please send us this question directly to us at : NFRF-FNFR@chairs-chaire.gc.ca	Karthik Shankar	11:26 AM	Melanie NFRF	11:26 AM

how do we change status of team members from CO-PI to Co-Applicant	You will need to remove them from the application and re-invite them with the different role	Jyoti Kotecha	11:26 AM	NFRF Guillaume	11:27 AM
Can USA universities with 50% indirect costs be included as co-applicants?	I'm sorry, I'm not sure I understand the question	MICHAEL HOUGHTON	10:26 AM	NFRF Guillaume	11:27 AM
Will there be feedback on the LOI?	LOIs that are discussed will receive comments from the committee.	Nicole Letourneau	11:27 AM	Jessica NFRF	11:27 AM
Can the Co-PI have edit access to the application portal?	Hello, No this isn't possible only the NPI has edit access in the portal.	Khalid Elgazzar	11:27 AM	Melanie NFRF	11:29 AM
Can co-applicants be added at the LOI level?	Yes, they can	Yves Bérubé-Lauzière	11:28 AM	NFRF-FNFR	11:29 AM
Will collaborators be required to provide letters of support for the LOI or full application?	Hi Johanne, no we do not require letters of support	Johanne Provencal	11:28 AM	NFRF-FNFR	11:29 AM
Will collaborators be required to provide letters of support for the LOI or full application?	Hello, no collaborators will not need to provide support letters.	Johanne Provencal	11:28 AM	Melanie NFRF	11:29 AM
Are collaborators mandatory in the LOI? Are they factored in the jury's evaluation process?	They are not required to be part of the LOI	Evelyn Siu	11:28 AM	NFRF Guillaume	11:29 AM
Will the LOI made public?	Hello, Can you please clarify your question, I am unsure what you are trying to ask. thank you.	McGill University	11:25 AM	Melanie NFRF	11:30 AM
You mentioned that team members are expected to remain the same from NOI to LOI. Is this a requirement or can they change?	While additional members may be added, those identified at the NOI stage are expected to remain part of the project team.	University of Waterloo (UW)	11:26 AM	Jessica NFRF	11:30 AM

Is there a minimum number of Canadian reviewers that must be included?	No, but you need a minimum of 10 reviewers outside of Canada	Sara A	11:30 AM	NFRF Guillaume	11:30 AM
No budget breakdown or justification at this stage then	No, it will be at the Full Application Stage	Jackie Cooney-Birch	11:31 AM	NFRF Guillaume	11:31 AM
Does the team include collaborators with regard to conflict of interest and suggested reviewers?	Yes, they should consider all team members	Jennifer Chen	11:30 AM	NFRF FNFR	11:32 AM
I need more information regarding interdisciplinarity of the project design as opposed to mere impact. This part is still unclear to me and I'm looking for more examples.	This will be discussed in the webinar soon. You can also find information on interdisciplinarity in the competition description: https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/transformation/2020/competition-concours-eng.aspx	Karthik Shankar	11:27 AM	Jessica NFRF	11:32 AM
Can the budget be changed from LOI to the full app?	The budget table cannot be changed, however the budget justification is prepared at the full application stage	University of Waterloo (UW)	11:32 AM	NFRF FNFR	11:32 AM
Stanford U require 50% indirect costs not 25% so does that mean I cannot have Stanford co-applicants ?	Thank you! Could you contact us at nfrf-fnfr@chairs-chaires.gc.ca .	MICHAEL HOUGH TON	10:33 AM	NFRF Guillaume	11:33 AM
Is GBA+ an evaluation criteria?	No, but it is part of the application	Virginie Portes	11:33 AM	NFRF FNFR	11:34 AM
If my research is on equity, diversity and inclusion should I still address GBA?	Yes, you will still have to fill out the GBA section	faisal khosa	11:33 AM	NFRF FNFR	11:34 AM
If we plan to transfer \$\$ to different institutions, do we need to negotiate indirect only with the NPI institution, or do we	We expect that the amount of the indirect cost transferred is proportional to the direct cost that is being transferred. If 1 % of the direct cost is	Eleanor Setton	11:36 AM	NFRF Guillaume	11:34 AM

negotiate/transfer indirect to other institutions?	transferred, we expect 1% of the indirect cost to be transferred as well				
Is it expected that the total budget amounts remain the same from the LOI to the full application?	Yes, the budget table will remain the same and cannot be changed between the LOI and the full application. However the budget breakdown or justification is only completed at the full app stage.	Dalhousie University	11:32 AM	NFRF FNFR	11:34 AM
How do you change a team member from co-app to co-PI. You indicated they need to be removed then re-invited. How do you remove?	On convergence, under the participants tab, you can remove a team member. You can re-invite them under the Invitations tab	University of Waterloo (UW)	11:34 AM	NFRF Guillaume	11:35 AM
Is the Gender Based Analysis section a 'tick-box', or will it require an explanation of how gender-based analysis is integrated into the research project?	It will require an explanation.	Leanna Butters	11:34 AM	NFRF Guillaume	11:35 AM
what sections of the LOI should be anonymized?	Transformation application do not need to be anonymized, there's no double blinding. However, you cannot reveal personal information about the person (i.e. they are hearing impaired)	Janice DeMoor	11:35 AM	NFRF Guillaume	11:37 AM
If the NPI is ECR, do we still need to include another ECR?	ECRs must be included in the project. But will have to demonstrate in their proposal how ECRs are engaged	Khalid Elgazzar	11:30 AM	NFRF FNFR	11:37 AM
Can you please repeat the information on where to read about best practices for EDI?	Hello, here's the link https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/edi-eng.aspx	Cynthia Ferguson	11:36 AM	NFRF Guillaume	11:37 AM

Do the same conflict of interest rules apply to the multidisciplinary review panel? (e.g. if applicants are from Institution X, are panel members from this institution excluded?)	Hello Jennifer, yes the same rules apply for conflicts	Jennifer Chen	11:33 AM	Melanie NFRF	11:37 AM
Someone asked about the eligibility of co-applicants/co-PIs who are at for-profit universities (e.g. in the US). Can you confirm that this is allowed?	independent researchers at international academic institutions are eligible as co-PIs or co-apps so long as they meet the eligibility criteria in the funding opportunity	UCalgary IPD	11:26 AM	NFRF FNFR	11:37 AM
EDI reality is different depending the country, how to manage that in a large team "over the world" ?	You can address this in your description of the EDI context	Sebastien Dubus	11:35 AM	NFRF FNFR	11:38 AM
I'm wondering if the NFRF Exploration grants financial guide will be an authoritative source for this competition (https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/exploration/2019/guide_financial-guide_financier-eng.aspx)	The Transformation Stream will fall under the Tri-Agency Guide on Financial Administration https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/InterAgency-Interorganismes/TAF-AFTO/guide-guide_eng.asp	Denise M	11:37 AM	NFRF Guillaume	11:39 AM
I'm wondering if the NFRF Exploration grants financial guide will be an authoritative source for this competition (https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/exploration/2019/guide_financial-guide_financier-eng.aspx)	Hi Denise, the Transformation stream will be using the new TAGFA for financial administration guidelines	Denise M	11:37 AM	NFRF FNFR	11:39 AM

EDI reality and concerns	Yes, correct	Sebastien Dubus	11:38 AM	NFRF FNFR	11:39 AM
Wanted to confirm that CVs are not required for the LOI	Yes that is correct	Heather Howley	11:38 AM	NFRF FNFR	11:39 AM
If a co-app indicated they were an 'educator' on the NOI. Can this be changed to 'independent researcher' at the LOI?	Hello, In order to change that, the participant must be deleted and re-invited.	University of Waterloo (UW)	11:38 AM	Melanie NFRF	11:39 AM
can you say we have 4 members of the LGBTQ community and so on?	We ask that applicants remain non-nominative and provide an overall view	Carole Estabrooks	11:39 AM	NFRF FNFR	11:40 AM
can we talk in a general way about the team composition?	This question has been answered verbally.	McGill University	11:39 AM	NFRF FNFR	11:41 AM
Why can we not name the ECR in the ECR section, when the ECR is named on the grant?	This question has been answered verbally.	University of Waterloo (UW)	11:39 AM	NFRF FNFR	11:41 AM
What is the definition of ECR of this call?	ember 2019 for this competition) with the exception of career interruptions (e.g., maternity or parental leave, extended sick leave, clinical training and family care) that occurred after their appointment. Part-time positions are taken into consideration.	mallar Chakraborty	11:40 AM	NFRF Guillaume	11:41 AM
But we can't list names in EDI/ECR sections. Can we list them in the 10-page proposal?	Yes in the bio-sketches you can discuss team composition and expertise	Janice DeMoor	11:39 AM	NFRF FNFR	11:41 AM
So it seems like the EDI criterion of the investigators is irrelevant to the evaluation of the proposal?	This question has been answered verbally.	mallar Chakraborty	11:39 AM	NFRF FNFR	11:42 AM

Re: ECR status. Is it OK to identify by name which team members are ECRs in the ECR integration section, since this info is already in their profiles?	This question has been answered verbally.	Jackie Cooney-Birch	11:38 AM	Melanie NFRF	11:42 AM
For the EDI section - does it include just your study team or should we also discuss the participants we plan to recruit	This question has been answered verbally.	Maggie C	11:35 AM	NFRF FNFR	11:42 AM
We don't hear anything.	.	Yves Bérubé-Lauzière	11:40 AM	NFRF FNFR	11:43 AM
Definition of ECR - it is within 5 years of a Researchers first academic appointment. Does that include within 5 years of receiving their PHD?	No, the clock only starts after their first academic appointment	University of Waterloo (UW)	11:42 AM	NFRF Guillaume	11:43 AM
Can you discuss the overall composition of the team (e.g. the team is 1/3 women, or includes indigenous members) without personal identification?	This question has been answered verbally.	Carolyn Paterson	11:39 AM	Melanie NFRF	11:43 AM
in terms of team composition, can we say something like 'we have 60% female and 40% male on the team'?	This question has been answered verbally.	Ann Nguyen	11:41 AM	Melanie NFRF	11:43 AM
is a researcher on leave from a university and full time with a company eligible as a Co-PI, co-app?	please send your detailed questions to the NFRF inbox	McGill University	11:42 AM	NFRF FNFR	11:43 AM
Can I say that one PI is an ECR and one is a senior research?	This question has been answered verbally.	Kelly Monteleone	11:41 AM	Melanie NFRF	11:43 AM

will do, thanks	.	MICHAEL HOUGHTON	10:42 AM	Melanie NFRF	11:43 AM
Bio-sketches are correct at the LOI stage ?	these will be at the full application stage	Sebastien Dubus	11:43 AM	NFRF FNFR	11:44 AM
Could TIPS save all the Q&A from webinar save and share later?	You can save them by going to File" "Save As" "Question and Answer". We will not be providing the file"	McGill University	11:44 AM	NFRF Guillaume	11:45 AM
Does the 10 page limit include references?	Hi Amber, references are unlimited	Amber Cragg	11:44 AM	NFRF FNFR	11:45 AM
High risk and high reward in this section, also?	Yes that is correct, they are integrated throughout the application	Sebastien Dubus	11:45 AM	NFRF FNFR	11:46 AM
The question about ECR status has not been answered verbally... If the PI is an ECR, how can they talk about how they will integrate themselves, without indicating that the PI is an ECR? Presumably the reviewer will know their name.	It is possible to name the participants by name.	Jackie Cooney-Birch	11:42 AM	Melanie NFRF	11:46 AM
But, individuals will add this information to their own profiles - is that correct?	Yes correct	Eleanor Setton	11:45 AM	NFRF FNFR	11:48 AM
Are students/trainees considered to be team members? (or are only NPI, Co-PI, Co-apps, and collaborators team members?)	Students trainees are typically supervised by team members. They are not eligible to be co-applicants or collaborators if they are being supervised by a project participant	Nicole Kitson	11:47 AM	NFRF FNFR	11:48 AM
just wanted to confirm that a vaccine program is eligible PROVIDED it spans	As this is a specific question, could you please send it to us directly at : NFRF-FNFR@chairs-chaire.gc.ca .	MICHAEL HOUGHTON	10:44 AM	Melanie NFRF	11:49 AM

at least 2 disciplines of
CIHR/NSERC/SSHRC

Please repeat novelty requirements—too fast	Novelty of approach Explain the approach and how it differs from other approaches taken to address the challenge. Rationalize why this approach is likely to succeed.	Nicole Letourneau	11:47 AM	Jessica NFRF	11:49 AM
You mentioned biosketch in another response. Is there a biosketch?	At the Full Application stage. The section is called Biographical information about team members.	Carole Estabrooks	11:48 AM	NFRF Guillaume	11:49 AM
If a team member is a member of a First Nation involved in the research, is it okay to identify them as Indigenous in the application?	No, you should not reveal personal identification (background, race, ethnicity) of team members. You can discuss their expertise when naming them.	Nicole Kitson	11:47 AM	NFRF FNFR	11:49 AM
Is there an appendix for figures or are they included in the 10 pages?	They are included in the 10 pages	David Olson	11:48 AM	NFRF FNFR	11:50 AM
Is there a need to provide letters of support? What if a partner wishes to provide matching money or resources? How is this noted?	Hi David, there is no expectation for cash or in-kind contributions.	David Olson	11:49 AM	NFRF FNFR	11:50 AM
Transformation: emphasis on science, a broader impact or both?	Transformative research is defined as having the potential to create a significant and real change or impact—a noticeable leap or tangible breakthrough rather than an incremental advance	Jurek Kolasa	11:47 AM	Jessica NFRF	11:50 AM
How will mandates across the agencies be evaluated?	It will be evaluated by the committee members. Please refer back to our funding opportunity. You may review	University of Waterloo (UW)	11:50 AM	NFRF FNFR	11:51 AM

	the review process as well as the reviewer manual				
How many panelist review each LOI?	5 members will be reviewing every application	University of Waterloo (UW)	11:48 AM	NFRF FNFR	11:51 AM
If this is an NPI grant why are you not requiring CV or Biosketch form NPI and Co-PIs? Part of evaluating a PI grant is the PI...?	Hello Carole, The biosketch for the team members will be asked at the application stage. It is not required at the LOI stage.	Carole Estabrooks	11:41 AM	Melanie NFRF	11:51 AM
Could you give an example of EDI? My team includes great diversity of independent co-applicants - I am supposed to treat them differently to address what specifically?	I would encourage you to refer to the EDI best practices guide on our LOI guide	Jurek Kolasa	11:37 AM	NFRF FNFR	11:51 AM
To follow up, high reward in science is hard to predict - broader impact then?	Please see the description of the high reward criterion in the competition description: https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/transformation/2020/competition-concours-eng.aspx	Jurek Kolasa	11:48 AM	Jessica NFRF	11:52 AM
i think the guidelines ask not to name names in EDI and ECR sections	Yes, this is correct. We do not want them to be named, but rather discuss how they are engaged	Janice DeMoor	11:41 AM	NFRF FNFR	11:52 AM
ECR section in Convergence says "but not that reveals their personal information (including their name)."	This section should demonstrate a strong commitment to the meaningful integration of (ECRs) in the project team, with concrete measures put in place to support their integration and leadership development. We ask to only describe the measures in this	Janice DeMoor	11:45 AM	NFRF Guillaume	11:52 AM

At what level should the LOI be written?	Hello PJ, it should be written in an accessible language for a multidisciplinary committee can review it.	pj deverea ux	11:48 AM	Melani e NFRF	11:52 AM
Can you identify the ECR status of a named participant in the application since at least 1 ECR must be on the team?	ECRs identify themselves in their profiles on Convergence.	Jennifer Chen	11:42 AM	Jessica NFRF	11:52 AM
When will the slides and recording be available?	We will try to circulate the info before end of day Friday	Harvey Smith	11:52 AM	NFRF Guillau me	11:52 AM
For the 5 page proposal at the full application, should researchers essentially cover the same info as in the 10 page proposal at the LOI, but in a more condensed form?	You can review the full application guide which is available, this should give you a better understanding of what goes into each stage: https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/transformation/2020/guide_application-guide_demande-eng.aspx	Denise M	11:48 AM	NFRF FNFR	11:53 AM
If changes to the methodology arise between the LOI and Full application, how can NPIs signal this to reviewers, who will have access to both proposals at the full application stage?	Changes in methodology, if large, should be flagged at the full application stage. Please consult the full application guide for further guidance on what will be required: g-financement/nfrf-fnfr/transformation/2020/guide_application-guide_demande-eng.aspx	Denise M	11:48 AM	NFRF FNFR	11:54 AM
The final application does not mention the budget table, only a budget justification is mentioned. Does this mean that the budget breakdown provided in the LOI stage	Correct. All relevant information from the letter of intent (LOI) will be pre-populated into the full application. Additional team members may be added at this stage and information updated	Sara A	11:50 AM	Jessica NFRF	11:54 AM

cannot be changed at the full application?	for existing members, if needed.				
Can the ECR be named in the EDI section? Or just be called ECR, and other researchers called "senior researchers"?	Names should not be included	Denise M	11:52 AM	NFRF FNFR	11:55 AM
Based on previous experience, do you have an idea of what proportion of teams who submit an NOI go on to submit an LOI?	We don't know as this is the first Transformation and the program is very different to the other program we offer. Sorry!	Eleanor Setton	11:57 AM	NFRF Guillaume	11:55 AM
How long will be the text of full application (reason: details ..)	Hi Jurek, please have a look at the full application guide for further details: https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/transformation/2020/guide_application-guide_demande-eng.aspx	Jurek Kolasa	11:56 AM	NFRF FNFR	11:57 AM
do all 4 designated groups have to be included?	as part of the team? No it is not required.	Carole Estabrooks	11:53 AM	NFRF Guillaume	11:57 AM
To clarify, we will often refer to, for instance, Post-docs, as part of the team, making a contribution, even if they are not eligible to be a co-app or collaborator. Can we speak about high-quality HQP in the team description, as appropriate?	Hi Nicole, yes you can include them in your description of the team if you think it is important in the evaluation	Nicole Kitson	11:50 AM	NFRF FNFR	11:58 AM

There seems to still be confusion about whether/how team members can be named/described in the EDI/ECR section of the LOI. Could Kim go revisit the end of her presentation?	Our EDI best practices guide includes more information on this. It states: identifies as a member of a visible minority). •Instead, give concrete examples of clear and specific initiatives and measures the team has undertaken to realize its EDI goals.	Christy McTait	11:52 AM	Jessica NFRF	11:58 AM
There seems to still be confusion about whether/how team members can be named/described in the EDI/ECR section of the LOI. Could Kim go revisit the end of her presentation?	Sorry, my cut and paste didn't work as I wanted to. The info. is in the EDI best practices guide.	Christy McTait	11:52 AM	Jessica NFRF	12:06 PM
Can you describe conflict of interest?	Please see: https://www.chairs-chaire.gc.ca/program-programme/conflict_interest-conflict_interets-eng.aspx	Helene Dragatsi	12:00 PM	Jessica NFRF	12:01 PM
Will you make the Q&A available? They are impossible to scroll thru on the screen we have and that screen is very small	Hi Carole, you can save them by clicking on File- Save As- Questions and Answers	Carole Estabro oks	12:01 PM	NFRF FNFR	12:02 PM
Are the criteria matrices shown on the previous slides posted online?	Yes, they are on our web page: https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/transformation/2020/merit_indicators-indicateurs_du_merite-eng.aspx	Jason Rowe	12:01 PM	NFRF FNFR	12:03 PM
Can you repeat if the exception of government employees applies only to Co-applicant or also Co-Principal Investigator (when there is a	Yes, there are there are rare circumstances where federal government employees who are also adjuncts can be co-principal investigators and co-	Helene Dragatsi	12:01 PM	Jessica NFRF	12:04 PM

connection to their work with the proposal area)	applicants. The info. will be posted on our site soon.				
Where expertise reveals an aspect of identity (eg Traditional Knowledge keepers, patients), is there any problem with discussing it?	Where it is relevant to the project, you may include it - as long as you have the consent of the individual. (We don't need to see the consent - but you need to keep it.)	Sarah Scott	12:02 PM	NFRF Guillau me	12:04 PM
will the list of applicants invited to full application stage be made public?	This has not yet been decided. We will consider relevant policies and Acts (Privacy Act, etc.) in determining our approach.	Jean Saint-Vil	12:03 PM	NFRF Guillau me	12:05 PM
if my LOI on HCV vaccine clinical development is not considered appropriate re its interdisciplinary nature, where else can I apply for a clinical trial program ??	We are not experts in all tri-agency (or other) funding opportunities so unfortunately cannot provide guidance to you on this.	MICHAEL HOUGH TON	11:01 AM	NFRF Guillau me	12:05 PM
are the applicants informed if their LOI are reviewed at F2F (100 -115 discussed) meeting or not?	Yes, they will be notified of the results	Dora Iordan	12:05 PM	NFRF FNFR	12:05 PM
Do all members of the team have access to all LOI sections on the login website i.e can all members of the team simultaneously work on the application?	Hello, No only the NPI has access to complete the application, all other participants have read only view.	faisal khosa	12:06 PM	Melanie NFRF	12:06 PM
Do all members of the team have access to all LOI sections on the login website i.e can all members of the team simultaneously work on the application?	No, only the NPI can edit the application.	faisal khosa	12:06 PM	Jessica NFRF	12:06 PM

<p>You mentioned that 150 of the applications will be discussed by the panel. Does that mean that all the other applications get to be read by the reviewers sitting on the panel before that discussion? Or are the external scores exclusively dictating the rank</p>	<p>Hi Sibat, yes that is correct, all applications will be read and assessed, however only approx. 150 will be discussed in person</p>	<p>Sibat Anam</p>	<p>12:05 PM</p>	<p>NFRF FNFR</p>	<p>12:06 PM</p>
<p>You mentioned that 150 of the applications will be discussed by the panel. Does that mean that all the other applications get to be read by the reviewers sitting on the panel before that discussion? Or are the external scores exclusively dictating the rank</p>	<p>All of them will be evaluated by 5 members of the multidisciplinary/multisectoral review panel.</p>	<p>Sibat Anam</p>	<p>12:05 PM</p>	<p>NFRF Guillaume</p>	<p>12:07 PM</p>
<p>Can Co-PI would be able to edit/add information to the portal?</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>Ardhen du Behera</p>	<p>12:06 PM</p>	<p>Jessica NFRF</p>	<p>12:06 PM</p>
<p>How long does it take for a new investigator to have an account created in the Convergence Portal?</p>	<p>It depends on the amount of information they will be inputting (fields of research etc.).</p>	<p>Heather Gill</p>	<p>12:06 PM</p>	<p>NFRF FNFR</p>	<p>12:07 PM</p>
<p>If you remove a team member entirely are you required to re-invite them? Is it a requirement to reinvite the team member?</p>	<p>No it is not required.</p>	<p>University of Waterloo (UW)</p>	<p>12:07 PM</p>	<p>NFRF FNFR</p>	<p>12:08 PM</p>
<p>I couldn't find a "delete" button in the Participants or Invitations screens yesterday. Can Guillaume show us where to go/how to do this?</p>	<p>Sure! It should be under the participants tab, and there will be an option to 'remove'</p>	<p>Christy McTait</p>	<p>12:07 PM</p>	<p>NFRF FNFR</p>	<p>12:08 PM</p>

I don't think this has been in fact answered verbally: can applicants include a high-level description of the overall diversity of the team (e.g., there is gender parity) while being careful not to disclose any information about individual team members?	Very high level, yes, but it does not address the real question: what is the approach/commitment taken by the team members to support EDI?	Andrea Gill	12:08 PM	NFRF Guillaume	12:09 PM
Will the list of LOI made public after the submission? Or only the list of successful ones?	Hello, The LOI list will not be made public. Only the successful ones will be listed.	Dora Jordan	12:08 PM	Melanie NFRF	12:09 PM
Will the list of LOI made public after the submission? Or only the list of successful ones?	This has not yet been decided. We will consider relevant policies and Acts (Privacy Act, etc.) in determining our approach.	Dora Jordan	12:08 PM	NFRF Guillaume	12:10 PM
Will the midterm review of grants include any assessment of how well the EDI best practices have been met?	It will consider all criteria.	Jackie Cooney-Birch	12:09 PM	NFRF Guillaume	12:09 PM
The LOI instructions state that 'While additional members may be added, those identified at the NOI stage are expected to remain part of the project team.' If we had 10 members listed in the NOI for example, can at least 5 members be removed?	Yes, you can remove people, there is an expectation that there will be a core of 5 participants that will be locked in by the submission of the LOI	Sara A	12:06 PM	NFRF FNFR	12:09 PM
Will the reviewers receive an email from convergence that they have been added?	No, they are not notified	Evelyn Siu	12:09 PM	NFRF FNFR	12:09 PM

Re Biosketch - so at the LOI stage none of the many reviewers will be concerned with whether there is an NPI, or CO-PIs or team who could even hope to execute the idea? It is all on the idea? Seems very strange for a PI grant ...	It's not a regular" PI grant - NFRF grants focus on the idea not the PI - or the team. "	Carole Estabro oks	12:09 PM	NFRF Guillaume	12:10 PM
Re Biosketch - so at the LOI stage none of the many reviewers will be concerned with whether there is an NPI, or CO-PIs or team who could even hope to execute the idea? It is all on the idea? Seems very strange for a PI grant ...	There is no biosketch section at the LOI stage, but it is expected (and our instructions indicate) that information about the team should be included.	Carole Estabro oks	12:09 PM	NFRF Guillaume	12:11 PM
Do we need to tell reviewers in advance that we will adding them?	No, this is not a requirement	Evelyn Siu	12:10 PM	NFRF FNFR	12:11 PM
Do we need to tell reviewers in advance that we will adding them?	You should not contact suggested reviewers beforehand.	Evelyn Siu	12:10 PM	NFRF Guillaume	12:12 PM
Do we have to confirm willingness if the proposed reviewers?	No. Please don't contact them (you shouldn't!) :)	Jim Christenson	12:10 PM	NFRF Guillaume	12:11 PM
We have a very large international team in fields where large collaborations are common. Finding 20 reviewers with no COI with any team member may be impossible. Is there any flexibility on this requirement?	We do require 20 suggested reviewers.	Heather Howley	12:11 PM	Jessica NFRF	12:11 PM

Sorry - where do I click the file so I can save the Q&A?	Click on File- Save As- Question and Answers	Carole Estabrooks	12:11 PM	NFRF FNFR	12:12 PM
OK so the fishes are considered individuals in this example?	I'm not sure I understand? They are not individuals - but there are numerous studies showing the limitations of studies that use only male mice, for example.	Jessica Lockhart	12:12 PM	NFRF Guillau me	12:13 PM
Could you please go back and provide written answers for those questions where you have indicated "this question was answered verbally" for those of us who have joined late - so that we can save the full Q&A later.	The recording will be provided to RGOs along with the presentation so you can access the information there. We won't have time to go back to those questions before the end of the webinar, unfortunately.	Tracy Howlett	12:13 PM	NFRF Guillau me	12:14 PM
Are you going to enable cut and paste for these boxes? I was unable to do this in the NOI...	You have to make sure the text you are pasting does not have more characters than what the box allows. You should try to cut and paste small sections at a time	Eleanor Setton	12:16 PM	NFRF FNFR	12:14 PM
In the NOI process, I found the character counting on the NOI website not to correspond to that of Microsoft Word, whereas for other programs it pretty much corresponds. Why is that?	Please send an email about this to web support and cc the NFRF inbox. I can't answer this but would like to follow up on it as well.	Yves Bérubé-Lauzière	12:13 PM	NFRF Guillau me	12:14 PM
yes am familiar with evaluation matrices, but there is no more granulated weighting - leaving one to suppose perhaps that it is an overall impression - will the reviewers have a score	There is no scorecard for each subsection.	Carole Estabrooks	11:32 AM	NFRF Guillau me	12:15 PM

card for each sub section and how will that be weighted?

Should these be accessible PDF files to allow reviewers with disabilities using screen readers etc.?

This is not a requirement but if you can, you are welcome to.

Jutta Treviranus 12:15 PM NFRF Guillaume 12:16 PM

Can the budget change between the LOI and full application stage as long as it stays within the limits per year

There are no details asked for at the LOI stage - just the annual amounts.

padmaja subbarao 12:18 PM NFRF Guillaume 12:19 PM

I had to re-enter information (research codes, keywords) during NOI submission because at validation phase Convergence didn't recognize what was entered in the system already.

Please let web support know.

Cynthia Ferguson 12:17 PM NFRF Guillaume 12:19 PM

We can't hear the question being asked currently

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University of Waterloo (UW) 12:18 PM NFRF Guillaume 12:19 PM

Is the budget considered in the LOI evaluation?

Yes the budget will need to be completed in order for you to submit your LOI.

Dora Jordan 12:17 PM Melanie NFRF 12:19 PM

Sorry, if this was addressed, but when do get notified that we can proceed with LOI?

The LOI functionality is now open in Convergence portal.

Evelyn Siu 12:18 PM NFRF Guillaume 12:20 PM

For the budget, can the annual amount be updated at the full application stage?

Hi Ann, no the budget table cannot be adjusted. But you will be preparing a budget justification which can elaborate the expenses

Ann Nguyen 12:17 PM NFRF FNFR 12:20 PM

The LOI is in reality pretty much a grant application in itself. Will the research proposal in the final application be different?	The instructions for the application stage - including all details - are available on our website.	Yves Bérubé-Lauzière	12:18 PM	NFRF Guillaume	12:20 PM
can yearly budget totals be adjusted between LOI and Application?	No, they cannot be changed.	Adam Cummins	12:18 PM	NFRF FNFR	12:20 PM
Can the budget be changed at the full application? It doesn't look like we can update the budget table in the full application instructions	No, it cannot be changed	Sara A	12:18 PM	NFRF FNFR	12:20 PM
can these annual amounts change at the application stage?	.	Janice DeMoor	12:19 PM	NFRF FNFR	12:20 PM
can the budget totals per year listed in the LOI be changed at the full application stage?	.	Janice DeMoor	12:18 PM	NFRF FNFR	12:20 PM
Yes - but can the dollar amount change between LOI and full application	.	padmaja subbarao	12:19 PM	NFRF FNFR	12:20 PM
Sorry I'm still unsure of the EDI section. We should not disclose any personal info or team members' EDI, how do we write team composition?	You are not asked to provide information about team composition; rather about approaches to recruitment and hiring (which will impact team composition).	Tianshu Li	12:20 PM	NFRF Guillaume	12:21 PM
RE: Remove - when you click on it, the person stays in the list as 'Removed' even if you re-invite them for a role change. Would be good to be able to delete them once they are removed.	This question has been answered verbally.	Tracy Howlett	12:20 PM	Jessica NFRF	12:21 PM

I believe you said that the budget could not change between LOI and application. Does that refer to total budget or annually? That is, can we increase or decrease the annual budgets (if we keep the total budget the same as submitted for LOI)	At the moment, the intention is that the budget cannot be changed between LOI and application stages.	P V	12:21 PM	NFRF Guillaume	12:21 PM
Budget in US \$ or CAN \$?	It is a Canadian program. Therefore CAN \$.	Ardhen du Behera	12:21 PM	NFRF Guillaume	12:22 PM
Is the interdisciplinary committee looking at the LOI budget? So it is considered in the LOI evaluation?	They will have access to the budget. Given the little information provided, it is not likely to have any impact on the evaluation of the LOI.	Dora Jordan	12:22 PM	NFRF Guillaume	12:22 PM
Can the RGO see the attached PDF files on NPI's LOI?	Yes	Dora Jordan	12:23 PM	NFRF Guillaume	12:23 PM
Is there a grant associated with an accepted LOI? e.g a grant for NPI to organize meetings to prepare full application?	No - no funds will be provided for application development.	Tianshu Li	12:23 PM	NFRF Guillaume	12:23 PM
Speaking about approaches to recruitment and hiring for EDI section, you do not mean the team composition in terms of the PI and co-apps but rather any trainees or staff paid on the grant?	All of the above.	Cynthia Ferguson	12:23 PM	NFRF Guillaume	12:23 PM
When transferring budget to another country how the conversion rate is considered?	This will be up to the administering institution to determine	Ardhen du Behera	12:23 PM	NFRF FNFR	12:24 PM

I strongly encourage you to allow budget changes (even major ones) between LOI and full application.	Thank you for your input.	David Olson	12:23 PM	NFRF Guillaume	12:24 PM
are appendices allowed at the LOI stage or references only?	No additional information can be uploaded. Only 2 attachments: 1 max 10 page proposal, and 1 references.	Lauren Kelly	12:24 PM	NFRF Guillaume	12:25 PM
I agree regarding the budget - for such a large grant, allowing flexibility with the budget (esp if this is not being reviewed by the panel) would be great. Please confirm if you will update the website online to confirm this?	We will update the website and make a note if this will be allowed. For the moment, you can assume it will not be allowed.	Sara A	12:25 PM	NFRF Guillaume	12:25 PM
I also agree with budget flexibility between LOI and final grant application.	Thank you for your feedback	Yves Bérubé-Lauzière	12:26 PM	NFRF FNFR	12:27 PM
Currently in the LOI instructions, there is no mention that the budget needs to remain unchanged from the LOI to the full application stage	The full application guide states: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All relevant information from the letter of intent (LOI) will be pre-populated into the full application. Additional team members may be added at this stage and information updated for existing members, if needed.	Sara A	12:25 PM	Jessica NFRF	12:27 PM
Are taxes included in direct costs?	The same rules apply as for other agency programs.	Leanna Butters	12:17 PM	NFRF Guillaume	12:27 PM
How can RGOs confirm the eligibility of participants (other than NPIs)?	It is up to each institution to determine how they will do this.	Sibat Anam	12:27 PM	NFRF Guillaume	12:27 PM
Eligibility question. For each invited applicant, if a Co-applicant is both an	No, it won't affect the eligibility in Convergence Portal, however they should	Javier Tavitias	12:27 PM	NFRF FNFR	12:28 PM

educator and an independent researcher, will selecting educator effect the eligibility of the participant?

update their profile to ensure the information is accurate. That can be done by un-inviting and re-inviting a participant

Thank the entire team

Thank you!

Dora	12:30	Jessica	12:30
Jordan	PM	NFRF	PM

Many thanks

Thanks!

MICHAEL	11:30	Jessica	12:30
L	AM	NFRF	PM
HOUGH			
TON			