



Grand Challenges Canada™
Grands Défis Canada^{MC}

FAQ

Saving Brains: Determine the economic impact of poverty-related risk factors for cognitive development and human capital

As of November 28, 2011

This document addresses questions received by Grand Challenges Canada with respect to the Saving Brains – *Determine the economic impact of poverty-related risk factors for cognitive development and human capital* Request for Proposals announced October 2011. Provided additional questions are submitted to savingbrains@grandchallenges.ca, additional FAQ document(s) will be posted prior to the letter of intent deadline of December 12, 2011 (11:59 PM EST).

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General Program

1. What is the relationship between the different requests for proposals under the Saving Brains initiative?

A. Multiple programs under the Saving Brains initiative were developed to enable a community of innovators to:

a) Identify early life interventions that promote the fulfillment of human capital by assessing the long-term effect of early interventions on human capital by re-enrolling participants from completed trials. Proposals were solicited through a request for proposals announced in May 2011. The intake period is closed and proposals are being considered.

b) Determine the economic impact of poverty-related risk factors for cognitive development and human capital. Proposals are currently being solicited through the request for proposals announced in October 2011. The intake period for letters of intent is open until December 12, 2011.

Innovators selected through the two requests for proposals will work together to identify the most impactful solutions to promote cognitive development: Those focused on the economic impact modeling will help inform the economic outcomes collected in by those undertaking the re-enrollment studies, and findings from the re-enrollment studies will be used to further refine the economic estimates.

Application

2. Is it possible to include a biography of proposed investigator(s) in the letter of intent?

- A. Yes. Please ensure these are short (maximum 1/2 page each) and that they highlight only the expertise relevant to the proposed project. The biographies should be included as an appendix.

Consortium

3. Would the consortium need to be fully formed prior to submitting an application?

- A. To ensure the full scope of the program is achievable, we do not require fully formed consortiums to apply at the letter of intent stage. Based on the letters of intent received, we intend to assemble a consortium with individual or teams that provide the required expertise and access to data. However, we do welcome applications from teams that feel they are able to fulfill the full scope of the program. In any case, Grand Challenges Canada reserves the right to involve multiple applicants in the consortium.

A three-month planning period will be provided to the selected applicants to define the consortium operation and project work plan.

4. Could a single team of investigators constitute the entire consortium?

- A. It was anticipated that multiple teams may be required to meet the strategic goals of this request for proposals. However, if a single team of investigators feels that it is able to fulfill all goals of the program, its ability to do so should be emphasized in the letter of intent. A willingness to collaborate should also be stated in case the peer review committee and/or Grand Challenges Canada staff feels it necessary to involve other applicants to ensure the program goals can be achieved.

5. Is there a maximum number of investigators to be included in an applicant team?

- A. There is no limit in the number of investigators included in a single application.

6. Is there an optimal balance of team members from low- and middle-income countries and those from high-income countries in an applicant team?

- A. There is no prescribed balance of team members from countries of different economic strata for this request for proposals. It is Grand Challenges Canada's intention to ensure representation of investigators from low- and middle-income countries in the consortium.

7. Could an individual apply to only be the consortium manager?

- A. Yes. The letter of intent form should be completed as instructed, with the contents focused on the proposed approach and capabilities to manage the consortium. Letters of intent will still be judged against all evaluation criteria (Section 4.5 of request for proposals), except for that of *Data Acquisition*, but with consortium management as the proposed activity in mind.

Budget

8. *How should the budget be planned?*

- A. The total funds available to support the work solicited by this request for proposals is \$2 million CAD. The budget should reflect value for effort (see Section 4.5 of the request for proposals for the complete evaluation criteria), and be commensurate with the proposed project goals. At the letter of intent stage, the budget needs only be a high-level estimate; the assembled consortium will be tasked with preparing a detailed budget during the planning period.

9. *Will the 3-month planning period be funded?*

- A. Yes. Part of the \$2 million CAD envelope committed by this Request for Proposals will be provided to cover the costs of the planning period.

10. *What is the maximum indirect cost allowed?*

- A. Grand Challenges Canada will provide a limited amount of indirect costs based on the nature of the applicant organization, to a maximum of 13% of allowable direct costs (Section 4.6 of Request for Proposals).

Outstanding Questions

Any additional questions should be sent to savingbrains@grandchallenges.ca.