



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

STARS IN GLOBAL HEALTH – ROUND 7 PHASE 1

*This document incorporates all queries as of **January 1 2014**.*

This document addresses questions received by Grand Challenges Canada that relate to the Stars in Global Health Request for Proposals announced Jan 1 2014.

Additional questions may be submitted to stars@grandchallenges.ca.

Updated FAQ document(s) will be posted periodically, up to one week prior to the Request for Proposals deadline of **March 10, 2014 at 3:00 p.m. ET**.

How do I apply?

Applications **MUST** be submitted online at applications.grandchallenges.ca. Applications submitted by email will not be accepted.

Topic Areas

1. What topics are considered "global health"?

A. The emphasis of the Stars in Global Health program is to fund **Bold Ideas with Big Impact™** that address priority issues and populations, as assessed by innovators and investigators familiar with local context and needs. We define global health as any area of study, research and practice that improves human health. This includes health issues related to water and agriculture. For example, applicants can focus on diseases (infectious conditions, non-infectious conditions, etc.), syndromes, or platforms (medical devices, diagnostics, vaccines, drugs, medical and other education programs, health and cultural behaviour, social interventions, policies, legislation, regulations, health systems, information communications technology, etc.).

2. Are issues around agriculture and water considered "global health"?

A. Yes. Health-related agriculture and water issues are considered part of global health. Examples include food nutrition, value chains, food supply, clean water, sanitation, etc.

3. Do you encourage applications from Social Entrepreneurs?

- A. *Social entrepreneurs are individuals with innovative solutions to society's most pressing social problems. They are ambitious and persistent, tackling major social issues and offering new ideas for wide-scale change. Whereas business entrepreneurs typically measure performance in profits, social entrepreneurs also take into account a positive return to society.*

We put a strong emphasis on supporting social enterprises, as we feel they are best positioned to transition proven innovations to scale. Grand Challenges Canada believes social entrepreneurship is a critical feature to enable scaling, sustainability and the ultimate achievement of impact. Social enterprises are strongly encouraged to apply to this Request for Proposals. However please note that the focus of the review will be on the social entrepreneurship idea in the proposal and not on the organization.

Eligibility Criteria

4. How do I know which countries are eligible to apply?

- A. Applicants from the following list of countries are eligible to apply to this round of the Stars in Global Health Request for Proposals. For the purposes of determining eligibility, Grand Challenges Canada may consider both the applicant's home jurisdiction and any other jurisdiction within which grant project activities will take place. The list of countries is based on considerations such as the World Bank's classification of low- and lower-middle-income countries, the Canadian International Development Agency's twenty "countries of focus", and other countries of strategic priority for Canada. This list is subject to revision by Grand Challenges Canada without notice. Notwithstanding inclusion below, all eligible jurisdictions remain subject to approval by Grand Challenges Canada on the basis of compliance with all relevant Canadian and international laws and policies. Whenever possible, Grand Challenges Canada will provide reasonable notice of a determination of ineligibility for applicants located within jurisdictions listed below.

<i>Afghanistan</i>	<i>Congo, Dem.Rep.</i>	<i>India</i>
<i>Antigua and Barbuda</i>	<i>Congo, Rep.</i>	<i>Indonesia</i>
<i>Armenia</i>	<i>Côte d'Ivoire</i>	<i>Jamaica</i>
<i>Bangladesh</i>	<i>Djibouti</i>	<i>Kenya</i>
<i>Belize</i>	<i>Dominica</i>	<i>Kiribati</i>
<i>Benin</i>	<i>Egypt, Arab Rep.</i>	<i>Kosovo</i>
<i>Bhutan</i>	<i>El Salvador</i>	<i>Kyrgyz Rep.</i>
<i>Bolivia</i>	<i>Ethiopia</i>	<i>Lao PDR</i>
<i>Burkina Faso</i>	<i>Gambia, The</i>	<i>Lesotho</i>
<i>Burundi</i>	<i>Georgia</i>	<i>Liberia</i>
<i>Cambodia</i>	<i>Ghana</i>	<i>Madagascar</i>
<i>Cameroon</i>	<i>Grenada</i>	<i>Malawi</i>
<i>Canada</i>	<i>Guatemala</i>	<i>Malaysia</i>
<i>Cape Verde</i>	<i>Guinea</i>	<i>Mali</i>
<i>Central African Rep.</i>	<i>Guinea-Bissau</i>	<i>Mauritania</i>
<i>Chad</i>	<i>Guyana</i>	<i>Micronesia, Fed.Sts</i>
<i>Colombia</i>	<i>Haiti</i>	<i>Moldova</i>
<i>Comoros</i>	<i>Honduras</i>	<i>Mongolia</i>

Montserrat
Morocco
Mozambique
Myanmar
Nepal
Nicaragua
Niger
Nigeria
Pakistan
Papua New Guinea
Paraguay
Peru
Philippines
Rwanda

Samoa
São Tomé and Príncipe
Senegal
Sierra Leone
Solomon Islands
Somalia
South Sudan
Sri Lanka
St. Lucia
St. Vincent and the Grenadines
Sudan
Suriname
Swaziland
Tajikistan

Tanzania
Thailand
Timor-Leste
Togo
Uganda
Ukraine
Uzbekistan
Vanuatu
Vietnam
West Bank
Yemen, Rep.
Zambia
Zimbabwe

5. My country is not listed above. Can I still apply?

- A. No. If your country is not listed, then you are not eligible to apply in this round. We review and revise the eligibility criteria for each round. We encourage you to check our website regularly or to [subscribe](#) to our newsletter for eligibility changes in new Requests for Proposals.

6. Do I require co-funding?

- A. No. We do not require co-funding from any applicant in Phase I. However, applicants who successfully complete Phase I and who are applying to the **Phase II Transition to Scale** program will be required to obtain 50% matching funds through partnerships in order to be eligible for Grand Challenges Canada funding.

7. Must I be a citizen or permanent resident of the country through which I am applying?

- A. No. You do not have to be a citizen or permanent resident of the country through which you are applying. However, you must be affiliated with an institution in an eligible country.

8. What do you define as an eligible institution?

- A. Institutions include academic institutions, universities, public and private research organizations, non-profit organizations, for-profit companies, or other recognized institution capable of supporting the proposed activities and administering grants and are legally registered in an eligible country.

9. Do I need any specific academic qualifications to apply?

- A. No. This competition is open to everyone regardless of age or academic qualifications.

10. Do I need a collaborator?

- A. Please see Section 4.1 of the Request for Proposals, which outlines the eligibility criteria for investigators based in Canada and from other eligible countries.

Applicants from Canada:

- Must have a collaborator affiliated with an institution in a low- or middle-income country. The collaborator does not have to be a citizen of that country.

Applicants from other eligible countries:

- Do not need a collaborator. However, Grand Challenges Canada encourages existing or new collaborations, especially when such partnerships will strengthen or introduce aspects of the **Integrated Innovation** approach (scientific/technological, social and business innovation), as it pertains to the project.

11. Can Grand Challenges Canada assist me in arranging a collaborator?

- A. Applicants are advised to seek out collaborations on their own. Applicants can also get collaborators through the Global Health Innovation LinkedIn group at http://www.linkedin.com/groups/Global-Health-Innovation-3839474?home=&qid=3839474&trk=anet_ug_hm

12. Would a Canadian citizen affiliated with an institution in a low- or lower-middle-income country be considered a low- or middle-income country co-investigator, or would he/she be the primary applicant?

- A. As per the Request for Proposals, the nationality of the applicant is not considered. The Canadian citizen should decide whether they want to be the co-investigator or the primary applicant. Please note that there are different eligibility criteria for primary applicants from Canada and those from low- or lower middle-income countries or the Canadian International Development Agency's twenty "countries of focus" and other countries of strategic priority for Canada. The applicant or collaborator need not be a citizen of that country.

Therefore, a Canadian working in a low- or lower-middle-income country, a Canadian International Development Agency "country of focus" or other country of strategic priority for Canada, and affiliated with a non-profit organization, for-profit company, or other recognized institution could apply from the country in which they work, either as a primary applicant or as a collaborator so long as they meet the eligibility criteria.

13. Could the applicant be affiliated with a Canadian non-profit organization, for-profit company, or other recognized institution capable of supporting the proposed activities and administering grants, but working abroad (i.e., in a low- or lower-middle-income country)?

- A. Yes. The applicant may apply as a Canadian, provided the applicant is affiliated with a Canadian non-profit organization, for-profit company, or other recognized institution capable of supporting the proposed activities and administering grants upon taking up the award. Agreements will be made with the non-profit organization, for-profit company, or other recognized institution and not with the applicant.

14. May the proposal include collaborations with academic and/or industry partners in the United States?

- A. It is not the intention of this Request for Proposals to exclude existing productive collaborations. If scientifically justified, these collaborations may be part of a proposal. Note that the lead applicant must still be affiliated with an eligible country.

15. Do I need a mentor?

- A. No. You not need a mentor to apply. However we strongly encourage applicants within 10 years of their latest degree to have mentors.

16. Can several applicants be mentored by the same person?

- A. Yes. There are no restrictions on the number of applicants per mentor.

17. Does the mentor have to be affiliated with a recognized Canadian or low- or lower-middle-income institution?

- A. No, the mentor need not be affiliated with a recognized Canadian or low- or lower-middle-income institution.

18. Can a group of people submit a proposal together with one or more co-applicants?

- A. Yes but only the resume of the Principal investigator will be evaluated.. As indicated in the Request for Proposals, Investigator Potential is a key evaluation criterion: “*Does the applicant demonstrate the potential to be a world leader in global health?*” As such, only an individual applicant (Principal Investigator) can submit a proposal. The Principal Investigator may, however, list the team in the application as co-investigators, if they so wish.

Integrated Innovation[®]

19. Is this challenge only concerned with medical and scientific technologies or is it also possible to write a proposal on a topic regarding policies/social sciences?

- A. This challenge is seeking projects demonstrating **Integrated Innovation** that could be easily implemented in developing countries to improve global health. We seek ideas that are bold and creative, and that have the potential to make a substantial impact on a global health problem. The proposed innovations would need to:
- Have a strong likelihood of achieving substantial and measurable health gains in an under-resourced setting
 - Maximize delivery, uptake, acceptability, sustainability and impact by integrating scientific/technological, social and business innovation; we call this **Integrated**

Innovation (see **Integrated Innovation** white paper available at <http://www.grandchallenges.ca/integrated-innovation/>)

- Whenever possible, we encourage applicants to integrate all three disciplines of technology, social and business innovation
- Applications that focus on any one or two of these disciplines (e.g., social sciences alone or business innovation alone) are also acceptable, provided the applicant demonstrates that they can achieve the desired impact.

Application Submission

20. Can an applicant submit more than one proposal to the Stars in Global Health program?

- A. Yes. You may submit more than one Phase I application in each round of the Stars in Global Health competition, so long as there is no overlap in the project objectives or activities.

21. What are the restrictions on the use of funds for overhead, salary, subcontracts, equipment, location/country of spending, etc.?

- A. Funds may be used for reasonable and justifiable expenses for achieving proof-of-concept of your idea. There are specific category restrictions on how the funds can be spent. Please refer to the Request for Proposals for details.

22. Will I need to provide any additional information or documentation beyond the online application, which includes a CV and video submission?

- A. Not at the time of application. However, successful applicants may be asked to provide supporting evidence, including degree certificates and certificates of incorporation of institutions.

23. When will the funding decision be announced? Is the start date flexible to accommodate relocation to start a new employment position?

- A. Completed proposals must be submitted by 3:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time on March 10, 2014. The timing of funding decisions and start date has not yet been determined. We anticipate the time of taking up the award would be August -Oct 2014.

Selection Process

24. Will the selection process use a peer review or champion-based review (as used by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation) in evaluating submissions to the Stars in Global Health program?

- A. Grand Challenges Canada and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research will implement a two-stage peer review process.

Stage I – Innovation Screen

The goal is to screen proposals that are of high quality (based on the criteria below) to proceed to Stage II.

In this stage, reviewers will screen only project summary paragraphs using the Innovation Screen Criteria (below) to decide if applications will proceed to the next evaluation step. Thus, it is critical to that the summary paragraph clearly demonstrate why your application is innovative.

The Innovation Screen Criteria are as follows.

a) **Priority Country**

Priority will be given to applications from regions that are of strategic priority for Canada and Grand Challenges Canada.

b) **Boldness and Creativity**

Is the proposed idea innovative and bold? Is it "outside the box"? Does it have the potential to leap-frog conventional approaches? Can the innovation and delivery mechanisms be readily implemented in developing countries to improve global health? Is the proposal creative enough to have the potential to tackle the problem from a different angle, in order to make a substantial impact on a global health problem?

c) **Integrated Innovation**

Does the proposed solution integrate scientific/technological, social and business innovation? Is the approach truly novel and a departure from incremental or evolutionary improvements over current approaches?

d) **Social Entrepreneurship**

Applications with social entrepreneurship will be favoured, as they have a higher likelihood to scale and reach sustainability.

Stage II: Independent Peer Review of Screened Proposals from Stage I

This will be implemented and overseen by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR). Each Peer Review Committee will include science/technology, social and business experts from high-, middle- and/or low-income countries. Each Committee will advise on the merit of proposals, based on the evaluation criteria as outlined in the Request for Proposals. (See Section 4.4)

Proposals in Stage II will be evaluated and ranked only with respect to the other proposals submitted to the same stream of funding. The Committee's funding recommendations will be forwarded by CIHR to Grand Challenges Canada. The final selection decisions will be made by the Board of Directors of Grand Challenges Canada at the Board's sole discretion, including its reserved rights set out in Section 4.11.

25. How risk-averse is the review process? Do I need to demonstrate preliminary data?

- A. We are seeking innovative proposals that demonstrate an understanding of inherent risk and propose reasonable risk management and mitigation strategies. Please refer to the Selection Criteria in Section 4.1 of the Request for Proposals. Criterion 4, Technical Merit/Execution Plan, is assessed as follows:

26. *Is the proposed concept and approach based on sound scientific analysis and technical rigour? Are feasible milestones set out for the 12–18-month timeline of this grant? Does the approach represent an efficient use of resources? Does the environment in which the work will be performed contribute to the probability of success? Does the approach take advantage of unique features of the scientific environments, including partnerships with industry?*

Preliminary data is not required, but can be supplied if available as it would strengthen your proposal.

27. How will the video factor into the selection process? What weight will it carry compared to other criteria?

- A. Proposals must include a two-minute video explaining the target global health problem, the proposed solution, and why it is a creative, bold and innovative approach. The purpose of the video is to engage the public in global health and demonstrate the creativity of innovators. Applicants from low- or lower-middle-income countries that do not have access to video equipment may submit other visual representations (including Power Point) in place of video.

Each proposal will be evaluated on all six selection criteria outlined in Section 4.1 of the Request for Proposals; the video and public responses are only part of Criterion 5, Public Engagement.

The videos will be uploaded onto Grand Challenges Canada's website for public viewing and comment. Both the videos themselves and the public response will be made available to the Peer Review Committee members, who may use this information at their discretion as part of the decision-making process. The video content and/or public response will contribute to the Peer Review Committee's assessment of the applicant's ability to engage the public (Criterion 5), which reads:

Is the applicant able to present their approach to the public in an engaging manner? Does the applicant state their willingness to engage the public on global health issues and their research in an ongoing and creative manner?

28. *Although the idea of engaging the public on my innovative idea in global health is great, I don't have access to professional video equipment, nor the funds to make a flashy/high-tech video. Will I be at a disadvantage?*

- A. No, you will not be at a disadvantage. The purpose of the video is to engage the public in global health and demonstrate the creativity of innovators. We are neither expecting nor encouraging high-tech videos, and rather envision this to be a basic production that could be done on a webcam or cell/smart phone. Your ability to convey the need for and importance of your innovation in clear, simple language that fosters public support for your project will outweigh any differences in video production quality. Some of the most compelling messages, as viewed on *YouTube*, are those with simple and clear messages. High-quality video equipment is not required. Please refer to the Grand Challenges Canada website (<http://www.grandchallenges.ca/grantees/>) for examples of grantee videos from past competitions.

29. *Do I need to get permission to use someone else's song, images or footage in my video?*

- A. Yes. If you plan to include copyright-protected material in your video, you will need to seek permission to do so first. Even if you purchased content and/or gave the copyright owner credit, posting videos that include copyright-protected content may still violate copyright laws.

To avoid issues with copyright, and potentially having your video disqualified or removed from our website, one option is to source content that is available through a Creative Commons (CC) license. Creative Commons allows you to legally use “some rights reserved” music, movies, images, and other content – all for free. For example, you can find links to music at <https://creativecommons.org/legalmusicforvideos> and photos at <http://www.flickr.com/creativecommons/>. For more information visit <https://creativecommons.org>.

You need to make sure that what you want to do with the content is allowed under the terms of the particular license or permission upon which you rely. For instance, most licences will require you to properly credit the content owner and some will forbid you from altering the content.

30. *What is the suggested and maximum length for the video submission?*

- A. The maximum length for video submissions is two minutes (120 seconds). If videos longer than two minutes are submitted, only the first two minutes of video footage will be shared with the public and the Peer Review Committee.

31. Will successful applicants continue to undertake public engagement activities after securing the grant?

- A. Yes, Grand Challenges Canada intends to work with the winners to showcase their work and successes.

General Program Questions

32. If Grand Challenges Canada is being funded out of the Foreign Aid budget, why does Stars in Global Health include funding for Canadian innovators?

- A. Grand Challenges Canada was created as part of the Government of Canada's Development Innovation Fund (DIF). The purpose of the DIF is:

To support the best minds in the world as they search for breakthroughs in global health and other areas that have the potential to bring about enduring changes in the lives of millions of people in poor countries.

In keeping with this goal, Stars in Global Health is designed to encourage innovators from various locations – including Canada – to bring their energy and creativity to finding solutions to pressing global health challenges. All projects funded by Stars in Global Health must be implemented in a developing country and Canadian grantees must partner with collaborators in developing countries. This program structure facilitates the dual aims of supporting some of “the best minds in the world” (by funding Canadian and low- and lower-middle-income country innovators) and targeting interventions toward improving conditions for the “millions of people in poor countries.”

33. Is the intent of the grant to support specific technology development that is already underway (i.e., development of a new technology platform) or to support the more left-field ideas that have not yet been tested in the lab?

- A. There are no restrictions on whether the innovation is already in development, but you must ensure that the project is achievable within the \$100,000 CAD budget and that a successful outcome will put you in a position to rationalize funding for a Phase II scale-up award or private sector funding.

34. Is the focus of the grant on the person or the idea/project?

- A. The focus of the grant is on the **bold idea with big impact**, not the person.

35. Are there any restrictions that apply to the tenure of concurrent grants or fellowships?

- A. No. This Request for Proposals is focused on seeking projects demonstrating Integrated Innovation that could be easily implemented in developing countries to improve global health. However, please ensure that you are proposing to test an original, bold and

innovative idea that is not already funded as a component of another grant (i.e., an independent component that is novel or a follow-on project).

36. *What is the duration of the proof-of-concept and scale-up grant phases?*

- A. Activities outlined in the Phase I, proof-of-concept proposal must be completed within 12 to 18 months of signing the grant agreement. The scale-up phase occurs 9 months or more after the start of a Phase I project. For more specific information about scale-up, please check our website often.

37. *Are innovations in the area of palliative/end-of-life care within the scope of this program?*

- A. Yes, innovations in the area of palliative/end-of-life care are within the scope of this program, assuming the proposed project has integrated innovation and would lead to global health impact that meets the other requirements outlined in Section 2.2 of the Request for Proposals, titled "Program Scope".

38. *If I am successful, what kind of country approvals will I need in order to accept the funding from Grand Challenges Canada? When should I start this process?*

- A. Every country has different requirements for accepting foreign money and some countries require a formal approval. It is up to you and your institution to attain any relevant approvals. For example, applicants from India may require clearance through the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA).

Because this process can be lengthy, we recommend that you start as soon as possible, even at time of application for grant. If you need to state information about Grand Challenges Canada in an application, please note that Grand Challenges Canada is a not-for-profit organization incorporated in Canada and funded by the Government of Canada.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

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

For information on all Grand Challenges Canada programs, please find us at grandchallenges.ca and on **Facebook**, **Twitter**, **YouTube** and **LinkedIn**.