

# BID SOLICITATION

Grand Challenges Canada / Grands Défis Canada

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Grand Challenges Canada®  
Grands Défis Canada

**BOLD IDEAS WITH BIG IMPACT®**

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## **Bid Solicitation: Venture Advisor to Facilitate Public Sector Scaling of Innovations**

**Submission Deadline:  
March 23, 2020 5.00 pm ET**

**RFP Reference Number: RFP-VA-2020-01-20**

## Introduction

### GRAND CHALLENGES CANADA'S OBJECTIVE

Grand Challenges Canada is dedicated to supporting Bold Ideas with Big Impact®. Grand Challenges Canada is seeking a Venture Advisor to help us facilitate the uptake of tested maternal, newborn and child health innovations by local governments for the purpose of saving and improving lives at scale.

Grand Challenges Canada has supported 1200+ innovations to date across 85+ different low- and middle-income countries. These innovations are a mix of products and services, and they employ various pathways to scale and sustainability. Regardless of the type of innovation or pathway to scale and sustainability, most innovations require some form of uptake by the public sector in order to achieve scale and sustainability.

Several innovations supported by Grand Challenges Canada have been successful in being adopted by local governments. We acknowledge that adoption has required both savvy innovators and sufficiently mature innovations ready for this step, as well as demand by the local government for the innovation. **Here, we are interested in understanding and testing potential opportunities for Grand Challenges Canada to catalyse more systematic demand for matured innovations by local governments to improve maternal, newborn and child health, and sexual and reproductive health and rights.** Please see ***Public scaling advisory support for maternal, newborn and child health innovators in low- and middle-income countries (RFP: RFP-VA-2020-01-21)*** through which we are sourcing Venture Advisor support to help innovators to successfully develop and/or implement public sector scaling strategies, and ultimately increase the impact of Grand Challenges Canada's investments with the purpose of saving and improving lives at scale.

Organizations with existing capacities and activities that facilitate the public sector scale of innovations are encouraged to apply, as are those who can play intermediary roles that leverage the capacity of multiple organizations in the ecosystem.

The objective of this "**Bid Solicitation**" is to select a candidate to enter into a contract with Grand Challenges Canada to provide the services described in the Statement of Work, attached hereto as Appendix A. All bidders ("**Bidders**") are invited to bid ("**Bid**") for consideration by Grand Challenges Canada in accordance with the terms of this Bid Solicitation.

## Part 1: General Information

### 1.1 Objective

- a. The objective of this Bid Solicitation **RFP-VA-2020-01-20** is to select a vendor to enter into a contract with Grand Challenges Canada to provide the services described in the Statement of Work attached herein as Appendix A in a manner that will provide the best value for Grand Challenges Canada's funds.

### 1.2 Period of Contract

- a. The term of the resulting contract will be from approximately **April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021** with the possibility of renewal or extension for successive one-year term(s) up to a maximum of three years, depending on the needs of Grand Challenges Canada.

### 1.3 About Grand Challenges Canada

Grand Challenges Canada is dedicated to supporting Bold Ideas with Big Impact® in global health. Funded by the Government of Canada and other partners, Grand Challenges Canada is driven by the mission to catalyze innovation that saves and improves the lives of the most vulnerable in Canada and low- and middle-income countries. One of the largest impact-first investors in Canada, Grand Challenges Canada has supported a pipeline of over 1,200+ innovations in 85 countries since its creation.

Grand Challenges Canada's Transition To Scale program supports innovators from Canada and from low- and middle-income countries who are positioned to take their bold ideas to big impact in the area of global health. Through the Transition To Scale program, Grand Challenges Canada brokers smart partnerships that mobilize private capital and domestic public resources to generate scalable and sustainable solutions that deliver measurable social impact.

For more information, please see: [www.grandchallenges.ca](http://www.grandchallenges.ca), including our latest Annual Report under "Who We Are".

## Part 2: Standard Instructions, Clauses and Conditions

### 2.1 Submission of Bid

- a. Grand Challenges Canada requests that each Bidder submit a Bid to the email address outlined in Paragraph 2.2, as early as possible, but **no later than February 9, 2020 at 5:00pm ET (“Closing Date”)**.
- b. The Bid must include the Bidder’s name, a contact name, address, telephone number, and email address.
- c. Grand Challenges Canada requests that each Bid contain a covering letter signed by the Bidder or by an authorized representative of the Bidder. The covering letter should reference the RFP Reference Number. The Bidder’s signature indicates acceptance of the terms and conditions set out and/or referenced herein. The signatory must have authority to commit the organization by making such a Bid. A contract will not be awarded until a signed covering letter from the Bidder is received by Grand Challenges Canada. If the Bidder fails to provide a signed covering letter when requested to do so by Grand Challenges Canada, then the Bidder shall be disqualified from the bidding process and be declared non-compliant.
- d. It is the Bidder's responsibility to:
  - i. Obtain clarification of the requirements contained in the Bid Solicitation, if necessary, prior to submitting a Bid;
  - ii. Prepare its Bid in accordance with the instructions contained in the Bid Solicitation;
  - iii. Submit by Closing Date;
  - iv. Send its Bid only to the **“Contracting Authority”** at the email address set out in Paragraph 2.2 below;
  - v. Provide a contact name, address, telephone number and email address in its Bid, as indicated in 2.1b above; and
  - vi. Provide a comprehensible and sufficiently detailed Bid, including all requested pricing details that will permit a complete evaluation, in accordance with the criteria set out in this Bid Solicitation.
- e. Bids will remain **open for acceptance by Grand Challenges Canada** for a period of not less than twenty-one (21) calendar days from the Closing Date of the Bid Solicitation. Upon notification to the responsive Bidders, Grand Challenges Canada reserves the right in its sole discretion to extend the Closing Date at any time for up to twenty-one (21) calendar days.
- f. Bids and/or amendments thereto will only be accepted by Grand Challenges Canada if they are received at the email address indicated below in Paragraph 2.2, on or before the Closing Date and time specified therein.

- g. Bids received will become the property of Grand Challenges Canada and will not be returned.
- h. All information within this Bid Solicitation is to be held in confidence.
- i. Except as specifically provided otherwise in the Bid Solicitation, Grand Challenges Canada will evaluate a Bidder's Bid only on the documentation provided as part of its Bid. Grand Challenges Canada will not evaluate information not submitted with the Bid, such as references to website addresses where additional information can be found, or technical manuals or brochures not submitted with the Bid.

## 2.2 Contracting Authority

**Grand Challenges Canada**  
661 University Avenue, Suite 1720  
MaRS Centre, West Tower  
Toronto, Ontario, M5G 1M1

Attention: Karlee Silver, Co-Chief Executive Officer  
Email: [executive.assistant@grandchallenges.ca](mailto:executive.assistant@grandchallenges.ca)

## 3.1 Late Bids

- a. The Bidder has sole responsibility for the timely receipt of a Bid by Grand Challenges Canada and cannot transfer this responsibility to Grand Challenges Canada.
- b. Grand Challenges Canada will return Bids delivered after the stipulated Closing Date referred to in Paragraph 2, sub-paragraph 1a, unless they qualify as a "delayed bid" in paragraph (c) below.
- c. A Bid received after the Closing Date but before the contract award date may be considered, provided the delay can be proven by the Bidder to have been due solely to a delay in delivery that can be attributed to incorrect handling by Grand Challenges Canada (a "**delayed bid**").
- d. Misrouting, traffic volume, weather disturbances, labour disputes or any other causes for the late delivery of Bids are not acceptable reasons for the Bid to be a delayed bid and accepted by Grand Challenges Canada.

## 4.1 Legal Capacity

- a. The Bidder must have the legal capacity to contract. If the Bidder is a sole proprietorship, a partnership or a corporate body, the Bidder must provide, if requested by Grand Challenges Canada, a statement and any requested supporting documentation indicating the laws under which it is registered or

incorporated, together with the registered or corporate name and place of business. This also applies to Bidders submitting a Bid as a joint venture.

### **5.1 Rights of Grand Challenges Canada**

- a. Grand Challenges Canada reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to:
  - i. Reject any or all Bids received in response to the Bid Solicitation;
  - ii. Enter into negotiations with Bidders on any or all aspects of their Bids;
  - iii. Accept any Bid in whole or in part without negotiations;
  - iv. During the evaluation, members of the evaluation team may, at their discretion, submit questions to or conduct interviews with Bidders, at Bidders' cost, upon forty-eight (48) hours' notice, to seek clarification and/or verify any or all information provided by the Bidder with respect to this Bid Solicitation;
  - v. To award one or more contracts, if applicable;
  - vi. Not to accept any deviations from the stated terms and conditions in the awarded contract;
  - vii. Conduct a survey of Bidders' facilities and/or examine their technical, managerial and financial capabilities to determine if they are adequate to meet the requirements of the Bid Solicitation;
  - viii. Contact any or all references supplied by Bidders to verify and validate any information submitted in their Bid, if applicable;
  - ix. Correct any mathematical errors in the extended pricing of financial Bids by using unit pricing and the quantities stated in the Bid Solicitation;
  - x. Verify any information provided by Bidders through independent research, use of any government resources or by contacting third parties deemed reliable by Grand Challenges Canada;
  - xi. Incorporate all or any portion of the Statement of Work, Bid Solicitation, and the successful Bid in any resulting contract;
  - xii. Cancel the Bid Solicitation at any time without liability;
  - xiii. Reissue the Bid Solicitation without liability;
  - xiv. Extend the Bid Solicitation deadline without liability;
  - xv. If no compliant Bids are received and the requirement is not substantially modified, re-tender the requirement by inviting only the Bidders who bid to re-submit Bids within a period designated by Grand Challenges Canada;
  - xvi. Contract with vendors outside of the Bid Solicitation process; and
  - xvii. Not to award a contract in part or at all.
  
- b. Bidders will have the number of days specified in the request by Grand Challenges Canada to comply with any request related to any of the above items. Failure to comply with the request may result in the bid being declared non-responsive and be declared non-compliant.

### **6.1 Communications – Solicitation Period**

- a. To ensure the integrity of the competitive bid process, all enquiries and other communications regarding the Bid Solicitation must be directed, by email, only to

Grand Challenges Canada identified in the Bid Solicitation. Failure to comply can, for that reason alone, result in the disqualification of the Bid.

- b. To ensure consistency and quality of information provided to Bidders, significant enquiries received and the replies to such enquiries will be provided to all Bidders, without revealing the sources of the enquiries.

### **7.1 Costs**

- a. No payment will be made for costs incurred in the preparation and submission of a Bid in response to the Bid Solicitation. Costs associated with preparing and submitting a Bid, as well as any other costs incurred by the Bidder associated with the evaluation of the Bid, are the sole responsibility of the Bidder.
- b. No costs incurred relating to the work outlined in Appendix A: Statement of Work (“**Work**”) before the receipt of a signed contract or specified written authorization from Grand Challenges Canada can be charged to any resulting contract. In addition, the successful Bidder is not to perform Work in excess of or outside the scope of any resulting contract based on verbal or written requests or instructions from any Grand Challenges Canada personnel other than those specified by Grand Challenges Canada in the final contract.

### **8.1 Governing Law**

- a. This Bid Solicitation and any resulting contract for services shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the Province of Ontario and the federal laws of Canada applicable therein. Each Bidder agrees that any and all disputes, actions or proceedings relating to this Bid Solicitation whether as to interpretation, validity, performance or otherwise, shall be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the courts of the Province of Ontario and each Bidder and Grand Challenges Canada irrevocably attorn to the jurisdiction of the courts of such province.

## **Part 3: Bid Preparation Instructions and Evaluation Procedures**

### **1.0 Format of Bid**

#### **Section 1: Technical Bid**

In its technical bid, the Bidder must demonstrate its understanding of the requirements described in the Bid Solicitation, as well as demonstrate how the Bidder will meet the requirements of Evaluation Criteria and Basis of Selection, as described in Appendix B. The technical bid must not exceed 10 pages including the cover sheet and any appendices.

#### **Section 2: Financial Bid**

The Bidder must submit its financial bid in accordance with the Basis of Fees, attached herein as Appendix C. The total amount of any taxes (e.g., the Harmonized Sales Tax (HST), Goods and Services Tax (GST), etc.) is to be shown separately, if applicable.

### **2.0 Evaluation Procedures**

- a. Bids will be assessed against all mandatory and rated requirements identified herein and evaluated in accordance with the evaluation criteria specified in Appendix B.
- b. Any firm currently providing audit services to Grand Challenges Canada cannot be considered for this Bid Solicitation due to the need for independence and perception of independence.

## Appendix A: Statement of Work

### A. Title

This Bid Solicitation seeks to engage an individual or team for hire in the role of:

- Venture Advisor, Public Sector Scaling

### B. Scope of Work

The Venture Advisor, Public Sector Scaling will be responsible for identifying and testing possible approaches for Grand Challenges Canada to facilitate the public sector scaling of maternal, newborn and child health (MNCH) and/or sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) innovations we have supported to transition to scale.

We anticipate the Work will be performed over two phases:

**Phase 1:** Using their existing expertise and networks, the successful Bidder will identify a suite of possible approaches for Grand Challenges Canada to facilitate public sector scaling of MNCH and/or SRHR innovations that best fit the following design criteria:

- Limit the burden on lead innovators;
- Limit the burden on local government staff;
- Expedite current approaches to financing adoption of innovation by governments;
- Build off of existing capabilities in organizations who play critical roles in the health, development and public sectors in low- and middle-income countries with whom Grand Challenges Canada can partner;
- Is relevant to more than one low- or middle-income countries; and
- Are feasible for Grand Challenges Canada to implement with no / limited increases in internal human resources.

It is expected that the Venture Advisor, Public Sector Scaling arrives at the suite of possible approaches through a review of relevant literature, a landscaping of organizations in the development, health, and public sector ecosystems that play a role of supporting governments to adopt new approaches, and interviewing of key informants in these organizations to understand how their actions could be leveraged to catalyse public sector uptake of Grand Challenges Canada supported innovations.

Grand Challenges Canada staff and advisors will be involved in determining which approach, if any, to test in Phase 2.

**Note:** We will not fund extensive landscaping exercises. We expect this work to rely heavily on the Bidder's previous work, experience and networks. Phase 1 should require a minority of the proposed budget.

**Phase 2:** To help Grand Challenges Canada test the effectiveness of possible approaches to facilitate public sector scaling of innovations. It is expected that this will involve the Venture Advisor, Public Sector Scaling using select innovations emerging from Grand

Challenges Canada's innovation pipeline as test cases. The testing should help us to understand the relative effectiveness of approaches to create the following type of changes:

- Increase in awareness of select innovations and their alignment to local priorities by decision makers within public sector;
- Increase in engagement of public sector staff in the design, implementation or promotion of select innovations;
- Change in policy or procurement approach that creates greater demand for select innovations;
- Decrease in time or effort to procure innovations that have been tested by other public systems;
- Allocation of budget to fund the implementation of select innovations; and
- Statements of political will to support the scale and sustainability of select innovations.

The Venture Advisor, Public Sector Scaling will be expected to leverage significant existing resources and capacities. We will not fund significant capacity building within organizations in order to conduct this Scope of Work.

### C. Deliverables

- **Phase 1:**
  - A short, **written report** that introduces the possible approaches for Grand Challenges Canada to facilitate public sector scaling of innovations, and an assessment of each approach against the design criteria.
  - **Presentation** of the findings and the possible approaches to facilitate public sector scaling of innovations to Grand Challenges Canada staff and advisors to inform decision making about a subset of approaches to test.
  - A **workplan** of how the subset of approaches could be tested, including proposed evaluation approach, in Phase 2.
- **Phase 2:**
  - Regular **updates** on the implementation of approved workplan.
  - A short, **written report** that discusses the effectiveness of each tested approach and recommended steps forward for Grand Challenges Canada.

### Overview of Support

The selected Venture Advisor, Public Sector Scaling will report to Dr. Karlee Silver, Co-Chief Executive Officer of Grand Challenges Canada, and will define the process and implement the infrastructure needed to provide the contracted services.

## Appendix B: Evaluation Criteria and Basis of Selection

### Evaluation Criteria and Process

Only those Bids that meet all mandatory requirements identified in this Bid Solicitation will be further evaluated, based on the criteria listed below.

The Bid should be concise and should address, at a minimum, all mandatory criteria identified below. It is suggested that the Bidder address these criteria in sufficient depth in the Bid.

The Bid must identify the qualifications and experience of the personnel who will carry out the tasks, by systematically addressing each of the experience criteria as detailed below.

The firm's profile and resume for each proposed resource must be included in the Bid.

For each resume submitted, the Bidder should ensure that:

- i. The name of the individual is clearly indicated; and
- ii. The resume clearly demonstrates where, when and how the stated qualifications/experience of the individual were acquired.

For evaluation purposes:

- **Where** means the name of the institution, as well as the position/title held;
- **When** means the start date and end date (e.g., from January 2015 to March 2017) of the period during which the individual acquired the qualifications/experience; and
- **How** means a clear description of activities performed and the responsibilities assigned to the individual in this position and during this period.

Listing experience without providing any supporting data will not be considered to be "demonstrated" for the purpose of this evaluation. Full details should be included that describe the number of projects completed and in progress, the period of the work performed in number of months, years in past and present employment, and other relevant information.

### Mandatory Criteria for Technical and Financial Bid

In addition to those elements described above, the Bidder shall also provide:

1. **Basis of fees**, which will be evaluated separately, as described in Appendix C
2. **History of the firm and location**, affiliation with any relevant partners or networks, size, etc.
3. **Description of support team**, including bios, relevant experience and specific expertise that they will bring to this role – this section should demonstrate the ability of the firm to deliver on the specific items outlined in **Deliverables** in Appendix A
4. **Description of support process**, including specifics regarding the level of responsiveness that Grand Challenges Canada can expect on a regular basis –

this section should include details about measures in place for when the primary contact/support staff are not available.

5. **Two (2) client references ONLY**, for whom you have provided the services described in the statement of work – any Bidder who provides less or more than (2) references will be automatically disqualified from the bidding process and be given no further consideration.
6. **Value-added services**, including whatever the Bidder may want to add to its proposal.

## Scoring Rubric for Evaluation

### 1. Experience (60%)

- a. Does the Bidder have the:
  - i. Functional and technical expertise needed to accomplish their proposed deliverables?
  - ii. Sectoral expertise needed to accomplish their proposed deliverables?
  - iii. Geographic/location-based expertise and language competency necessary to accomplish their proposed deliverables?
  - iv. Existing relationships needed to accomplish their proposed deliverables?
  - v. Experience working effectively within development innovation ecosystems and/or public sector systems to scale innovations?
- b. Is the Bidder an effective, results-driven leader/team with the proven capacity to deliver on their objectives?

### 2. Fees (40%)

- a. Are the scope of the proposed work and the funds requested reasonable and commensurate with the proposed goals?
- b. Does the proposal represent a particularly thoughtful and efficient use of resources?
- c. Is it clear how the previous work, experience and networks of the Bidder improves the value for money of this proposal?

Evaluation of Bids will also be guided by the Objective and Principles of Grand Challenges Canada's Contracting & Procurement Policy, found at [www.grandchallenges.ca/funding-opportunities/resources/](http://www.grandchallenges.ca/funding-opportunities/resources/).

Based on the evaluation of the criteria described above, competitive Bids could be invited for an interview. The purpose of the interview would be to further assess the capacity of the Bidders to best deliver the scope of work outlined in the Bid Solicitation.

## Appendix C: Fees

Bidders are required to **provide their estimated fees in Canadian dollars**, excluding applicable taxes, for each deliverable listed in Appendix A. Bidders are requested to **provide the hourly fee for personnel** involved in delivering the proposed deliverables.