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Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY – GLOBAL MENTAL HEALTH REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

This document addresses frequently asked questions regarding the Global Mental Health Request for Proposals issued by Grand Challenges Canada in May 2020. This document was last updated on May 26, 2020.

Topic Areas

1. **What types of innovations are in scope of the GMH Seed Request for Proposals?**

    Grand Challenges Canada seeks bold ideas to meet the mental health needs of the most vulnerable 10 to 24-year olds. We want culturally sensitive, community driven, innovative approaches to **enhance mental health literacy and/or provide youth-friendly services** that account for the complex social and environmental factors contributing to young people's mental health and wellbeing.

    Innovations must be bold, innovative, transformational, accessible to the most vulnerable young people, and have the potential to be sustainable at scale. Innovations should seek do one or more of the following:

    - Support community environments that promote mental wellbeing throughout adolescence
    - Creatively approach mental health literacy and psychosocial education, working to embed mental health understanding in the broader community
    - Provide effective and affordable youth-friendly community-based care and rehabilitation
    - Foster resilience and advance mental disorder prevention and mental health promotion
    - Integrate mental health services and/or wellbeing interventions into existing education systems
    - Address the mental health needs of young people exposed to violence with a trauma informed approach
    - Inventively leverage technology that is highly used and trusted by young people

    All approaches should engage young people with lived experiences from the outset. Grand Challenges Canada will not fund projects that do not demonstrate meaningful involvement of young people in their design, testing and evaluation.

2. **Who are the target beneficiaries?**

   Innovations must ultimately benefit young people aged 10-24 in low- and middle-income countries.

3. **Why is this call focused on youth mental health?**

   75% of all mental health disorders start before the age of 24[1] and research consistently shows that poor youth mental health limits health, education, livelihoods, and the formation of positive relationships and communities. Though 40% of the global population is under the age of 24, only 12.5% of development assistance for mental health is targeted towards youth, which translates to only 0.1% of the total development assistance for health. Preventing and treating disorders during youth could prevent much of the burden of disease related to poor mental health in adults. As such, this call aims to support innovators that aim to alleviate this burden of disease through creative solutions that address the unique realities in low- and middle-income countries.

4. **Is the call for refundable or non-refundable financing?**

   The funding provided through this call is a grant.

5. **I wanted to understand if you would consider proposals that fit the criteria you've mentioned but also addresses the angle of mental health burden stemming from menstrual health and menstrual disorders?**

   Our areas of focus can be found in section 2.1 of the RFP. Provided your idea addresses these areas, you are eligible to apply.

6. **If my innovation isn't targeting the beneficiaries mentioned in the Request for Proposals, can I still receive funding?**

   No. This call is uniquely focused on innovations that aim to improve enhance mental health literacy and/or provide youth-friendly services while accounting for the complex social and environmental factors that contribute to young people's mental health and wellbeing. Young people do not need to be the sole recipients of the program as we encourage approaches that include the broader community, however supporting young people's mental health must be the primary goal.

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[1] Kessler, Ronald C. et al. Lifetime Prevalence and Age-of-Onset Distributions of DSM-IV Disorders in the National Comorbidity Survey Replication, *Arch Gen Psychiatry*. 2005; 62:593-602

7. **Will there be another call for proposals which addresses targets beyond those mentioned in the current Request for Proposals?**

   At this time, the timing and scope of future Request for Proposals have not yet been determined. We encourage you to check our website regularly or to subscribe to our newsletter for new funding opportunities.

8. **Do you have any options for larger transition-to-scale projects, which are perhaps of a longer duration and offer more funding?**

   Our program does fund larger transition to scale projects, however this is done on an invitation only basis.

9. **I was wondering if the project lead or collaborators must submit a CV?**

   No, this is not necessary. There is a section of the application where you can outline your team's qualifications and why you are best suited to deliver your proposed innovation.

10. **Do we require any letters of recommendations from partners for this application?**

    No.

Eligibility Criteria

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

    Please see Appendix A in the Request for Proposals for a list of low- and middle-income countries, or refer to this link. Applicants from the United Kingdom or Canada implementing in the countries listed in Appendix A are also eligible to apply.

12. **Could you please confirm if only local organizations in countries listed in Appendix A are eligible to apply? Would an international NGO (not UK or Canada based) implementing in these countries be eligible?**

    Applicants from the list of countries outlined in Appendix A and /or applicants from the United Kingdom or Canada implementing in the countries listed are eligible to apply. If your international NGO has local offices/branches that are legally incorporated in eligible countries then you may apply.

13. **Do I require co-funding?**

    No. Co-funding is not a requirement at the proof-of-concept stage.

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

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 eligible institution.

15. The RFP states that "Priority will go to youth-led organizations. An increased focus on youth-led innovators is planned for round two." I am do not fall in the youth age category. Will I be eligible to submit a proposal as the project lead?

Yes, you are eligible to submit a proposal as project lead. Priority will be given to youth led organizations, however those outside that age bracket are still eligible to apply as project leads.

16. Can you explain what you mean by "demonstrate meaningful involvement of young people in their design, testing and evaluation".

We expect that innovators actively work with youth in their target communities and use their input to shape the development of the proposed intervention. Proposals must demonstrate some type of meaningful engagement throughout the development and delivery of the intervention.

17. Our primary institution is a newly founded (in 2020), indigenous non-profit organization comprised of both results-driven youth leaders and older members too in different leadership capacities with myself (38-year old) as the overall Executive Director. Does our non-profit organization qualify as a youth-led organization?

If your organization has a majority of youth in executive leadership positions it would be considered a youth-led organization for the purposes of this grant.

18. What do you define as an eligible institution?

Eligible applicants include social enterprises and other legally recognized institutions (e.g., non-profit organizations, academic institutions, and for-profit companies) that are formed and legally incorporated, and:

- are formed and legally incorporated in an eligible country, as determined by which focus area of the Request for Proposals an institution is applying to
- can successfully execute the activities in their respective technical area
- are capable of receiving and administering grant funding
- are not sole proprietorships
- are not governmental offices or United Nations country offices

19. Can an institution submit more than one (1) proposal?

An institution may submit multiple applications. For multiple applications to be considered from a single institution, the applications must each list a different Project Lead and each Project Lead must register for their own unique Fluxx Portal account.

20. In your eligibility criteria you have specified that Academic institutions are eligible to apply but Government organizations are excluded. My institution is a Government University (Academic Institution). Please clarify if I am/ my institute is eligible to apply?

Yes, government universities are eligible to apply.

21. Will the collaboration with a European country be supported?

Collaborations are supported provided that they enhance the project activities and outcomes. However, please note that the project lead must be affiliated with an institution in either Canada, the United Kingdom or any of the countries listed in Appendix A of the RFP to be eligible.

22. What is the best institution to use to apply for this grant?

We recommend applying from the organization best positioned to manage the grants. Please note the project lead must also be affiliated with the institution.

23. Can an applicant submit more than one (1) proposal?

A Project Lead may only be listed on one (1) application to this Request for Proposals.

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

No. This competition is open to everyone regardless of age or academic qualifications. The Project Lead and team must have the skills and necessary mental health related expertise to carry out the proposed activities of the innovation.

25. What does sub-contracting mean?
Sub-contracting refers to hiring substitutable providers of technical services. For example, a building contractor may hire a subcontractor to complete the electrical wiring part of the contractor's building job. Ultimate responsibility for completion and quality of these services lies with the initial contractor.

26. Do I need a collaborator?

No, however collaborations are encouraged if they will help ensure success.

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

While collaboration is encouraged, proposals can only have one Project Lead (i.e. there cannot be co-principal investigators). There is space provided in the Applicant Information section of the application form to list any other team members or collaborators. Successful applicants may be able to assign a co-principal investigator during the negotiations phase, if they so wish.

28. Would High Income Country (HIC) institutions submitting to implement projects in Low Income Countries (LIC) have any comparative advantage to submissions from LIC that have no HIC collaboration?

No, HIC institutions will not have a comparative advantage to submissions from LIC that have no HIC collaboration. Submissions will be rated based on criteria outlined on pages 15-17 of the RFP.

29. Will we perhaps be at any disadvantage as we already have a GCC grant?

A project lead cannot hold more than one grant. You can apply provided you choose a project lead that does not currently hold a grant with GCC.

30. Our programs are focused on prevention rather than treatment/service offering. Are we eligible to apply for the fund with a proposal for a prevention focused program in regards to youth's mental health?

Yes. Please note that the areas of focus of this call are: innovative approaches to enhance mental health literacy and/or provide youth-friendly services. As such, in order to be eligible your application must address one or both of these topics.

31. The RFP mentions a "maximum allowable indirect rate" but does not specify what it is. Could you confirm if indirect costs are eligible under this RFP, and if so what the maximum rate is?

Indirect costs are not eligible under this RFP.

32. Can multilateral organizations such as United Nations apply to this Request for Proposals?

No, however we highly recommend that these organizations instead apply through a local partner organization. Instead, we strongly encourage applicants to apply through local organizations.

33. I would like to ask the list of the important dates that I should know related to this grant.

All important dates are outlined in the RFP. You can access the document here.

34. **It states** *that only the Project Summary will be reviewed for the first stage of the evaluation process.* **Will sections B-L be considered? If not, should they be completed at this stage?**

While the project summary will be reviewed first, if successful in that first round the entire proposal will be reviewed. We ask that applicants complete all sections before the deadline as they will not receive another chance once applications close.

35. **I see the grant is focused on youth. Would you recommend that we focus specifically on our youth programs or would you recommend including our women's mental health program?**

Our seed call is focused on youth, but your proposal can have a gendered angle. If your proposal aims to include women outside of our target ages (10-24), it would not be eligible. Please note your proposal can still aim to work with people outside the youth age range (like families), but that should not be the main focus.

36. **Can I apply as a project leader on a project in one of the low or middle income countries? I am a staff member at a large organization in the US. Can a staff in one of the country offices (of the ODA list of countries) be a project leader instead?**

The project lead must be affiliated with an institution in one of the eligible countries you may apply. Therefore, while you may not be eligible, staff from one of the country offices may be.

37. **I understand I can collaborate on a project; can I be compensated for my time dedicated to that?**

Yes, it can be listed under consultant costs.

38. **As a collaborator, can a partner organization receive any funds to conduct activities such as training, organization of meetings and travel?**

Yes, if they are listed as a sub-contractor on the project.

39. **Are projects related to COVID and its aftermath allowed in this call?**

Yes, provided they also align to our focus areas.

40. **What happens if COVID 19 still limits travel by the start of the project or a new outbreak comes? If we budget for face to face meetings, will be funded be reallocated? Or can the entire project be changed to accommodate for the situation in April 2021, as appropriate?**

We ask that potential applicants provide a budget breakdown based on their best guess of their situation. Should a project be successful but require a change in the proposed budget this can be negotiated during the signing process.

41. **Are there any grant making opportunities you have specifically for women's mental health?**

Currently, we do not have any seed opportunities for projects focused on women's mental health who fall outside the youth category.

42. **We also partner with other local non-profits. Would you like all non-profit orgs included in the grant application?**

Please include the organization that will be administering the grant if successful. If you intend to partner with other local organizations, you can indicate that in your proposal.

43. **I was wondering if the appeal for Global Mental Health from GCC released earlier this week is also available in French?**

A French translation of the RFP can be accessed here.

44. **Could someone please give me a call to answer some questions that are not addressed on your website?**

Given the volume of queries we are receiving we are unable to have 1:1 conversations with potential applicants. Therefore, to maintain a fair process we are asking that people submit their questions via email to globalmentalhealth@grandchallenges.ca.

45. **I was unable to download the budget template to submit a proposal for the global mental health call. What should I do?**

The budget template is available online through the Fluxx application form.

Monitoring and Evaluation

46. My group does not have the necessary expertise to adequately measure impact of our proposed innovation. Is it possible to request additional supports in this area?

Youth-led organizations that require support to measure outcomes will be matched with an appropriate evaluation partner upon securing a grant from Grand Challenges Canada. There will be the option to opt out of the evaluation plan section and request this support in the application. For proposals that require this support please reserve $15,000 CAD in your final budget for third party evaluation. Any unused funds earmarked for evaluation can be returned to programming costs.

47. What can we expect from the learning platform? What is their exact role while supporting any organisation?

As part of the program's commitment to providing ongoing supports to innovators, the learning platform aims to provide technical support to successful projects. The GMH learning platform will be a responsive resource to maximize the impact of GMH projects and to boost the collective impact of the GMH program. Our aim is to have supports tailored to the individual need of each team.

Specifically, the GMH learning platform will:

I.   support projects within the GMH program to achieve sustainable impacts, including mentorship and one-on-one support
II.   collect lessons and best practices arising from the broad GMH community to improve the success of program innovations and inform the wider community of learning
III. help track and disseminate the individual and collective impact of GMH innovations for the community and relevant external stakeholders
IV.   support youth-led organizations to develop processes and frameworks to successfully implement projects.

48. As per Page 16, in the section *"Project Execution Plan",* it is mentioned that if we signal that we need a third party evaluation, we will be exempt from sections related to metrics and project evaluation. Does this mean we will not have to write answers to essay questions in these sections? Or will we have to attempt the questions but our answers will be evaluated differently?

Applicants are still expected to provide an overview of their execution plan and proposed project activities and goals based on the indicators outlined in the Appendix, but if you will be requesting a third party evaluation please complete to the best of your ability. We do not expect you to include information about metrics or details on the timing and method of an evaluation. When reviewing applications we will be mindful of the addition of third party evaluator who will be able to provide support on these items should the application be successful.

Funding and Duration

49. What is the amount of funding of the proof-of-concept seed grant?

Applicants can apply for funding of up to $250,000 CAD.

50. What is the duration of the proof-of-concept seed grant?

Successful proposals will be awarded seed grants of up to $250,000 CAD for 18 – 24 months to develop and validate the proposed innovation.

51. What costs are allowed in the budget of the proposal?

Allowable costs have been outlined in Section 4.6 of the full Request for Proposals. Information on eligible and ineligible costs can also be found at this link: http://www.grandchallenges.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/EligibleCostDirective-2018Nov05-EN.pdf.

52. We don't know how the project budget should be for.

Please project costs for Year 1 and Year 2, as projects are expected to be either 18 or 24 months in duration.

53. Keeping in mind the fluctuating currency rates, what foreign exchange rate should we be using while filling *"Budget Summary Table?"*

Please use the current exchange rate from this site: https://www1.oanda.com/currency/converter/

Fluxx

54. How do you apply for this grant?

Applications must be completed on the Fluxx portal. For more details on the FLUXX Portal application process please see the FLUXX Quick Reference Guide.

55. Can I submit my proposal as soon as it is complete or do I have to wait for the deadline?

You can submit your application at any time before the July 17th deadline.

56. The online application does not state how many characters section C & E are. I would like to enquire about the length of those sections as well.

Sections that have character limits have been indicated in the application. Those that do not have section lengths do not have these restrictions.

57. What happens if I experience technical issues with submitting my application via the Fluxx Portal?

The FLUXX QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE describes how to create a Fluxx Portal account, how to reset the password on an existing account and other helpful tips to navigate Fluxx and the application form.

Both new and returning Portal users should read the **Fluxx Quick Reference Guide** linked above to avoid any technical issues. For technical assistance with registration or the online application, contact Technical Support. All other questions should be directed to globalmentalhealth@grandchallenges.ca.

Please ensure to give yourself plenty of time to submit your application ahead of the deadline. ALL applications must be received on or before the deadline of July 17, 2020 at 3:00 P.M. ET. Late submissions will not be considered.

58. Can I submit my application through email?

No. All submissions must be done through Fluxx.

Review Process

59. What does the review process look like?

An independent review process for this initiative, which includes an Eligibility Screen and Innovation Screen conducted by Grand Challenges Canada and youth advisors, will be conducted. Further details can be found in Section 4.4 of the full Request for Proposals.

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

Yes, Grand Challenges Canada intends to work with the successful grantees to showcase their work and successes.

Application Timelines

61. When will the funding decision be announced?

The application schedule is outlined below as per the Request for Proposals.

Key Dates	Event
July 9, 2020	**Suggested deadline to register for a Fluxx account (gcc.fluxx.io)** Note: If you have applied for funding in the past, you **already** have an account. If you do not remember your password, you can reset it and gain immediate access to the Portal, simply click on **Create or reset password**.
July 17, 2020	**Application deadline at 3:00 p.m. ET**
January 31, 2021	**Notification of application status**
April 2021	**Anticipated start date of projects**

Application Questions

Any additional questions should be sent to globalmentalhealth@grandchallenges.ca.
For information on all Grand Challenges Canada programs, please find us at
www.grandchallenges.ca.