



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

(revised May 2021)

STARS IN GLOBAL HEALTH – ROUND 11 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

This document addresses questions commonly received by Grand Challenges Canada that relate to the Stars in Global Health Request for Proposals (RFP) launched April 7, 2021. Additional questions may be submitted to stars@grandchallenges.ca.

Updated FAQ document(s) will be posted periodically, up to one week prior to the RFP deadline of **June 3, 2021 at 2:00pm EDT (6:00pm UTC)**.

Deadlines

1. What is the difference between the registration deadline and the submission deadline?

To manage processing times on the application platform, Grand Challenges Canada will be implementing a two-stage process:

- A. Registration deadline – **May 31, 2021 at 2:00pm EDT (6:00pm UTC)** – **This is the deadline to register for an account** on Grand Challenges Canada's Community Portal (Fluxx) at gcc.fluxx.io. This is only to gain access to the application platform (if you do not already have an existing account) and **not a submission deadline**. Once you register, you can save and return to edit your application before the submission deadline. All applications **MUST** use Fluxx to submit their final applications. If you have any issues, please submit a ticket to report your registration issue at <https://www.grandchallenges.ca/fluxxsupport/>
- B. Submission deadline – **June 3, 2021 at 2:00pm EDT (6:00pm UTC)** – **This is the deadline to SUBMIT your application via Fluxx**. Please remember to press the "Submit" button and ensure that you receive an email confirmation of your submission before you close the page. If you have any issues with the submission, please send a follow up but submitting a ticket to report the issue at <https://www.grandchallenges.ca/fluxxsupport/> AND email stars@grandchallenges.ca with your application number and the issue. **No applications will be accepted over email.**

Topic Areas

1. What topics are considered "sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR)"?

Proposed innovations must have the potential to make a substantial, equitable impact on sexual and reproductive health and rights and demonstrate resilience in pandemic settings as outlined in Section 2.1 in the RFP. The innovations are expected to improve gender equality through enabling comprehensive sexual and reproductive health and rights of women, adolescents, children and LGBTQI+ people.

Ultimately, Grand Challenges Canada is seeking innovations that improve the access and demand for quality sexual and reproductive health and rights information, supply and services that lead to at least one of the following **priority outcomes**:

- Increase met need for comprehensive contraception care and education
- Decrease in sexual and gender-based violence
- Decrease the impact of sexual and gender-based violence
- Decrease the incidence of female genital mutilation
- Decrease the incidence of child, early and forced marriage

Proposals may seek to achieve these outcomes through one or more of the following pathways (among others):

- Address the pressing sexual and reproductive health and rights needs of women, adolescents, children and LGBTQI+ people in the target area
- Creatively approach sexual and reproductive health and rights service delivery, education and demand creation
- Provide inclusive, effective and affordable community-based, adolescent- and/or LGBTQI+ friendly, gender-affirming/sensitive sexual and reproductive health and rights services
- Approach the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence in a creative manner
- Effectively integrate sexual and reproductive health and rights services, particularly sexual and gender-based violence services, into existing systems in an inclusive manner (i.e., ability to address the needs of LGBTQI populations, ethnic minorities, prevention of female genital mutilation, etc.)
- Effectively deploy strategies that prevent child, early and forced marriage
- Effectively employ products, services and/or technologies that are appropriate, affordable and accessible to the end user

Proposed innovations must be appropriate, affordable and accessible to target populations. All innovations must demonstrate a rights-based approach, the principle of “do no harm” and must be gender-affirming/sensitive and inclusive to the extent possible.

Proposed innovations must be appropriate, affordable and accessible to the target population and demonstrate how the innovations are better alternatives to current approaches.

2. Who are the target users?

Innovations must benefit women, adolescents, children and LGBTQI+ people who are among the most vulnerable in eligible low- and middle-income countries in Sub-Saharan Africa.

3. If my innovation isn't targeting the beneficiaries mentioned in the Stars in Global Health RFP, can I still receive funding?

No. Proposals which do not address the sexual and reproductive health and rights of women, adolescents, children and LGBTQI+ people who are among the most underserved in eligible low- and middle-income countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, will not be considered for funding in this RFP.

4. Is it mandatory for a proposed idea to target all the suggested target users (women, adolescents, children and LGBTQI+ people) or can it focus on only one or two?

Proposed innovations must target at least one group amongst the listed target users.

5. If LGBTQI+ individuals are not officially recognized in a particular country due to strongly held cultural and social norms surrounding gender expression and sexuality, can an eligible organization in that country apply?

An eligible institution in the country can still apply, so long as the project operates in line with local legislation (i.e., following local laws) in the area of implementation.

6. Will there be another call for applications which addresses targets beyond those mentioned in the Stars in Global Health Request for Proposals?

At this time, that decision has not yet been determined. We encourage you to check our website regularly or to [subscribe](#) to our newsletter for new funding opportunities.

Eligibility Criteria

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

ONLY applicants from the following list of countries and Canada are eligible to apply to this RFP. All applicants **MUST** implement the project in a Sub-Saharan African country. For the purposes of determining eligibility, Grand Challenges Canada may consider both the applicant's home jurisdiction and any other jurisdiction within which project activities will be implemented.

This list is subject to revision by Grand Challenges Canada without notice. Notwithstanding inclusions below, all eligible jurisdictions remain subject to approval by Grand Challenges Canada based on 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.

List of Countries Eligible to Apply

Applicants affiliated with institutions incorporated in any of the countries listed in this Appendix and/or in CANADA are **eligible to apply**.

Countries highlighted in this list, those classified as Sub-Saharan Africa, **are eligible implementation countries.**

Applicants from Upper-Middle-Income Countries (UMICs): Please note that a maximum of one (1) award will be made within each UMIC (i.e., to the top-ranked applicant from a given UMIC).

Least Developed Countries	Other Low-Income Countries (per capita GNI ≤ \$1,005 in 2016)	Other Lower Middle-Income Countries and Territories (per capita GNI \$1,006-\$3,955 in 2016)	Other Upper Middle-Income Countries and Territories (per capita GNI \$3,956-\$12,235 in 2016)
Afghanistan	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Angola	Albania
Bangladesh	Zimbabwe	Armenia	Algeria
Benin		Bolivia	Antigua and Barbuda
Bhutan		Cabo Verde	Argentina
Burkina Faso		Cameroon	Azerbaijan
Burundi		Congo	Belarus
Cambodia		Côte d'Ivoire	Belize
Central African Republic		Egypt	Bosnia and Herzegovina
Chad		El Salvador	Botswana
Comoros		Eswatini	Brazil
Democratic Republic of the Congo		Georgia	China (People's Republic of)
Djibouti		Ghana	Colombia
Eritrea		Guatemala	Costa Rica
Ethiopia		Honduras	Cuba
Gambia		India	Dominica
Guinea		Indonesia	Dominican Republic
Guinea-Bissau		Jordan	Ecuador
Haiti		Kenya	Equatorial Guinea
Kiribati		Kosovo	Fiji
Lao People's Democratic Republic		Kyrgyzstan	Gabon
Lesotho		Micronesia	Grenada
Liberia		Moldova	Guyana
Madagascar		Mongolia	Iran
Malawi		Morocco	Iraq
Mali		Nicaragua	Jamaica

Mauritania		Nigeria	Kazakhstan
Mozambique		Pakistan	Lebanon
Myanmar		Papua New Guinea	Libya
Nepal		Philippines	Malaysia
Niger		Sri Lanka	Maldives
Rwanda		Syrian Arab Republic	Marshall Islands
Sao Tome and Principe		Tajikistan	Mauritius
Senegal		Tokelau	Mexico
Sierra Leone		Tunisia	Montenegro
Solomon Islands		Ukraine	Montserrat
Somalia		Uzbekistan	Namibia
South Sudan		Vanuatu	Nauru
Sudan		Viet Nam	Niue
Tanzania		West Bank and Gaza Strip	North Macedonia
Timor-Leste			Palau
Togo			Panama
Tuvalu			Paraguay
Uganda			Peru
Yemen			Saint Helena
Zambia			Saint Lucia
			Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
			Samoa
			Serbia
			South Africa
			Suriname
			Thailand
			Tonga
			Turkey
			Turkmenistan
			Venezuela
			Wallis and Futuna

2. My country is not listed in the table above. Can I still apply?

No. If your country is not listed, and is not Canada, then you are not eligible to apply to this RFP. 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.

3. Do I require co-funding?

No. Co-funding is not a requirement at the proof-of-concept stage. However, all successful applicants are encouraged to start securing co-funding during the proof-of-concept phase to better position their innovation for scaling as this would become a requirement should your innovation be invited to apply for transition-to-scale funding.

4. 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 institution in an eligible country.

5. I am a Canadian citizen based in the United States (U.S.) and working for a U.S. Institution that works in an eligible low- and middle- income country. Would I be eligible, because of my citizenship, to apply to this Stars in Global Health Request for Proposal even though the U.S. is not an eligible country?

Grants are not awarded based on citizenship or nationality. All applicants must apply through institutions that are legally formed in an eligible jurisdiction in Canada or in eligible countries found in Appendix A in the RFP and in the response to Q1 in the Eligibility Criteria section of this FAQ document.

American and European organizations can be noted as collaborators of eligible institutions in low- and middle-income countries that are the lead applicants to this request for proposals.

6. What do you define as an eligible institution?

Eligible institutions include academic institutions, public and private research organizations, non-profit organizations, for-profit companies, limited liability companies (LLCs) or other recognized institutions capable of supporting the proposed activities, administering grants and that are legally incorporated in an eligible jurisdiction.

GCC does NOT fund individuals, sole proprietorships, partnerships, unincorporated trusts, or any entity that does not have legal capacity to enter into a contract.

7. What does “incorporated” mean in terms of eligibility?

The meaning of ‘legally incorporated’ will vary across different jurisdictions. It is the responsibility of every applicant to understand how this applies to their own jurisdiction. Typically, though, ‘legally incorporated’ means that the entity is incorporated as its own legal person, having separate and distinct legal identity. Local registration of an international NGO (for example) would not meet this eligibility requirement.

While this requirement will be screened during the Eligibility Screen, Grand Challenges Canada will also conduct a more in-depth due diligence of this criteria (and others) during negotiations process for selected projects.

8. 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 needed to carry out the proposed activities of the innovation and administer the grant.

9. Is it a requirement that the applicant have specific expertise or experience in SRHR research?

The expertise and experience of the team must align with the proposed innovation. Should there be gaps in the expertise and experience of the team, identifying experienced mentors, advisors or supervisors with relevant expertise will strengthen the application.

10. Do I need a collaborator?

Please see Section 3.2 of the RFP which outlines the eligibility criteria for investigators based in Canada and from other eligible countries.

Applicants from Canada:

- It is mandatory for all **applicants from Canada** to have a collaborator based in an eligible country other than Canada.

Applicants from other eligible countries:

- It is not mandatory for **applicants from eligible countries other than Canada** to have a collaborator.

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

Applicants must seek collaborations independently. Grand Challenges Canada will not assist applicants in arranging collaborations. Applicants can review prospective collaborators by joining the Global Health Innovation LinkedIn group at <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/3839474/>

12. May the proposal include collaborations with academic and/or industry partners in the United States or other ineligible countries?

It is not the intention of this RFP to exclude existing productive collaborations. If appropriately justified, these collaborations may be part of a proposal.

Note: The Project Lead must still be affiliated with an institution in an eligible country.

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

Yes, but only the resume of the Project Lead will be evaluated. The Project Lead can list co-applicants and other team members in the application as collaborators, if they so wish.

14. Can multilateral organizations such as United Nations apply to this RFP?

In our past experience, Grand Challenges Canada has found that multilateral organizations such as the United Nations (UN) are typically unable to agree to the terms and conditions of our Grant Agreement. We highly recommend that these organizations, instead, apply through a local eligible partner organization, with staff from the UN office acting as collaborators on the project.

Integrated Innovation®

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

This challenge is seeking projects demonstrating **Integrated Innovation** that could be easily implemented in low- and middle-income countries in Sub-Saharan Africa to improve sexual and reproductive health and rights. The proposed innovations would need to:

- A. Have a strong likelihood of achieving substantial and measurable health gains in hard-to-reach and underserved populations
- B. Maximize demand, delivery, uptake, acceptability, sustainability and impact by **integrating scientific/technological, social and/or business innovation**. We call this Integrated Innovation. (See the Integrated Innovation white paper available at (<http://www.grandchallenges.ca/funding-opportunities/integrated-innovation/>)
- C. Demonstrate, where possible, alignment with relevant domestic country laws, regulations, national plans and interest of relevant institutions and organizations to the development, delivery and uptake of the innovation (i.e., local health systems).

2. Do you encourage applications from social entrepreneurs?

Social entrepreneurs are strongly encouraged to apply to this Request for Proposals. Social entrepreneurs are individuals with innovative solutions to society's most pressing social problems. Social entrepreneurs tackle major social issues, offer new ideas for wide-scale change and seek a sustainable approach to achieve social returns to society. Grand Challenges Canada believes social entrepreneurship is a critical feature to enable scaling, sustainability and the ultimate achievement of impact.

Social entrepreneurs interested in applying should ensure they have the legal capacity to enter into a contract with Grand Challenges Canada. Grand Challenges Canada does not fund individuals, sole-proprietorships, partnerships, unincorporated trusts or any entity that does not have the legal capacity to enter into a contract.

Funding and Duration

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

Applicant can apply for funding of up to \$100,000 CAD.

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

Successful proposals will be awarded seed grants of up to \$100,000 for up to 12 months to develop and validate the proposed innovation.

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

For allowable costs, please refer to Section 5.1 of the Stars in Global Health RFP. Further information on eligible and ineligible costs can be found on our website at this link:

<http://www.grandchallenges.ca/funding-opportunities/resources/>.

4. Are there any restrictions on indirect costs?

Yes. Innovators are entitled to indirect costs, calculated as 10% of all direct costs. Indirect costs are costs that cannot be directly traced to a specific project activity.

Innovators must consistently charge costs as either indirect or direct costs and must not double charge or inconsistently charge the same cost, or categories of costs, as both.

A list of examples of costs that could be considered as indirect under the Innovator's Project can be found in GCC's [Cost Directive](#).

Application Submission

1. How do I submit an application?

If the Project Lead already has an existing account on Fluxx, they should utilize this account. Otherwise, applicants should create an account using the following link: [Create an account](#). Once you have created an account, please allow for up to three (3) business days for Grand Challenges Canada to process your information.

Once your information has been processed, you will be emailed login credentials to access Fluxx (gcc.fluxx.io) where the application template is available. You will need to input and submit answers to the application questions through this template. **Please note that you can save and come back to an application (to edit, complete) until such time as you submit the application.**

2. What happens if I experience technical issues with submitting my application via Fluxx?

If you encounter technical issues with submitting your application, please submit a ticket to the Grand Challenges Canada support team at <https://www.grandchallenges.ca/fluxxsupport/> outlining the nature of the problem. **Please include your application number.**

Please ensure to give yourself plenty of time to submit your application ahead of the deadline. **ALL applicants MUST register for their Fluxx account by 2:00pm EDT (6:00pm UTC), May 31st, 2021.**

If you have contacted the support team prior to May 31st, 2021 and the identified registration issue has not been resolved by 2:00pm EDT (6:00pm UTC) on June 2nd, 2021 please follow-up by submitting a ticket to the Grand Challenges Canada support team at <https://www.grandchallenges.ca/fluxxsupport/> AND email stars@grandchallenges.ca

ALL applications must be received via Fluxx on or before the deadline of 2:00pm EDT (6:00pm UTC), June 3rd, 2021. Applications received after this time will NOT be considered for funding.

3. How do I access the application in French?

When creating a Fluxx account (or accessing an existing account), you will be asked to select your 'preferred language'. The application form will then display in the selected language (English or French).

You can also change your 'preferred language' at any time by editing your account settings (clicking on the gear icon in the bottom left). You can safely change the language at any time without losing answers already entered in the application form.

4. Is there a template for the written proposal? I would like to learn about the word limit and other requirements.

Grand Challenges Canada has posted the application template on GCC's website (find the link under [Funding Opportunities](#)) for reference. You CANNOT submit your application using the template over email. Applications will ONLY be accepted via Fluxx.

Applicants with a functional Fluxx account and access to Fluxx (gcc.fluxx.io) can also view the application questions and character limits through the portal (Fluxx). **Please note that you can save and come back to an application (to edit, complete) until such time as you submit the application.**

After saving your application on Fluxx, you will see a "Printable" button at the top right of your screen, which you can click to print the application questions and any inputted responses.

5. Will I need to provide any additional information or documentation beyond the online application?

No additional information is required at the time of application, however successful applicants may be asked to provide supporting evidence, including degree certificates and certificates of incorporation of institutions.

6. Can an applicant submit more than one application?

A project lead may only be listed on one application to this request for proposals. An institution from an eligible country may, however, be the applicant on multiple applications, if all applications have different project leads and different proposals

7. Can I submit my application via email?

No. All applications to the Stars in Global Health Request for Proposals must be submitted through the Fluxx (gcc.fluxx.io). **Any application sent via email will not be considered.**

For technical support, please contact fluxxsupport@grandchallenges.ca and provide your application number. Note this email is for technical support only. For questions related to this Request for Proposals or the application process that are not addressed in this FAQs, please contact stars@grandchallenges.ca.

8. In the application guidelines for the Stars in Global Health RFP, there is a note that applicants are required to seek and obtain sign-off from their affiliated organization/institution(s) before submitting their application. I am wondering in what format this permission should be granted?

You are required to obtain approval from your institution before submitting your application, however there is no form or signature that needs to be completed at the time of application. If a grant is awarded, certain documents may be requested at that time.

Review Process

1. Will the selection process use a peer review or champion-based review in evaluating application to the Stars in Global Health RFP?

Grand Challenges Canada will subject all eligible applications to a peer review process, which will first comprise of an Eligibility Screen and Innovation Screen. Following this step, selected applications will undergo an external peer review process conducted by experts in the sexual and reproductive health and rights field. Please refer to Sections 3.3 and 3.4 of the RFP for details on the process.

2. 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.

3. Will applicants be advised if they are rejected during the screening and review process?

Yes, at every step of the screening and review process, applicants will be advised if their submission is retained or not, as well as provided with brief comments and feedback whenever possible.

Application Timelines

1. When will the funding decision be announced?

The schedule of key deadlines is outlined below as per the RFP.

Key Dates	Event
May 31, 2021 at 2:00pm EDT (6:00pm UTC)	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 .
June 3, 2021 at 2:00pm EDT (6:00pm UTC)	Application submission deadline
October 2021	Notification of approval or rejection
October 2021 to March 2022	Negotiation of award
January to April 2022	Anticipated project start date

2. Is the start date flexible to accommodate relocation to start a new employment position?

All successful applicants must take up the grant no later than July 1, 2022. Any deferral beyond this period may result in the forfeiture of the award.

General Program Questions

- 1. 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?**

Both. However, we will not consider funding drug or vaccine development, discovery science, strictly capacity-building or advocacy initiatives, ongoing programmatic funding, or ideas that are not applicable to marginalized and vulnerable women and girls in low- and middle-income countries in Sub-Saharan Africa.

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

No. This RFP is focused on seeking projects demonstrating Integrated Innovation that could be easily implemented in low- and middle-income countries in Sub-Saharan Africa to improve sexual and reproductive health and rights. 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).

- 3. Does Grand Challenges have offices or representatives in Africa? If not, how is collaboration defined?**

Grand Challenges Canada does not have a formal presence in Africa, though we have several valued partners and collaborators across the continent.

Funded institutions are entirely responsible for the implementation of their innovations, with the Grand Challenges Canada team managing these investments and providing connections to technical support whenever possible. Targets and objectives for the project period are set collaboratively during the negotiation process.

- 4. 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?**

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.

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.

Some projects may also require ethics approval from the funded institution and/or the country of implementation. GCC will screen for this requirement during negotiations. This can be another time-consuming process, so we also recommended that you start as soon as possible.

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](#).