



Grand Challenges Canada®
Grands Défis Canada

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

GLOBAL MENTAL HEALTH – ROUND 2 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

This document addresses questions commonly received by Grand Challenges Canada that relate to the Global Mental Health Request for Proposals (RFP) launched on October 6, 2021. Additional questions may be submitted to globalmentalhealth@grandchallenges.ca.

An updated FAQ document will be posted periodically, up to one week prior to the Request for Proposals **submission deadline of December 1, 2021 at 12:00pm EST (5:00pm UTC)**.

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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:

Registration deadline: November 23, 2021 at 12:00pm EST (5:00pm UTC). This is the deadline to register for an account on Grand Challenges Canada's Fluxx Portal at <https://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/>

Submission deadline: December 1, 2021 at 12:00pm EST (5:00pm 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 by submitting a ticket to report the issue at <https://www.grandchallenges.ca/fluxxsupport/>

Topic Areas

1. What type of innovations are in scope for the Global Mental Health Request for Proposals?

Grand Challenges Canada seeks bold ideas to meet the mental health needs of the most underserved 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 should address ongoing and persistent mental health needs of the most underserved young people. Innovations must be bold, innovative, transformational, accessible to the most underserved young people, and have the potential to be sustainable at scale. We expect all innovations to take a person-centered, rights-based approach to mental health. Approaches need to involve young people and young people with lived experiences of mental health challenges, from the start.

Grand Challenges Canada is looking for innovations that lead to at **least one of the following priority outcomes:**

- Increased wellbeing
- Increased resilience

- Decreased symptom severity
- Improved functioning

We're particularly interested in innovations that:

- Aim to support and amplify the voices of young people, in particular through the use of peer to peer models.
- Tackle the outcomes of damaging gender norms and consider the mental health needs of people with diverse sexual and gender identities.
- Support delivering mental health care through youth-friendly, non-health delivery mechanisms.
- Meet people where they are by integrating mental health and/or wellbeing interventions into existing education or social care systems.
- Creatively leverage technology that is highly used and trusted by young people, while considering rigorous monitoring and evaluation and tracking of priority outcomes.

2. Who are the target users?

Innovations must benefit the most underserved 10- to 24-year-olds in the eligible low and middle-income countries listed in Appendix A of the Request for Proposals.

3. If my innovation isn't targeting the target users mentioned in the Global Mental Health Request for Proposals, can I still receive funding?

No. This call is uniquely focused on approaches that 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.

Proposals which do not target underserved 10- to 24-year-olds in the eligible low- and middle-income countries will not be considered for funding through this Request for Proposals.

4. Are mental health policy development and advocacy focused projects eligible?

No. Projects that are strictly focused on mental health policy development and advocacy are not eligible because it does not align with the focus areas and priority outcomes listed in Section 2.1 of the Request for Proposals.

5. My proposed innovation involves extending an ongoing project. Am I eligible to apply for funding?

Innovations that involve the ongoing implementation of programs are not eligible unless the proposed innovation is piloting a new component, mode of delivery, or adapting an evidence-based program for a new geography or context.



6. Can you explain what you mean by "demonstrate meaningful involvement of young people and young people with lived experiences of mental health challenges in the design, testing and evaluation of the innovation"?

We expect that innovators actively involve young people and young people with lived experiences of mental health challenges and use their insights to shape the development and implementation of the proposed innovation. This is to ensure your solution is poised for initial adoption, and subsequent adaptation, for greater impact.

Meaningful involvement will look different for each innovation. We expect that applicants describe how their involvement of young people and young people with lived experiences is considered meaningful in the context of the proposed innovation.

7. Where can I find information about the projects previously awarded a Global Mental Health seed grant?

You can find information about previous and current Global Mental Health projects on Grand Challenge Canada's [searchable database of innovations](#) and the [Global Mental Health Innovations](#).

8. Will there be another call for applications which addresses target users beyond those mentioned in the Global Mental Health 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 subscribe to the [Global Mental Health mailing list](#) to learn about new funding opportunities and other program announcements.

Eligibility Criteria

1. How do I know whether my institution is eligible to apply?

ONLY legally incorporated institutions from the countries listed in Appendix A of the Request for Proposals or Canada are eligible to apply to this Request for Proposals. For more information about the eligibility criteria please refer to Section 3.3 in the Request for Proposals.

2. Which countries are eligible for project implementation?

ONLY projects being implemented in the countries listed in Appendix A of the Request for Proposals are eligible to apply to this Request for Proposals.

3. My institution country is not listed in Appendix A. Can I still apply?

No. If your country is not listed and is not Canada, you are not eligible to apply to this Request for Proposals.

4. How do you define youth-led organizations?

Youth-led organizations are organizations in which fifty percent (50%) or more of the individuals in key leadership positions are youth 35 years and under.

5. Are only youth-led organizations eligible to apply?

Non-youth led organizations are eligible to apply as long as the eligibility criteria is met. However, priority will be given to youth-led organizations.

9. Do submitted projects have to work with the entire age range of 10-24 year-olds or would the project still be eligible if we focused on a subset of that age range?

Your application will still be eligible if you work with youth that belong to a sub-set of the specified age range.

6. Do I need 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.

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

No. Grants are not awarded based on citizenship or nationality. 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 is an eligible institution to receive grant funding?

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

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

9. 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, ‘legally incorporated’ means that the entity is incorporated as its own legal person, having separate and distinct legal identity. For example, local “registration” of an international NGO would not meet this eligibility requirement. However, an incorporated trust or incorporated partnership (sometimes a limited liability partnership in certain jurisdictions) would be eligible.

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 during the negotiations process for selected projects.

10. Would an international NGO implementing in countries listed in Appendix A be eligible?

Applicants from the list of countries outlined in Appendix A and/or applicants from Canada implementing in the countries listed in Appendix A are eligible to apply. If your international NGO has local offices/branches that are legally incorporated in the eligible countries, you are eligible to submit an application from the eligible country office.

11. Do Canadian institutions submitting an application have an advantage compared to submissions from low-and middle-income countries that have no high-income country collaboration?

Canadian institutions will not have a comparative advantage. All applications will undergo the same screening and review process outlined in Section 3.3 in the Request for Proposals.

12. Why can’t multilateral organizations such as United Nations apply to this Request for Proposals?

Based on 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.

13. Can an institution submit more than one proposal?

Yes. 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.

14. Can an applicant submit more than one proposal?

No. A Project Lead may only be listed on one application to this Request for Proposals.

15. Can a Project Lead funded in Round 1 of the Seed Global Mental Health Program submit another application?

Project Leads funded under Round 1 of the Seed Global Mental Health Program are ineligible to submit an application for Round 2 unless their previous project has closed. However, institutions currently funded under Round 1 are eligible to apply (if all eligibility criteria are met) with a different Project Lead.

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

No. This Request for Proposals 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.

17. Do I need a local collaborator?

No. If the applying institution is not based in the country in which the innovation will be implemented, collaboration with a local partner is advantageous and encouraged, but not required.

18. 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.

19. Can a group of people submit a proposal together with one or more co-applicants (e.g., as a consortium)?

While collaboration is encouraged, proposals can only have one Project Lead. There cannot be co-principal investigators. There is space provided in the Applicant Information section of the application form to list team members and/or collaborators.

Funding and Duration

1. What is the total amount of funding of the grant?

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

2. Is there a minimum amount of funding that applications can apply for?

There is no minimum amount, but we expect the seed grants to be around \$250,000 CAD to achieve the goals and priority outcomes outlined in the Request for Proposals.

3. What is the duration of the grant?

The timeframe to develop and test the proposed innovation is 18 or 24 months.

4. How many projects will be funded in this round?

Assuming a sufficient number of applications, around 20 projects will be funded.

5. Is the call for refundable or non-refundable financing?

The type of funding provided is a grant.

6. Do you have options for larger transition-to-scale projects, which are of longer duration and offer a larger amount of funding?

Global Mental Health does fund transition-to-scale projects, however this Request for Proposals is aimed at funding seed projects testing a proof-of-concept. The Request for Proposals for transition-to-scale projects is currently open. Applications are by invitation only and considered on a rolling basis. Please refer to the [website](#) for more information.

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

For allowable costs and examples, please refer to Section 5.1 of the Global Mental Health Program Request for Proposals. For more information on eligible and ineligible costs, please refer to the Grand Challenges Canada's [Cost Directive](#).

8. Are there any mandatory costs that need to be included in the budget?

Yes. \$7,000 CAD must be included within the budget to cover the travel costs of one project team member attending one Grand Challenges Canada Global Mental Health community meeting per year.

9. 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 Grand Challenge Canada's [Cost Directive](#).

10. What foreign exchange rate should be used when completing the budget table?

Grand Challenges Canada's recommended currency exchange converter is [Oanda](#).

Resources

1. Are there any application resources that you can share?

We strongly encourage applicants to use the following resources as you put together your application:

- [Resource Guide - Definitions](#)
- [Global Mental Health Innovations](#)
- [Grand Challenges Canada Innovation and Results](#): Searchable database of previous and currently funded innovations across all Grand Challenges Canada programs.
- [Innovator Resources](#): List of relevant Grand Challenges Canada policies.
- [Integrated Innovation and Workbook](#): Guide to understanding Grand Challenge Canada's approach towards innovation.

Application Submission

2. 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 (<https://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.

3. 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 12:00pm EST (5:00pm UTC), November 23, 2021. If you have contacted the support team prior to November 23, 2021 and the identified registration issue has not been resolved by 5:00pm EST (4:00pm UTC) on November 25, 2021 please follow-up by submitting a ticket to the Grand Challenges Canada support team at <https://www.grandchallenges.ca/fluxxsupport/>.

ALL applications must be received via Fluxx on or before the deadline of 12:00 EST (5:00pm UTC), December 1, 2021. Applications received after this time will NOT be considered for funding.

4. 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.

5. Can I apply in a different language, other than English or French?

No. Applications can be made in English or French only. Any application in a different language will be rejected without review.

6. Is there a template for the written proposal? I would like to learn about the character limit and other requirements before registering.

Grand Challenges Canada has posted the application template on the Global Mental Health [website](#) for reference. You CANNOT submit your application using the template over email. Applications will ONLY be accepted via Fluxx (<https://gcc.fluxx.io>).

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

7. Are letters of recommendation from partners or collaborators needed for this application?

No these documents are not required.

8. 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, such as proof of incorporation status.

9. Can I submit my application via email?

No, any application sent via email will not be considered. All applications must be submitted through the Fluxx Portal (<https://gcc.fluxx.io>).



10. Can I speak directly with someone on the team who can answer questions that are not addressed on the website through a meeting or phone call?

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

11. In the application guidelines for the Global Mental Health Request for Proposals, there is a note that applicants are required to seek and obtain sign-off from their affiliated organization/institution(s) before submitting their application. In what format should 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.

Monitoring and Evaluation

1. Do I need to need to have a monitoring and evaluation system for my proposed innovation?

Yes. Proposals need a monitoring and evaluation system to clearly quantify effects on mental health and wellbeing, identify shortcomings, and maximize impact.

Data collection plans should track your innovation's use, access and impact, plus a brief overview of how you'll evaluate results over your project's life and measure outcomes. Innovators must report against indicators in Appendix B of the Request for Proposals relevant to demonstrating success.

2. Are there specific tools we need to use to measure impact?

Grand Challenges Canada is part of a group of funders working towards the use of common measures in mental health. As part of this initiative, we ask that all projects use the measures listed on the [International Alliance of Mental Health Research Funders](#) website that are most appropriate for their work.

All tools mentioned are available online free of charge and are suitable for use in low and middle-income countries. Projects can use additional locally developed measures as well.

The ultimate outcomes that the Global Mental Health youth seed program focuses on are the number of lives improved. Specifically, changes in scores in at least one of the following:

- Wellbeing
- Resilience
- Level of functioning

- Symptom severity

Please refer to Appendix B of the Request for Proposal for more information.

3. 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?

We'll match youth-led organizations¹ needing help to measure outcomes, with a third-party expert. You can request this support in the application, but you'll need to reserve \$15,000 CAD in your budget. Any unused costs from this can go towards programming.

4. What can we expect from the Global Mental Health Learning Platform?

The GMH learning platform's mentors and experts in the field of mental health and innovation systems, will provide technical support to the project teams we fund. 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.

Specifically, the GMH learning platform will:

- Support projects within the GMH program to achieve sustainable impacts, including mentorship and one-on-one support
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
- Help track and disseminate the individual and collective impact of GMH innovations for the community and relevant external stakeholders
- Support youth-led organizations to develop processes and frameworks to successfully implement projects

Review Process

1. What does the review process look like?

All applications will undergo a three-stage review process, including: Eligibility Screen, Innovation Screen and External Peer Review.

2. Will the selection process use a peer review or champion-based review in evaluating applications to the Global Mental Health Request For Proposals?

All proposals go through a multi-step review process before the Board of Directors of Grand Challenges Canada makes a final funding decision. The review process involves an eligibility screen, internal innovation screen, and the external peer review. Please refer to Sections 3.3 and 3.4 of the Request for Proposals for details on the process.

¹ Youth-led organizations are organizations in which fifty percent (50%) or more of the individuals in key leadership positions are youth 35 years and under.

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 be provided with brief feedback whenever possible.

4. 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

1. When will the funding decision be announced?

The schedule of key deadlines is outlined below as per the Request for Proposals:

| Key Dates | Event |
|---|---|
| November 23, 2021 at 12:00 pm EST (5:00 pm UTC) | <p>Deadline to register for a Fluxx account (https://gcc.fluxx.io)</p> <p>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.</p> |
| December 1, 2021 at 12:00 pm EST (5:00 pm UTC) | Application submission deadline |
| April 2022 | Notification of approval or rejection |
| April – September 2022 | Negotiation of award |
| June – September 2022 | Anticipated project start date |



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Additional Questions

Any additional questions should be sent to globalmentalhealth@grandchallenges.ca. For more information about the Global Mental Health program, please refer to our [website](#).