



Grand Challenges Canada®
Grands Défis Canada

Being

Request for proposals

Applications open: March 3, 2026

Deadline to apply: March 31, 2026





Overview

The [Being Initiative](#) is focused on youth mental health promotion and prevention. Led by [Grand Challenges Canada](#), Being invests in solutions that address the root causes of distress before they escalate, strengthening the environments where young people live, learn, and grow. Rather than centring clinical care, the initiative focuses on the broader social and structural conditions that shape young people’s mental health and wellbeing, including relationships, safety, stigma, opportunity, and social connection.

Being operates in 12 priority countries: Colombia, Ecuador, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Morocco, Pakistan, Romania, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, and Vietnam. Each country has its own specific funding focus to address one key driver of youth mental health, such as stigma, bullying, family conflict, etc. Country priorities were identified through locally-led research and consultations with young people, community leaders, and experts. To learn more about the process and how we arrived at these specific priorities, please see the [Being landscaping report](#). **To understand each country’s priority funding areas (and how your proposed solution can address those specific challenges) please see [Section 2](#).**

Find out more about the Being Initiative and our approach in [Appendix B](#).

For greater insight into Grand Challenges Canada’s investment approach and the types of innovations we seek to support, please refer to the [‘Our Investment Approach’](#) page.

What are we investing in?

Transition to Scale innovations, meaning approaches that have already been tested, proven to be effective, and are now ready to be implemented more widely. Please refer to [‘Our Investment Approach’](#) for more detail on how we define Transition to Scale.

Please note that we are NOT funding Proof of Concept innovations as part of this Request for Proposals. While prior Being RFPs did seek to invest in these early-stage innovations, that funding opportunity is now closed.

What is the funding type?

While we expect that the majority of investments will be made through grant funding, we may choose to deploy debt and equity investments aligned to organization type, company stage, and sustainability plan.

What is the funding amount?

Investment amounts will range between approximately **\$300,000 - \$1,500,000 CAD** per innovation at GCC's discretion, depending on the maturity of the innovation. Please refer to the '[Our Investment Approach](#)' page for more detail on GCC's phased investment approach.

What is the funding duration?

The investment period available is up to a maximum of 24 months. Shorter durations are welcome.

Who can apply?

Legally recognized organizations (e.g. social enterprises, non-governmental organizations, non-profit, for-profit, limited liability companies, research/academic institutions).

What is the application deadline?

All proposals must be submitted by **March 31, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. ET (7:00 p.m. GMT)**.

How to apply?

Applications must be submitted via [Grand Challenges Canada's online portal \(Fluxx\)](#). We will not accept applications submitted via any other channel.



NOTE: Following the application deadline of March 31, 2026, we will no longer accept independent submissions. After that time, this Request for Proposals will enter an invitation-only phase where applicants must be invited by Grand Challenges Canada to submit. This invitation-only phase will be indefinite and may be closed at any time without notice. We may extend invitations to previous or current grantees of any of the Funding Partners, as well as external innovators whose work meets a Funding Partner's priorities, at our discretion.



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1. Eligibility criteria and competition details

Who can apply?

Legally recognized organizations (e.g. social enterprises, non-governmental organizations, non-profit, for-profit, limited liability companies, research/academic institutions).

Please note that government organizations, as well as United Nations agencies and country offices are typically eligible for GCC funding; however, they are generally not able to sign onto GCC's and its funders' terms and conditions. Consider applying through a local partner organization instead.

Who cannot apply?

Individuals, Sole proprietorships, Unincorporated trusts and partnerships.

Is your organization the right fit for this funding call?

Your organization must ^[1]:

- Be formed and legally incorporated^[2] or its equivalent as a legal person (organization)
- Be active and in good standing with respective registration body/bodies^[3]
- Be the intended funding recipient
- Be capable of entering into a funding agreement with Grand Challenges Canada
- Be able to successfully perform activities in its technical area
- Have the capacity and internal and legal/regulatory approvals necessary to receive and administer funding from Grand Challenges Canada

^[1] The following must apply to the entity under its current name.

^[2] 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), can enter into binding contracts, can own property in its own name, can sue and be sued, etc. For example:

- Local registration of an international non-profit would not meet this eligibility requirement in most jurisdictions.
- Unincorporated Trusts or Partnerships, or any business structure that places liability on an individual or individuals, would not meet this eligibility requirement. However, an incorporated trust or incorporated partnership (sometimes a limited liability partnership in certain jurisdictions) would be eligible.

^[3] Where relevant, required filings (such as regular reports or tax filings) related to institutional incorporation or registration are up to date. The registration body in question should be, in jurisdictions where relevant, the governing authority for your entity type according to the country's laws.

Prioritizing youth-led and locally-based institutions

Being is focused on improving young people's health and wellbeing in 12 priority countries, with a particular interest in urban and peri-urban settings.^[4] This funding call seeks specifically to support youth-led and locally-based institutions. We will give preference to eligible organizations according to the following criteria (1 being the most preferred):

1. Youth-led organizations based in one of the 12 priority countries.
 - a. This includes organizations in which fifty percent (50%) or more of the individuals in key leadership positions (such as senior management, Board of Directors, Chief Executive Officer, Chief Operating Officer) are youth aged 35 years and under.
2. Organizations based in one of the 12 priority countries.
3. Organizations based in a low- and middle-income country that are collaborating with a locally based organization in the 12 priority countries.
4. Other eligible organizations.

Note: Regardless of organization type, all proposals must demonstrate how young people are meaningfully engaged in the design and delivery of the proposed innovation.

Connection to communities

Grand Challenges Canada invests in innovations that are culturally sensitive and community-driven. When making investment decisions, we seek to understand the extent to which innovations are informed by, co-designed with, and implemented by/in partnership with affected communities. To this end, we assess whether innovations are:

1. Community owned: leadership team from and based in affected/target community
2. Community led: leadership team from but not based in affected/target community OR members of management team from and based in affected/target community
3. Community partnered: local presence and collaborative or consultative engagement with affected/target community/community organization(s)
4. Community linked: local presence and affected/target community informed OR no local presence, but partnership with affected/target community organization(s)
5. Not meaningfully connected to the community

In order to be considered eligible for this funding opportunity, applicants must demonstrate that their innovation is, at a minimum, community-linked. ***Please refer to the 'Our Investment Approach' page for more details on GCC's commitment to connection to communities.***

^[4] The definition of an urban setting varies from one context to another. For the purposes of this funding call, consider the following:

- **Urban:** An urban setting can be defined broadly on the basis of population density, concentration of administrative bodies and infrastructure and a diverse set of livelihood and income generation activities. Urban areas will be characterized by high population density when compared to other areas.
- **Peri-urban:** The area that lies in-between urban and rural area, representing a zone in transition to be urbanized and consisting of a mix of both urban and rural characteristics.
- **Rural:** Relatively low to no presence of administrative structures and government services and other infrastructure. Livelihood activities are predominantly centered on agricultural production.

Competition rules

Implementation geographies:

Proposed innovations must be implemented in at least one^[5] of Being's countries of focus: **Colombia, Ecuador, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Morocco, Pakistan, Romania, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, and Vietnam**

Innovations that are implemented outside of Being's countries of focus will not be considered.

Intellectual property:

We are not able to fund projects for which the core intellectual property rights are owned by a third-party institution, unless that third party: (i) grants the applicant sufficient license rights to the innovation to permit eventual scaling in low and middle-income countries; or (2) signs an undertaking to comply with Grand Challenges Canada's [Sharing and Access for Impact Strategy](#). ***Please refer to the 'Our Investment Approach' page for more detail on how we approach Intellectual Property and Sharing and Access for Impact.***

Project Lead:

- An application's Project Lead must be formally affiliated with the applicant organization
- The Project Lead should be a key member of the project team
- A Project Lead can only be listed on one (1) application (Note: an organization can submit multiple applications, but each needs a different Project Lead)

Language

Applications must be submitted in English or French

Note: the quality of the English or French language in an application will not play a factor in the evaluation of the application unless it affects the clarity of the information

Completeness

Only applications that include all required information and answers to all questions will be considered.

^[5] While we can consider applications for innovations implemented in more than one country of focus, we encourage applicants to consider the feasibility of maintaining quality and progressing towards sustainable scale while addressing multiple country-specific areas of focus.

Format:

Only applications submitted via GCC's application portal, [Fluxx](https://gcc.fluxx.io), will be considered. (<https://gcc.fluxx.io>)

For additional information on GCC's expectations, as well as terms and conditions for this Request for Proposals, please refer to [Appendix C](#).





2. Funding focus

We are looking to fund innovations ready for Transition to Scale (TTS) investment, meaning viable approaches, products, or services that have demonstrated positive results in a controlled setting (i.e. they have achieved Proof of Concept). The innovations we seek should have the potential to drive impact if deployed at scale. More specifically, solutions must have demonstrated feasibility, effectiveness, and early signals of impact on priority outcomes that are relevant to the funding call. *Please refer to 'the [Our Investment Approach](#)' page for more details on establishing Proof of Concept and how we define Transition to Scale.*

What innovations do we want to invest in by country?

What follows are brief country backgrounds, challenge statements, and illustrative mental health outcomes.

All proposals must include a robust monitoring, evaluation and learning plan that measures impact against the outcomes relevant to the specific country challenge statement. The outcomes listed below are not exhaustive but provide examples to guide applicants.

We expect competitive proposals to clearly demonstrate how they plan to address the stated challenge in each country as the main focus of their innovation. We welcome bold, locally grounded ideas with the potential to transform the systems and environments that shape young people's mental health and wellbeing.



Colombia

Background

In Colombia, around 25% of teenagers face family dysfunction, often rooted in the country's history of armed conflict, poverty, displacement, and intergenerational trauma. [6] These systemic issues have weakened family structures and contributed to strained relationships, emotional invalidation, poor communication, and in some cases, violence within households. In this context, many young people experience significant mental health challenges, including depression, trauma, self-harm, and suicidal thoughts.

[6] Ministry of Health and Social Protection. Encuesta Nacional de Salud Mental 2015 Tomo 1 [Internet]. 2015 [cited 2024 Jun 17]. Available from: https://www.minjusticia.gov.co/programas-co/ODC/Publicaciones/Publicaciones/CO031102015-salud_mental_tomol.pdf

National policies have increasingly recognized the importance of youth mental health and wellbeing, emphasizing the role of families and schools as key environments for support. Programs aimed at promoting nurturing relationships and safe spaces for young people have gained momentum, creating a timely opportunity to test and scale innovative family-based solutions.

In Colombia, we seek bold ideas to strengthen family functioning. These innovative solutions should focus on addressing family conflict or violence for young people and their parents/caregivers.

Focus Population: Young people aged 10-24 years, parents/caregivers

Potential health outcomes:

- Reduced family conflict/violence
- Improved family cohesion/conflict-resolution skills
- Improved communication and/or emotional expression in the home

To see more information about Being's work in Colombia, including a list of currently funded projects, please see the [Being Colombia webpage](#).



Ecuador

Background

In Ecuador, young people are increasingly exposed to violence in their communities, homes, and schools. In 2023, 770 children and adolescents lost their lives to crime—a 640% increase since 2019.[7] This climate of fear is deeply affecting youth mental health. Surveys show that 26% of adolescents feel unsafe at home or school,[8] and one-third feel unsafe walking in their neighbourhoods.[9]

Violence and insecurity can lead to long-term psychological effects, including anxiety, post-traumatic stress, depression, and substance use. These experiences also erode trust, reduce social connection, and make it harder for young people to thrive. Despite growing attention to youth issues by the government, comprehensive strategies to address violence-related trauma remain limited.

[7] UNICEF. (2024, January 15). Ecuador: Homicide rate among children and adolescents soars 640 per cent in four years. Ministry of Health and Social Protection. Encuesta Nacional de Salud Mental 2015 Tomo 1 [Internet]. 2015 [cited 2024 Jun 17]. Available from: https://www.minjusticia.gov.co/programas-co/ODC/Publicaciones/Publicaciones/CO031102015-salud_mental_tomol.pdf

[8] la Red Nacional de Niñas Niños Adolescentes y Jóvenes Wamprakunapak Yuyaykuna, World Vision Ecuador, & Ministerio de Educación. (2023). SALUD MENTAL DE NIÑAS, NIÑOS, ADOLESCENTES Y JÓVENES EDICIÓN da Resultados Encuesta Nacional. Ministry of Health and Social Protection. Encuesta Nacional de Salud Mental 2015 Tomo 1 [Internet]. 2015 [cited 2024 Jun 17]. Available from: https://www.minjusticia.gov.co/programas-co/ODC/Publicaciones/Publicaciones/CO031102015-salud_mental_tomol.pdf

[9] CARE Ecuador, Consejo Nacional para la Igualdad Intergeneracional, Fundación Observatorio Social del Ecuador, Plan Internacional, Save the Children Ecuador, UNICEF, & World Vision Ecuador. (2016). NIÑEZ Y ADOLESCENCIA desde la intergeneracionalidad. Ministry of Health and Social Protection. Encuesta Nacional de Salud Mental 2015 Tomo 1 [Internet]. 2015 [cited 2024 Jun 17]. Available from: https://www.minjusticia.gov.co/programas-co/ODC/Publicaciones/Publicaciones/CO031102015-salud_mental_tomol.pdf

In Ecuador, we seek bold ideas to promote the physical and emotional safety of young people within community, school, and/or family environments. These innovative solutions should focus on preventing violence against young people.

Focus Population: Young people aged 10-24 years, parents/caregivers and teachers

Potential health outcomes:

- Reduced incidence of violence in home, school, and/or community settings
- Improved trust and confidence in adults
- Increased feelings of safety and trust among young people in their daily environments

To see more information about Being's work in Ecuador, including a list of currently funded projects, please see the [Being Ecuador webpage](#).



Ghana

Background

In Ghana, bullying and cyberbullying are serious and growing threats to youth mental health. Harmful behaviours, driven by peer pressure, power dynamics, and a lack of awareness, often go unrecognized, with many young people unaware of their rights or how to access help. School environments frequently lack the tools or structures to prevent and respond to these issues.

Bullying is linked to anxiety, depression, low self-esteem, physical health issues, and school dropout. It undermines students' sense of belonging and creates fear and disengagement in learning environments. Despite its prevalence, Ghana lacks standardized anti-bullying policies across schools, and teachers often lack training in prevention or response.

In Ghana, we seek bold ideas to promote positive youth mental health and wellbeing within school environments. These innovative solutions should focus on anti-bullying and cyberbullying solutions for young people and school staff.

Focus Population: Young people aged 10-24 years, school staff

Potential health outcomes:

- Reduced prevalence of bullying and cyberbullying in school settings
- Improved perception of physical and emotional safety in schools
- Reduced fear/avoidance amongst students/positive changes in peer norms

To see more information about Being's work in Ghana, including a list of currently funded projects, please see the [Being Ghana webpage](#).



India

Background

India has the largest youth population globally.^[10] They face rising mental health challenges shaped by academic pressure, social isolation, and complex family dynamics. Families play a pivotal role in youth wellbeing, yet gaps in communication, emotional support, and mental health literacy can leave young people feeling alone or misunderstood.

Efforts such as the [National Suicide Prevention Strategy](#) and [UMMEED guidelines](#) have provided an important foundation. However, India still lacks scalable interventions to help families improve communication and reduce stigma around mental health. Strengthening families as sources of emotional safety and support is key to prevention and resilience.

In India, we seek bold ideas to strengthen family functioning. These innovative solutions should focus on addressing parent-child communication and parents' perceptions of mental health.

Focus Population: Young people aged 10-24 years, parents/caregivers

Potential health outcomes:

- Improved family cohesion/conflict resolution skills
- Improved parent-youth communication skills
- Improved parent-youth relationships

To see more information about Being's work in India, including a list of currently funded projects, please see the [Being India webpage](#).



Indonesia

Background

Many young people in Indonesia grow up facing difficult experiences such as bullying, harassment, and various forms of abuse by peers or family members. These Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) can have serious and lasting effects on their mental health and development and are linked to depression, trauma, substance use, and higher risks of dropping out of school, early marriage, and violence.^[11] Despite the scale of the problem, programs that prevent or respond to these challenges are limited. Supportive systems within schools, families, and communities are often not equipped to deal with the trauma and stress that youth experience. Building environments that protect and empower young people is essential to their mental health and wellbeing.

[10] <https://www.unicef.org/india/economic-opportunities-young-people>

[11] Ramaiya, A., et al. (2021). Understanding Adverse Childhood Experiences. *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 69(1), 556.

In Indonesia, we seek bold ideas to prevent Adverse Childhood Experiences among young people. These innovative solutions should focus on addressing peer and/or family violence against young people.

Focus Population: Young people aged 10-24 years, parents/caregivers

Potential health outcomes:

- Reductions in peer-to-peer violence and bullying
- Improved perception of physical and emotional safety
- Reduced family conflict/improved conflict resolution skills in parents and youth

To see more information about Being's work in Indonesia, including a list of currently funded projects, please see the [Being Indonesia webpage](#).



Morocco

Background

Young people in Morocco are experiencing growing mental health challenges. These issues are influenced by cultural norms, social media pressure, and limited support within school environments. Bullying, stigma, and lack of guidance from teachers contribute to a negative school climate that leaves many students feeling isolated and unsupported.

Without safe and inclusive schools, youth may disengage from education and adopt harmful coping strategies. Strengthening peer and teacher relationships can foster greater confidence and resilience in students, helping them navigate the pressures they face.

In Morocco, we seek bold ideas that promote positive youth mental health and wellbeing within school environments. These innovative solutions should focus on addressing bullying or overuse of social media.

Focus Population: Young people aged 10-19 years, school staff

Potential health outcomes:

- Reductions in bullying/cyberbullying in schools
- Improved perception of physical and emotional safety in schools
- Reduction in over-use or dependence on social media amongst young people
- Improvement in healthy school environments – improvements in conflict resolution, increase in prosocial behaviours and school engagement

To see more information about Being's work in Morocco, including a list of currently funded projects, please see the [Being Morocco webpage](#).



Pakistan

Background

Young people in Pakistan face a range of mental health challenges, including stress, depression, and self-harm, that are often influenced by their home environments. Traditional parenting norms that emphasize strict discipline and authority can make it difficult for youth to speak openly or seek emotional support.

When communication is limited and emotional needs go unmet, youth are more vulnerable to distress and may lack the tools to build healthy relationships. Promoting positive parenting approaches, centred on empathy, listening, and mutual respect, can strengthen family bonds and support youth mental health.

In Pakistan, we seek bold ideas to strengthen family functioning. These innovative solutions should focus on addressing strict parenting styles and a lack of parental support.

Focus Population: Young people aged 10-24 years, parents/caregivers

Potential health outcomes:

- Improved family cohesion/conflict resolution skills/improved emotional expression/communication
- Improved parent-youth relationships
- Reduced use of corporal punishment

To see more information about Being's work in Pakistan, including a list of currently funded projects, please see the [Being Pakistan webpage](#).



Romania

Background

Bullying in schools is a widespread and urgent issue in Romania. Over 70% of students have witnessed bullying, [12] and cyberbullying continues to increase as young people spend more time online. These experiences can have a lasting impact on youth mental health, and are linked to anxiety, depression, low self-esteem, and suicidal thoughts.

Schools often lack structured programs to address bullying or promote emotional safety. Without action, students may continue to suffer in silence, disengage from learning, or face long-term psychological harm. Being's landscape analysis in Romania showed that building safer school environments is critical to supporting Romania's youth.

[12] Gradinaru, C., Manole, M., & Stanculeanu, D. (2016). Bullying Among Children: National sociological study. <https://www.unicef.org/india/economic-opportunities-young-people>

In Romania, we seek bold ideas to prevent bullying, including cyberbullying. These innovative solutions should focus on promoting safe school environments.

Focus Population: Young people aged 10-19 years, school staff

Potential health outcomes:

- Reductions in bullying/cyberbullying in schools
- Improved perception of physical and emotional safety in schools
- Improvement in healthy school environments – improvements in conflict resolution, increase in prosocial behaviours and school engagement

To see more information about Being’s work in Romania, including a list of currently funded projects, please see the [Being Romania webpage](#).



Senegal

Background

In Senegal, stigma surrounding mental health remains a significant barrier for young people. Cultural beliefs and misinformation often lead to the perception that mental illness is a source of shame or weakness. As a result, many youth avoid talking about their struggles or seeking help, even when they are in distress.

Stigma is often learned at a young age, shaped by the attitudes of parents, teachers, and peers. Without access to accurate information or safe spaces for dialogue, harmful misconceptions persist. Reducing stigma through culturally relevant mental health education is key to helping youth build resilience and access care.

In Senegal, we seek bold ideas to reduce stigma related to mental health. These innovative solutions should focus on addressing the lack of appropriate mental health education in schools and communities.

Focus Population: Young people aged 10–24 years, parents/caregivers, community stakeholders, teachers.

Potential health outcomes:

- Reductions in stigmatizing attitudes or beliefs related to mental health
- Reduced experiences of discrimination resulting from stigma
- Improved care-seeking behaviours

To see more information about Being’s work in Senegal, including a list of currently funded projects, please see the [Being Senegal webpage](#).



Sierra Leone

Background

Substance use is a growing crisis for young people in Sierra Leone. The rise of Kush, a highly addictive drug, has been declared a national emergency, particularly affecting youth in urban areas. Many turn to substances to cope with the realities of unemployment, social exclusion, and lack of opportunity.

Substance use is associated with a wide range of mental health risks, including psychosis, depression, violence, and isolation. While awareness is increasing, there is an urgent need to offer youth meaningful alternatives, such as skills training, mentorship, and safe community spaces, to prevent and reduce substance use.

In Sierra Leone, we seek bold ideas to reduce and prevent substance use among young people. These innovative solutions should focus on substance use education and providing youth with skills and opportunities.

Focus Population: Young people aged 10-24 years

Potential health outcomes:

- Reductions in substance use
- Improved awareness and utilization of health coping strategies and alternatives to substances
- Success metrics tied to alternative youth programming
- Improved peer support and reductions in incidence/perpetuation of peer pressure amongst those at risk of substance use

To see more information about Being's work in Sierra Leone, including a list of currently funded projects, please see the [Being Sierra Leone webpage](#).



Tanzania

Background

In Tanzania, stigma around mental health remains widespread. Strong cultural beliefs and limited access to accurate information often leads to fear, misunderstanding, and discrimination. These attitudes can discourage young people from seeking help and create silence around mental health struggles.

Stigma is often passed down from adults to children and reinforced in schools and communities. Without early mental health education, harmful beliefs are rarely challenged. Promoting accurate, age-appropriate education can help shift attitudes, reduce stigma, and encourage more supportive environments.

In Tanzania, we seek bold ideas to reduce stigma related to mental health. These innovative solutions should focus on addressing the lack of appropriate mental health education in schools and communities.

Focus Population: Young people aged 10–24 years, parents/caregivers, community stakeholders, and teachers.

Potential health outcomes:

- Reductions in stigmatizing attitudes or beliefs related to mental health
- Reduced experiences of discrimination resulting from stigma
- Improved care-seeking behaviours

To see more information about Being’s work in Tanzania, including a list of currently funded projects, please see the [Being Tanzania webpage](#).



Vietnam

Background: Why this matters

Many young people in Vietnam grow up in environments marked by strict parenting, family conflict, and violence. Overly controlling parenting is widespread, with 69% of children aged 10–14 having experienced violent discipline at home in the past month.

[13] These experiences can make youth feel emotionally unsafe and limit their ability to seek support or express themselves.

Without open communication and emotional connection, young people are more vulnerable to mental health challenges such as anxiety, depression, substance use, and suicidal thoughts. Despite growing recognition of the role families play in youth wellbeing, few initiatives focus on reducing violence or improving parent–child relationships.

In Vietnam, we seek bold to ideas to strengthen family functioning. These innovative solutions should focus on addressing strict parenting styles or family conflict or violence for young people and their parents/caregivers.

Focus Population: : Young people aged 10-24 years, parents/caregivers

Potential health outcomes:

- Improved perception of physical and/or emotional safety in the home environment
- Improved parent-youth communication skills

[13] Thi Quynh Hoa, N., Levy, M., Basu, R., Lai, J., Anh Lan, L., Harvey, R., & Vinci, V. (2022). Comprehensive Study on School-related Factors Impacting Mental Health and Well-Being of Adolescent Boys and Girls in Viet Nam. <https://www.unicef.org/vietnam/reports/study-school-related-factors-impacting-mental-health-and-well-being-adolescents-viet-nam>

- Reduced use of corporal punishment
- Improved family cohesion, the development of conflict resolution skills, as well as improved emotional expression and communication

To see more information about Being's work in Vietnam, including a list of currently funded projects, please see the [Being Vietnam webpage](#).

Our Investment Approach

For greater insight into [Grand Challenges Canada's](#) investment approach and the types of innovations we seek to support, we strongly encourage applicants to review the '[Our Investment Approach](#)' page.

The key concepts & highlighted policies outlined on this web page explain the values that guide our investment decisions. They offer important context for how proposals are evaluated and applicants are encouraged to use them to help frame their work, describe impact, and demonstrate alignment with our mission.

Ecosystem Catalyst Grants

Being has invested in Ecosystem Catalyst Grants (learn about them [here](#)) to support ecosystem-level solutions that address the broader systemic barriers that hinder sustainable progress in youth mental health action. At our discretion, Grand Challenges Canada may reinvest in these types of solutions under this Request for Proposals, by invitation only.





3. How to apply



When?

All proposals must be submitted by March 31 2026, at 2:00 p.m. ET (7:00 p.m. GMT)

Applicants are encouraged to register early to familiarize themselves with the [Fluxx](#) portal and application form and to help avoid potential last-minute issues, which we cannot guarantee to resolve prior to the deadline. Late submissions will not be accepted.

Where?

You must submit your application via Grand Challenges Canada's online application portal, Fluxx: <https://gcc.fluxx.io>. We will not accept applications submitted via any other channel.

Please visit our ['How to Apply'](#) page for guidance.

What to expect after submitting an application

You can see the overview of our review and selection process for Transition to Scale applications outlined on the following page. *You can find the full evaluation criteria we will use to review submitted proposals in [Appendix A: How We Review Applications](#).*



Overview of our Transition to Scale review and selection process:

Step 1: Eligibility check

We screen applications for eligibility. Ineligible applications are eliminated, and we notify the applicant.

Timeframe: April 2026

Step 2: Innovation Screen

All eligible applications are assessed for relevance and innovation by a panel of GCC staff. Applications assessed as not relevant and not sufficiently innovative are eliminated and notified.

The most promising applicants will be asked to submit a full application (stage 2).

Timeframe: May-June 2026

Step 3: Stage-two application period

Applicants who are invited to submit a full application (stage 2) application develop and submit their proposals.

Timeframe: June-July 2026

Step 4: Grant negotiations

Full applications (stage 2) are carefully reviewed by three external experts.

These reviews inform which applicants are invited to engage in due diligence conversations with the GCC team.

Applicants who are not selected to proceed will be informed.

Timeframe: August-September 2026

Step 5: Due diligence steps

The strongest applicants are invited to engage in due diligence conversations with the GCC team.

This can include follow-up questions and interviews to explore topics like potential for impact, operations, finances, intellectual property, and partnerships.

Timeframe: October 2026-March 2027

Step 6: Funding decisions

After due diligence, only proposals with the greatest potential for impact are recommended for funding.

Final funding decision are made by GCC management, our Investment Committee, and/or our Board of Directors, depending on the funding amount.

Timeframe: January-April 2027

Step 7: Grant negotiations

Successful applicants work with GCC to agree on the grant terms, project objectives, and budget.

Timeframe: +3 months





Questions?



For more information about the Being initiative, please visit www.beinginitiative.org



Please visit the [Apply for Funding](#) page on our website for:

- Information about our Applicant Information Webinar
- [Guidance on How to Apply](#)
- [Our Investment Approach](#)
- [Innovator Resources](#)

For anything not addressed through this document and/or website, reach out to OpenCompetitions@grandchallenges.ca



For technical issues related to the Fluxx portal, which are not addressed in the [Fluxx Reference Guide](#), reach out to fluxxsupport@grandchallenges.ca

Appendix A: How we review applications

Stage 1: Innovation Screen

Applications are screened for relevance to the call and innovativeness by Grand Challenges Canada (and, where relevant, Partner) staff. When we review submissions, we look for:

Transition to Scale

1. Relevance:

- a. Does the proposed innovation align with the country-specific areas(s) of focus, as outlined in Section 2 of the RFP?
- b. Does the innovation and/or proposed scaling plan seek to address the country-specific key/priority outcomes described in Section 2 of the RFP?
- c. Is the innovation designed to address the needs of the country-specific focus population, as outlined in Section 2 of the RFP, or a subset of this population?
- d. To what extent is the project team appropriately connected to the local community they seek to serve?

2. Innovation:

- a. Is the proposed solution innovative and does it present a better alternative over current approaches?
- b. Has the team achieved sufficient Proof of Concept results to demonstrate readiness for Transition to Scale funding?
- c. Has a realistic and sustainable path to achieve scale been defined?

Stage 2: Peer Review

The most innovative, relevant proposals will be invited to submit Stage 2 of the application. Stage 2 applications that demonstrate sufficient Proof of Concept evidence are then reviewed by a panel of external experts. These experts are asked to consider the following...

Transition to Scale

1. Relevance:

- a. Does the proposed solution align with country-based the areas(s) of focus, as outlined in Section 2 of the RFP?
- b. How bold, novel and/or how much of an improvement is the innovation over current approaches?
- c. How well does the proposed solution integrate different innovation types and/or approaches (scientific / technological, social and business innovation) to best ensure a novel and sustainable solution?

2. Impact:

- a. To what extent is there compelling Proof of Concept evidence demonstrating the innovation's impact on key outcome(s) related to the country-specific area(s) of focus in a controlled or limited setting?
- b. How well is the proposed solution designed to improve the lives of unserved or underserved people within the country-specific focus population, as outlined in Section 2 of the RFP, or a subset of this population?
- c. How clear and robust are the learning agenda and MEL (monitoring, evaluation and learning) plan? How well would they enable the team to draw the appropriate conclusions, including impact on selected priority outcomes (as outlined in Section 2 of the RFP), by the end of the funding period?
- d. How strong is the potential for the proposed solution to contribute to or influence policy or systems-level change in the target sector?

3. Execution Plan:

- a. To what extent does the proposed innovation apply to, as well as include appropriate and meaningful involvement of the country-specific population of focus, including young people?
- b. How feasible and reasonable is the proposed scope of work for positioning the innovator to achieve significant progress on its path to scale and sustainability in their defined context(s)?
- c. What stakeholder commitments and partnerships are in place to support a long-term path to scale and sustainability?

4. Project Team:

- a. To what extent does the proposed innovation apply to, as well as include appropriate and meaningful involvement of the country-specific population of focus, including young people?
- b. How feasible and reasonable is the proposed scope of work for positioning the innovator to achieve significant progress on its path to scale and sustainability in their defined context(s)?
- c. What stakeholder commitments and partnerships are in place to support a long-term path to scale and sustainability?

Please Note: Grand Challenges Canada does not provide individualized feedback to applicants at Stage 1: Innovation Screen. Applicants that progress to Stage 2: Peer Review will receive written feedback from the panel of external expert peer reviewers following the conclusion of the review process.

Appendix B: Who we are

A. About the Being Initiative

Being is a global initiative, led by Grand Challenges Canada, working to create a world where young people feel well and thrive. It is funded by the Government of Canada, [Fondation Botnar](#), and the UK's [National Institute for Health and Care Research](#) (NIHR). It is delivered in partnership with the [Science for Africa Foundation](#), [Orygen](#), and [United for Global Mental Health](#).

Being integrates a relational approach to wellbeing, looking beyond individual psychology and behaviour to the early drivers of mental health challenges. This includes a strong emphasis on connections with people, the environment, and the socio-economic systems in which young people live. This approach seeks to promote cycles of wellbeing that are ultimately self-sustaining.

Learn more about the Being Initiative and our approach, including a description of the main principles of a relational approach to wellbeing & mental health:

www.beinginitiative.org

B. Grand Challenges Canada

Grand Challenges Canada is one of the world's largest impact-first investors. Our innovation platform supports Bold Ideas with Big Impact® that drive better health, equity, and resilience around the globe. With support from the Government of Canada and other partners, we focus on funding bold ideas that have the potential to save and improve lives in underserved communities.

Over the past 15 years, we've invested in more than 1,500 unique innovations across 100+ countries. These ideas are transforming maternal and child health, mental health, gender equity, access to clean water and sanitation, and much more. www.grandchallenges.ca

Appendix C: Additional terms

A. Submission Materials and Privacy Notice

To help us in the evaluation and analysis of projects, all proposals, documents, communications, and associated materials submitted to Grand Challenges Canada (collectively “Submission Materials”) may be shared with Global Affairs Canada, and/or with other funding partners, and may be publicly disclosed. By submitting any Submission Materials to Grand Challenges Canada, each applicant thereby grants to Grand Challenges Canada, Fondation Botnar and any other funders a worldwide, perpetual, irrevocable, nonexclusive, non-commercial, free of charge and royalty free license to use, reproduce, adapt, modify, improve, develop, translate, publish, disseminate, distribute, communicate to the public by telecommunication and display the Submission Materials, in whole or in part, in any form, media, or technology now known or later developed, including the right to authorize others to do such acts and the right to sublicense such rights to others, on the same terms. Each applicant also thereby waives any and all moral rights that it has in the Submission Materials in favor of Grand Challenges Canada, His Majesty, and each of their sub-licensees, successors, representatives, assigns, employees, and agents.

The proposals will be subject to external review by independent subject-matter experts, advisors, and potential co-funders (the results of which will be confidential), in addition to analysis by our staff. Please be advised that a copy of the external reviews for each submitted proposal will be shared with Grand Challenges Canada staff and may be disclosed to Grand Challenges Canada’s Investment Committee, Grand Challenges Canada’s partners and any funders and co-funders.

Please carefully consider the information included in the Submission Materials. If you have any concerns about the disclosure of confidential or proprietary information (including information related to inventions), please advise us as soon as possible and in any event prior to disclosure of such materials to Grand Challenges Canada. We also recommend you consult with your legal counsel and take any steps you deem necessary to protect your intellectual property. You may wish to consider whether such information is critical for evaluating the submission and whether more general, non-confidential information may be adequate as an alternative for these purposes.

Grand Challenges Canada will attempt in good faith to respect the confidentiality of information that is received in Submission Materials, if it is clearly marked “Confidential”. Nonetheless, notwithstanding your characterization of any information as “Confidential”, Grand Challenges Canada reserves the right to disclose all information contained in Submission Materials as may be required by law and as is necessary to potential co-funders, partners, advisors, and external reviewers (such as government entities)

to evaluate them and the manner and scope of potential funding, consistent with appropriate regulations and their internal guidelines and policies. Grand Challenges Canada expressly disclaims any and all liability that may arise from disclosure of confidential information contained in submission materials. Upon signing a grant agreement, successful applicants will have the option to keep their name and/or project confidential.

Privacy Notice

In order to conduct due diligence and audits, and to manage and monitor the performance of a grant agreement, Grand Challenges Canada may collect personal information (such as names, addresses, employment history, criminal and other legal checks where legally permissible) about some of a successful applicant's directors and officers, employees, project lead(s), and others engaged on the project before and during the course of the grant agreement. Some of this personal information is collected for the purpose of complying with applicable legal and policy requirements that apply to Grand Challenges Canada and our funders in order to provide the funding and services by Grand Challenges Canada under a grant agreement. Refusing to provide information that Grand Challenges Canada needs in order to conduct required legal and contractual due diligence may impact Grand Challenges Canada's ability to provide such funding and services and may result in not being able to enter into a grant agreement with you or early termination of a signed grant agreement. Grand Challenges Canada's [Privacy Policy](#) explains how Grand Challenges Canada collects, use, discloses, and protects the personal information that it collects and receives. By submitting any personal information about others, you represent and warrant that you are authorized to do so. If applicable law allows or requires you to supply the information without authorization, you represent and warrant that you have abided by that law and that it allows Grand Challenges Canada to receive and disclose the information under the [Privacy Policy](#) without any further action on the part of Grand Challenges Canada. You agree to indemnify and hold harmless Grand Challenges Canada against any failure by you to comply with the requirements set out in the [Privacy Policy](#).

B. Warranty

By providing any Submission Materials, applicants represent and warrant to Grand Challenges Canada that they have the right to provide the information submitted.

C. Rights of Grand Challenges Canada

This Request for Proposals is part of a discretionary funding program. Submission of an application does not create a contractual relationship between the applicant and Grand Challenges Canada to advance a grant to any applicant and/or enter into any contractual relationship. Furthermore, all applicants acknowledge that the program may evolve and that all terms in this Request for Proposals are subject to change.

In particular, Grand Challenges Canada reserves the right, in its sole discretion and without notice, to:

1. Cancel or pause this Request for Proposals at any time and for any reason.
2. Amend and re-issue the Request for Proposals at any time and for any reason. This Request for Proposals is valid commencing on **March 3, 2026**, and supersedes any previous Request for Proposals of this nature. The terms and conditions of this Request for Proposals apply to all applications submitted from **March 3, 2026**, going forward and may be replaced by a revised Request for Proposals in the future. Grand Challenges Canada recommends checking for any revisions to the Request for Proposals and/or the FAQs prior to the submission of your application materials.
3. Accept or reject any application that is non-conforming because it does not meet the eligibility criteria, does not comply with the application instructions, and/or does not comply with the instructions for allowable costs.
4. Not award an application based on performance on a previous Grand Challenges Canada grant or project or based on the award of a grant to the applicant for the same or similar research by one of Grand Challenges Canada's partners or collaborating institutions.
5. Disqualify any application at any stage where there is an indication that the proposal was, in any way, plagiarized.
6. Accept or reject any or all applications at any stage for any reason, regardless of an application's rating based on the evaluation criteria, with or without providing an explanation.
7. Award fewer awards than expected.
8. Award applications with different funding amounts, different durations and/or different conditions than set out in this Request for Proposals.
9. Verify any information provided by applicants through independent research or by contacting third parties deemed to be reliable by Grand Challenges Canada and use that information to inform Grand Challenges Canada's funding decision.
10. Modify eligibility and evaluation criteria, including but not limited to criteria assessed at the triage stage, at any time.
11. Use photos, video, stories, or other visual materials submitted by applicants on Grand Challenges Canada's Fluxx portal or otherwise for public engagement.
12. Not provide critiques or feedback regarding the reasons a proposal was or was not selected.
13. Design grant awards to link to possible funding partners, including private sector investors.

D. Costs

No payment will be made for costs incurred in the preparation and submission of an application in response to the Request for Proposals. Costs associated with preparing and submitting an application, as well as any other costs incurred by the applicant associated with the evaluation of the application, are the sole responsibility of the applicant.

E. Governing Law

This Request for Proposals and any resulting agreement 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 applicant agrees that this any and all disputes, actions or proceedings relating to this Request for Proposals 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 applicant and Grand Challenges Canada irrevocably attorn to the jurisdiction of the courts of such province.

F. Risk Management, Safety, Anti-Terrorism, Anti-Corruption, Anti-Bribery

Proposals must comply with all relevant Canadian legislation, as well as any applicable international anti-bribery and anti-terrorism legislation. Any person or organization named in Canadian, US, UK or United Nations Security Council sanctions will not be funded. We may add to this list as more partners join the challenge. Proposals for projects that include work in insecure locations, must detail how they'll manage the safety and security risks faced by people and assets. If selected for funding, during negotiations applicants will be required to explain how they will avoid corruption and the diversion of funding from its intended purpose.

For example, during negotiations applicants will be asked to provide a description of the organization's policies and procedures to address conflicts of interest and financial or other irregularities, including without limitation, adequate procedures:

- Requiring the organization and its representatives to declare any personal or financial interest in any matter concerning the funded activities, and exclude that individual from the matter concerned
- Identifying steps to investigate an irregularity
- A timely and appropriate plan of action to recover any funds that have been subject to proven fraud.

During negotiations, applicants will also be required to include a description of the organization's policies and procedures to adequately implement internal controls for preventing bribery, corruption, fraud, and other situations of misuse of funds.

G. Activities & Deliverables

Projects funded under this effort will be expected to engage in the following activities and provide related deliverables.

1. Performance reporting, focused on use of funds and outcomes achieved.
2. Robust monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL). As an impact-first investor, Grand Challenges Canada requires all funded projects to report on the activities, outcomes and impact resulting from their projects.

3. A final report that accounts for financial spending and that captures a clear assessment of the impact of the project, including progress towards ensuring access to the innovation to those most in need and widespread dissemination of generated knowledge.
4. Continued post-investment updates on management of intellectual property rights in supported innovations and on progress in implementing Sharing and Access Plans.
5. Funded projects will be expected to provide communications materials, including project photos, videos, and testimonials, to support learning, knowledge sharing, and public communications related to the innovation.

The full list of activities and deliverables will be reflected in the grant agreement with Grand Challenges Canada.

H. Funder Compliance Terms

Some or all of the grant funds advanced to a successful Applicant will be made available to Grand Challenges Canada in connection with funding agreements between Grand Challenges Canada and certain funder(s). The Grant Agreement with a successful applicant will flow down certain of these funder(s) compliance obligations that apply to all recipients of funds, including any grantees. The Applicant will be required to acknowledge that it has read and understood these funder(s) compliance obligations and will make the representations, warranties, declarations, and guarantees, and agree to comply with the terms and conditions, contained in the applicable funder(s) compliance terms as a condition of receiving grant funding from Grand Challenges Canada.

I. Financing Terms

ELIGIBLE COSTS: Please refer to the Cost Directives on the Grand Challenges Canada website for a breakdown of the eligible costs related to the implementation of Projects funded by Grand Challenges Canada (see [Cost Directives](#)).

TERMS OF DISBURSEMENT: An initial advance for the first period will be made following signature of the grant agreement and any agreed upon milestones. Subsequent payments will be made based on the estimated cash flow requirements for Eligible Costs. All financial reports submitted shall be signed by a financial officer approved by Grand Challenges Canada, and the Project Lead. A separate bank account, bearing interest, may be required to be maintained for the project.

AUDIT: Project expenses will be subject to audit by Grand Challenges Canada or relevant funders until **June 30, 2034** or as otherwise specified in a final funding agreement with the applicant.



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