



Grand Challenges Canada®
Grands Défis Canada

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

STARS IN SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

STARS IN GLOBAL HEALTH – ROUND 10

*This document incorporates all queries as of **July 31, 2018**.*

This document addresses questions received by Grand Challenges Canada that relate to the Stars in Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Request for Proposals (RFP) announced July 31, 2018.

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 **September 25th at 3:00 p.m. ET**.

Topic Areas

1. What topics are considered "Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights"?

- A. Proposed innovations must have the potential to make a substantial, equitable impact on sexual and reproductive health and rights. The innovations are expected to improve gender equality through enabling comprehensive sexual and reproductive health and rights of women and girls, through one or more of the following pathways:
 - a. Improving the provision and use of comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services, including: contraception, comprehensive sexuality education, safe abortion where legal, and menstrual hygiene management.
 - b. Preventing and responding to sexual and gender-based violence, including: female genital mutilation and cutting, sexual assault, intimate partner violence, and trafficking and exploitation.
 - c. Preventing and responding to child, early, and forced marriage.

2. Who are the target beneficiaries?

- A. Innovations must benefit women and girls who are among the poorest of the poor in eligible low- and middle-income countries

3. If my innovation isn't targeting the beneficiaries mentioned in the Stars in Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Request for Proposals, can I still receive funding?

A. No. Proposals which do not address women and girls who are among the poorest of the poor in eligible low- and middle-income countries, will not be considered for funding in this RFP.

4. Will there be another call for applications which addresses targets beyond those mentioned in the Stars in Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Request for Proposals?

A. 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

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

A. Eligible applicants include social enterprises and other recognized institutions (e.g., non-profit organizations and for-profit companies) that are formed in an eligible jurisdiction, as set out below, that can successfully execute the activities in their respective technical area, and are capable of receiving and administering grant funding. For clarity, applicants must provide proof of legal incorporation in one of these countries to be considered eligible to receive Grand Challenges Canada funding. **ONLY** applicants from the following list of countries and Canada are eligible to apply to this RFP. 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 inclusion below, all eligible jurisdictions remain subject to approval by Grand Challenges Canada on the basis of 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

Least Developed Countries	Other Low Income Countries (per capita GNI <= \$1 005 in 2010)	Lower Middle Income Countries and Territories (per capita GNI \$1,006 - \$3,975 in 2010)	Upper Middle Income Countries and Territories (per capita GNI \$ 3,976 - \$12,275 in 2010)
Afghanistan Angola Bangladesh Benin Bhutan Burkina Faso Burundi	Kenya Korea, Dem. Rep. Kyrgyz Rep. South Sudan Tajikistan Zimbabwe	Armenia Belize Bolivia Cameroon Cape Verde Congo, Rep. Côte d'Ivoire Egypt	Albania Algeria Anguilla Antigua and Barbuda Argentina Azerbaijan Belarus



Cambodia Central African Republic Chad Comoros Congo, Dem. Rep. Djibouti Equatorial Guinea Eritrea Ethiopia Gambia Guinea Guinea-Bissau Haiti Kiribati Laos Lesotho Liberia Madagascar Malawi Mali Mauritania Mozambique Myanmar Nepal Niger Rwanda Samoa Sao Tome and Principe Senegal Sierra Leone Solomon Islands Somalia Sudan Tanzania Timor-Leste Togo Tuvalu Uganda Vanuatu Yemen Zambia		El Salvador Fiji Georgia Ghana Guatemala Guyana Honduras India Indonesia Iraq Kosovo Marshall Islands Micronesia, Federated States Moldova Mongolia Morocco Nicaragua Nigeria Pakistan Papua New Guinea Paraguay Philippines Sri Lanka Swaziland Syria Tokelau Tonga Turkmenistan Ukraine Uzbekistan Vietnam West Bank and Gaza Strip	Bosnia and Herzegovina Botswana Brazil Chile China Colombia Cook Islands Costa Rica Cuba Dominica Dominican Republic Ecuador Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia Gabon Grenada Iran Jamaica Jordan Kazakhstan Lebanon Libya Malaysia Maldives Mauritius Mexico Montenegro Montserrat Namibia Nauru Niue Palau Panama Peru Serbia Seychelles South Africa St. Helena St. Kitts-Nevis St. Lucia St. Vincent and Grenadines Suriname Thailand Tunisia Turkey Uruguay Venezuela Wallis and Futuna
---	--	--	--



6. *My country is not listed above. Can I still apply?*

- A. No. If your country is not listed, 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.

7. *Do I require co-funding?*

- A. No. Co-funding is not a requirement at the proof-of-concept stage. However, all innovators are encouraged to start securing co-funding during proof-of-concept to better position their innovation for scaling as this will become a requirement during transition-to-scale funding.

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

- A. 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.

9. *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 Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Request for Proposal even though the U.S. is not an eligible country?*

- A. Grants are not awarded based on citizenship or nationality. All applicants must apply through institutions that are legally formed in an eligible jurisdiction.

10. *What do you define as an eligible institution?*

- A. Institutions include academic institutions, public and private research organizations, non-profit organizations, for-profit companies, or other recognized institution capable of supporting the proposed activities and administering grants and are legally formed in an eligible jurisdiction.

11. *Do I need any specific academic qualifications to apply?*

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

12. *Do I need a collaborator?*

- A. Please see section 4.1 of the Request for Proposals, 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; however, collaborations are likewise encouraged.

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

- A. Applicants are advised to seek out collaborations on their own. Applicants can review prospective collaborators through the Global Health Innovation LinkedIn group at http://www.linkedin.com/groups/Global-Health-Innovation-3839474?home=&qid=3839474&trk=anet_uq_hm.

14. May the proposal include collaborations with academic and/or industry partners in the United States?

- A. It is not the intention of this Request for Proposals to exclude existing productive collaborations. If scientifically justified, these collaborations may be part of a proposal. Note that the Project Lead must still be affiliated with an institution in an eligible country.

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

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

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

- A. In our past experience we have 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. Staff from the UN office could act as collaborators on the project.

Integrated Innovation®

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

- A. This challenge is seeking projects demonstrating **Integrated Innovation** that could be easily implemented in developing countries 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 populations, including in fragile and conflict-affected settings



- b. Maximize delivery, uptake, acceptability, sustainability and impact by integrating scientific/technological, social and 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).

18. Do you encourage applications from social entrepreneurs?

- A. 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. They are ambitious and persistent, tackling major social issues and offering new ideas for wide-scale change. Whereas business entrepreneurs typically measure performance in profits, social entrepreneurs 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.

19. What are smart partners?

- A. Smart partners refers to partners who will be working with the project/organization in helping them with the scale up of the project/organization and contributing their expertise in the areas of marketing, manufacturing, technology development, business strategy, etc., in addition to providing matching funds. Please note that we reserve the right to decide whether we consider someone a Smart Partner or not.

Funding and Duration

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

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

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

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

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

- A. For allowable costs, please refer to Section 5.2 of the Stars in Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Request for Proposals. Further information on eligible and ineligible costs can be found on our website at this link : <http://www.grandchallenges.ca/funding-opportunities/resources/>.

23. Are there any restrictions on indirect costs?

- A. Yes. No indirect costs will be allowed.



Application Submission

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

- A. If you encounter technical issues with submitting your application, email the Grand Challenges Canada support team at fluxxsupport@grandchallenges.ca, 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. If you have contacted the support team and the identified issue has not been resolved by 2:00 ET on September 25, 2018, you may submit any outstanding elements of your application to us via email to fluxxsupport@grandchallenges.ca. ALL applications must be received on or before the deadline of September 25, 2018 at 3:00 ET. Applications received after this time will not be considered for funding.

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

- A. In order to view the application questions, applicants should create an account using the following link: [Create an account](#). Once they have created an account, they can access the Portal (gcc.fluxx.io) where application questions can be viewed and the proposal submitted. Please note that creating an account does not require that the applicant submit a proposal at this time.

After saving your application in the Community Portal, you will see a “Printable” button at the top right of your screen, which you can click to print the application questions.

26. Will I need to provide any additional information or documentation beyond the online application, which includes a CV and video submission?

- A. The online application clearly identifies where you can upload your two-minute video submission. 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.

27. Can an applicant submit more than one application?

- A. 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.

28. Can I submit my application via email?

- A. No. All applications must be submitted to the Stars in Global Health program through the Grand Challenges Canada Community Portal (gcc.fluxx.io). Once you have created an account, please allow for up to one (1) business day for Grand Challenges Canada to process your information. Once your information has been processed, you will be emailed



login credentials to access the Portal where you can input and submit answers to the application questions. Any application sent via email will not be considered.

For technical support, please contact fluxsupport@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.

29. In the application guidelines for Stars in Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, 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?

- A. 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

30. Will the selection process use a peer review or champion-based review in evaluating application in the Stars in Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Request for Proposals?

- A. The Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) manages an independent scientific peer review process, which follows an Eligibility Screen and Innovation Screen conducted by Grand Challenges Canada. Please refer to Section 4.3 of the Request for Proposals for details on the process.

31. Must I submit a video with my application?

- A. Yes. Proposals must include a two-minute video explaining the target sexual and reproductive health and rights problem, the proposed solution, and why it is a creative, bold and innovative approach.

32. How will the video factor into the selection process?

- A. The video together with the application will be used to gauge the applicant's ability to engage the public as outlined in the evaluation criteria in Section 4.4. Applicants from low- or lower-middle-income countries that do not have access to video equipment may submit other visual representations (including Power Point) in place of video.

33. Will the videos be available for public viewing?

- A. The videos of successful applicants may be uploaded onto Grand Challenges Canada's website for public viewing. Applicants should not include information that they do not wish to be made public.



34. Although the idea of engaging the public on my innovative idea in sexual and reproductive health and rights is great, I don't have access to professional video equipment, nor the funds to make a flashy/high-tech video. Will I be at a disadvantage?

- A. No, you will not be at a disadvantage. We are neither expecting nor encouraging high-tech videos, and rather envision this to be a basic production that could be done on a webcam or cell/smart phone. Your ability to convey the need for and importance of your innovation in clear, simple language that fosters public support for your project will outweigh any differences in video production quality. Some of the most compelling messages, as viewed on *YouTube*, are those with simple and clear messages. High-quality video equipment is not required. Please refer to the Grand Challenges Canada website <http://www.grandchallenges.ca/who-we-are/discover-our-innovations-and-results/> for examples of grantee videos from past competitions.

35. Do I need to get permission to use someone else's song, images or footage in my video?

- A. Yes. If you plan to include copyright-protected material in your video, you will need to seek permission to do so first. Even if you purchased content and/or gave the copyright owner credit, posting videos that include copyright-protected content may still violate copyright laws.

To avoid issues with copyright, and potentially having your video disqualified or removed from our website, one option is to source content that is available through a Creative Commons (CC) license. Creative Commons allows you to legally use “some rights reserved” music, movies, images, and other content – all for free. For example, you can find links to music at <https://creativecommons.org/legalmusicforvideos> and photos at <http://www.flickr.com/creativecommons/>. For more information visit <https://creativecommons.org>.

You need to make sure that what you want to do with the content is allowed under the terms of the particular license or permission upon which you rely. For instance, most licences will require you to properly credit the content owner and some will forbid you from altering the content.

36. What is the suggested and maximum length for the video submission?

- A. The maximum length for video submissions is two minutes (120 seconds). The video must not exceed two minutes; any videos that are longer than two minutes will be truncated at two minutes before being reviewed.

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

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

Application Timelines

38. When will the funding decision be announced?

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

Key Deadlines	Event
September 20, 2018	Registration deadline to Create an account on the Community Portal (gcc.fluxx.io)
September 25, 2018	Application deadline at 3:00 p.m. ET
April – May 2019	Notification of award
June 2019	Execution of award
September 2019	Latest possible start date for award

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

A. All successful applicants must take up the grant no later September 31, 2019 due to the end date of Grand Challenges Canada's Contribution Agreement with the Government of Canada. Any deferral beyond this period may result in the forfeiture of the award.

General Program Questions

40. 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?

A. Both. However we will not consider funding drug or vaccine development, discovery science, capacity-building initiatives, ongoing programmatic funding, or ideas that are not applicable to poor women and girls in low- and lower-middle income countries.

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

A. No. This Request for Proposals is focused on seeking projects demonstrating Integrated Innovation that could be easily implemented in developing countries 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).

42. 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?

- A. 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. For example, applicants from India may require clearance through the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA).

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.

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**.