



New Frontiers in Research Fund
Fonds Nouvelles frontières en recherche

2022 Transformation Notice of Intent to Apply

Applicant Webinar

September 2021



Webinar Contents

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Fonds Nouvelles frontières en recherche

Competition Timeline

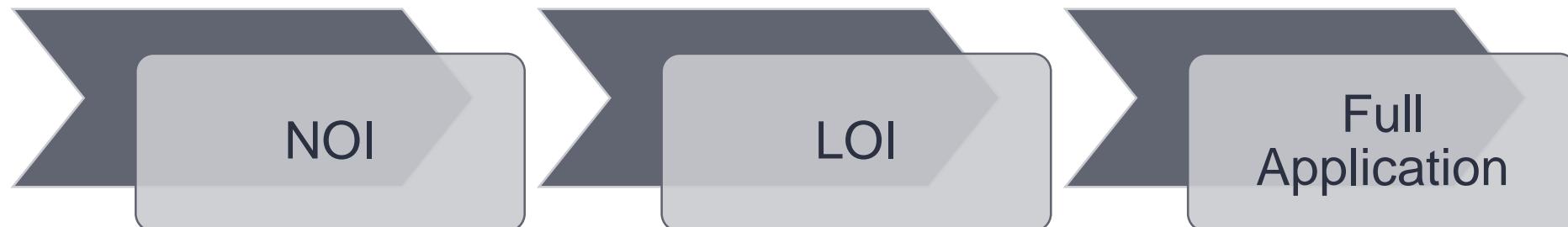
2022 Transformation

Competition Timeline

Competition stages

Three-stage competition

1. Notice of Intent to Apply (NOI)
2. Letter of Intent to Apply (LOI)
3. Full Application





Competition Timeline

Important dates

November 2, 2021

- Notice of Intent deadline

January 11, 2022

- Letter of Intent deadline

September 20, 2022

- Full application deadline (by invitation)

February 2023

- Results announced

March 2023

- Awards begin



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Funding Opportunity Description

2022 Transformation



Funding Opportunity Description

NFRF Administration

- The **Canada Research Coordinating Committee** (CRCC) designed the NFRF following a national consultation, and is the **Steering Committee** for the NFRF
- NFRF is a tri-agency program, administered by the **Tri-agency Institutional Programs Secretariat** (TIPS)
- TIPS is housed within the **Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council** (SSHRC)





Funding Opportunity Description

NFRF Streams

Exploration

- Generates opportunities for Canada to build strength in high-risk, high-reward and interdisciplinary research

Transformation

- Provides large-scale support for Canada to build strength and leadership in interdisciplinary and transformative research

International

- Enhances opportunities for Canadian researchers to participate in research with international partners

Funding Opportunity Description

2022 Transformation

Goal

To support large-scale, Canadian-led **interdisciplinary** research projects that address a **major challenge**, and have the potential to realize **real and lasting change**



The challenge the research addresses may be:

- fundamental, leading to a scientific breakthrough; or
- applied, with a social, economic, environmental or health impact

Projects are expected to be world-leading, and to draw on **global** research expertise when relevant

Funding Opportunity Description

2022 Transformation

Transformation grants will support projects that:

1. tackle a **well-defined** problem or challenge;
2. propose a **novel world-leading** approach;
3. are **interdisciplinary**; and
4. have the potential to be **transformative**

Transformative research is defined as having the potential to **create a significant and real change or impact**—a noticeable leap or tangible breakthrough rather than an incremental advance



Funding Opportunity Description

Value and duration

Value

Between **\$2M and \$4M per year**, including indirect costs

Applicants may request up to 25% of the value of the direct costs of research to cover indirect costs

Budget must be in line with the objectives of the project

Funds should be used to support research activities, not to acquire or maintain infrastructure

Duration

Six years

Mid-term review is mandatory

Number of awards depends on the amounts requested in successful applications (expect a minimum of six awards)



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Evaluation Criteria

2022 Transformation



Evaluation Criteria

2022 Transformation

The five selection criteria for NFRF funding opportunities are:

Interdisciplinarity

Equity, diversity and inclusion and support of early career researchers

High risk

High reward

Feasibility

Note that in the Transformation stream criteria are assessed at the LOI and full application stages and the weighting of criteria changes between stages

Evaluation Criteria

Interdisciplinarity

Projects must **integrate different disciplinary approaches** to bring a novel perspective to address the research challenge.

Proposals must explain how the disciplinary **perspectives, methodologies, and techniques will be integrated** and must demonstrate that the team has the **required expertise** to execute the interdisciplinary approach.

The proposal must also explain **why an interdisciplinary approach is required** and/or the **added value of this approach** to the research problem.

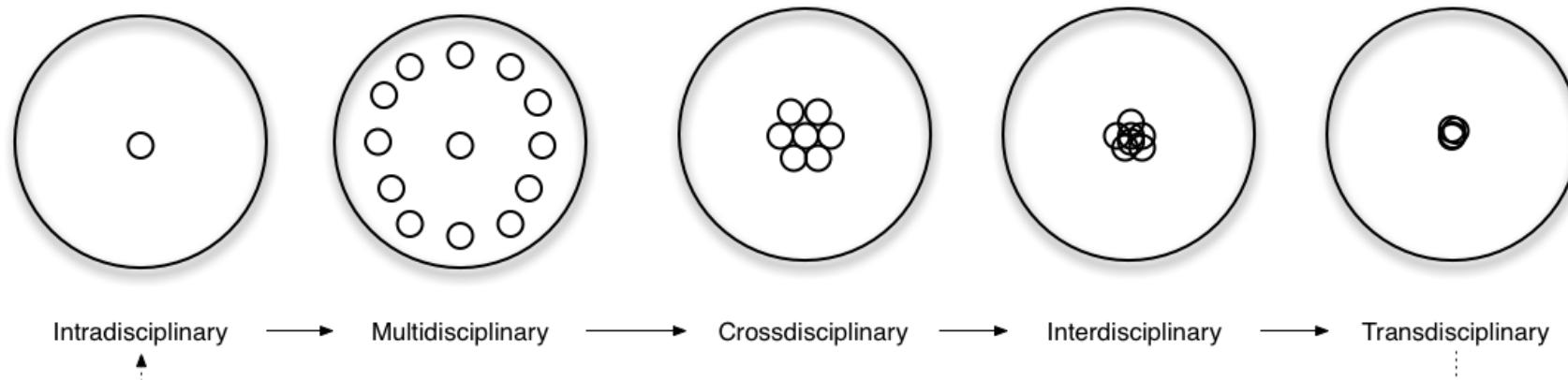
Multidisciplinary research =
juxtaposing, coordinating

Interdisciplinary research =
integrating, synthesizing

Evaluation Criteria

Disciplinarities: multi, inter, and trans

- **Multidisciplinary:** people from different disciplines working together, each drawing on their disciplinary knowledge
- **Interdisciplinary:** integrating knowledge and methods from different disciplines, using a real synthesis of approaches
- **Transdisciplinary:** creating a unity of intellectual frameworks beyond the disciplinary perspectives



Evaluation Criteria

Multidisciplinary versus Interdisciplinary Teams

Multidisciplinary Teams

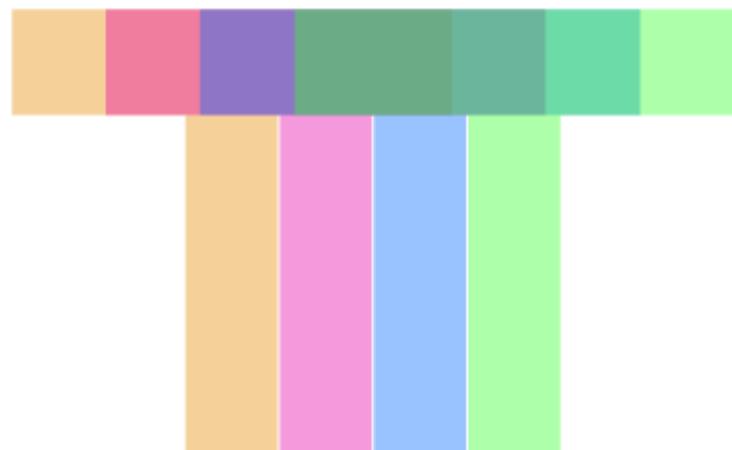
Each member operates as a part of a chain of responsibility



Members working in silo, by disciplines

Interdisciplinary Teams

Individuals from different fields are expected to contribute ideas to the entire project



Members listen and learn from others

Evaluation Criteria

Equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) and support of early career researchers

EDI is a core element of the NFRF program. In the Transformation stream, the EDI criterion also considers early career researchers.

Applicants must clearly demonstrate their commitment to EDI.

Actions proposed are expected to:

- **remove barriers** and
- **provide opportunities** for the meaningful integration of individuals from all groups, including the four designated groups (women, Indigenous peoples, members of visible minorities and persons with disabilities)

Refer to the
**NFRF Best Practices in
Equity, Diversity and
Inclusion in Research**



Evaluation Criteria

High risk

High risk, in the context of the Transformation stream, refers to the **novelty of the proposed approach to the challenge**.

Proposals will have to explain

- why the project is **novel**, as it relates to the latest methods, concepts, information, and techniques;
- how the approach builds on and benefits from **expertise and resources** across Canada and/or internationally;
- what makes the approach **world-leading**; and
- why the approach is expected to lead to **real change**.



Evaluation Criteria

High reward

High reward is defined as the potential to create a **significant and real change or impact**—to be transformative.

Applications must explain the anticipated change or impact that is likely to result and its significance.

Proposals must also outline the **major short-, medium- and long-term changes** that are expected, **the likelihood** of their achievement, **and who (or what) will be affected** by the changes.



Evaluation Criteria

Feasibility

Feasibility covers the plan and the ability to execute the activities. It considers elements such as the:

- problem or challenge being addressed;
- proposed approach, including GBA+/SGBA when appropriate;
- knowledge, expertise and capacity of the team;
- workplan and timeline;
- engagement and collaboration with First

Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples (for Indigenous research) when appropriate;

- suitability of the research environment (i.e., access to required infrastructure); and
- management plans

For more information on the criteria refer to the [evaluation matrices](#)





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Eligibility and Roles

2022 Transformation



Eligibility and Roles

Subject matter (fit to program)

Projects may involve **any discipline, thematic areas, approaches or subject areas** eligible for funding across the three federal research funding agencies (CIHR, NSERC, and SSHRC).

Projects should engage the **full range of disciplines** required to achieve the project goals.

To meet **the minimum requirement to be considered interdisciplinary**, the proposed research project must include elements from **at least two different disciplines** (as

defined by a group-level classification based on the Canadian Research and Development Classification codes).

Projects that fall under the mandate of only one federal research funding agency are **not eligible**.



Eligibility and Roles

Project team

- Proposals must be submitted by **teams of at least five participants** (excluding collaborators)
- Teams **must** include a nominated principal investigator (NPI)
- Teams **may** include any number of co-principal investigators (co-PIs), co-applicants and/or collaborators



Eligibility and Roles

Team roles

Nominated Principal Investigator (NPI)

- Responsible for the direction of the project and the coordination of proposed research activities
- Completes the NOI, LOI and full application in the [Convergence Portal](#) and submits them to their research administrator
- Assumes administrative and financial responsibility for the grant

Co-Principal Investigators (Co-PIs)

- Share responsibility with the NPI for the direction of the proposed activities
- May access grant funds

Co-Applicants

- Contribute to the execution of the project
- May access grant funds

Collaborators

- Can be any individual who will contribute to the project
- Contribute to the execution of the project
- Do not have access to grant funds

Eligibility and Roles

Project team

- The **NPI and team members can be from any discipline(s)**
- The **NPI must be considered an independent researcher** at their primary affiliation, which must be a Canadian institution holding full eligibility with CIHR, NSERC or SSHRC
- Other **team members may be from any sector**; however **co-PIs and co-applicants may not be affiliated with a government or for-profit company** (this restriction does not apply to collaborators)
- **Team members in academia must be considered independent researchers**

Full- or part-time students, postdoctoral fellows or research associates are **not eligible** to participate as NPIs, co-PIs or co-applicants.

Eligibility and Roles

Independent researcher

An **independent researcher**

- engages in research-related activities that are not under the direction of another individual; and
- has an academic or research appointment that:
 - begins by August 1, 2022 for this competition;
 - allows the individual to pursue the proposed research project, engage in

independent research activities for the entire duration of the funding, supervise trainees (if applicable) and publish the research results; and

- obliges the individual to comply with institutional policies on the conduct of research, supervision of trainees (if applicable) and employment conditions of staff paid with tri-agency funding.

Eligibility and Roles

Early career researchers

Early career researchers (ECRs) must be included as confirmed members in all teams.

An ECR is defined as a researcher within **five years** of the start date of their first research-related appointment, minus the length of any eligible delays in research (for example illness, maternity or parental), as of the first of the month of the competition launch (August 2021 for this competition), where

- “**research-related appointments**” are defined as those where an individual has the autonomy to conduct research independently;
- all **eligible leaves** (such as maternity, parental, medical or bereavement) are credited at twice the amount of time taken; and
- **professional leaves** (such as training, sabbatical or administrative) are not credited.

Eligibility and Roles

Exceptions

A **federal government employee and adjunct professor at a Canadian institution** whose students are participating in the research project may be a co-applicant, with the use of funds limited to salaries or stipends and travel costs for the students.

A **federal government employee and adjunct professor at a Canadian institution** whose contributions to the project do not fall within the mandate of their federal organization and will not be performed within the employer's facilities or with the employer's resources may be a co-PI or co-applicant.

Individuals whose primary affiliation is with an Indigenous government are eligible to be co-PIs, co-applicants, or collaborators, with eligible expenses limited to those related to the execution of the project that are not within the mandate of the Indigenous government.

Refer to the [**Eligibility**](#) section of the competition description





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NOI Requirements

2022 Transformation

NOI Requirements

Collection of personal information

Personal information is collected for the **purpose of program performance management**.

Self-identification data collected as part of the user profile is **not shared** with reviewers, and is limited to agency staff on a need to know basis.



Please consult the
[**data collection policy**](#)
for more information





NOI Requirements

Notice of intent deadline

NOI stage

The NPI must submit an NOI to be eligible to complete and submit an LOI. Selected teams will be invited to complete and submit a full application.

NOI deadline for submission to NFRF:

November 2, 2021

Check with the research grants office (RGO) at your institution for **internal deadlines**.

The RGO is responsible for submitting your NOI by **8:00 p.m. (ET)** on the deadline date.

Late NOIs will not be accepted.

An NOI cannot be changed after the RGO has submitted it.

NOI Requirements

Required information on the Convergence Portal

Completed profiles for at least five participants

- NPI and any combination of co-PIs and co-applicants

Notice of intent content

- Application title
- Language of the application
- Indigenous research
 - Indicate if the project involves Indigenous research

- Keywords (5 to 15)
- Fields of research (up to 10)
 - Select the fields of research from the Canadian Research and Development Classification (CRDC) codes that relate to the proposed research
- Outline of challenge (max. 3,500 characters)
- Overview of approach and potential changes (max. 3,500 characters)
- Collaborators
- Suggested reviewers (optional for the NOI; min. 20 for the LOI)



NOI Requirements

Required information

Outline of challenge (max. 3,500 characters)

Provide a plain-language overview of the challenge(s) or issue(s) to be addressed and the goals or objectives of the project.

Overview of approach and potential changes (max. 3,500 characters)

Briefly describe the approach to be taken and the anticipated changes or impacts that are likely to result from the project.

If your application is successful, the overviews will be used for promotional purposes and to inform the government, the media and members of the public who request information about research funded by the NFRF program.

NOI Requirements

Suggested reviewers

At the NOI or LOI stage, NPIs are required to provide a list of **at least 20** suggested reviewers who may be contacted to review the proposal at the full application stage as expert panelists.

Suggested reviewers should

- have the **required expertise** to review the proposal in the language in which it was written and comment on it
- **not be in a conflict of interest** with any member of the team

NPIs are encouraged to suggest a **diverse cross-section** of potential reviewers, including reviewers who are

- Canadian and international
- established and early-career
- women and members of other underrepresented groups
- individuals from academic and non-academic institutions

At least 10 of the suggested reviewers must be from outside Canada.



NOI Requirements

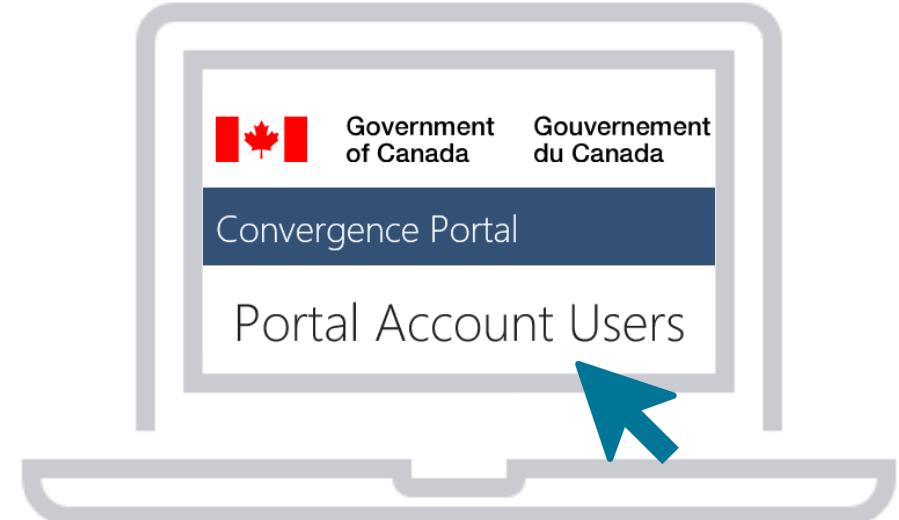
Submitting the Notice of Intent

Review your NOI to ensure that it is complete.

From the **Finalize Application** section in the [**Convergence Portal**](#), follow the prompts to submit the NOI.

After you accept the terms and conditions, the status of your submission will change to **Received by Administrator**.

Once your research administrator has approved and submitted your application, the application status will change to **Received by Agency**.
No changes can be made at this point.





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Information for RGOs

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Information for RGOs

RGO role

RGOs can, in the [**Convergence Portal**](#):

- **view** NOIs, LOIs, and full applications from NPIs at their institution (including those that are expired, in progress, and submitted)
- **return** submitted NOIs, LOIs, and full applications to the NPI
- **forward** submitted NOIs, LOIs, and full applications to the agency

Before forwarding an application to the agency, **the RGO will be asked to confirm**:

- that the **participants** meet the eligibility requirements
- that the **proposed research project** meets the eligibility requirements



Information for RGOs

RGO role

By forwarding the application, the RGO will also be certifying on behalf of the institution, that the NPI

- is (or will be) affiliated with the institution or organization
- has the necessary time and resources to carry out the activity
- will email NFRF-FNFR@chairs-chaires.gc.ca of any changes during the tenure of the grant, including changes in the composition of the team, such as the addition of new co-PIs, co-applicants, or collaborators





Information for RGOs

RGO role

RGOs can use the **Research Administrator** button to access their institution's applications.

A screenshot of the Convergence Portal interface. At the top left is the Canadian flag and the text "Government of Canada / Gouvernement du Canada". Below the header is a dark blue navigation bar with the text "Convergence Portal", a home icon, "Have questions?", a "Research Administrator" button (which is circled in red), and a dropdown menu for "Jessica Basciano". The main content area below the navigation bar shows the text "Home > Research Administrator" and "Research Administrator". A large teal cursor arrow points towards the "Research Administrator" button.

If you are an RGO and you don't see the button, please contact websupport@chairs-chaires.gc.ca

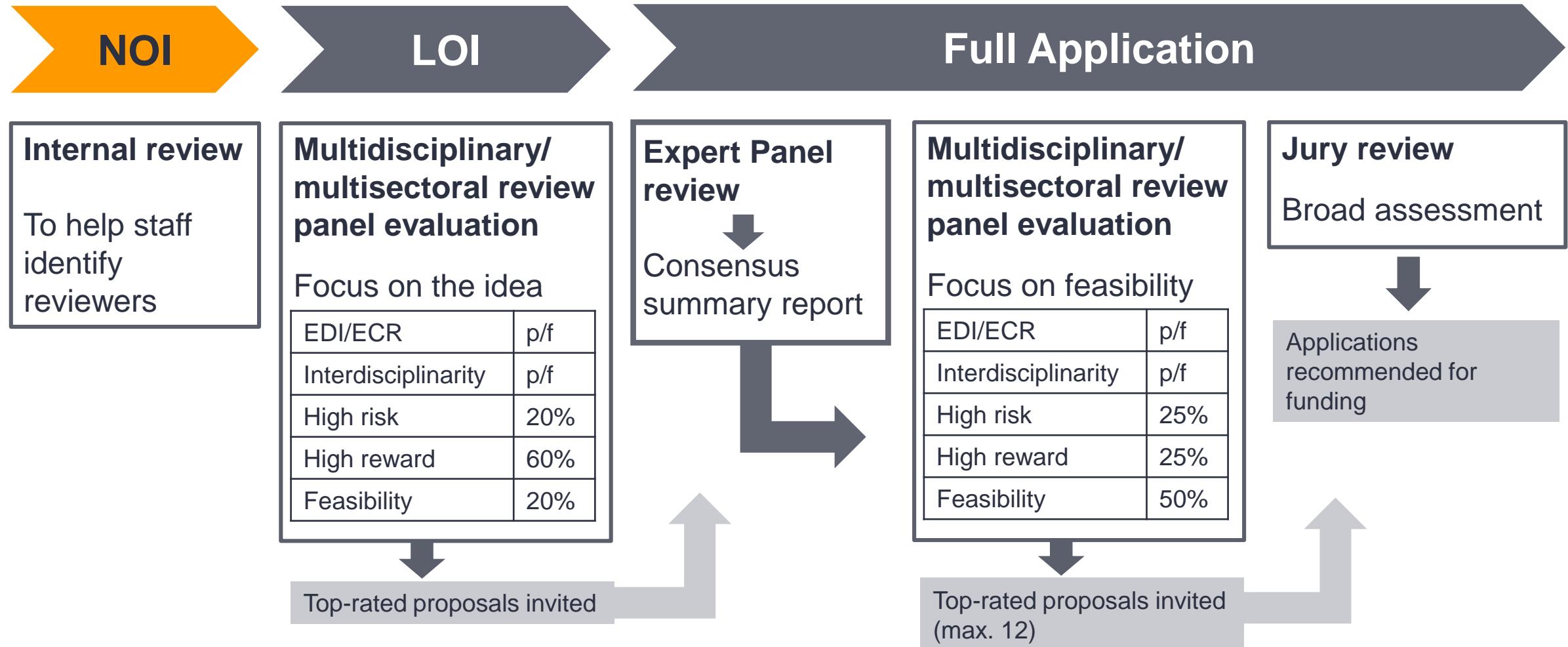


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Review Process

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Review Process **Overview**





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Resources and Questions

2022 Transformation



Resources and Questions

Resources

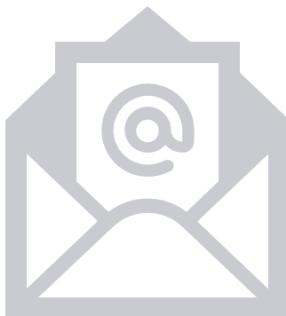
Program-related questions:

NFRF-FNFR@chairs-chaires.gc.ca

Convergence Portal help:

websupport@convergence.gc.ca

613-995-4273



Program Links:

[NFRF Website](#)

[EDI Guide](#)

[Competition Overview](#)

[NOI Guide](#)



[Reviewer Manual](#)

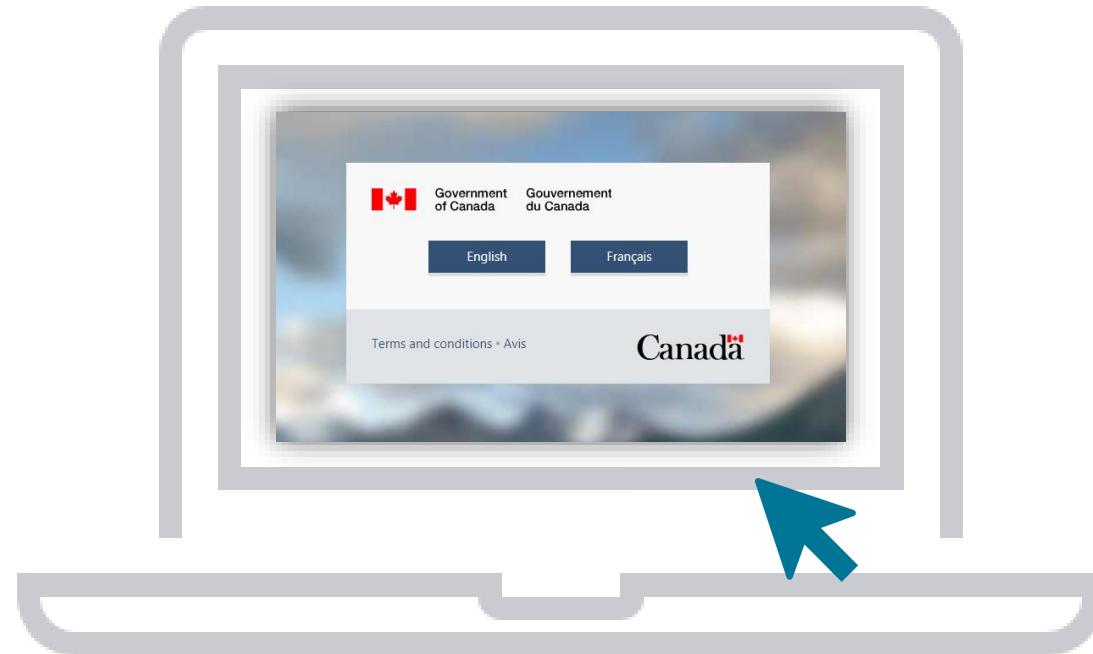
[Evaluation Matrices](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)



Resources and Questions

Video capsule



A video capsule demonstrating how to complete and submit an NOI, and the RGO role, will be made available to RGOs for distribution at their institutions.



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Resources and Questions

Questions?

