

## Overview and Goals

The Global Child Health Catalyst Grant is a strategic initiative of the SickKids Centre for Global Child Health (C-GCH). The SickKids C-GCH encompasses a multi-disciplinary and inter-professional group dedicated to improving Global Child Health through innovative research, sustainable capacity building, sound knowledge translation (KT) strategies and evidence-based advocacy. The Catalyst Grant aims to support innovations that may benefit children and their families in resource constrained settings globally. 'Innovation' can be expressed in many domains, including scientific, technical, social, management, and implementation.

The competition welcomes new ideas that align with the [C-GCH strategy](#) and pillars of research, capacity building, and KT/advocacy/policy development. Multi-disciplinary collaboration is strongly encouraged. Applicants should be creative and think broadly. To this end, submissions to this grant competition should only be made for new project ideas; the continuation of an existing project will not be supported.

Even though your long-term goals for the project may extend beyond the means and time-line of this grant, within one-year the results of the catalyst projects should enable the development of funding proposals that are eligible for submission to national or international peer-reviewed competitions.

The Centre for Global Child Health will fund up to 2 awards of up to \$25,000 each for the most promising proposals. Designated members from the Innovation and Education Committee (IEC) will screen applications and assign three reviewers to evaluate each application (see [Appendix 1](#) for Scoring Matrix). Reviewers will not be provided with the identity of the Principal Applicant or Co-Applicants. The applicant's level of experience will be evaluated *a priori* (by the designated members of the IEC) to designate applicants as 'Junior' (defined as an applicant early in their career or for whom leading research/projects from conception to implementation is a new opportunity) or 'Senior' (defined as applicants who are able to independently apply for Research Ethics Board approval at SickKids). All applicants are encouraged to collaborate with C-GCH faculty, staff, and/or trainees. In the case of a tie between application scores, applications which have engaged at least one co-applicant from the C-GCH will be allotted 10% bonus points of the total score of the application after blinded review. The Centre is not obligated to fund any grants should the reviewers find the applications do not meet the requirements of the competition.

## Eligibility Criteria

The eligibility criteria for the 2020-21 C-GCH Catalyst Grant competition are:

- **One** Principal Applicant only
  1. Principal Applicant must be a:
    - SickKids staff member (including Scientists, Investigators, Research Associates, Directors/Managers/Coordinators and clinical staff)\*
    - SickKids students, post-doctoral fellows and clinical fellows (a staff appointment is not required)\*
- **Unlimited** Co-Applicants can be listed per application
- A single Principal Applicant can submit only one application per annual competition (but may be named as a Co-Applicant in other submissions)
- The principal applicant cannot have been awarded a C-GCH Catalyst Grant in the previous year's competition (i.e., 2019 Catalyst Grant). This criterion is meant to encourage and develop capacity among new applicants.
- Collaborations (particularly multi-disciplinary) are highly encouraged but must be justified

\*For research proposals, if the Principal Applicant listed on the catalyst grant does not meet the definition of a “Principal Investigator (PI)”, as outlined in the SickKids’ [“Research Grant Proposals: Eligibility, Review and Approval Policy”](#)<sup>1</sup> (in short, able to independently hold their own Cost Centre for grants), one co-applicant who meets the SickKids definition of a PI, must agree in writing (see attached application form), prior to submission of the Catalyst Grant, to act as PI on all official communication with the Research Institute (including communication with the Research Ethics Board). The PI must also agree to provide mentorship and guidance to the principal applicant. Quality improvement (QI) projects are also encouraged, and should follow the [institutional review process for QI projects](#)<sup>2</sup> at SickKids where appropriate. The sponsoring PI does not need to be listed as a co-investigator on the application form.

### Criteria for Award<sup>3</sup>

The following criteria (further outlined in [Appendix 1](#)) characterize applications of high priority and relevance, although applicants may invoke other criteria or justifying relevance:

1. Relevance to C-GCH strategy.
2. Quality of science/intervention or innovation being proposed.
3. Originality and novelty of science, intervention or innovation.
4. Feasibility (strength of team, budget, timeframe, likelihood of success).
5. Collaborations within and between departments, Centres and programs, both internal and external to SickKids.
6. Consideration of gender equality and gender mainstreaming in the proposal.
7. Future opportunities to leverage funding, high probability of future grant awards, matching funds, or commercial application, and/or publications.
8. Minimize harm to study population by upholding ethical standards and mitigate anticipated risks.

### Submission Process

- All applications must be submitted via the C-CGH’s online [Catalyst Grant Submission Portal](#).
- The submission portal includes 3 parts
  1. Contact information
  2. Uploaded documents
  3. Additional information

### Uploaded Documents

Applicants are required to upload 3 separate, completed PDF files via the C-GCH’s online submission portal:

1. Application Form (including completed signatures page)
2. Research/Project Plan (maximum 5 pages in total; written in Arial font 11 pt with page margins no smaller than 2.5 cm including top and bottom; must be anonymized)
  - a. Clear statement of general goals and specific objectives
  - b. Relevance statement – please explain the relationship of the proposed project to the goals of the Centre’s grant competition, as outlined above
  - c. Background and rationale
  - d. Methods and expected results
  - e. Potential impact of project and global health relevance

<sup>1</sup> Available internally or through VPN

<sup>2</sup> Available internally or through VPN

<sup>3</sup> Adapted from the Center for Brain and Behaviour and the National Institute of Health general guidelines for reviewers

- f. Bibliographic references (Vancouver style)
  - g. Time line for deliverables (over a one-year period)
  - h. Budget and budget justification (see section below for further information)
  - i. Figures and Tables (if applicable)
  - j. Description and justification of team roles (must be anonymous – do not include names of personnel)
  - k. The research/project plan should be anonymous. Information that could identify the Principal Applicant or co-applicants should NOT be included in the body of the research/project plan.
  - l. Appendices are not allowed. Any pages included that exceed maximum of 5 pages will not be reviewed.
3. Curriculum Vitae (CV) of Principal Applicant (maximum 5 pages). CVs should not be submitted for co-investigators.

### Additional Information

There are three additional questions that applicants must complete to submit their application. A maximum of 200 words may be provided for each question. The three additional questions are:

1. Please explain how gender equality and gender mainstreaming will be considered in the design and evaluation plan for this proposal.
2. Please explain how ethical standards will be upheld, to minimize harm to study population and to mitigate any risks encountered.
3. Please describe any in-kind contributions that will be provided to support this project.

### Budget

- Applications may request up to \$25,000 CAD with justification for each budget category in the Research/Project Plan.
- The funds may be used to leverage other funds, but not overlap with what is currently funded.
- Eligible expenses include supplies, project necessitated travel, equipment, salaries (applicant, students, research or clinical fellows, project managers, research or clinical coordinators/associates, technical and professional assistants, statisticians).
- Ineligible expenses include administration, conference registration fees, travel to conferences, faculty salary, and overhead.
- All line items will be at the discretion of the committee.

### Conditions of Funding

- The Principal Applicant must agree to submit a Final Report at the end of the project, or at the end of Year-1, whichever comes first. The Report shall include a summary of the project including methods and findings, and list any applications to granting agencies, or any abstracts or manuscripts, which resulted from the seed funding provided by this grant. Further details on the reporting structure will be provided to awardees.
- The Principal Applicant, or their appointed delegate, will present a summary of their project at the beginning (March-June 2020) and the end of the project, or at the end of Year-1, whichever comes first, to the C-GCH.
- The Principal Applicant must acknowledge the Centre's seed funding grant in any presentations, invited/submitted posters, publications.
- If the approved budget contains project-related travel, applicants must adhere to the C-GCH travel guidelines.
- There is no other funding available to support this project.

### Application Process

1. The application submission deadline is 11:59pm on Friday, November 1st, 2019.
2. Blinded review of all applications will take place in November 2019.
3. At most, each of the 3 highest scoring applications in the 'Junior' and 'Senior' pools, will be notified between November 20-22, 2019 as to whether their proposal has been selected for presentation to an evaluation panel, comprised of IEC members, reviewers, and invited adjudicators.
4. Presentations will take place on December 3, 2019. Each presenter will have 10 minutes to present their proposal, followed by 10 minutes for questions from the panel.
5. Proposals will be scored independently by panel members following each respective presentation, and scores will be summated to generate an overall score for the proposal. At most, the 2 highest scoring proposals will be awarded a Catalyst Grant; however, at least 1 grant must be awarded to a 'Junior' applicant.
6. Awardee(s) will be formally announced in late December 2019.
7. Grant monies will be transferred March 2020. It is the responsibility of the principal applicant to ensure that, as applicable, all regulatory documents are in place by March 2020 (e.g., REB approval, material data transfer agreements).

### Inquiries

Please submit all inquiries regarding the call for application and/or eligibility to [global.catalyst@sickkids.ca](mailto:global.catalyst@sickkids.ca)

## Appendix 1: C-GCH Catalyst Grant Scoring Matrix

<b>1. Relevance</b>	Relevance to C-GCH strategy "We will directly and indirectly improve the lives of children and their families in resource poor environments" and level of potential impact on the lives of those affected by the proposed project	<p>Each of the 8 categories will be assigned a score out of 5 based on the following:</p> <p>Inadequate (1)</p> <p>Marginal (2)</p> <p>Adequate (3)</p> <p>Good (4)</p> <p>Excellent (5)</p>
<b>2. Quality</b>	Quality of science, intervention or innovation being proposed, including quality of the written proposal with clearly stated hypothesis, aims, rationale and objectives	
<b>3. Originality</b>	Originality and novelty of science, intervention or innovation and corresponding level of excitement about the prospects of this application and potential contribution it will make in the field of global health	
<b>4. Gender Equality</b>	Considers gender equality and gender mainstreaming <sup>1</sup> in the design and evaluation plan for the proposal	
<b>5. Risk</b>	Ethical standards are upheld, to minimize harm to study population and to mitigate any risks encountered	
<b>6. Feasibility</b>	Feasibility of proposal (strength of team, budget, timeframe, likelihood of success)	
<b>7. Collaboration</b>	Collaborations within and between departments, C-GCH programs, and organizations locally and globally	
<b>8. Future Opportunities</b>	Current or future opportunities to disseminate knowledge, leverage funding, high probability of future grant awards, matching funds, or commercial application to ensure sustainability of the project in the future scalability, impact on communities (scientific and those studied)	
<p><sup>1</sup> Gender mainstreaming is defined as the process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies or programs, in all areas and at all levels. It is a strategy for making women's as well as men's concerns and experiences an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programs in all political, economic and societal spheres, so that women and men benefit equally from these, and inequality is not perpetuated (1995 Beijing Platform for Action (UN's fourth World Conference on Women) (<a href="http://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/pdf/e65237.pdf">http://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/pdf/e65237.pdf</a>))</p>		