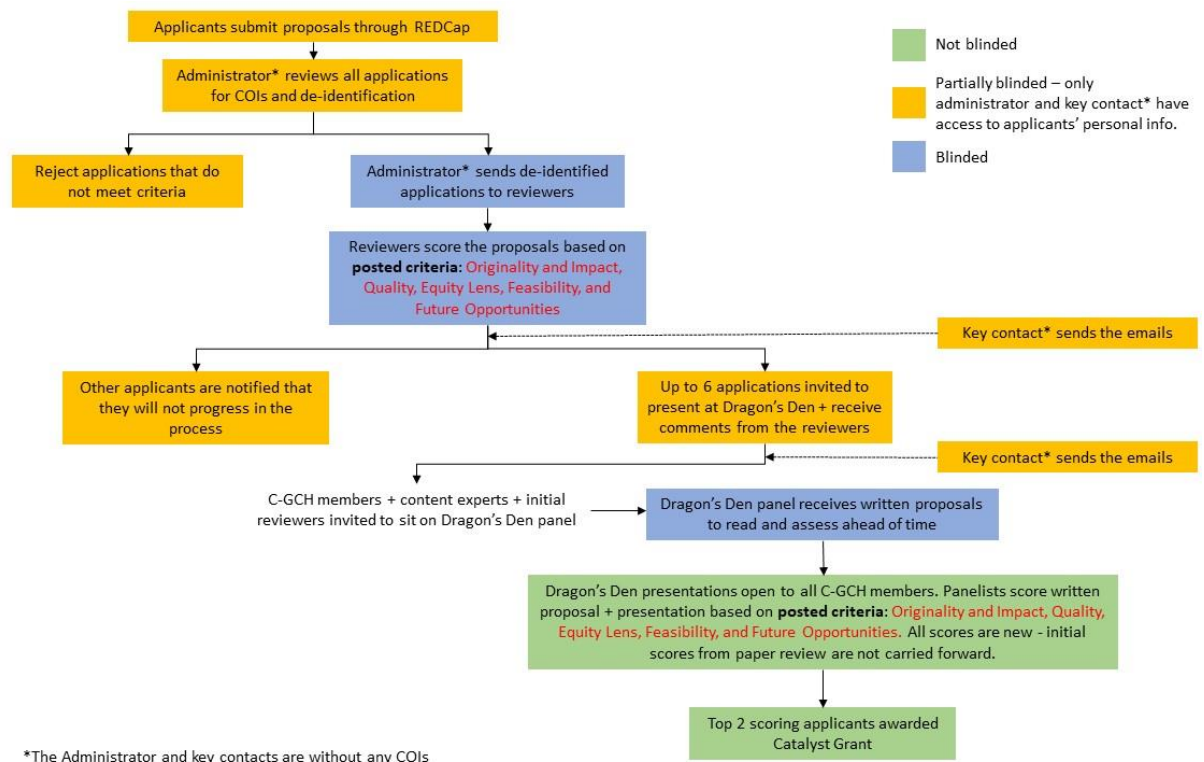


1. What is the process for reviewing and awarding the Catalyst Grant?



2. Is it possible to use external reviewers?

No, external reviewers are not eligible to participate in the review process. Using reviewers from within the C-GCH community ensures that those involved are committed to providing rigorous reviews that lead to the selection of a successful project.

Additionally, we also look to engage C-GCH alumni in both the blinded first review and the Dragon's Den, where appropriate and feasible. When creating the Dragon's Den panel, we will continue to seek additional content area experts from the broader SickKids and University of Toronto community.

Further, as we will continue to use internal reviewers, we are committed to ensuring that they have no direct conflicts of interest (as defined by CIHR) with any proposals they are reviewing. If a conflict is identified, an alternate reviewer will be selected.

3. Who is eligible? Are applications from external applicants encouraged?

Anyone is eligible! While the Principal Applicant on the Catalyst Grant must be a staff member, fellow, or student at SickKids, external applicants are encouraged to use this opportunity to leverage existing collaborations, establish new partnerships, or in some cases, rekindle relationships with former collaborators within the SickKids community. If you want to apply but are not directly affiliated with the C-GCH or SickKids, we encourage you to identify and reach out to internal collaborators through the [Centre](#) and [SickKids](#) websites. For research projects, a

PI will also need to be identified. We encourage you to collaborate early on in the process, so that all co-applicants are involved in the design of the proposal. Please see the [2026 Catalyst Grant Guidelines](#) for further details.

Co-applicants from external organizations are welcome and encouraged.

4. How is the integrity and independence of the adjudication process ensured?

There are numerous ways we ensure the integrity and independence of the review and selection process:

- **The first round of review is blinded.** All identifiable information is removed by the designated administrator prior to disseminating proposals to reviewers. Reviewers are asked to skim each proposal and identify any potential conflicts of interest that may have been missed by the administrator. If a conflict of interest is identified, a new reviewer will be assigned.
- **Bias is minimized at every step.** All reviewers and Dragon's Den panelists are required to read materials to identify conflicts of interest published by [CIHR](#) and the Government of Canada in order to reduce bias as much as possible. They also make an attestation that they will aim to eliminate their bias (sub-conscious and conscious) throughout the process.
- **Standardized scoring criteria are used throughout the process.** There are 5 areas that are used for adjudication both during the first round of blinded review and the Dragon's Den. Details on each of these criteria are available to all applicants prior to submitting the application. Please refer to the Appendix in the 2026 Catalyst Grant Guidelines for more information.
- **Standard operating procedure (SOP) is followed each year.** A Catalyst Grant SOP is followed every year. In 2019, an evaluation of the Catalyst Grant process was carried out, and this has continued annually. All changes made based on that evaluation, and subsequent annual evaluations, will be updated in the SOP, as needed.

5. What is the purpose of the Dragon's Den?

The Dragon's Den is a critical part of the selection process. It offers not only the opportunity to present the application in a different modality (i.e., in the format of a presentation, as opposed to a written proposal), but also allows for the panel and other attendees to ask questions which can serve to deepen the understanding of the application. The format of the presentation is at the discretion of the applicant; however, most applicants use this presentation to pitch their project afresh. Applicants presenting at the Dragon's Den should be prepared to respond to a range of questions and demonstrate the robustness of the application.

The application scoring process is restarted at this stage based on the individual scores assigned by panel members, although the same 5 scoring criteria is used. All panel members will have reviewed the written applications in advance. See Question 1 for more information on the full selection process.

The Dragon's Den also offers a unique professional development opportunity, particularly for junior applicants, and supports C-GCH engagement.

6. Where can I find the scoring criteria?

The scoring criteria can be found in the [2026 Catalyst Grant Guidelines](#). Please refer to the Appendix for a full description of the criteria.

7. Where can I learn more about applying an equity lens to global health research?

For more information about global health equity, please visit [Equity-Centered Principles for Global Health Research](#) by the Canadian Association for Global Health.

8. Are there any requirements for awardees?

Requirements are clearly specified in the call for applications and updated in the [Catalyst Grant Guidelines](#).

Consistent with prior competitions, at least one grant will be awarded to a junior applicant. This ensures equal opportunity for junior applicants and fosters growth and leadership for the next generation of researchers. In the past, we have had scenarios where both of the awardees have been junior applicants, which speaks to the consistent high quality of submissions from junior applicants.

9. I have a question that was not answered here. Who can I contact?

For more information, eligibility and application details, click [here](#).

Should you have any questions regarding the 2026 Catalyst Grant, please contact: global.catalyst@sickkids.ca.