

CFI

2025 Innovation Fund Competition

Office of Research and Innovation Services

February 26, 2024



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Land Acknowledgement



Agenda

- The CFI Programs – JELF vs. Innovation Fund (IF)
- The CFI-IF tentative timelines
- UWindsor EOI timelines
- The funding model and streams
 - Eligible Costs
 - Funding partners
 - IOF funding
- The EOI Process
- Research Security requirements
- 2023 CFI-IF Competition – Assessment Criteria



Canada Foundation for Innovation

John R. Evans Leaders Fund

- Assists universities in attracting and retaining excellent faculty
- Allocation-based
- Serves the infrastructure needs of individual faculty, or groups of up to three faculty members

Innovation Fund

- Aims to support transformative and internationally competitive research and technology development
- Allocation-based
- Typically serves the needs of larger groups led by up to two project leaders and other team members for a total of ten team members. Can be multi-institutional and multi-disciplinary.



Upcoming
CFI-Innovation
Fund
Competitions

	2025 competition	2028 competition
CFI issues call for proposals	Spring 2024	Winter 2026–27
Deadline to submit notices of intent	October 2024	Spring 2027
Deadline to submit proposals	February 2025	Fall 2027
Decision by CFI Board of Directors	November 2025	June 2028



Internal
Expression of
Interest

Deadline for submission of EOIs	March 15, 2024
Notification of results	March 29, 2024
CFI draft NOI due ORIS and Faculty	September 2024 (anticipated)
NOI due CFI	October 2024 (anticipated)
CFI draft application due ORIS and Faculty	December 2024 (anticipated)
Application due CFI	February 2025 (anticipated)
ORF-LIF application due	March 2025 (anticipated)
CFI decision	November 2025



New for the 2025 competition

Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts (SSHA) Stream

- Allow each institution to submit one proposal outside of the institutional envelope with the primary field of research in SSHA
- Establish an SSHA-specific funding stream with adapted assessment criteria
- Extend the eligibility of personnel required for the continuous development and use of databases

Core Facilities Stream

- Establish a core-facility-specific funding stream with adapted assessment criteria
- Expand eligible costs to include personnel involved in operations and management of core facilities.

[CFI Update \(February 2024\) \(innovation.ca\)](#)

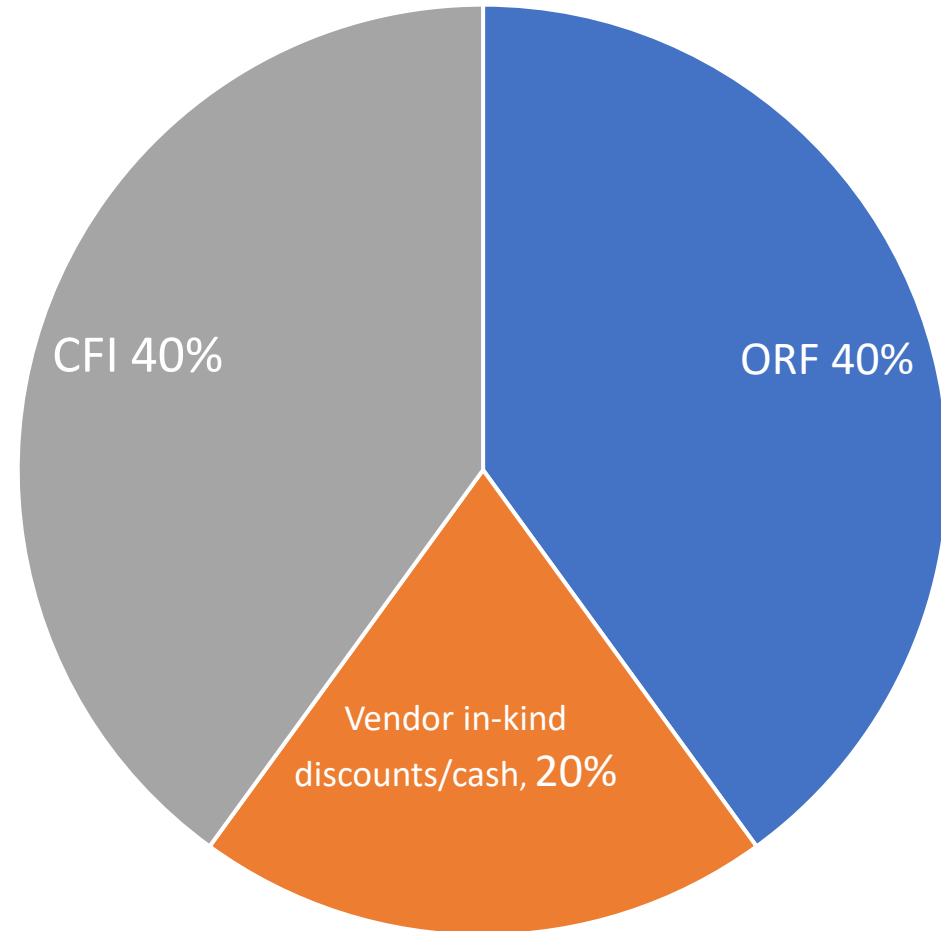


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2025 Innovation Fund (anticipated)

- The UWindsor institutional envelope is anticipated to be approximately \$6.1M
- Minimum total project budget **must exceed \$1,000,000** (CFI provides up to 40%: CFI request must exceed \$400,000); **this program requires matching funds**
- Up to two project leaders, plus additional team members for a total of 10 per proposal.



Eligible Infrastructure Costs



Research equipment and components



Construction and renovation, exclusively for research



Personnel involved in design, engineering, manufacturing, or installation of the infrastructure



Databases, digital libraries, advanced research computing



Warranties and/or service contracts



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Ministry of Colleges and Universities (MCU)

- Ontario provincial sponsor that matches the CFI
 - **Ontario Research Fund – Large Infrastructure (ORF-RI LIF)**
- Up to a maximum 40% of total project's cost
- MCU contribution never exceeds the CFI contribution
- ORF application is typically due about one month after the CFI application submission
- MCU funded research grants programs are subject to risks based due diligence review which is developed based on risk indicators. The review is conducted by OPSA/SOLGEN and the funding decision rests with the MCU Minister. Currently, the CFI and MCU have separate security reviews and different standards.



Other Funding Partners

- Firms and corporations (e.g. vendors)
 - CFI Discount
 - Educational discounts not eligible
- Institutional funds
- Some federal, provincial, or municipal agencies
- Non-profit organizations
- Individuals (donations)
- **Tri-Agency funds are not eligible**



CFI Vendor Discounts

- The most common funding partner to cover the remaining 20% of total project cost
- Discounts are over and above educational discount

- Example:

List Price: \$110,000

Educational Discount: \$10,000

CFI Deep Discount: \$20,000

Net Selling Price: \$80,000



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Infrastructure Operating Fund (IOF)

- All successful CFI awards are also awarded an IOF
- The IOF is 30% of the CFI award
- All project infrastructure must be fully commissioned and functional before IOF funding can be released
 - Provided for a 5-year period
- Does not support additional infrastructure purchases for project
- Supports operating, maintenance, consumables (limited to 10% of IOF), technician costs, etc.



Online Expression of Interest

An Expression of Interest is required from anyone interested in applying to the 2025 CFI-IF as well as anyone who will be requesting a share of the UWindsor envelope for projects led by other institutions.

- [CFI-IF Expression of Interest form](#)
- [CFI EOI Budget Worksheet](#)
- 2-page project summary



Policy on Sensitive Technology Research and Affiliations of Concern



Research Security

- On January 16, 2024, the Government of Canada announced the Policy on Sensitive Technology Research and Affiliations of Concern (STRAC).
- The CFI is planning to start implementing the policy this spring and is preparing guidance for institutions.

2023 CFI-IF Assessment Criteria

Research or
technology
development

Team
Expertise

Team
Composition

Infrastructure

Sustainability

Benefits to
Canadians

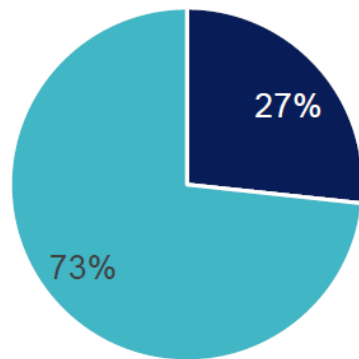


2023 CFI-IF Review Process

Innovation Fund

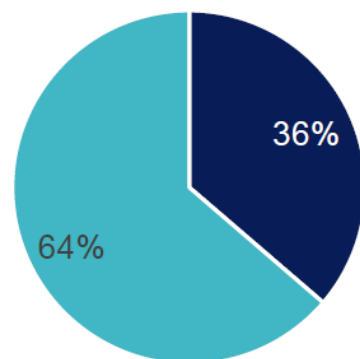
By the numbers

Requested amount



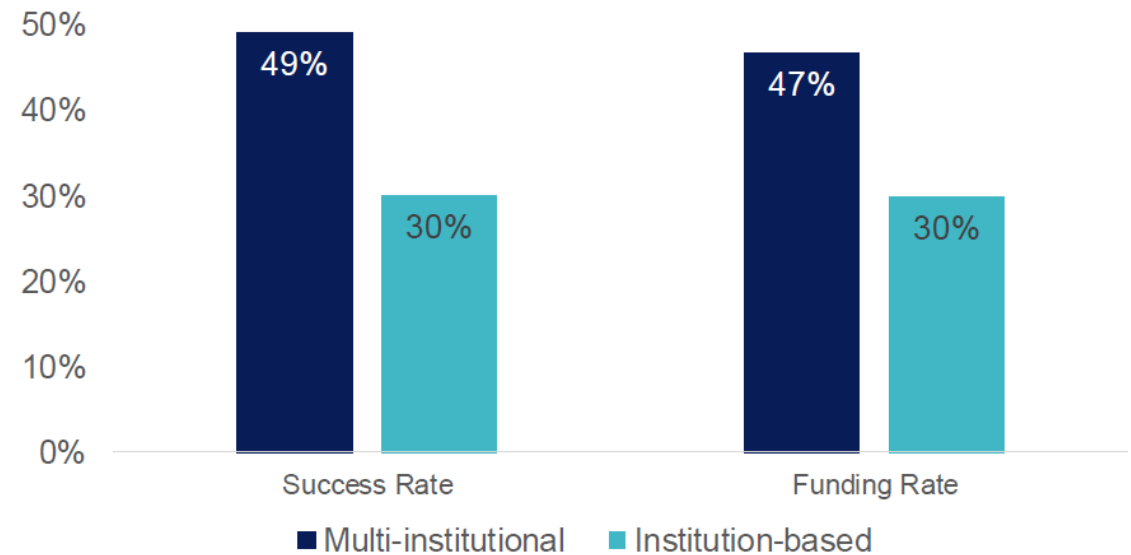
- Multi-institutional
- Institution-based

Recommended amount



- Multi-institutional
- Institution-based

Success and funding rates for multi-institutional and single institution proposals



Ontario Research Fund-Research Infrastructure

Review Process:

- CFI coordinated expert committees will complete a scientific review of full applications;
- Ontario Strategic Value Review panel(s) will provide an in-depth review of the full proposals' strategic value to Ontario and make recommendations on the priority grouping of proposals (high priority, priority or non-priority);
- The Strategic Value Review(s) panel(s) recommendations may be provided to the CFI Special Multidisciplinary Assessment Committee;
- The Ministry of the Solicitor General (SolGen) will conduct a security review;
- Following receipt of the results of the CFI adjudication process, the ORF Advisory Board will incorporate strategic value considerations into its recommendations on priorities to MCU;
- The final funding decision rests with the Minister of Colleges and Universities, who may approve, conditionally approve or decline applications at the Minister's sole discretion.



Questions

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<https://www.innovation.ca/apply-manage-awards/funding-opportunities/innovation-fund>



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