

2026-27 Hope Innovation Research Grant Application Instructions

Competition Timeline

December 7, 2026 – Intent to Apply Deadline

December 14, 2026 – Notification of Full Application Invitations

April 19, 2027 – Full Application Deadline

Summer 2027 – Applicants Notified of Funding Decisions

Review Process and Criteria

1. Letter of Intent Screening: Letters of Intent will be assessed for alignment with the Hope Innovation Research Grant program. Only applicants whose Letters of Intent are aligned with the program will be invited to submit a full application.

2. Full Application Review: Each full application will be reviewed by two to three reviewers using the following weighted criteria:

- **Innovation** – 25%
- **Research impact** – 25%
- **Research approach, design, and methodology** – 25%
- **Applicant** – 15%
- **Research environment** – 10%

3. Panel Consensus Review: The top-ranking applications will be discussed by the full review panel, made up of all reviewers, to reach a consensus score based on the criteria above. Health equity considerations will be factored into the consensus score.

4. Final recommendation: Applications with the highest panel consensus scores will move forward to the LHF Research Advisory Committee. Final funding recommendations will consider alignment with LHF goals, knowledge mobilization, health equity, EDI, patient and donor perspectives, and budget rationale.

Application Instructions and Requirements

Application Process

- 1) **Step 1: Submit a Letter of Intent.** Applicants must submit a complete Letter of Intent through ProposalCentral by December 7th, 2026, 11:59PM EST
- 2) **Step 2: LHF reviews for eligibility.** LHF will review Letters of Intent to confirm that the applicant and proposed project meet the eligibility criteria.
- 3) **Step 3: Select applicants are invited to apply.** Applicants whose Letters of Intent meet the eligibility criteria may be invited to submit a full application through ProposalCentral by April 19, 2027, 11:59PM EST. Only applicants who receive an invitation from LHF may submit a full application.

Important Note: Applicants must submit all required materials through ProposalCentral by the applicable deadline, including signatures and third-party documents such as letters of collaboration. Email, mail, and separately submitted documents will not be accepted. LHF may decline late, incomplete, or inconsistent applications without requesting missing information.

Letter of Intent Application Requirements

- **Nominated Principal Applicant Information**
- **Eligibility questions**
 - Affiliations
 - Career stage
 - Confirmation that the project or NPA does not receive tobacco funds
 - Confirmation that the research will be conducted in Canada
- **Research team information**

- List of the research team, including all collaborators
- **Research content and classification fields**
 - Project Abstract (maximum 2,500 characters)
 - LHF topics the project addresses
 - Description of alignment with LHF priorities (maximum 2,000 characters)
 - Research type
 - Methodology type(s)
 - Keywords

Full Application Requirements

- **Information that must match the Letter of Intent**
 - Title page information, including the Project Title and Plain Language Title, must be identical to the information submitted in the LOI and should not change.
 - Nominated Principal Applicant (NPA) information must be identical to the information submitted in the LOI.
 - NPA institution information must be identical to the information submitted in the LOI, where applicable.
- **Full application administrative fields**
 - Resubmission status
 - Estimated total budget
 - AI use disclosure, including an explanation of how AI was used in preparing the application, if applicable
 - NPA career stage: Early, Mid, or Senior
 - NPA demographics (information will remain confidential)
- **Institution and financial administration information**
 - Lead institution
 - Institution address
 - If the institution is different from the project site, applicants should provide the project site address.
 - Institution legal name
 - NPA institution address
 - Institution official name for financial purposes
 - Business Registration Number of Institution (BN): Institution's business number as registered through the Canadian Revenue Agency. (For details, please refer to <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/taxes/business-number.html> and inquire through your institution's Financial Office).
 - Funding administration office address
 - Signing official email address
 - Financial officer email address
- **Research team and CV requirements**
 - Research team members with a Canadian Common CV (CCV) may submit their CCV. Include publications from the last five (5) years only.
 - Academic team members without a CCV must upload a CV that follows the CIHR CV format and section order. Include publications from the last five (5) years only.
 - Non-academic experts, such as clinicians or engineers, must submit a resume with a brief bio at the top.
 - People with lived experience must submit a brief bio and may also include a resume.
 - Applications may not be submitted by more than one Nominated Principal Applicant (NPA).
 - Significant collaborators who are not listed as co-applicants must provide signed statements of support.
- **Research summary and classification fields**
 - Project Abstract, maximum 2,500 characters, describing the proposed research, its purpose, approach, and anticipated contribution.
 - Lay Abstract, maximum 2,500 characters, written in plain language for a non-specialist audience.

- Applicants should ensure the Lay Abstract is accessible to the intended readability level and explain specialized terms where needed.
- Keywords that accurately describe the project topic, population, methods, and area of lung health research.
- **Health Equity**
 - Health equity considerations, including how the project addresses equity, underserved populations, barriers to care, inclusive methods, or potential differential impacts.
- **Budget and funding information**
 - Budget period details and justification, including eligible project costs, required explanations, and how each cost directly supports the proposed research.
 - Eligible expenses: Grant funds may be used for direct expenses necessary to complete the approved research project, including personnel directly involved in the project (excluding the NPA), such as technicians, research assistants, graduate students, and postdoctoral fellows; materials, supplies, equipment, and animal costs required for the project; project-related training costs; travel required to carry out the project; and publication costs of up to \$2,000.
 - Ineligible expenses: Costs not directly related to the approved research project, institutional overhead or indirect research costs, salary support for the grantee, clinical care costs, conference or meeting attendance (unless directly required for the funded project and approved in the budget), professional or scientific society membership fees, or journal subscriptions.
 - Other funding sources must be disclosed, including ongoing, applied-for, overlapping, or confirmed support.
- **Assurances, attachments, validation, and signatures**
 - Organization assurances, including required institutional approvals and Ethics Committee or Research Ethics Board approval for human or animal research, where applicable.
 - Proposal and supplementary attachments, including all required supporting documents submitted through ProposalCentral.
 - Peer review recommendations, where applicable, including any required response or additional information requested as part of the application process.
 - Validation in ProposalCentral to confirm that all required fields and uploads are complete before submission.
 - Signature page, including required signatures from the Nominated Principal Applicant and the institutional Signing Official.

Grant Proposal Formatting

The grant proposal is a **maximum of five (5) pages**, excluding references, tables, charts, figures, and photographs. Additional materials (tables, charts, figures, etc.) must not exceed an **additional five (5) pages**. References are not subject to a page count. Representative publications of the applicant may be uploaded as appendices but **cannot exceed three (3) pages** in number. The proposal should focus on the hypotheses/research questions, the background and the approach. Applicants should focus on explaining methods where they are critical to the application and avoid explaining detailed technical methods.