



CANADIAN FOUNDATION FOR DIETETIC RESEARCH LA FONDATION CANADIENNE DE LA RECHERCHE EN DIETETIQUE

Research Grant Program Policy

The primary objective of the Canadian Foundation for Dietetic Research (CFDR) is to support research related to any area of dietetic practice including foodservice administration, clinical and community, education and training, or public health dietetic practice. Within the broad area of practice-based dietetic research, **the priority of CFDR is to support research that is of direct relevance to the nutritional wellbeing of populations within Canada.** CFDR strives to support practicing dietitians by funding research that will guide decisions and service delivery in their daily practice.

The grant awards will be divided between larger projects with budgets of up to \$20,000, and smaller projects with budgets under \$10,000. Applications for grants less than \$10,000 are limited to projects to be completed within one year of the initiation of CFDR's funding. Applications for grants greater than \$10,000 can have up to two-years within the initiation of CFDR funding to complete the project.

These research grants are not intended to supplement other grants. However, CFDR will review a grant proposal that has been submitted concurrently to other potential granting/funding agencies. If successful, shared or joint funding may be undertaken at the discretion of the agencies concerned. If partial funding of a larger project is requested, the proposal must clearly state how CFDR funds will be used and how that piece of work will be a distinct project to be conducted within the timeframe for CFDR with results published separately. Applicants must inform the Foundation of any support requested and/or received from other funding bodies for the same project.

The goal of CFDR is to support research from dietitians in practice, in preference to dietitians whose primary mandate is to pursue scholarly activities, e.g., university faculty. However, CFDR encourages collaboration between colleagues in practice and academic settings.

Eligibility

- Applications will only be considered from a principal investigator or co-principal investigator who is a member of the dietetic profession, as identified by membership in a Canadian dietetics regulatory body AND who is also a member of Dietitians of Canada. The member must be delivering direct or indirect client/patient/public care or service. If funding is approved, membership must be maintained for the entire period of the research.
- Applicants must be affiliated with institutions or organizations that will act as Sponsors on behalf of the grant applications. Sponsors must be registered with Revenue Canada as conducting charitable activities. Health agencies including universities, hospitals, provincial and municipal government departments and public health units, community groups or associations and non-profit organizations are eligible. Grants will not be awarded to individuals, nor to organizations not recognized as charitable under the Federal Income Tax Act.
- Applicants must not have current or outstanding CFDR funded projects and reports at the time the grant funding is released from CFDR.

Areas of Support

Priority research directions for CFDR grants have been identified and are outlined in the five category descriptions below. Preferences will be given to project submissions that reflect a collaborative approach to research.

1. Outcomes of intervention: objective measures of the effect of a nutrition intervention in all practice areas.

Objective measures of the effect of a nutrition intervention are important to all practice areas. For example, clinical research may include evaluation of feeding methods, special diets or education/counseling approaches on such outcomes as nutrient intake, biochemical, anthropometric or functional measures of health. Community research may include the evaluation of policies, programs, practices and tools to improve knowledge, attitudes and/or behaviour as well as the development of indicators of community health status and health promotion indicators of change. Food service systems and health services research may look at the evaluation of services delivered. There is also a need to develop and validate outcome measures/indicators for future intervention studies.

2. New roles for dietitians in meeting health needs of all Canadians: education, training, implementation and evaluation of novel service delivery in new environments.

Social, economic and technological changes offer new opportunities to meet health needs. New roles emerge with novel services, in new environments, in new management structures, with non-traditional partners and with innovative resource development. Evaluation of new models and approaches will lead to improved cost-effectiveness and satisfaction of nutrition services. There is also a need on understanding existing and emerging professional practice issues through examining current education theory and practices and to create new knowledge. The area of research on professional practice includes key priorities for the profession related to education and training in focus areas such as practicum training, health human resources and outcomes measures and evaluation.

3. Identification of vulnerable groups and their nutritional needs: enhanced understanding of who are the nutritionally vulnerable, their nutritional needs and means to address these needs.

Nutritional vulnerability may arise for social, cultural or biological reasons that impair utilization of nutrients or limit access to nutritionally adequate food and nutrition services. An improved understanding of who are the nutritionally vulnerable, their nutritional needs and means to address these issues will foster services better designed to meet the needs of high priority groups, and will lead to improved nutritional status.

4. Determinants of food choice: identification of factors and attitudes that influence the food choices made by consumers.

Choices regarding food are complex and are influenced by many factors including culture, geography, age, gender, lifestyle, income, education, belief, practice and availability. Research would provide a further understanding of these factors and would positively influence the design and delivery of a wide range of nutrition services and products for specific consumer groups.

5. Projects involving a secondary analysis of Canadian consumer attitude/self reported knowledge & behaviour data from Tracking Nutrition Trends (TNT).

The 2018 TNT survey has recently been released for purchase (URL). Previous surveys are available at no charge. Data sets for the 2018, 2015 and 2013 surveys are available for purchase. In the case of a funded proposal that involves these data, the researcher will have access to the relevant electronic data set (s) free of charge. Please contact CFDR for access to the questions used for the most recent surveys.

Areas of Non-Support

CFDR **WILL NOT** provide funding for:

- Annual fund-raising campaigns
- Basic science research, including animal experimentation
- Budget deficits
- Building funds or other capital cost campaigns
- Cost of continuing education programs or activities of dietitians
- Cost of educational programs for dietetic interns or support staff
- Cost of films, books, journals, cookbooks, patient care manuals, or videos
- Cost of office furniture, photographic equipment, computers, etc.
- Major equipment and equipment service contracts
- Major laboratory test expenses
- Ongoing research previously supported by other funding agency
- Operating or overhead costs of an organization or department
- Projects to be conducted outside of Canada
- Salaries/remuneration for dietetic interns, graduate students and postdoctoral fellows
- Salaries/remuneration of the investigators or full-time employees of universities, dietetic or public health departments or other agencies participating in the project
- Secretarial assistance
- Service programs

Process

The Research Grant application involves a 2-step process:

Step 1- Applicants are required to submit a Letter of Intent for the advertised competition.

The CFDR Scientific Review Committee reviews Letters of Intent meeting the criteria. Applicants with the highest scores are then **invited to submit full proposals. The decisions of the Scientific Review Committee are final.**

Step 2 – The Scientific Review Committee assesses invited applications on scientific merit and relevance to dietetic practice. Invited applicants are expected to submit names of external reviewers. The Scientific Review Committee determines if the services of external reviewers are required. External reviewers are selected for their expertise in research methodology and the relevance of their expertise to the content of the submission.

Applications considered to be fundable are ranked; full, partial or conditional support may be recommended. **The recommendations of the Scientific Review Committee and decisions of CFDR are final.**

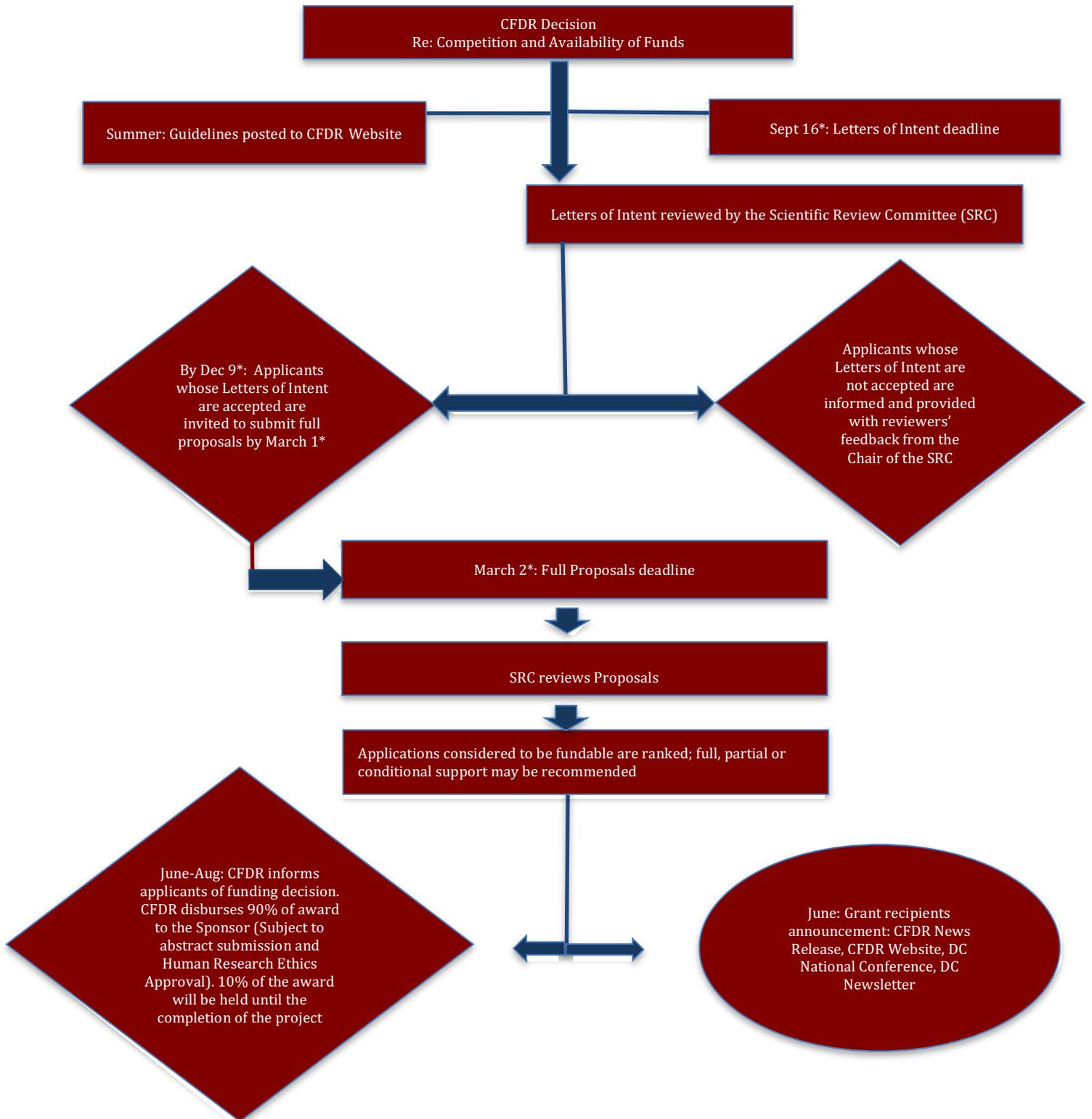
Applicants whose proposals are not funded will have the opportunity to address feedback and resubmit in a subsequent funding cycle.

Written reviews on full application proposals are provided to applicants at the end of the competition and after the results are announced. The discussions of the Scientific Review Committee are not recorded in these reports nor are the reviewers identified.

CFDR reserves the right to publish the names and photographs of successful applicants, their institutions, the title of the projects and to quote from the project proposals. CFDR reserves the right to report on published accounts of CFDR funded projects in public communications.

CFDR Grants Process

*If dates fall on a weekend or holiday, the following business day applies



Agreement, Reporting and Funding

A signed application form constitutes an agreement between **CFDR, and the Grant Recipient(s) and the Sponsor/Sponsoring institution (Sponsor as recognized as charitable under the Federal Income Tax Act)** to spend the grant funds only for its intended purpose and in accordance with the approved budget.

The **Sponsor** is expected to provide accounting and administrative services, research and office space as well as office furniture, routine secretarial services and equipment. Title to any equipment purchased with project funds will be vested to the Sponsor. The Sponsor is responsible for acquiring and maintaining liability insurance. The Sponsor assumes responsibility for the accounting and payment of all project expenses as per the CFDR approved budget as presented in the proposal. The Sponsor will monitor all research supported through the grant.

Prior to expenditure, the Grant Recipient(s) and Sponsor must obtain approval from CFDR in writing for any anticipated expenses not included in the approved budget as well as any anticipated deviations to the budget line items as presented in the proposal. Note CFDR's maximum allowable project budget of \$1,000 for conference travel and/or dissemination of research results through on-line journals.

Ninety percent (90%) of the grant award sum will be disbursed to the Sponsor prior to the commencement of the research, subject to the receipt of the research abstract in CFDR's on-line Research Sharing Portal. Additionally, if human participants are involved in the research, a signed approval form from a duly constituted Committee for Ethical Conduct of Human Research (as deemed acceptable by the Sponsor and CFDR) must be submitted to CFDR before any funds can be used. Human Research Ethics Approval renewals must be obtained for the duration of the project and provided to CFDR.

The Grant Recipient(s) and Sponsor are required to submit project and financial reports to CFDR on a defined schedule. Extensions must be requested in writing from CFDR if the project or financial reports cannot be provided within the defined schedule.

Final reports are due no later than 4 months after project completion. CFDR will evaluate all final reports for adherence to criteria, including the submission of the final research abstract to CFDR's on-line research sharing portal. CFDR will determine if all criteria has been met before releasing the remaining ten percent (10%) of the award sum to the Sponsor.

Grant recipients who have not submitted their final reports for a single year project within 16 months of receiving funds, **will not be entitled to the ten percent holdback and in addition, may be expected to repay the grant in total or in part.** Similarly, grant recipients who have not submitted their final reports for a two year project within 28 months of receiving funds **will not be entitled to the ten percent holdback and in addition, may be expected to repay the grant in total or in part.**

Publications

The research findings are the property of the investigators and the sponsoring agencies. Principal investigators are requested to make their findings available to individuals and groups which may benefit from the research, i.e., to publish in a peer-reviewed journal, such as Canadian Journal of Dietetic Practice and Research, and to present at a meeting such as, DC Annual Conference, SNE, ADA, ASPEN, HFM, CFSEA, NAFEM. **CFDR must be acknowledged as a source of financial support.**

All publications should indicate that the opinions contained are those of the authors, and that no official endorsement by CFDR is intended or should be inferred. A copy of any publishing (published paper or a full publication reference) must be sent to CFDR upon publication.