



Research
Manitoba
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Strategic Partnerships Program Guide

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1. Preface

Research Manitoba is a provincial funding agency which provides funds for research and innovation in health, natural sciences and engineering, and social sciences and humanities in Manitoba. Through funding received from the Province of Manitoba, Research Manitoba facilitates a number of research grants and awards programs.

2. Purpose

The Research Manitoba Strategic Partnerships Program aims to promote and support collaborative research initiatives that bring together diverse partners from industry, non-profit, institutions and government.

The overall aim is to foster innovation and help advance Manitoba's position in research and innovation.

The three funding streams of this program are:

Stream 1: Innovative Strategic Partnerships supports initiatives that present a unique and innovative opportunity, address a Manitoba-specific challenge and align with strategic priorities as identified by Research Manitoba. These partnerships must involve a minimum of one partner organization in addition to Research Manitoba.

Stream 2: Matching Funds supports Manitoba-based research initiatives/projects that involve a minimum of one partner organization in addition to Research Manitoba and require provincial support. Matching Funds investments will leverage funds to Manitoba from other sources (for example, other funding agencies), and create opportunities for Manitoba researchers that would otherwise be difficult to access

Stream 3: External Competition Awards is dedicated to fostering collaborations with external organizations that host competitive research awards. The primary focus of this stream is to support Manitoba research by partnering with these organizations, enhancing opportunities for Manitoba researchers to receive these awards.

3. Award Amounts and Duration

For *Stream 1* funding will be available on a rolling basis throughout the year as resources permit. The amounts proposed and duration will be allocated based on the merit of the research program and/or project and as resources permit. For *Stream 2* and *Stream 3*, deadlines have been noted below.

All applicants must demonstrate leveraged resources and matching funds to apply. Additionally, supporting budget tables must be provided detailing the justification for the proposed duration and other uses of funds.

For *Stream 3* Research Manitoba will provide matching or supplementary funds to complement the awards given through the external competition.

4. Eligibility

Stream 1: Innovative Strategic Partnerships

- Innovative Strategic Partnership requests must involve a minimum of one partner organization (e.g., industry, non-profit, institution, government), in addition to Research Manitoba, and support a Manitoba-based research project. Having more than one partner organization will enhance the strength of an application. At least one partner must demonstrate a financial commitment to the partnership.
- Initiatives must present a unique and innovative opportunity with a significant potential for impact.
- The research program/project must have a direct and obvious benefit to Manitoba.
- The initiative must address a Manitoba-specific challenge. Alignment with strategic priorities as identified by Research Manitoba is essential and must be clearly demonstrated. The current strategic priorities (2024-2025) are identified below. Please note that strategic priorities may be updated or modified at any time to align with current provincial priorities and needs:
 - Indigenous led and/or Indigenous informed research
 - Health Research that has the potential to improve the health and well-being of Manitobans.
 - Green technology and clean technology
- The initiative should contain an innovative component. Innovation involves renewing and/or bringing up-to-date domains, products, or services through new processes, techniques, or ideas to create new value. Consider the three “I’s” of Innovation:
 - Invent: Creating something purely new.
 - Iterate: Improving upon your invention for better usage.
 - Interrupt (Disrupt): Doing things in a new way to make the old things obsolete.

Stream 2: Matching Funds

- Matching Funds requests must be from a researcher employed at a Manitoba post-secondary institution and must involve a minimum of one partner organization in addition to Research Manitoba. Some examples include:
 - Funding Agencies/Organizations
 - Industry
 - Non-profit Organizations
 - Academic/Research Institutions
 - Municipal/Provincial/Federal Government
- Initiatives must leverage funds and create an opportunity for Manitoba researchers and/or research community that may otherwise be difficult to access. The need for Research Manitoba’s investment must be clearly demonstrated.
- The research project must have a direct and obvious benefit to Manitoba.
- Applications demonstrating strong alignment with the strategic priorities identified by Research Manitoba will be prioritized.

Stream 3: External Competition Awards

- Eligible applicants for this stream are external organizations that run competitive research award programs and are interested in collaborating with Research Manitoba to support awardees based in Manitoba.

5. Application Deadlines

Each stream of the Strategic Partnerships Program has a different application method. Please carefully read and follow the steps for the Stream you wish to apply.

Current application forms can be found on the [Strategic Partnerships](#) website.

Stream 1: Innovative Strategic Partnerships – This Stream has a rolling deadline. Interested applicants should email helpdesk@researchmb.ca to explore potential project scope, alignment and anticipated impact.

- Projects which are selected to move forward will be asked to submit a full application outlining the scope, impact and partnership details. Applications will be reviewed by Research Manitoba and may also require an external scientific review.
- Applicants must ensure all required fields in the [proposal form](#) have been completed in order for the review to occur.
- Research Manitoba may request updated CVs of all applicants and their co-applicants.

Stream 2: Matching Funds - This Stream has a rolling deadline and consists of a two-stage application process:

- Stage 1 – Expression of Interest (EOI). **Please submit all applications to Yasmin.Iman@researchmb.ca.**
- Stage 2 – Full proposal (submitted by invitation only following the EOI stage): a deadline will be given when invited to submit a full proposal (approximately 6-8 weeks following invitation).
- Interested parties can contact Yasmin.Iman@researchmb.ca for special calls that occur outside of the specified EOI deadline.

Stream 3: External Competition Awards - This Stream has a rolling deadline. Interested organizations should email helpdesk@researchmb.ca to explore opportunities for collaboration.

- The partnership should work to identify specific research areas that would benefit from the joint support of both parties whilst focusing on aligning the strategic goals of both organizations.
- Partnerships selected to move forward will require a Terms of Reference to be developed outlining the partnership scope, objective and expected outcomes. The Terms of Reference should include:
 - Details of the competitive research award program.
 - The duration and parameters of the partnership.
 - A description of how Manitoba researchers will benefit from the partnership.
 - A proposed budget and how additional funds from Research Manitoba will be utilized.
 - Letters of support or endorsements from other partners is optional.

6. Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

Research Manitoba recognizes that research growth is only achievable by equitable and collaborative practices with diverse communities. Representation of researchers who are members of racialized, sexual and gender diverse, and disability communities is important to ensure the growth of research in Manitoba remains strong.

We recognize the historic inequalities of research conducted on these communities, particularly Indigenous communities in Manitoba, and will prioritize applications that showcase equitable practices. These practices include:

- Having organizers from equity-deserving communities
- Commissioning accommodation services such as ASL interpreters, translators and virtual access to seminars
- Including Indigenous knowledge keepers in events that include activity with Indigenous communities.

7. Assessment Criteria

Applications will be evaluated by Research Manitoba within one month following the deadline.

In order to be approved for funding, the application and proposal submitted must meet all the criteria outlined in this Program Guide. Additionally, all fields must be completed on the application form.

8. Regulations, Policies and Other Information

Research Manitoba reserves the right to determine the eligibility of applications, based on the information therein. Research Manitoba also reserves the right to interpret the regulations and policies governing its funding opportunities.

All applicants and grant holders must comply with the regulations set out in the Research Manitoba Finance and Administration Guide.

Research funds are to be spent according to budgets approved during the review and decision process. Grant holders need Research Manitoba approval for reallocation only if the change involved is 25% or more of the grant's total, or if the grant's end date is rescheduled more than six months after the original end date. If a [reallocation of funds](#) or [project extension](#) is needed, please fill out the required forms and submit them to helpdesk@researchmb.ca.

Grant recipients are to report on the outputs and outcomes of their funded research project within two months of the completion of their grant. A completion report template will be sent to the recipient after the recipient confirms their acceptance of the grant.

9. Contact Information

For questions regarding this program, please contact helpdesk@researchmb.ca.