



Research  
Manitoba

[researchmanitoba.ca](http://researchmanitoba.ca)

# MANITOBA SOLUTIONS GRANT

## Program Guide

**Last Updated:**

**September 19th, 2025**

## 1. Preface

Research Manitoba promotes, supports, and coordinates the funding of research excellence in health, natural science and engineering, and social science and humanities in Manitoba. Our organization cultivates local talent development by investing in early career researchers and graduate students and fosters strategic partnerships to bolster innovation and commercialization in the province.

## 2. Purpose

The Manitoba Solutions Grant (MSG) is a strategic research funding initiative led by Research Manitoba to address Manitoba's most pressing challenges through interdisciplinary, collaborative research. Projects must be co-developed with knowledge users, such as industry, nonprofits, or community-based organizations who play a direct role in shaping the research and applying its outcomes.

Each year, one priority area will be selected in collaboration with the Manitoba government, ensuring strong alignment with provincial needs and opportunities. Projects must show clear potential to create tangible, measurable benefits to Manitobans, strengthen local capacity, and advance equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility (EDIA) in research.

## 3. Objectives

The specific objectives of the Manitoba Solutions Grant are to:

- Invest in Manitoba-focused research.
- Foster collaboration between academia and knowledge users, such as Manitoba-based organizations, community, and industry.
- Build provincial research capacity.
- Generate measurable benefits for Manitobans.

## 4. Priority Research Call

### **Artificial Intelligence and Emerging Technologies**

The Manitoba Solutions Grant will launch its first funding call with a focus on research in **Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Emerging Technologies**. This call will provide catalyst funding to support Manitoba-based research that builds the province's capacity to ethically and effectively develop, evaluate, and apply advanced technologies for the benefit of public services, business, and healthcare.

AI, machine learning, robotics, and other emerging technologies are reshaping the way we live, work, and deliver services. Manitoba has the opportunity to advance locally relevant,

high-quality research that ensures these innovations are used responsibly and in ways that produce measurable benefits for Manitobans.

### **Call Requirements and Eligibility**

This call aims to:

- Support applied and translational research that investigates real-world applications of AI and emerging technologies in Manitoba's public services, businesses, and healthcare systems.
- Generate new knowledge, evidence, and tools that enable the ethical, transparent, and fair use of technologies.
- Strengthen Manitoba's research capacity, infrastructure, and expertise in AI and emerging technologies.
- Encourage interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral research collaborations involving academic institutions, industry, public sector organizations, Indigenous communities, and non-profits.

Eligible research areas may include (but are not limited to):

- Development and testing of AI-enabled tools to improve public service delivery and healthcare outcomes.
- Research on the use of robotics, automation, or intelligent systems to enhance productivity and safety in Manitoba workplaces.
- Data governance, privacy, bias mitigation, and other ethical considerations in AI research.
- Evaluation of emerging technologies of social, environmental, or economic impact.
- Research on workforce readiness, skill development, and societal adoption of AI-enabled innovations.

Projects funded through this call should produce evidence-based insights, frameworks, or prototypes that can inform policy, guide best practices, or be scaled for broader application in Manitoba.

If you have questions regarding your project's alignment with the priority research call, please contact [helpdesk@researchmb.ca](mailto:helpdesk@researchmb.ca).

### **5. Award Amount and Duration**

The Manitoba Solutions Grant is a **two-year** award that is awarded on a competitive basis and is valued at a **maximum of \$100,000 per year**, totaling a maximum of **\$200,000**. Proposals do not have to request the maximum value of the award. All proposals must

provide a thorough budget justification. At this time, Research Manitoba will fund a minimum of seven awards per competition.

While matching funds from collaborating knowledge users are not required for this competition, demonstrated partnership commitment in the form of in-kind and matching funds will enhance the strength of an application.

Award funds are to be used to defray the direct cost of research only.

Examples of expenses can be found in **Appendix B**.

A one-year automatic extension on the use of funds will be permitted, with no additional funding.

**Note:** The Manitoba Solutions Grant provides funding for up to two years. Year 2 funding is not guaranteed and is contingent upon satisfactory progress and financial accountability in Year 1, as demonstrated through the Interim Report and Financial Review. Continuation is subject to Research Manitoba approval.

## 6. Eligibility Requirements

### **General Eligibility Requirements**

- Lead/Principal Applicant must be affiliated with an eligible Manitoba research institution.
- Projects must include at least one knowledge user as a co-applicant.
- The proposed research and related activities must be conducted primarily in Manitoba.
- Teams must demonstrate interdisciplinary expertise and meaningful collaboration across sectors.
- Matching funds and in-kind contributions are not required but may enhance the strength of applications and should be identified at the time of full application submission.

An example of collaboration can be found in **Appendix A**.

## 7. Application Deadlines

The Manitoba Solutions Grant competition runs on an annual basis.

Applications Open: **September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025**

Application Deadline: **November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025 (4:00 p.m. CST)**

Award decisions are anticipated for the **end of March 2026**.

## 8. Application Requirements

The Manitoba Solutions Grant program is research-focused, and applications must be prepared as a research proposal. This includes providing clear scientific rationale, rigorous methodologies, and citing relevant scientific literature and providing a list of references.

Please complete the application using the provided [application form](#). All applications and associated materials must be submitted to [info@researchmb.ca](mailto:info@researchmb.ca) before the deadline.

**Applications will not be accepted after the deadline.**

Applications to the Manitoba Solutions Grant require the following information to be included:

- i. **Applicant information:** Please provide the identification, address and contact information for the primary applicant and co-applicant(s). At least one knowledge user is required to be listed as a co-applicant on the project. All knowledge users are required to complete the **Knowledge User Organization Form** listed in **Appendix C**.
- ii. **Budget Table and Budget Justification (maximum two pages):** Upload a budget justification with a full breakdown of the funds requested from Research Manitoba. If matching funds are being provided by the collaborating knowledge user, please include a budget breakdown of these funds. Refer to the list of eligible and ineligible expenses in **Appendix B** prior to completing the budget table.
- iii. **Abstract (maximum 200 words):** Provide a non-technical summary of your proposal, written in simple and clear language suitable for a general audience. The summary should include:
  - A brief background of the research. This should be short and fact-based, providing context for the importance of the research.
  - A description of the research methods used in the project.
  - The expected outcomes of the research.The abstract should indicate how your research ultimately can impact the lives of Manitobans.
- iv. **Summary of Proposal and Manitoba-Focused Impact (maximum 1,500 words):** Provide a summary of the proposal including the project's objectives, and clearly articulate how the research will:
  - Address a current or emerging Manitoba-specific need,
  - Improve outcomes in/for Manitoba,
  - Or build capacity for research and innovation in Manitoba.
- v. **Research Proposal (maximum six pages):** Please attach a single pdf document with the research proposal and appendices:
  - a) **Project Design:** Please ensure this section includes the following:

- Objectives
  - Literature review
  - Experimental approaches
  - Methodology
  - Expected outcomes
  - Timeline
- b) **Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, & Accessibility (EDIA):** EDIA must be embedded in the project design, team composition, and community engagement, including alignment of Ownership, Control, Access, and Possession (OCAP) principles and/or appropriate First Nations, Métis, or Inuit research ethics where relevant.
- c) **Research Team and Research Capacity:** Describe the primary applicant and the research team's expertise to successfully carry out the proposed project. Provide a list of research personnel who will be involved in the project and their relevant expertise. Detail the research environment, infrastructure required, and access plan to facilities and equipment required for the project.
- d) **Knowledge User Collaboration:** Please outline the nature of the collaboration between the primary applicant and the collaborating knowledge user. This should include the knowledge user's participation in the project and the potential benefits this research will have on their organization.
- vi. **Appendices:** Materials provided in the appendices must be supplementary in nature. The appendices must not be used to provide essential details of methods or study rationale that would normally be included in the Research Project Description. Reviewers will be under no obligation to read more than the first ten appendix pages. The appendices do not count towards the Research Proposal's page maximum.
- vii. **Knowledge Mobilization (one page maximum):** A robust Knowledge Mobilization plan must demonstrate how finding will be shared, applied, or scaled within Manitoba.
- viii. **High Quality Personnel (HQP) Training Plan (one page maximum):** Describe how this project will offer meaningful training experiences to HQP at academic institutions, and/or staff and trainees in the knowledge user's setting. Please provide a concise training plan focused on development of relevant technical and professional skills such as leadership, communication, collaboration, and entrepreneurship.
- ix. **Suggested Reviewers:** Suggest the names of three independent experts competent to assess the technical aspects of the proposal. This list can include experts from the academic community and/or non-academic community (e.g., public/private sector). If possible, please include at least one expert from Manitoba.
- x. **Signature Page:** Please upload a copy of the Signature Page with the appropriate signature(s).

- xi. **CCV and Narrative CV:** An updated Research Manitoba Canadian Common CV (no older than six months) is required from both the primary applicant for submission. Knowledge user co-applicant(s) are required to submit a narrative CV, modeled after the tri-agency template. For more information on how to write a narrative CV please visit these links:

[Tri-agency CV - CIHR](#)

[Guidance for writing a narrative CV](#)

## 9. Assessment Criteria

Applications are assessed in a competitive, peer-review process that considers the following criteria:

- **Relevance to Manitoba's Selected Priority Area:** Does the proposal clearly address the selected annual priority area? Is the Manitoba-specific need or opportunity clearly defined and well supported?
- **Knowledge User Integration:** Is a knowledge user actively involved as a co-applicant or collaborator? Are their roles, contributions, and commitments clearly described?
- **Scientific Quality and Feasibility:** Is the research design rigorous and appropriate for the objectives? Are the methods, timeline, and budget realistic and well-justified?
- **Knowledge Mobilization Plan:** Does the knowledge transfer strategy include relevant, realistic plans for sharing and applying results? Are audiences clearly identified?
- **EDIA and Community Engagement:** Are EDIA principles embedded in the team, research design, and engagement strategy? Is Indigenous engagement culturally appropriate and ethical?
- **Team Composition and Collaboration:** Is the team interdisciplinary and well-aligned with the project goals? Are roles clearly defined and collaborative strengths demonstrated?
- **Matching Contribution and Partnership:** Are there any matching funds or in-kind contributions that are confirmed and appropriate? Do partnerships add strategic value and demonstrate shared ownership of the project?
- **Training and Capacity Building Opportunities:** Are there meaningful roles for students or early-career researchers? Does the project enhance research capacity in Manitoba?

## 10. Reporting, 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 the budgets approved during the review and decision process. Occasionally, it may be needed to reallocate grant funds between approved categories if the needs or circumstances of the research project have changed. Grant holders need Research Manitoba approval for such reallocation only if the change involved is 25% or more of the grant's total.

Grant recipients are to report the outputs and outcomes of their funded research projects on the completion of their award. The Manitoba Solutions Grant requires an Interim Report and an End-of-Grant Report to be submitted. Grant recipients will be informed by Research Manitoba when the reports are to be completed. [Grant Report Templates](#) can be found on the Research Manitoba website under the [Grant Administration](#) tab.

As a general disclaimer, all proposed research projects need to be compliant with all relevant laws, regulations, guidelines (from the applicable institutions), and policies and/or requirements of Research Manitoba.

## **11. Contact Information**

For questions regarding the application, submission process, and the Research Manitoba Grant Management System, please contact:

**Email:** [helpdesk@researchmb.ca](mailto:helpdesk@researchmb.ca)

**Monday to Friday – 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

## Appendix A – Knowledge User Collaboration

The following types of knowledge users may collaborate on the proposed project:

- Private sector companies
- Public utilities
- Non-profit organizations
- Indigenous organizations
- Community organizations
- Municipalities and local governments
- Start-up companies
- Multinational companies (with research and development, manufacturing, and/or other commercial activities in Manitoba)
- Foreign companies (only in partnership with a Manitoba-based organization, and with tangible economic benefits to Manitoba)

Where applicable, collaborating parties must ensure that IP agreements are in place prior to applying.

An example of a collaboration is as follows:

*A researcher for University X will be working with a local mental health organization to develop and validate an AI tool to detect early signs of mental health issues, such as depression, anxiety, and suicidal ideation, in adolescence. The project will use AI to analyse social media activity, language patterns, and behaviour data, which will be provided by the local mental health organization.*

## Appendix B – Table of Eligible and Ineligible Expenses

This is not an exhaustive list. If you are uncertain of the eligibility of an expense, please consult with one of our program officers by contacting [helpdesk@researchmb.ca](mailto:helpdesk@researchmb.ca).

<b>Eligible Expenses</b>	<b>Ineligible Expenses</b>
<u>Salaries, Wages, and Benefits</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Salaries, benefits, research stipends, or hourly wages for Master’s students, PhD students, Postdoctoral Fellows or research assistants directly involved in the project</li> <li>• Salaries and wages of technicians, research engineers, or scientists directly involves in the project</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Payments to primary applicant, co-applicant(s), or collaborators as consulting fees, honoraria, or salary</li> <li>• Release time stipends/course load reduction support (except for college primary researcher and clinicians)</li> </ul>
<u>Professional Fees</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clinician research release stipend (up to \$9,000 for PI only)</li> <li>• Course load reduction support (up to \$9,000 for college primary researcher only)</li> <li>• Project management, legal fees, consultant fees, business development expenses</li> <li>• Administrative support</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Professional association fees and/or dues</li> </ul>
<u>Materials and Supplies</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Items directly related to research (e.g., chemicals, consumables, lab supplies)</li> <li>• Small equipment (up to \$10,000 unless special permission is granted)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Equipment over \$10,000 (without permission from Research Manitoba)</li> <li>• Home internet costs</li> <li>• Standard monthly connection or rental costs of telephones</li> </ul>
<u>Travel Expenses</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Travel and accommodation for collaboration integral to the research plan</li> <li>• Travel to field sites or for real-world demonstrations for potential users/buyers</li> <li>• Travel to academic conferences, workshops, or seminars (up to \$2,500 unless special permission is granted)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Travel to academic conferences, workshops, or seminars over \$2,500 (without permission form Research Manitoba)</li> </ul>
<u>Other Expenses</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Knowledge Mobilization Activities:</b> Publication fees (up to 5% of total requested grant amount, with justification)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Capital Assets and Equipment:</b> Purchase, construction, renovation, or rental of labs or supporting facilities</li> <li>• Indirect Costs of Research such as overhead expenses</li> </ul>

## Appendix C – Knowledge User Organization Form

### Contact Information

Organization Name*:	
Authorized Contact Person (Name and Title)*:	
Address*:	
Email Address*:	
Phone Number*:	

### Organization Information

9 Digit Business Number (if applicable):	
Date of Incorporation (if applicable):	(YYYY-MM)
Operating Since*:	(YYYY-MM)
Which Sector is your organization in? *:	<input type="checkbox"/> Private sector (Including public and private companies) <input type="checkbox"/> Public sector (Including Crown corporations and other companies that are owned by public organizations) <input type="checkbox"/> Not-for-profit sector (Including all hospitals and postsecondary institutions) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: Specify _____
Location of Headquarters*:	<input type="checkbox"/> In Manitoba <input type="checkbox"/> Outside of Manitoba, please specify location: _____
Number of Employees*:	Manitoba-based employees Full time: ____ Part time: ____ Contract: ____ Non-Manitoba-based employees: ____

### Organization Questionnaire

1. Which of the following best describes your organization:

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cooperative     | <input type="checkbox"/> Holding Company | <input type="checkbox"/> Indigenous-owned business                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Private company | <input type="checkbox"/> Public company  | <input type="checkbox"/> Venture capital/angel investor/seed company |

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Crown Corporation or other corporation owned by a public organization | <input type="checkbox"/> Federal government agency                | <input type="checkbox"/> Federal government department  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Funding organization  | <input type="checkbox"/> Indigenous organization                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Municipalities, local or regional government   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> R&D organization that is funded or controlled primarily by government | <input type="checkbox"/> Provincial/Territorial government agency | <input type="checkbox"/> Provincial/Territorial government department   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public utility  | <input type="checkbox"/> Incubator or accelerator organization    | <input type="checkbox"/> Community organization   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Consortium with majority of funding from government sources           | <input type="checkbox"/> Foreign not-for-profit organization      | <input type="checkbox"/> Hospital   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial association  | <input type="checkbox"/> Medical or clinical research institute   | <input type="checkbox"/> Organization that maintains collections for public good (ex. Libraries, museums, zoos, etc.) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other Canadian registered charity not captured by other categories    | <input type="checkbox"/> Philanthropic organization               | <input type="checkbox"/> Postsecondary institution  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Union   | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: Specify _____                     |   |

2. Does your organization carry out R&D, produce goods or provide services in Manitoba?

- Yes  No

3. Does your organization have the financial, managerial and technical capacity to carry out the proposed project?

- Yes  No

4. Does your organization have at least three (3) full-time dedicated staff?

- Yes  No

If you answered **No** to questions 4, please fill out the table below:

<b>Employee Information</b> (Name, title or role, qualifications, and area of expertise)	<b>Type of Employment</b>	<b>Location</b> (check all that apply)
Name: _____ Title: _____ Qualifications: _____ Area of Expertise: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Full-time  <input type="checkbox"/> Part-time  <input type="checkbox"/> Contract	<input type="checkbox"/> Home Office/Virtual  <input type="checkbox"/> Onsite  <input type="checkbox"/> In Manitoba  <input type="checkbox"/> Outside Manitoba
Name: _____ Title: _____ Qualifications: _____ Area of Expertise: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Full-time  <input type="checkbox"/> Part-time  <input type="checkbox"/> Contract	<input type="checkbox"/> Home Office/Virtual  <input type="checkbox"/> Onsite  <input type="checkbox"/> In Manitoba  <input type="checkbox"/> Outside Manitoba

5. Does your organization operate from its own offices or facilities (i.e., not work from a home address, a virtual work setting)?

Yes  No

6. Describe your organization, including the nature of its operations in Manitoba, and demonstrate how your organization and its staff have the expertise, and capacity to carry out the proposed project (e.g. technical and non-technical staff, research capacity, facilities, and financial capabilities) (Maximum 500 words).

**Matching Funds Commitment (optional)**

**As the authorized representative, I confirm the financial commitments from my organization:**

- (a) Direct Cash Contribution: \_\_\_\_\_
- (b) In-kind Contribution: \_\_\_\_\_

**Knowledge User Signature**

Terms and Conditions:

Before you, as the authorized representative of the partner organization, submit information as part of an application to Research Manitoba, you must read and agree to the following

terms and conditions. Please retain a copy of the agreed Terms and Conditions for your records.

**By submitting information as part of an application to Research Manitoba, as the authorized representative, you certify that:**

- you have received approval from your organization to participate in this proposal and to commit funds and in-kind contributions;
- the information your organization provided in the funding application and related documents is true, complete and accurate to the best of your knowledge;
- your organization agrees with the content of the application and will provide the committed resources;
- your organization will inform Research Manitoba immediately, in writing, of any change that affects the participation or eligibility status of the organization.

**As the authorized representative of the organization, you also confirm that should a grant be made:**

- your organization will comply with the terms and conditions of the grant during tenure of the grant;
- your organization will meet financial and other reporting requirements specific to the grant or granting program;
- your organization acknowledges and accepts the general conditions as outlined in the Finance and Administration Guide.
- your organization guarantees that, where applicable, the guidelines of the Canadian Council on Animal Care with respect to related animal experimentation will be followed; the CIHR guidelines for handling recombinant DNA molecules and animal viruses and cells will be adhered to; they will comply with the Tri-Agency Framework: Responsible Conduct of Research; and, where human subjects are involved, the research will be conducted in accordance with the Tri-Council Policy Statement: "Ethical Conduct of Research Involving Humans", and the sponsoring institution's documents.

**I confirm that I have read, understood, and agree to the terms and conditions listed above, and that all the information provided in this form is accurate at the time of completing this application.**

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

(Please provide first name, last name, position title, and signature)