



SSHRC  CRSH

Impacts of COVID-19 on Programs and Initiatives

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CONSIDERATIONS

- Institutions and research activities: Interruptions of research activities and administrative challenges caused by pandemic.
 - Provide support to address disruptions of projects and research training;
 - Engage/consult with the community on the implementation of the different measures.
- SSHRC : Reduced capacity and technological challenges associated with transition.
 - Efforts are dedicated to maintaining services to the community.
- Program delivery: Delays/postponement of deadlines could have significant adjudication and/or financial implications.
 - Ensure business continuity in the context of the end of the fiscal year; avoid cancellation of competitions
- Targeted Investments in COVID-19: Critical to highlight the value of SSH contribution to the pandemic, though major investments should not overly affect other initiatives and overall success rates in future years.
 - Maintain support for equity, diversity and inclusion and early career researchers
 - Avoid disproportionate impact on future cohorts

**IMPACT OF COVID-19:
RAPID RESPONSE**

GRANTS ADMINISTRATION MEASURES

- **NO-COST EXTENSIONS** – Institutions can approve extensions of up to 12 months to grants with an end date between February 1, 2020, and March 31, 2021, inclusively.
 - Deadlines for Achievement Reports will be modified accordingly.
- **INCREMENTAL COSTS** – certain costs that would not normally be incurred may be eligible to be paid from agency funds. The agencies defer to administering institutions to determine if such costs are consistent with the principles and directives set out in the Tri-Agency Guide on Financial Administration.
 - This includes remuneration costs for any members of the research team who are eligible to be paid from an agency grant.
- **COVID-19 RELATED EXPENSES** – Travel/meeting cancellations are eligible expenditures. Other exceptional expenditures are also eligible.
- **FINANCIAL REPORTS** – The deadline for submitting Forms 300 and 301 for the 2019-20 (April 1, 2019, to March 31, 2020) Annual Reconciliation of Active Awards has been postponed until September 30, 2020.

TARGETED RESEARCH ON COVID-19

- Rapid-response joint call in collaboration with CIHR, NSERC, SSHRC, NFRF (Tri-Agency), IDRC, Genome Canada and other partners to fund interdisciplinary research
 - 99 awards out of 227 applications for a total of \$54.2 M.
 - SSHRC invested nearly \$8M:
 - \$860K for two projects funded by SSHRC;
 - \$ 7M from NFRF for 15 projects
 - List of the funded projects: <https://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/51908.html>.
- SSHRC PEG special call – Invite COVID-19-related research projects within the next two **Partnership Engage Grants (PEG)** competitions
 - Launch: April 24, 2020
 - Budget \$1.5M
 - Deadlines: June 15 and September 15, 2020

PARTNERSHIP ENGAGE GRANTS COVID-19 FEATURES

- One-year grant of \$7,000 to \$25,000
- The effective date of the grant will be retroactive to April 1, 2020 (extensions without funding allowable). In this way, expenses incurred on funded projects before the grant is awarded can be reimbursed from the funds allocated under the PEG COVID-19 initiative.
- Exceptions to eligibility criteria:
 - organizations or associations that provide services to postsecondary institutions may be involved as a partner;
 - researchers who have already submitted a PEG application in the current calendar year will now be eligible to apply for a PEG COVID-19. However, researchers may only submit one PEG or PEG COVID-19 application per competition (e.g., June 2020); and,
 - researchers are now allowed to hold a PEG grant and multiple PEG COVID-19 grants simultaneously.

IMPACTS OF COVID-19: PROGRAMS

COVID-19 web page - https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/news_room-salle_de_presse/covid-19-eng.aspx#costs

SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS AND POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHERS

Federal Announcement :

- As per the Department of Finance website: "We are providing \$291.6 million to support student researchers and post-doctoral fellows through the federal granting councils. Funding would support a one-semester extension for eligible students whose research scholarships or fellowships end between March and August 2020 and who intend to continue their studies. It would also provide a 3-month extension in funding for holders of federal research grants to support eligible trainees and staff paid out of these awards."
 - SSHRC to implement (final amount under embargo):
 - Four-month extensions to expiring graduate scholarships and postdoctoral fellowships;
 - Supplements to active federal research grants to support research personnel

Exceptions to Award Holder Regulations:

- Scholarships and fellowships award holders may also request:
 - Deferral of the start date of their award for up to four months
 - Unpaid interruption for up to four months
 - The agencies will continue to support training award holders who can only devote part time hours to their research.
 - Awards will not be prorated and end dates will not change.

LAUNCH AND DEADLINE DATE CHANGES

Research Grants and Partnerships

- Insight deadline moved to October 1

Talent

- Banting Postdoctoral Fellowships 2020
 - Launch postponed to June 1, 2020
 - Application deadline postponed to October 1, 2020.
- SSHRC Doctoral Awards (including CGS): Launch postponed to July 29, 2020.

Imagining Canada's Future

- Knowledge Synthesis Grants (KSG) - Working in the Digital Economy:
 - Launch date moved to July 15
 - Deadline moved to September 3
- International Policy Ideas Challenge with Global Affairs Canada
 - Deadline extended to May 15, 2020
- ICF IdeasLab – Circular Economy: Launch postponed to 2021-22

MERIT REVIEW & COMMUNICATION OF RESULTS

- SSHRC has introduced temporary changes to merit review for some upcoming competitions:
 - Adjudication meetings will be held virtually.
 - Applicants will only receive scores on main criteria; committee feedback and sub-category scoring will not be provided with the exception of candidates invited to the second phase of the Partnerships Grants 2020.
- Changes apply to the following upcoming competitions:
 - Insight Development Grants
 - Partnership Engage Grants
 - Partnership Grants -Stage 1
 - Connection Grants
- New approach to communicate results to individual applicants:
 - SSHRC has set up a SharePoint site to provide secure notification of results.

FLEXIBILITY IN GRANT APPLICATIONS

- SSHRC has identified flexibility for applicants to provide information on the impact of Covid-19:
 - Contingency plans may be included in the detailed description section of the application. These will be assessed through the feasibility criteria.
 - Impacts on career may be described in the Career Interruptions and Special Circumstances section of the SSHRC CV.
- Approach developed in response to concerns raised by the SSH community on how the impact of Covid-19 will be assessed in the merit review process.
- The additional information is not mandatory.
- Will apply to upcoming competitions for Insight Grants, Partnership Development Grants, Partnership Engage Grants, Partnership Grants – Phase 2, Connection Grants, and Knowledge Synthesis Grants.

**IMPACTS OF COVID-19:
TRI-AGENCY INSTITUTIONAL PROGRAMS
SECRETARIAT (TIPS)**

CANADA RESEARCH CHAIRS

Administration of the program

- Temporarily reverting back to a two-cycle model (June and November)
- 2019-2 cycle IAC held via teleconference, results → early July 2020
- New application platform (Convergence) → End of June 2020 (planned)
 - No immediate impact for the submission of nominations for the June 8 deadline
- Annual reports → September 2020

EDI

- Launch of an EDI stipend to support institutions → May 2020
- EDI institutional action plans – ongoing support and final evaluation of EDI plans
- COVID-19 communication embargo
 - Publication of results of the evaluation of the Institutional action plans delayed (end of May)
- Ongoing development of measures to implement the 2019 Addendum
 - VP Research summit postponed
 - Engagement on target setting methodology planned early June

CFREF, CERC, C-150, AND RSF

CFREF, CERC, and C150

- CFREF Competition 2 midterm reports postponed to Fall 2020 and panel site visits planned in the Fall postponed to Winter 2021
- Annual reports → September 2020
- Summits cancelled for this year

Research Support Fund (RSF) & Incremental Project Grants (IPG)

- Allocations to institutions for RSF and IPG → Completed (April 2020)
- Deadline for application RSF and IPG → June 19, 2020
- New application platform (Convergence) → Fall 2020 (planned)
- Annual reports → September 2020

NEW FRONTIERS IN RESEARCH FUND (NFRF)

Exploration stream

- 2018 Competition
 - 12-month extension to all grants
 - Provided supplements (equivalent to ± 2.2 months)
- 2019 competition → Completed as planned
- 2020 competition → Anticipated launch in June

Transformation Stream

- LOI deadline → Extended to July 15, final timeline to confirm

International Stream

- NFRF 2020 Horizon Global Platform → Some deadlines moved by Horizon 2020

**IMPACTS OF COVID-19:
TRI-AGENCY INITIATIVES**

TRI-AGENCY INITIATIVES

- **Indigenous Research Strategy**
 - Implementation is continuing with some delays related to the challenges with engagement and availability of resources. The launch of the Indigenous Leadership in Research Circle is planned for 2020.
- **Tri-Agency Grants Management System (TGMS)**
 - Work is ongoing on business capabilities and solution architecture, while procurement processes and engagement with external stakeholders was postponed in light of COVID-19 response. The call for nominations for External Advisory Board (EAB) members was extended until May 15th.
- **EDI and ECR Action plans**
 - Analysis is ongoing.
 - Implementation in programs postponed to 2021-22.
- **Financial Monitoring Framework**
 - The renewal of the Financial Monitoring Framework will be delayed by approximately 6 months.

THANK YOU!



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