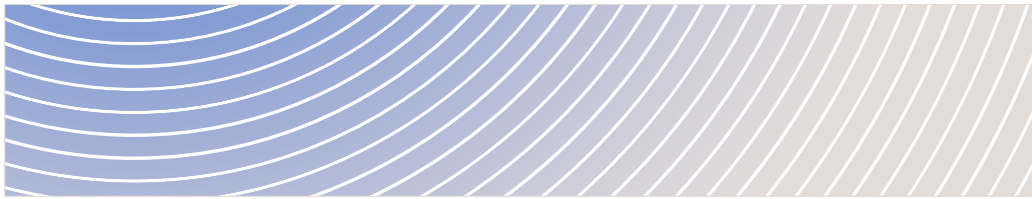


Research Program

PROGRAM GUIDELINES



September 2025



Impact Assessment
Agency of Canada

Agence d'évaluation
d'impact du Canada

Canada



Table of Contents

Disclaimer	3
Updates.....	3
Introduction	3
Program Objectives.....	3
Eligibility	4
Program Processes.....	4
Funding	5
Contact Information.....	8

Disclaimer

These guidelines are intended for informational purposes only. They are not a substitute for the *Impact Assessment Act* (IAA) or any of its regulations. In the event of any inconsistency between these guidelines and the IAA or its regulations, the IAA or regulations prevail.

To ensure that you have the most up-to-date versions of the IAA and its regulations, please consult the [Department of Justice website](#).

Updates

This document may be reviewed and updated periodically. To ensure that you have the most up-to-date version, please consult the [Funding Programs](#) page of the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada's (IAAC) website.

Introduction

IAAC's Research Program facilitates research related to federal impact assessments. Research products could include the development of tools, frameworks, methodologies, analyses, case studies, and best practices, the fostering of relevant research networks, and other relevant activities approved by IAAC. The purpose of this document is to describe the Research Program and the funding application process.

IAAC receives an annual budget for the Research Program and administers it to provide limited financial support to eligible applicants in a fair and transparent manner. IAAC is not able to cover all expenses incurred and participants are encouraged to investigate other sources of funding or in-kind support.

Program Objectives

The objectives of the Research Program are to:

- Create and support research to support high-quality federal assessments. This includes assessments used for:
 - project-level assessments
 - regional assessments
 - strategic assessments
- Expand and foster the research community focused on impact assessments
- Share information with all groups who can benefit from the funded research.



Eligibility

To be eligible for grant funding under the Research Program, applicants must be able to demonstrate that they will provide relevant knowledge or expertise, or value-added information, aligned with IAAC's mandate and priorities and of relevance to federal impact assessment.

Eligible recipients include:

- Individuals;
- Indigenous communities;
- Indigenous organizations;
- Not-for-profit organizations (e.g., environmental groups); and
- Research and academic institutions.

Eligible activities include:

- Supporting research or studies based on: science, Indigenous or community knowledge; studies of cultural practices or values related to a specific geographic area, local community or Indigenous Peoples; or information collection or data repositories;
- Supporting research on aspects of IA, including regional or strategic assessments, including tools, frameworks, methodologies, case studies and best practices related to issues such as gender-based analysis, environmental impacts, economic impacts, social and health impacts, impacts on Indigenous communities and their rights, cumulative and regional effects, and sustainability;
- Supporting IA-related research partnerships with not-for-profit organizations and academic institutions in Canada and abroad;
- Supporting relevant networks to create and disseminate IA research; and
- Other relevant activities, approved by the Agency, to allow for the research of interest to the Agency.

IAAC may establish priorities for research funding, for example, through an Open Call for research applications. If so, it will outline the strategic priorities or priority activities in any announcements of funding availability.

It should be noted that the above eligibility criteria is specific to grant funding only. The Research Program also typically has a small amount of Operations and Maintenance (O&M) funding available to enable contracts, which have different eligibility requirements.

Program Processes

Funding Level

Funding for the Research Program is allocated on an annual basis. Most research initiatives are funded up to a maximum of \$75,000 but funding allocations are determined on a case-by-case basis and are based on the available annual grants and contributions budget.

IAAC may approve different funding levels on a case-by-case basis and will take into consideration the budget available and the complexity of the activities proposed.

Application Processes

Stream 1 – Open Call

Periodically, IAAC may facilitate an Open Call for research on priority topics. Calls for Proposals via this process will be posted publicly on the IAAC website and proposals will be accepted for a pre-determined amount of time.

Stream 2 – Request for Funding

Interested parties who meet eligibility requirements can submit a proposal for research funding to the Research Program at any time. Proposals can be submitted via email (research-recherche@iaac-aeic.gc.ca) and will be reviewed within two months of receipt to assess if they meet IAAC requirements and current priorities.

Stream 3 – Solicited Proposals

In some cases, IAAC will solicit proposals from potential researchers on specific priority topics. Researchers will be contacted via email to gauge their interest and availability to provide research support.

Determination of Funding

As per the grants and contributions terms and conditions, applicants are required to submit sufficient information to determine that they are eligible recipients, as well as any information to identify eligible activities and to assess the research proposal against the program assessment criteria. This includes:

- Establishing recipient eligibility;
- A research proposal, including objectives, description of activities to be undertaken, expected outcomes, and a dissemination plan;
- Relevant documentation related to any partnership arrangements and commitments;
- Timelines and milestones for the research proposal or initiative;
- A cost forecast of the research proposal including all sources of funding for the proposal or initiative;
- A demonstration that the research contributes to Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI), increases the diversity of research and is ethical and responsible;
- A demonstration that the research addresses the priorities of IAAC (see IAAC's [mandate](#) and latest [departmental plan](#)); and
- Disclosure of past issues related to the use of grant and contribution funding, as applicable.

Funding



Eligible Costs

The following expenses are eligible for funding under all streams of the Research Program:

- Reporting costs;¹
- Professional Services;²
- Travel Expenses, in accordance with federal government [travel directives](#) (including travel kilometres/flights, meals, incidentals and accommodation);
- Honoraria and ceremonial offerings (including costs associated with providing Indigenous or community knowledge relevant to the engagement activity. **The individual receiving the honoraria cannot be in receipt of a salary or any other direct income for the activity for which an honorarium is claimed.** Ceremonial offerings include relevant costs associated with providing gifts, such as tobacco offered to the individual(s), for providing Indigenous or community knowledge relevant to the engagement activity).

To qualify for grant funding all costs must be attributed to these expense categories and must directly contribute to activities described in the approved work plan as outlined in the grant agreement and the applicant's proposal for funding.

Ineligible Costs

Ineligible expenses include capital expenditures, costs for construction, lost income, renovation of buildings, ongoing operational expenses of the applicant organization not related to approved activities, and unspecified miscellaneous costs.

The Research Program will not fund activities that duplicate services, studies or written materials that other public or private sources are already funding.

Funding Decision

The final decision on the funding allocations is based on the review of input from all relevant IAAC sectors, as well as any additional considerations such as alignment with IAAC priorities, availability of limited funds for the Research Program and IAAC's Risk Management Framework for IAAC's Grants and Contributions Program.

Funding decisions are undertaken in accordance with the Risk Management Framework to achieve Research Program results. The risk and materiality of funding are considered in making a final determination

¹ Includes: staff salaries, administrative/reporting costs (such as: bookkeeping, accounting, reporting on the deliverables specific to the project for which the funding is provided) and office supplies, telephone charges, rental of office space, meeting rooms, local collection/distribution of information, general media advertising, promotion and other expenses.

² Includes: professional fees (expert advice or assistance on environmental, technical, or social issues relevant to the objectives of the engagement activity) and legal fees (expert legal advice or assistance directly related to the recipient's participation).

of funding allocations for each assessment. Determining factors include the complexity of the activities; any pre-established maximum funding allocations; and the available annual grants and contributions budget.

Some applicants may not receive funding. Others may be approved for less than the amount they requested.

The Agency notifies all applicants of the funding decision. The successful applicants' names and approved funding allocation amounts are made public on to the [Government of Canada's Proactive Disclosure](#) website as part of the Government of Canada's efforts of transparency.

Grant Agreement

When funding is approved, the applicant will be contacted by IAAC to finalize a Grant Agreement. Grants are paid out as soon as the grant agreement is offered by IAAC and accepted by the recipient, and there is no need to provide an expense claim for grants.

The Grant Agreement also:

- identifies the eligible costs;
- specifies the eligible activities to be undertaken;
- specifies conditions for payment; and
- requires the Recipient to be accountable for the public funds received.

IAAC reserves the right to undertake, or have undertaken, a financial audit of the accounts and resources of the recipient to ensure compliance with the provisions of the Agreement.

To support the dissemination of research findings, the grant agreement may also specify the requirement for a plain language research summary, submission of an infographic depicting the research findings, and delivery of a workshop to IAAC staff.

Direct Deposit

The Government of Canada has switched from cheques to direct deposit, an electronic transfer of funds deposited directly into the recipient's bank account. Successful applicants who have entered into a grant agreement with the IAAC Research Program will need to set up direct deposit. For more information on direct deposit, visit your bank or financial institution, or call toll-free at 1-800-O-Canada (1-800-622-6232). You can also find more information, including a short informative video, on the [Government of Canada](#) website.

Email:

research-recherche@iaac-aeic.gc.ca

Mail:



Funding Programs
Impact Assessment Agency of Canada
160 Elgin Street, 22nd Floor
Ottawa, ON K1A 0H3

Contact Information

Visit the IAAC's [Funding programs](#) and [Research Program](#) for contact information.

You can also write/email:

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