

Global Health Initiative Grant (GHIG)

What is global health?

Global health encompasses many health equity-related concepts, and is important for medical learners as future care providers and advocates. One such definition of global health is “the area of study, research and practice that places a priority on improving health and achieving equity in health for all people worldwide.”¹ The Global Health Initiative Grant will specifically fund projects or events that pertain to global health from an anti-oppression or decolonial approach and have an impact on a local, national or international level. In global health work, decolonization involves for instance: examining and addressing colonial impacts on current global health practices and partnerships², as well as using paradigm shifts, leadership shifts and knowledge shifts³ to center Indigenous land, Indigenous sovereignty and Indigenous ways of thinking.⁴ Furthermore, anti-oppression can involve working on projects to address and challenge the intersecting systems of oppression that impact health, such as racism, ableism, the heteropatriarchy and/or any other forms of discrimination.^{5,6}

What gap does the GHIG fill?

The purpose of the Global Health Initiatives Grant (GHIG) is to provide financial support to projects that relate to global health and center principles of equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI). The GHIG also acts as an adjunct to the existing CFMS Student Initiative Grant (SIG) and Funds (SIF). As per the awards program guideline, the current eligibility criteria for SIG and SIF excludes any applications involving individual academic research. In addition, due to the high degree of competition and taking into account the scale of the projects/initiatives, smaller projects or projects with a focus on underrepresented and equity-deserving groups often do not have the opportunity to receive funding support. Therefore, the GHIG was established to support global health-specific events and projects of various formats (including research projects) to further EDI principles not otherwise supported through other means. We are emphasizing equity, diversity and inclusion as core criteria for the GHIG, and encourage collaboration between students at different universities on a national level.

How is the GHIG different from other grants?

This grant is non-competitive, meaning we will aim to fund as many projects as our budget allows. The evaluators will provide feedback and suggestions for improvement for applications, so that any application that is not successful can reapply in future cycles. Unsuccessful applicants will also be directly connected with their local global health and EDI teams for support, as well as the corresponding CFMS global health committee that relates most to their project. In addition to funding, we provide students with an opportunity to present their initiatives at the CFMS Global Health meetings/roundtables and network with the Global Health community on a national level.

Eligibility

- In order to qualify for the GHIG, the initiative should fulfill the following criteria:
 - The project/initiative must be related to global health, as described above.

- The project/initiative should incorporate principles of equity, diversity, inclusion and anti-oppression, as described above.
- The applicant must be a medical student at one of the Canadian medical schools, and a member of CFMS.
- The project may be at the local, national or international scale with non-CFMS individuals or organizations involved, as long as the person submitting the grant application is a CFMS member.
- The project must have a degree of community impact, and shall not impose harm to any individual or group.
- The project funds must be spent and submitted for reimbursement by December 31, 2022.
- Exclusion criteria:
 - Projects that are not related to global health.
 - Project funding requests for completed research projects that will go towards individual paper publications or presentations.
 - Funds for the purchasing of food for personal consumption or individual travel costs to attend events. However, food purchased for event attendees or in the context of the project (ex. snacks at a conference, prizes for attendees) is permissible.
 - Project funding requests for personal compensation for people involved in an initiative.
 - Project funding requests for initiatives with potential harms to other individuals or groups. Projects involving alcohol, marijuana and other substances, and gambling are not permitted.

Funding amount

- The purpose of this grant is to provide funding for both small and large scale projects. Each project can request up to \$1000 CAD, however applicants can specify in the application form the amount their project needs. Applicants do not have to apply for the maximum amount of funding if the project will not require it.
- Preference for funding will be given to projects that currently do not receive any local funding or national funding from other sources.
- All funds must be used and submitted for reimbursement by December 31, 2022. Grant recipients may submit a request for an extension, but these will not be guaranteed and will be assessed on a case by case basis.
- If an applicant wishes to modify their budget after they have been notified of their success in receiving the grant, they must request formal approval from the GHIG coordinators (nop@cfms.org).

Reimbursement process

- Expenses prior to the approval of your initiative for this grant will not be reimbursed.
 - Once applicants have been notified of their success in receiving funding, they may begin to submit reimbursement requests.

- Applicants must fill in the CFMS Reimbursement Form and email (scanned images or photos) receipts to the CFMS Global Health Grant coordinators (nop@cfms.org) and copied to the CFMS Vice President of Finance (finance@cfms.org), the CFMS Administrative Assistant (administrative@cfms.org), and the CFMS's accountant (wjr@wjradsburn.com).
 - Money cannot be transferred in advance of spending.
 - Official receipts are required, and the date of purchase must be visible.
- If there is a discrepancy between items that reimbursements are being requested for and what was described in the original approved application, funds may be held until it is determined whether the alternate expense is eligible or not.
- Reimbursement requests should ideally be submitted within 30 days of the expense being charged. If this is not possible, it is requested that the applicants contact the grant coordinator to arrange an agreed upon date for submission.

Evaluation criteria

- Projects with previous funding (either through CFMS or externally) will be considered, however the priority will be given to projects that have not been able to receive funding or are applying for funding for the first time.
- Projects will be evaluated for their relation to global health, proposed scope of impact, potential benefits to others, degree to which it addresses principles of equity, diversity and inclusion, practicality, and clarity of budget (see marking criteria below).
- We will be marking projects on the degree of collaboration between the applicant and other individuals on a local level. Interuniversity or national/international collaboration is not a requirement, but is highly encouraged and will receive bonus points.

Marking category	Weight
Relation to global health and principles of equity, diversity and inclusion	30%
Proposed impact of the project on a local, national or international level	20%
Sustainability and/or long term impact of initiative following depletion of GHIG funding	15%
Practicality and level of planning evident in the initiative proposal	15%
Clarity, specificity and transparency of itemized budget	10%
Degree of collaboration with other students or organizations on a local, national, and international level	10%

Evaluation process

- Applications will be marked by Global Health Liaisons (VP Global Health), EDI Officers (VP EDI), Global Health National Officers, or Local Officers from each of the CFMS medical schools.

- All applications will be blinded and randomized, then distributed for marking by at least 2 evaluators.
- Applications will be scored based on the rubric above, and additional comments will be provided. Unsuccessful projects will be able to reapply in round two during fall 2022.
- All projects that meet a cut-off threshold for two markers will be considered for funding, as this is a non-competitive grant.
- Among projects that make the cut-off, funding will be distributed to all projects as a percentage of their requested budget, to ensure that all qualified projects receive some support.

Result notification process

- Applicants will be notified via email regarding the status of their application.
- Results will be finalized and sent out within 3 weeks of the application deadline.
- Successful applicants will be required to confirm their acceptance of the grant within one week of notification.

Progress and post-funding requirements

- GHIG-funded initiatives are required to submit both progress reports and a final report.
 - Progress reports (written, video, or live presentation format) must be completed and sent to nop@cfms.org if a project spans more than 3 months.
 - Progress reports must be submitted every 3 months until the completion of an initiative.
 - A final report must be submitted within 3 weeks of project completion.
 - This report must include an outline of how the grant money was allocated. Further details will be provided to successful applicants in an email.
 - Participants have the option of completing a written report or presenting their initiative to a group of CFMS Global Health executives (this is preferred).
 - The final report should include the impact of the project on the community or student experience, and the potential next steps.
 - Please note that both the progress report and the final report will be posted on the CFMS global health website, though projects will receive feedback and have the opportunity to revise the reports before publication.
- If a project has not been completed by December 31, 2022 a report must be submitted to detail how the GHIG funding has been used to advance the project up to that point.
- Financial support from “The 2022 CFMS Global Health Initiative Grant (GHIG)” must be acknowledged in all publications and presentations resulting from this funding.

For any questions or clarifications, please contact the National Officers of Partnerships, Negar and Lauren (nop@cfms.org). We look forward to receiving your application!

Key Dates

- Application deadline: June 18, 2022, 11:59pm EST
- Applicants informed of responses: July 11, 2022

- Earliest project start date: July 11, 2022
- Latest project end date: December 31, 2022

References

1. Koplan JP, Bond TC, Merson MH, et al. Towards a common definition of global health. *Lancet*. 2009;373(9679):1993-1995. doi:10.1016/S0140-6736(09)60332-9
2. Eichbaum QG, Adams LV, Evert J, Ho MJ, Semali IA, van Schalkwyk SC. Decolonizing Global Health Education: Rethinking Institutional Partnerships and Approaches. *Acad Med*. 2021;96(3):329-335. doi:10.1097/ACM.0000000000003473
3. Büyüm AM, Kenney C, Koris A, et al. Decolonising global health: if not now, when? *BMJ Global Health* 2020;5:e003394.
4. Decolonization Theory and Practice. Racial Equity Tools. <https://www.racialequitytools.org/resources/fundamentals/core-concepts/decolonization-theory-and-practice>. Published 2020. Accessed May 15, 2022.
5. Appendix 1: Glossary of Human Rights Terms. Ontario Human Rights Commission. <https://www.ohrc.on.ca/en/teaching-human-rights-ontario-guide-ontario-schools/appendix-1-glossary-human-rights-terms>. Accessed May 15, 2022.
6. Terminologies of Oppression. The Anti-Oppression Network. Accessed May 15 2022. <https://theantioppressionnetwork.com/resources/terminologies-of-oppression/>