**2019 Call for Research Grant Applications**

**Why fund vision research?** Research has the power to change the way we treat blinding eye diseases. Fighting Blindness Canada aims to drive the development of new sight-saving treatments by funding essential vision and ophthalmology research.

**Eligibility:** The 2019 Grant Competition will support independent investigators and/or research teams with a principal investigator from a Canadian institution who share our goal of developing new therapies that have the potential to transform the lives of people living with blindness and vision loss. **NEW**: **research related to all blinding diseases will be considered.**

**Duration of Award:** Funding is based on a 24-month period.

**Award Categories:** Applicants can choose to apply to the following research categories

* Discovery research
* Translational research
* Clinical research
* Public health and vision rehabilitation research

**Award Value:**

* Applicants may apply for up to $150,000/year for a duration of two years.
* Please note that although applicants may apply for a maximum of $150,000/year for two years, FBC encourages applicants to ask for the appropriate amount of money required to complete the proposed work. Budget requests will be carefully examined by the scientific advisory board (SAB) and will be cut if it is viewed as overestimated.
* FBC recognizes that some categories of research are more costly. If your proposed project exceeds $150,000/year, please include additional details in the budget justification.
* Institutional partnerships are strongly encouraged, but not required.

# Application and Review Schedule

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Deadlines** | **Activity** |
| May 15, 2019 | Deadline to submit **Letter of Intent** through the fbc.ca portal |
| May 31, 2019 | Applicants informed of eligibility to submit full proposal |
| July 19, 2019 | Deadline to submit **Full Proposal** through the fbc.ca portal |
| November, 2019 | Competition results communicated to all applicants |
| December, 2019 | Funding begins |

**Questions?** Please contact Mary Sunderland, Director of Research & Education: msunderland@fightingblindness.ca

You are strongly encouraged to contact FBC if you have a research idea that does not seem to fit the criteria.

# Letter of Intent (LOI) Instructions

**One original LOI must be received by the FFB no later than 5:00 p.m. (EST) on May 15, 2019.**

Letters of Intent are required to assess scientific merit and determine the suitability and relevance of projects for Fighting Blindness Canada (FBC) funding.

Applicants will be notified by **May 31, 2019** whether or not their LOI was accepted. Those invited to apply will have to submit a full proposal no later than **July 19, 2019**. If the LOI is not accepted, applicants will receive a brief explanation of the reason(s) for non-acceptance.

To facilitate peer-review, we ask applicants to submit their LOI and full proposal in English.

The LOI consists of:

* A completed LOI form
* A one-page **Proposal Summary**, including:

o Brief descriptions of: research significance; aims and objectives; approach and research methods of the proposed study (approximately 250 words)

## o Statement of impact and disease relevance, clearly stating the potential impact of the outcome of this research for the prevention and treatment of blinding eye diseases and blindness (approximately 250 words)

Please note the following definitions of proposed participants:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Principal Applicant (one individual only)** | Responsible for the direction of the proposed activities  Assumes administrative and financial responsibility for the grant  Receives funding  Receives correspondence related to the grant  Is an independent researcher at a Canadian institution |
| **Co-Applicant** | Contributes to the proposed activities and requires a financial contribution from the grant (role defined in budget) |
| **Collaborator** | Provides a specific service for the proposed project (e.g., access to equipment, provision of specific reagents, advise about techniques and training, etc.), but does not have funding flowing to institution |

**Letter of Intent Form ~ FBC Operating Grant**

## Project Description

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Project Title |  |
| Institution where funds will be administered |  |
| Estimated Total Budget (2-year budget) | Duration requested |

**Project Team and Roles**

## Principal Applicant

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name | Telephone |
| Appointment held | Fax |
| Department and Institution | E-mail |
| Mailing Address |  |

## Co- Applicants

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Name | Position | Department and Institution |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

## Collaborators, if applicable

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Name | Position | Department and Institution |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

**Please check the category of research that best describes your proposal:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Research Category** | **Check** |
| Discovery Research |  |
| Translational Research |  |
| Clinical Research |  |
| Public Health Research |  |
| Epidemiology Research |  |
| Vision Rehabilitation Research |  |

**Disease Relevance -** **Please list the diseases that will be impacted by your proposed research:**

|  |
| --- |
|  |

## Keywords – list up to 6 keywords

|  |
| --- |
|  |

**Proposal Summary and Statement of Impact and Relevance:**

Attach a maximum of one (1) single-sided page outlining clearly:

1. the rationale and significance, aims and objectives, and approach and research methods of the study; and
2. the potential impact of the outcome of this research and how it is relevant to the objectives of the Foundation Fighting Blindness.

**Formatting details for appended Page 2:** Please prepare single-spaced, letter-sized page (8.5”x11”) with 2 cm margins at the top, bottom and sides of the text. Font size must not be smaller than 12 point (Arial or Times New Roman only). Please include the Nominated Principal Applicant’s name in the top left hand corner of every page. Page numbers should be included at the bottom of each page.