Connaught Community Partnership Research Program

Program Guidelines

Overview	
Value and Duration	Up to $100,000 total for up to two years
Deadline	LOI: **April 1, 2026** Full Application: **May 18, 2026**
Submission Procedure	LOIs submitted to connaught.secretariat@utoronto.ca Full Applications are to be submitted via MRA by the application deadline.

This initiative is intended to help create new collaborative research partnerships, or nurture early-stage partnerships, between the University and community partners, supporting research driven by needs and priorities identified by community partners. Funded partnership projects will equitably engage community partners and let non-academic organizations and university researchers access each other's unique knowledge, expertise, and capabilities on issues of mutual interest. Partnerships supported should show potential to evolve into more established relationships that will attract funding through external agencies, for example, the SSHRC Partnership Grant programs.

Value and Duration
Projects can request up to $100,000 to be spent over two years.
A total of $800,000 is available through this competition.

Eligible Applicants
Projects must be led by a full-time faculty member whose primary employer is the U of T, and who is Tri-Agency active (i.e. currently holds funding from, has an active application to, or is preparing a resubmission to a Federal Tri-Agency program). Teams must include a co-applicant from a lead community partner organization.

Teams may also include:
- Representatives of other community partners;
- Other UofT faculty members including those appointed at an affiliated hospital;
- Postdoctoral fellows, graduate and undergraduate students;
- Other participants deemed essential to the success of the initiative.

Note: PIs, co-applicants, and collaborators cannot be compensated with grant funds. The proposal should also demonstrate how equity, diversity, and inclusion were considered in the team composition.

Eligible Projects

The research topic should be driven by needs and priorities identified by community partners. Proposed projects are expected to:

- Detail how community partners are engaged throughout the project, including co-defining research questions, co-designing methods, contributing to implementation, and jointly shaping outcomes, impacts, and knowledge mobilization activities.
- Involve graduate and/or undergraduate students for the purposes of integrating research and experiential learning.
- Involve faculty and students from across academic disciplines and divisions, where appropriate.
- Be a new activity, not currently supported by external funding.

Projects funded through previous CPRP competitions are not eligible for this competition. A Principal Investigator may only submit one project in a funding cycle.

Equity and Diversity
The University of Toronto embraces diversity and is building a culture of belonging that increases our capacity to effectively address and serve the interests of our global community. We strongly encourage applications from Indigenous Peoples, Black and racialized persons, women, persons with disabilities, and people of diverse sexual and gender identities.

In order to be considered for this funding opportunity, all UofT Principal Investigators are required to answer the University of Toronto's Employment Equity Survey, available through Employee Self-Service, by no later than the application deadline. Applicants may voluntarily self-identify in all applicable groups, or they may log a response indicating that they decline the survey. *Aggregated* results as of the closing of this posting will be sent to the Manager of Research Development and Inclusive Excellence and may be accessed by only a small number of designated senior administrators within the Division of the Vice-President, Research and Innovation (VPRI). Any information directly related to you is confidential and cannot be accessed by the reviewers or by VPRI staff. The aggregated information will be used by VPRI as part of our ongoing efforts to identify barriers to participation and embed the principles of equity, diversity, and inclusion in the administration of internal funding programs. If you have already completed the survey, thank you; your responses will be included in the aggregated results.

The University also acknowledges that scholars have varying career paths and that career interruptions due to personal circumstances can be part of an excellent academic record. Review panel members have been instructed to give careful consideration to, and to be sensitive to the impact of career interruptions in their assessments.

Eligible Community Partners
Eligible partners include organizations from the not-for-profit or public sector, including but not limited to government departments and agencies, bands, Band Councils, foundations, community groups and other non-governmental organizations. These partners can be national or international.

Eligible Expenses
Expenses deemed necessary to the proposed research outcomes, including but not limited to:
- Personnel costs, which may include student support.
- Travel and hospitality costs associated with research and collaboration (costs should be consistent with relevant institutional policies).
- Costs associated with community-building events (e.g., event facilitation, interpretation, accommodations for persons with disabilities).

Note: individuals employed and compensated by another organization for the time spent on the funded research/activities cannot be compensated from grant funds. Grant funds may be used to compensate community partners for the actual salary or replacement costs associated with staff time devoted to project activities, consistent with Tri-Agency rules on direct personnel expenses.

The administrative home of the initiative and other participating academic units are encouraged, but not required, to contribute to the costs of the initiative, and are expected to enable the initiative through the provision of meeting space and other in-kind supports (e.g., administration, space, IT support, outreach).

Desired Outcomes
- Strengthened bonds between the University and community groups.
- A catalyst for leveraging additional external funding to deepen and broaden research and training initiatives, e.g., SSHRC Partnership Development Grant or CIHR Team Grant.
- Implementable solutions to pressing social issues
- Generation and knowledge mobilization of new information and resources accessible to relevant stakeholders.
- Enhance student skills and experiential learning that strengthens career pathways.

Adjudication Process
Applications will be subject to peer review by a panel of UofT faculty members and representatives of community-based organizations, assembled under the auspices of the Connaught Committee.

Adjudication Criteria:
- Significance of partnership objectives and goals; extent to which proposed project addresses needs and priorities of community partners (Challenge).
- Strength and involvement of team and partners; clear engagement of community partners in research design and delivery.
- Appropriateness and feasibility of research approach and methods, including considerations of equity, diversity, inclusion, and decolonization in the research design, as appropriate to the project.

- Considerations of equity, diversity, and inclusion in the research practice, including the recruitment of students and their mentorship in community-engaged research.
- Sustainability of partnership.
- Potential outcomes and impacts.

Proposals will be assessed against these adjudication criteria, taking into consideration the program objectives and desired outcomes.

Applications and Deadlines

Applicants are required to submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) by **April 1, 2026,** to the Connaught Secretariat at connaught.secretariat@utoronto.ca.

Full applications are due **May 18, 2026,** and must be submitted via MRA (My Research Applications).

For program queries contact connaught.secretariat@utoronto.ca