TIPS: ORF – LARGE INFRASTRUCTURE FUND
2020

This tips sheet does not replace a complete and careful reading of the ORF Large Infrastructure program guidelines.

OVERVIEW

The Ontario Research Fund – Research Infrastructure (ORF-RI) program ensures that Ontario's publicly funded research institutes continue to have competitive, state-of-the-art infrastructure to engage in world-leading research and technology development. The ORF will contribute a maximum of forty (40%) towards the total eligible costs, and the research institution is responsible for obtaining at least sixty percent (60%) from the Canada Foundation for Innovation (through the Innovation Fund), any private funding partners, or its own resources.

The ORF program is a competitive, non-entitlement program. The ORF will not automatically match the CFI awards to Ontario institutions. ORF funding decisions will be based on scientific excellence and strategic value to Ontario. This will help to ensure that the province is extracting value from research investments.

GENERAL TIPS

- Use clear, non-scientific language to describe your research program and its strategic value. Explain technical terms and jargon.
- Emphasize the impact of your research **in Ontario**.
- Describe how the proposal relates to or differs from the current state-of-the-art research in the field, within the Ontario context as well as nationally and internationally.
- Emphasize how the research is groundbreaking or innovative.

Formatting & Style

- Font type **must be Arial** and the size must be no smaller than 11pts.
- All pages must be numbered.
- Character limits include spaces.
- Figures, tables and references are not included in the character limit.
- Use headings and sub-headings that mimic the language of ORF-LIF instructions.
- Use white space extensively.
- Avoid long, descriptive narrative. Use bullet points or summary tables when possible.

TIPS FOR SELECTED SECTIONS OF THE ORF-LIF APPLICATION

The text below describes only selected sections of the ORF-LIF application.

SECTION 16. YOUTH SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OUTREACH (4,000 characters)

Discuss your plans to create capacities for youth outreach. If your department has existing outreach programs in place and/or has a high school liaison, you can also piggy-back off of those programs.

Youth engagement activities might include the following:
- Engaging youth audiences and educators, both on-campus and in the local community (e.g., engagement with high school teachers and their students)
- Expansion of current outreach activities or new initiatives with an emphasis on activities that are free to youth and the public
- Partnering with other researchers in your institution to undertake a broader outreach initiative
- Participating in outreach activities operated by other organizations, such as science awareness organizations (e.g., the Science and Technology Awareness Network or Science Rendez-Vous, which U of T sponsors)
- Involving graduate students in outreach program design and delivery
- Internships or summer programs targeted at youth
- Speaking opportunities, lecture series, workshops and demonstrations, student competitions, and lab mentorships.
- Other opportunities for youth to visit labs and meet with researchers

STRATEGIC VALUE (SECTIONS 17, 18, AND 19) (50,000 characters, total)

Sections 17 and 18: Economic and Societal Impacts

The anticipated benefits should be specific to Ontario and should address the strategic value of your research to Ontario (keep in mind that one of the review bodies is called the *Ontario Strategic Value Review Panel*).

- Be careful not to overstate or oversell your benefits. Make sure the benefits are concrete, tangible, and realistic.
- The ORF guidelines emphasize that quantitative information will strengthen your application. Be sure to include quantitative information related to your market analyses, economic benefits, and societal benefits. When you discuss economic impact, use plausible numbers rather than general statements. You might also consider using team members' prior research or technology development successes (with quantified outputs whenever possible) as evidence.
- Some useful sources of quantitative information:
  - Market data available through U of T Library's Guide to Entrepreneurship
  - Innovation, Science, and Economic Development Canada (provides information by sector)
  - Invest in Ontario
  - Statistics Canada (some information is broken down by province)
  - Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care—Ministry Reports
  - Canadian Institute for Health Information—Quick Stats (some information is broken

down by province)
- o [Canadian Institute for Health Information—Health Spending](#) (includes expenditures by province and territory)
- o Relevant Government of Ontario ministry websites (some pages outline challenges facing the province and give you a sense of the language used to describe them)

- Refer to the lists of benefits on pages 4 and 5 of the ORF LIF guidelines; be sure to describe *all* of the relevant benefits associated with your research, offering a description, quantitative information, and potential end users for each benefit.
- Economic impact can be wealth generation or cost savings (e.g., reduced health care costs).
- Who will use the results of the research? You should be able to identify end users outside of the university and academia.
- Identify the potential for commercialization, patents or licensing opportunities, or knowledge transfer to industry.
- Employment and job creation are important for the current Ontario government. Highlight any job creation potential for your research program or employment opportunities for highly skilled personnel.

Section 19: Plan for Achieving Impact and End-User Engagement

This section will allow you to incorporate and even expand on some of the text from the "Sustainability" section of the CFI IF (especially descriptions related to management and governance). Use this text as appropriate, tailoring it to the specific instructions of the ORF LIF.

- Describe a clear and specific strategy for achieving your research impacts. What concrete steps will be taken to achieve your research impacts? Detailed timelines can be effective.
- Describe your engagement with partners and end-users to date. Show that you have already established a relationship with your partners.
- How will the knowledge or technology be disseminated to end users identified in Sections 17 and 18? Describe the specific pathways that will be used to generate these economic benefits and societal benefits (e.g., plans for knowledge mobilization, technology transfer, and commercialization). Show that these users will be engaged.
- Discuss your track record of past collaboration or knowledge transfer and explain how this experience will allow you to achieve these impacts.
- Describe the commitment of your recipient partners.
- Where appropriate, describe your engagement with U of T's Innovation and Partnerships and/or Office or your work with U of T's broader commercialization network.

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