Connection Grants

November 2022

SSHRC Program Architecture

Objectives of the Connection Program

SUPPORT THE BUILDING OF RECIPROCAL RELATIONSHIPS

FACILITATE THE MULTIDIRECTIONAL FLOW OF KNOWLEDGE

INCREASE THE ACCESSIBILITY AND USE OF KNOWLEDGE

SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF RESEARCH NETWORKS AND TOOLS

MAKE NETWORKS AND TOOLS MORE ACCESSIBLE

Connection Grants

Support short term KM initiatives – maximum one year

Two Streams: Events and Outreach Activities

Engage with social sciences and humanities issues
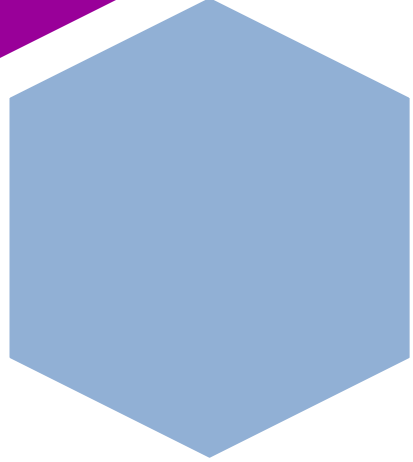
Events and Outreach Activities
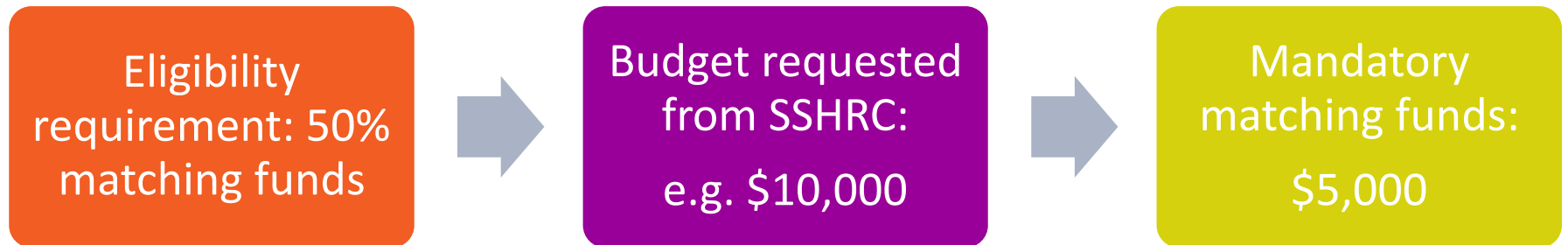
EVENTS:
$7,000 to
$25,000

Short term activity

Completed within a week

Follow-up activities

Longer in duration

Engage larger public

Speaker series, travelling exhibition, podcast, etc.

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES:
$7,000 to
$50,000+

Matching Funds

| Eligibility requirement: 50% matching funds | → | Budget requested from SSHRC: e.g. $10,000 | → | Mandatory matching funds: $5,000 |

For eligible expenses and cash/in-kind contributions :
Tri-agency Guide on Financial Administration

Letter of Support Example

Dear (name of applicant),

On behalf of (sponsoring organization), we have read your proposal and are pleased to provide support for you grant application, entitled "(title of you application)", for the SSHRC Connection Grants competition.

We have read the proposal and agree to the role and level of participation of (sponsoring organization) outlined within the application.

(Sponsoring organization) will provide a cash contribution of $(specific dollar amount) towards the costs of (project activity). In addition, we will provide the following in-kind contribution(s):

- (in-kind contribution), valued at $(specific dollar amount)
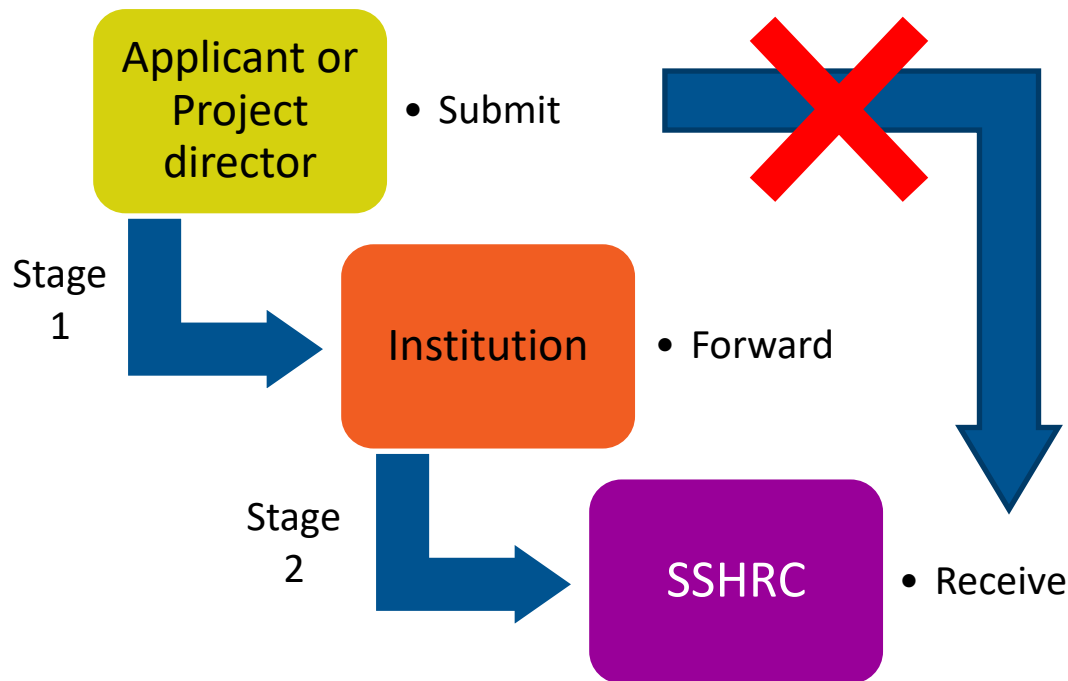
Ineligible Connection Activities

RESEARCH

STAND-ALONE VOLUMES
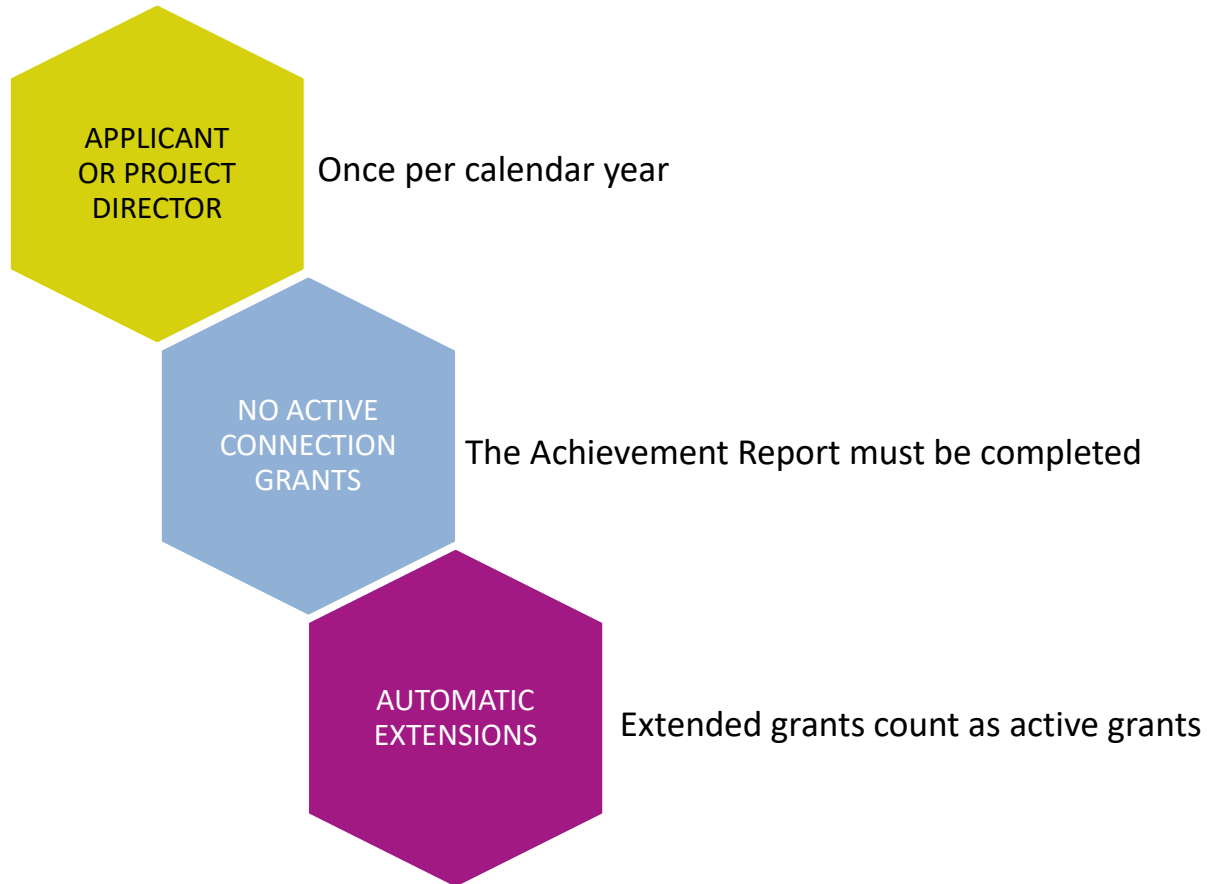
ASSOCIATION ACTIVITES

Two Ways to Apply

Individual → CONNECTION GRANTS ← Institutional

Submission Process

Applicant or Project director
- Submit

Stage 1

Institution
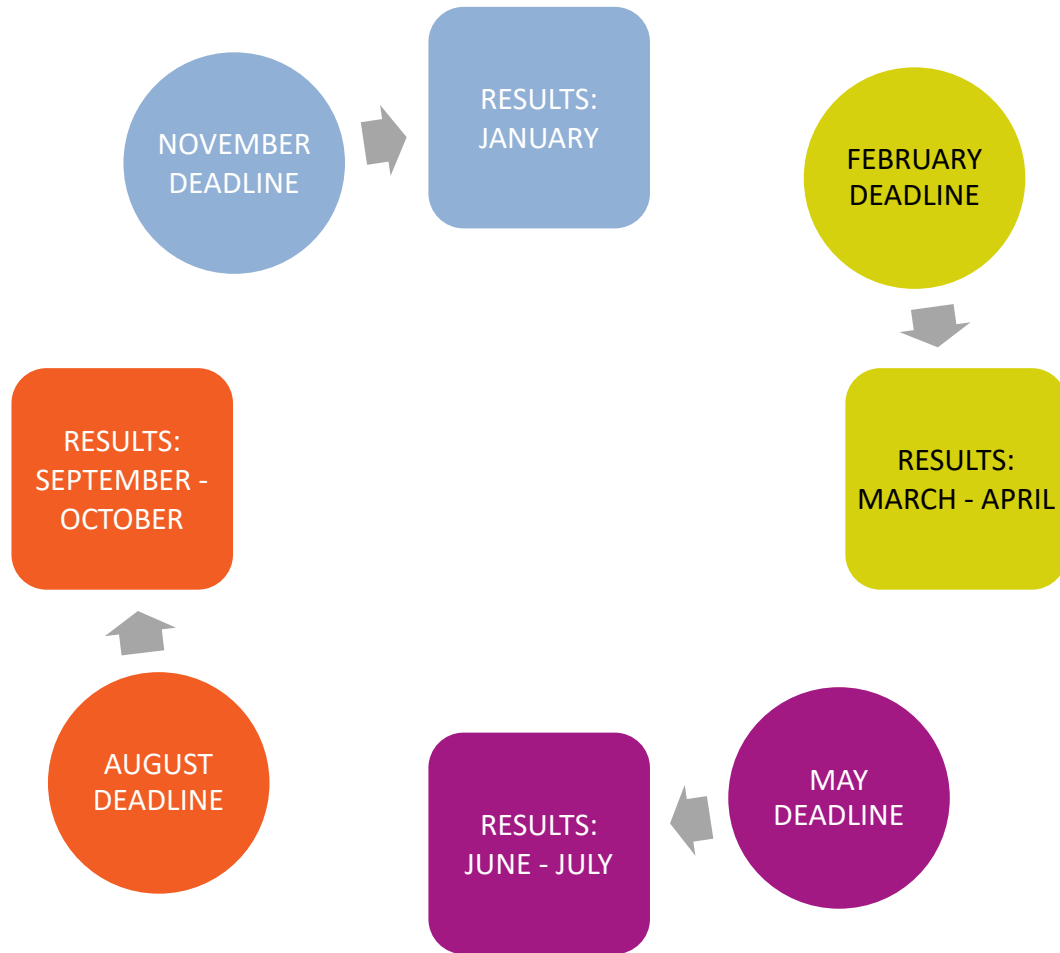- Forward

Stage 2

SSHRC
- Receive

On SSHRC online system

- **Applications submitted :** Deleted 30 days after deadline date.

- **Draft applications :** Deleted if not accessed during a 12-month period.

Multiple Applications Regulations

APPLICANT OR PROJECT DIRECTOR

Once per calendar year

NO ACTIVE CONNECTION GRANTS

The Achievement Report must be completed

AUTOMATIC EXTENSIONS

Extended grants count as active grants

When to apply?

NOVEMBER DEADLINE → RESULTS: JANUARY

FEBRUARY DEADLINE → RESULTS: MARCH - APRIL

MAY DEADLINE → RESULTS: JUNE - JULY

AUGUST DEADLINE → RESULTS: SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER

Adjudication Process

FOUR ADJUDICATION COMMITTEES

- MARCH
- JUNE
- SEPTEMBER
- DECEMBER

CHALLENGE 40%

FEASIBILITY 30%

CAPABILITY 30%
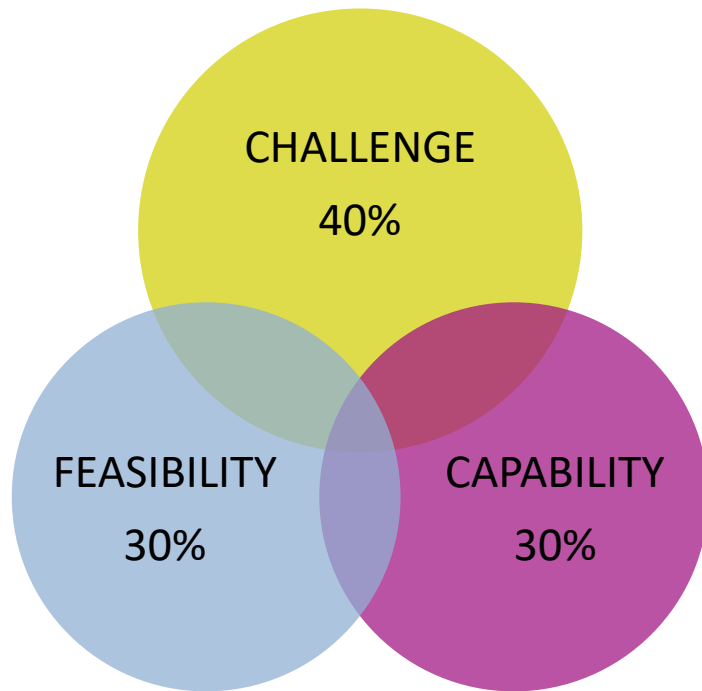
Support of Tools for Connection-Related Activities

- Applicants can use grant funds up to $50,000 to develop connection-related tools for the purpose of knowledge mobilization activities.

- Please see our [Guidelines for support of Tools for Research and Related Activities application process](#) for more information.

Indigenous Research

In May 2015, SSHRC launched new initiatives to support and promote Indigenous research and talent development.

Indigenous research statement of principles will serve to guide the implementation of SSHRC's current and future activities.

A revised definition of Indigenous research clarifies research "by and with" Indigenous Peoples and emphasizes and values the existing strengths, assets and knowledge systems of Indigenous Peoples and communities.

Guidelines for the Merit Review of Indigenous Research are intended to assist committee members in interpreting SSHRC's specific Challenge, Feasibility and Capability evaluation criteria in the context of Indigenous research.

Research Data Management Capacity Building Initiative

- Objective: support the research community's development, adoption and dissemination of research data management standards, practices, tools and skills appropriate to their field

- SSHRC will fund at least 10 meritorious proposals per competition to help the Canadian social sciences and humanities research community strengthen its capacity for data management

Joint Initiative for Digital Citizen Research

- Upcoming application deadline

2022-2023
• February 1, 2023, by 8pm (ET)

- A joint initiative with the Department of Canadian Heritage. The initiative has its own budgetary envelop, which is entirely funded by PCH.

- Supports research and related activities on, or related to, online disinformation in the Canadian context

- The Joint Initiative for Digital Citizen Research supports the goals of the Government of Canada's approach to protecting democracy and the Digital Citizen Initiative

Feedback

Connection Grants	
Scores	Yes
Descriptors	Yes, if discussed and unsuccessful
Additional comments	Yes, if applicable
Sextile category	Yes
Ranking	Yes, if application falls in top four sextiles
External reports	No

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the difference between an Event and an Outreach Activity?

- An event is a short term activity that is usually completed in a week or less like a two-day conference or a one-week workshop. In the case of Event Connection projects, the essential part of the knowledge mobilization takes place during this timeframe. Connection events can also serve as a first step toward more comprehensive and longer-term project that could be eligible for funding through other SSHRC funding opportunities. Knowledge mobilization activities that follow from an event, like the publication of event proceedings, would not qualify your project to be an Outreach Activity.
- Instead, Outreach Activities take place over a longer period of time and can comprise a series of activities, like a summer school, a travelling exhibition, the development of an interactive technology. An Outreach Activity cannot be defined by the proceedings held over a short term. If you are applying for a Connection Grant to support an Outreach Activity, make sure you check the Outreach Activity box on the application form.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can my project be both an Event and an Outreach Activity?

Yes. Connection Grants can support projects that have both an Event portion and an Outreach Activity portion. In this case, you should indicate that your project is an Outreach Activity on the application form. Make sure that your budget reflects that it comprises both streams – if your budget is only to support the Event portion of your project, then the budget limit of $25,000 will be applied to your project.

Frequently Asked Questions

I submitted my application. Why has SSHRC not received it?

SSHRC grants have a two-stage submission process: from you to your institution, and from your institution to SSHRC. When you hit the "submit" button on your application, it is submitted to your institution. Your institution reviews the application, and then forwards it to SSHRC. Without this last step, the application process is not complete.

Frequently Asked Questions

My Connection project is strictly an Outreach Activity – who should I include as a Presenter?

For Connection projects, "Presenters" are not only people who will give a presentation at an event. Presenters are defined by SSHRC as individuals who will make an active contribution to the project's objectives and/or the production of concrete deliverables (e.g. preparing exhibition materials, producing a podcast). You can think of them as participants.

Frequently Asked Questions

How many Presenters should I include in my application?

Some projects may have hundreds of presenters, and there is no problem with that. However, the list on the application form is limited to 15 presenters to prevent applicants from overloading their application and committee members by listing all presenters. It is recommended that Principal investigators (PIs, known as Applicant or Project director) submit a presenters page for only 15 key presenters at their event or participants in their outreach activity. PIs should include in the list those for whom they are requesting SSHRC's funding. When appropriate, the list should also include students as well as established and emerging scholars. While PIs may provide details on all presenters (including the 15 key presenters listed) and their specific role in the project description or budget justification section, it is important to note that they should avoid overloading their application if not relevant.

Frequently Asked Questions

Are recurrent annual events eligible for Connection Grant support?

Yes, recurrent annual events are eligible for Connection Grant support, but you must demonstrate how the event differs from what was previously funded (e.g. what new knowledge is being mobilized, what new methods are being used).

Frequently Asked Questions

I have been invited to a conference abroad; can I apply for a Connection Grant to support my travel expenses?

No. Connection Grants are not travel grants. They are intended to support applicants and project directors who are running a knowledge mobilization event or activity. Connection funding can support applicants' travel costs and other expenses if they are organizing an event or activity abroad. In this case, the applicant must demonstrate within the application why the event needs to be held outside Canada and its potential to mobilize Canadian research on an international stage.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can students participate as co-applicants?

No. Students can only participate as collaborators. Moreover, if a student is a collaborator on the project team, they cannot be paid a stipend or a wage from the grant.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can my application include bursaries to encourage increased student attendance?

No. Students must have an active role in your Connection project in order to be eligible for support.

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I know if something is eligible for SSHRC support?

SSHRC grants are governed by the Tri-Agency Guide on Financial Administration. If you are not sure whether something you are proposing would be eligible, please contact us. Funding opportunity eligibility rules will be considered alongside Tri-Agency Financial Administration rules – meaning that eligible and non-eligible expenses specific to the Connection Grants prevail over eligible and non-eligible expenses outlined in the Guide.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is my eligible grant period? Can I ask for funding outside this period?

The eligible grant period is one year, starting on the grant start date. Any budget requests for before or after that period will be declared ineligible and cut from your budget.

Deadline*	Decision Date
August 1, 8:00 p.m. (eastern)	September to October
November 1, 8:00 p.m. (eastern)	January
February 1, 8:00 p.m. (eastern)	March to April
May 1, 8:00 p.m. (eastern)	June to July

*If a deadline falls on a weekend or on a public holiday observed in Ontario, where SSHRC's offices are located, the online application system will remain open until 8 p.m. (eastern) on the next business day.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can matching funds be applied to costs incurred before the Connection Grant decision date?

Yes, cash or in-kind matching funds can be applied to costs before the competition decision date. Any matching funds that have been provided before the start of the grant period can still be considered eligible as long as their supporting letter clearly demonstrates that they are targeted to your Connection project.

Frequently Asked Questions

Would my project be penalized because I only have in-kind support?

No. SSHRC considers cash and in-kind support to be of equal value.

Frequently Asked Questions

A colleague wrote a letter of support. Why has it not been considered towards the 50% matching funds criteria?

Letters of support must come from sponsoring organizations, not individuals. If support is coming from an individual, the letter confirming as such needs to be provided by the organization that is financially responsible for the money. A professor from another university, for example, cannot write a letter of support; the letter needs to be provided by his or her department or university. Please see the SSHRC Guidelines for Cash and In-Kind Contributions for more information.

Frequently Asked Questions

I just learned that my Connection Grant proposal was not successful. Can I resubmit for the next competition?

Individuals, as applicants or project directors, can only apply to the Connection Grants funding opportunity once per calendar year.

Frequently Asked Questions

Are registration fees an eligible expense?

No, registration fees are not an eligible expense, nor is it an eligible matching in-kind/cash contribution.

COVID 19 Updates

1. Adjudication of Connection Grants applications

2. Tip : If you have any specific questions on how COVID-19 is or will be affecting your Connection Grants project, please send your queries to us by email at connection@sshrc-crsh.gc.ca

3. Tip : It is strongly recommended that institution officials, grant holders, and applicants regularly consult the COVID-19: Impacts on SSHRC's policies and programs webpage for the most up-to-date information

Helpful Links

Connection Grants

Connection Program

Connection Grants – Individual, Application Instructions

Connection Grants – Institution, Application Instructions

Indigenous Research

Guidelines for Effective Research Training

Guidelines for Effective Knowledge Mobilization

Guidelines for Cash and In-Kind Contributions

SSHRC definition of Research-Creation

Connection Achievement report

Tri-Agency Guide on Financial Administration

Your questions

Contact information:

Program Support: connection@sshrc-crsh.gc.ca

Technical Support: webgrant@sshrc-crsh.gc.ca

Thank you!

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada

Conseil de recherches en sciences humaines du Canada

Canada