



Special Call Research Grant: The Hyatt Family Foundation / Kidney Foundation of Canada Award for Kidney Health Innovation

IMPORTANT DATES

Letter of Intent (LOI) Deadline:	July 20, 2026
Application Deadline:	September 21, 2026
Anticipated Date for Notice of Award:	April 2027
Funding Start Date:	July 01, 2027

If the deadline falls during a weekend or on holiday, the deadline will be the next working day. Please note that all deadlines are at 11:59 pm EST.

The Kidney Foundation of Canada (“KFOC” or “Kidney Foundation”) may, without notice, alter the programs or terms of a grant. Any major changes will be announced immediately on the KFOC website at www.kidney.ca, or on the [Proposal Central](#) site. The Kidney Foundation of Canada reserves the right to interpret these guidelines and policies. Applicants should contact the National Director of Research, or the Research Grants and Awards Manager as required.

Budget: \$600,000/3 years

Brief description of grant purpose:

The Kidney Foundation of Canada and Hyatt Family Foundation would like to support innovative, transformative, research in kidney health. This includes research that is new, unique, and potentially unconventional. These may be ideas that have the potential for high impact but may span too diverse a range of disciplines, be in developmental stages or be considered too ‘high risk’, for conventional competitions.

The partners in this opportunity wish to spark new ideas and encourage novel hypotheses and/or generation of new knowledge, concepts and approaches that could ultimately lead to critical discoveries or major advancements to accelerate the field of kidney research and create new innovative options for kidney patients.

Work does not need to represent end stage development but should stimulate/accelerate interest in kidney health innovation potentially acting as the catalyst for further investment to develop high-impact strategies to combat kidney disease.

Applicants are encouraged to consider how their proposed work could change practice, or patient experience, with the goal of developing commercially viable, clinically relevant tools, tests, devices, mechanisms or care pathway changes that will shift the paradigm on kidney disease.

This may include innovation developments with commercialization potential such as, but not limited to:

- the development of innovative strategies to address a lack of available kidneys to transplant such as artificial kidneys, xenotransplantation, or novel personalized medicine approaches.
- solutions to current limitations to dialysis including dialysis access, or products that could improve or provide alternatives to dialysis.
- The development of novel treatment approaches/tools/diagnostics to measure kidney function, delay onset of dialysis, or improve transplant success.

We encourage applications from all disciplines including but not limited to biomedical science, nephrology, clinical development, engineering, urology, surgery, and physics.

Highlights

The Kidney Foundation of Canada and the Hyatt Family Foundation have a vested interest in supporting improvements to the kidney journey for kidney patients. This call is specific to work that may have the potential to be commercialized. A condition of this funding is acceptance by the grantee and grantee institution of the terms and conditions described in the Intellectual Property and Patents section.

Revised: May 20, 2026

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 KFOC Vision and Mission Statement

Vision:

The Kidney Foundation of Canada is committed to achieving excellent kidney health, optimal quality of life, and a cure for kidney disease.

Mission:

The Kidney Foundation of Canada is the leading charity committed to eliminating the burden of kidney disease through:

- funding and stimulating innovative research for better treatments and a cure;
- providing education and support to prevent kidney disease in those at risk and empower those with kidney disease to optimize their health status;
- advocating for improved access to high quality healthcare;
- increasing public awareness and commitment to advancing kidney health and organ donation.

1.2 Objective

The objective of the special call is listed above in the cover letter to which these policies are attached. Please refer to this description for grant objective.

The intent of the KFOC is to fund the best kidney research conducted at Canadian universities or other recognized Canadian academic institutions (for more information, please see the CIHR list of eligible institutions: <http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/36374.html>). The KFOC will, therefore, allow as many qualified researchers in Canada as possible to compete for its grants and will accept applications from Principal Applicants (see definition below, under Applicant Categories) from various communities and sectors.

International collaborations and partnerships are allowable however funds must be held at a Canadian institution.

All awards become tenable following announcements of the competition results.

Applicants wishing to develop or implement programs or services for patients as a portion of their work that may require direct involvement of the Foundation or its staff/volunteers, are encouraged to reach out to the Foundation Programs and Public policy department prior to application.

2. RESEARCH INTEGRITY POLICY

Institutions receiving funds must have appropriate policies in place for investigating allegations of misconduct as outlined in the “*Tri-Agency Framework: Responsible Conduct of Research*”¹ (the “Policy”) as published by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR). Any questions concerning scientific integrity or scholarly conduct that arise during the evaluation of an application will be referred back to the parent institution for that body to proceed with an enquiry. The Kidney Foundation is to be promptly informed, in writing, of the outcome of such investigations.

¹ See <https://rcr.ethics.gc.ca/eng/framework-cadre-2021.html>

As a condition of funding KFOC grants, all award recipients agree to comply with the Principles and Responsibilities set out in the Policy.

3. GUIDELINES ON THE UTILIZATION OF AI IN GRANT APPLICATIONS AND PEER REVIEW

Adapted from the Government of Canada recommendations and CIHR policy statement which can be found at the following links:

[Guidance on the use of Artificial Intelligence in the development and review of research grant proposals](#)

[CIHR Policy Statement on the Use of Artificial Intelligence-based technology in peer review meetings - CIHR](#)

3.1 Utilization of AI in the preparation of grant proposals

The Kidney Foundation recognizes that generative AI may be valuable to applicants in the creation and preparation of many aspects of their grant applications.

If AI is utilized, its use should be appropriately and clearly stated within the application and methods.

The Kidney Foundation of Canada *encourages applicants to refrain from the utilization of generative AI in the creation of their grant applications* and reminds applicants that Nominated Principal applicants are responsible for the content which is provided within their grant applications. This includes information, text and data/figures that are provided by trainees, co-applicants, or other grant authors. To maintain research integrity, information provided within applications must be accurate, true, complete and appropriately referenced.

Utilizing generative AI may lead to inaccurate representation of information or may introduce inappropriate or incomplete acknowledgement of authorship/ownership.

Please note that applicants should also be aware that most generative AI tools incorporate data input into further queries, and therefore any information provided may no longer be considered private.

3.2 Utilization of generative AI in the evaluation of grant applications

Generative AI tools including transcription tools are potentially powerful tools which can often increase efficiency of work, and their utilization is becoming increasingly common across all sectors to increase productivity.

Peer review discussions contain protected information where confidentiality of all provided materials is required. Protection of applicant data is of utmost importance. Upload of any application information to any AI tools, or utilization of any transcription tool is strictly prohibited during the review process. These tools could result in breach of privacy and eliminate the protection of intellectual property.

Peer reviewers are recruited for their critical thought and specific expertise. AI tools do not appropriately possess this capability and are therefore inappropriate for use in this context. If review meeting attendees (including reviewers, observers, funders, or staff) are found to be utilizing AI technology in the process of review, they will be in breach of The Kidney Foundation of Canada's research confidentiality policy and be removed from the review committee. Additional follow up such as removal of any current funding, or ability to apply to future funding from The Kidney Foundation of Canada may also be considered.

4. GENERAL INFORMATION

4.1 Incomplete / Unacceptable Applications

All applicants are strongly advised to carefully read and follow the instructions and requirements in the Special Call Research Grant Policies and application instructions.

Special Call Research Grant

To maintain the principle of fairness to all applicants, policies must be adhered to in the preparation of Special Call Research Grant applications. Non-adherence to the Policies will lead to rejection (without appeal) of the application. Requiring adherence to the policies has the advantage of being unambiguous for applicants, easily enforceable by staff and/or review panels, and fair and equitable for all applicants.

4.2 Closing of Award

When research supported by an award is complete, or if for any reason the research cannot be continued, the award will be closed. Any remaining funds are frozen and cannot be reallocated to other uses. The institution will prepare the final accounting and return outstanding funds to the KFOC.

4.3 Temporary Absence

Recipients wishing to take a temporary leave (e.g., parental leave, sabbatical), must inform The Kidney Foundation. If they wish funding to continue, details on how the research will continue in their absence must be supplied. The Kidney Foundation reserves the right to discontinue funding in such instances. Transfer of the grant from one person to another in the same institution is not permitted unless prior written authorization is received from The Kidney Foundation.

4.4 Non-Employee Status

The granting of an award is deemed to establish neither an employer-employee nor a partnership between the grantor and grantee.

4.5 Intellectual Property and Patents

The Kidney Foundation of Canada and the Hyatt Family Foundation have a vested interest in supporting improvements to the kidney journey for kidney patients. This call is specific to work that may have the potential to be commercialized. By accepting this funding, the grantee and grantee institution must agree to the following terms and conditions.

To the extent that the grantee institution's own policies permit individual investigators to own any title, right or interest in research results, the grantee institution shall ensure that the investigator complies with the following policies.

Intellectual Property Rights

The grantee institution and grantee will own all rights to intellectual property based on the institution's own policies as modified by any agreement between the institution and its own investigator(s).

Patents

The grantee institution will have full control over the right to pursue patent protection for inventions created through the funding received. All intentions to file for patent protection will be clearly communicated to The Kidney Foundation of Canada.

Commercialization

All commercialization licenses remain the right of the institution/ grantee in line with its own commercialization policies. The grantee and/or institution must make every commercially reasonable effort to commercialize any applicable research results in a timely fashion, and all commercialization potential must be immediately disclosed to The Kidney Foundation of Canada. At such a time, commercialization plans must be made available to The Kidney Foundation of Canada.

Virtuous Circle

In recognition of the funding provided by KFOC, the grantee institution agrees to enter into a compensation sharing agreement. **Signing of such agreement is a condition to receiving funds and will be discussed with both the applicant and institution prior to finalization of grant approval.** Under this arrangement, the institution will remit to KFOC an agreed upon portion of any revenue, or proceeds of disposition of shares, (collectively "Compensation") that would otherwise be shared between the grantee and the institution, in accordance with applicable institutional guidelines.

Please see the Virtuous Circle agreement template for more details. Although conditions of this agreement are flexible and will be discussed with both the applicant and institution, successful applicants must enter into agreement that is substantially similar to the provided template to receive funding.

The Compensation will be held in a specified KFOC restricted account with the purposes of funding additional kidney research and to implement the mission of both The Kidney Foundation of Canada and the Hyatt Family Foundation to improve kidney health for all.

Reporting

The grantee institution shall notify KFOC within sixty days following the filing of any patent applications, disclosures or patent issuances, registrations of copyrights or trademarks, any commercialization activities, or the execution of third-party agreements pertaining to the research outcomes. Additionally, the grantee institution is obligated to provide KFOC with the aforementioned information related to KFOC-funded inventions for so long as the grantee institution holds an interest in the intellectual property.

All reports shall be submitted online via Proposal Central and will be considered confidential.

4.6 Privacy Information

Providing your date of birth, language, gender, and self-identified information on the application form, CV form or Equity Diversity and Inclusion survey is optional. However, this information will ensure accurate identification of applicants and will assist the KFOC with statistical analysis and equity of access evaluation. This information will NOT be transmitted to any entity external to the KFOC and will not be used to evaluate the application.

4.7 Public Information

Successful applicants need to be aware that the title of their research project and lay summary may be used without notification and put into the public domain, e.g., web and news releases. Applicants are cautioned not to disclose information that could endanger a proprietary position in these sections.

4.8 Ethical Requirements

By signing and submitting applications to The Kidney Foundation of Canada, applicants undertake the responsibility to ensure any experimentation will be acceptable to their respective institution on ethical grounds and comply with the latest edition of *Tri-Council Policy Statements: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans*².

In the case of laboratory animal experimentation, the guiding principles enunciated by the *Canadian Council on Animal Care* must be adhered to and the proposed research shall not be undertaken until it has been accepted as meeting the requirements regarding biological and chemical hazards as outlined in the *Public Health Agency of Canada Laboratory Biosafety Guidelines*³.

In addition, any research involving human pluripotent stem cells must adhere to the *Guidelines for Human Pluripotent Stem Cell Research*⁴. The institution must promptly notify the KFOC in writing, as to the results of the review by the CIHR's Stem Cell Oversight committee.

Please note that proof of required certification will be required to receive grant funding. Delays in applying for, or attaining, required certifications without reasonable explanation may result in grant funding being revoked.

4.9 Research Involving Clinical Trials

Applicants whose proposed research consists of a clinical trial must follow the latest edition of [Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans \(TCPS 2\)](#). See in particular the guidance provided in Chapter 11: Clinical Trials. The KFOC has in addition, specific requirements not included in the TCPS2 for KFOC-funded trials (both clinical and non-clinical). These specify that grant recipients must:

² See https://ethics.gc.ca/eng/policy-politique_tcps2-eptc2_2022.html for details.

³ See <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/publicat/lbg-dmbl-04/index-eng.php> for details.

⁴ See <http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/15255.html> for details.

- a. prospectively register their trial in a registry acceptable to the World Health Organization (WHO) or the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE). This includes providing the WHO Trial Registration Data Set;
- b. update the trial registry with any changes in the trial protocol and decisions taken to end a trial early;
- c. disclose serious adverse events at the end of the trial in subsequent publications and to the registry;
- d. deposit aggregate data in an unbiased, publicly accessible database (e.g. the registry); and
- e. if conducting a KFOC-funded randomized control trial (RCT), submit a report in the Consolidated Standards of Reporting Trials (CONSORT) format within 12 months of the end of the trial.

Applicants are encouraged to keep in mind that the total grant amount is \$600,000 over three years and that their clinical trial application should reflect this restriction. This amount of funding may not be able to respond to the full needs of *all* clinical researchers. It is however, more than adequate and reasonable to fund pilot, observational, start-up trials or secondary analyses of databases. Reviewers will take these factors into account when evaluating these proposals.

4.10 Indirect Costs

The Kidney Foundation of Canada supports only the direct costs of research. The definition of indirect costs of research for the purposes of this policy is costs that cannot be directly associated with a particular research program or operating grant, including but not limited to costs associated with the operation and maintenance of facilities (from laboratories to libraries); the management of the research process (from grant management to commercialization); and regulation and safety compliance (including human ethics, animal care and environmental assessment).⁵

4.11 Assessment of Applications

Applications are reviewed by the Special Call Scientific Committee, the composition of which will be determined by the number of Letters of Intent (“LOIs”) received. This committee will be composed of a Chair, at least one Scientific Officer and a large enough committee to ensure appropriate review of all applications (generally, 10-25 members). Each committee member has demonstrated scientific expertise in kidney disease or a related area. Appointment of the committee members takes into consideration the required expertise, regional distribution, gender and language to ensure a fair and balanced peer review process. Additional members may be added to the committee depending on the number of applications received and the expertise required. Given the broad nature of this special call, reviewers will be recruited to ensure all applications are reviewed by experts in their field. External reviewers may be included at the request of the review committee. Please note that reviewers may be Canadian or Internationally based.

The Research Grant Special Call will utilize a phased review process. Please note that all LOIs will be reviewed by the KFOC research department, the Chair and the Assistant Chairs for alignment to the Special call.

⁵ See [Policy on Indirect Costs of Research](#)

Special Call Research Grant

All relevant applicants will be invited to submit a full application. Full applications are reviewed by two committee members and, whenever deemed appropriate, by one or two external reviewers when additional expertise is required. Each reviewer (internal or external) conducts a thorough written review and evaluates the application on the following criteria:

- Relevance to the Vision and Mission of The Kidney Foundation of Canada and alignment to the goals of the special call
- Applicant's expertise with respect to the proposed research, the synergy of the research team
- Merit of the proposal, including originality, clarity and feasibility of the research hypotheses, background information and literature review, transparency and appropriateness of design and methodologies, statistical rigour, and achievability, and
- Appropriateness and justification of the budget.
- Commercialization potential or trajectory towards contributing meaningfully to innovation in kidney health

Reviewers' comments will be made available to all applicants. The Kidney Foundation reserves the right to withhold any part of the reviewers' comments. All reviews are expected to be constructive and kind in nature and any comments not aligned with the principles of fair peer review will be addressed with the reviewer prior to release. Appeals of decisions taken on the basis of any such reviews will not be entertained.

4.12 Publications and knowledge dissemination

Research grant recipients must acknowledge the support of The Kidney Foundation of Canada and the Hyatt Family Foundation in all scientific communications and media releases related to their award. To facilitate the implementation of the KFOC's program for knowledge transfer and exchange, KFOC must be notified in advance, in writing, of the publication date of any major publications arising from research funded by the KFOC.

It is important that The Kidney Foundation receive information on the outcomes of the research funding program. To this purpose awardees must submit electronic copies of each publication derived from the funded research and cite the support of The Kidney Foundation and the Hyatt Family Foundation as these become available, as well as media releases related to the award. This information is used not only to evaluate the effectiveness of our research programs, but also as an important tool for the peer review process and to inform our community of research successes. Please note that this includes publications that are released after funding period has ended, derived from the funded work. The Kidney Foundation of Canada may request lay summaries or graphic abstracts of important publications.

By accepting this award, the applicant agrees to willingly accept invitations to discuss their research with representatives of the Hyatt Family Foundation including providing updates on research progress once in each 12-month funding period.

The Kidney Foundation expects that all those who receive support will willingly accept invitations to discuss their research with lay members of The Kidney Foundation and our audience.

The Kidney Foundation of Canada is happy to assist in the dissemination of research results to our community through our numerous communication channels. We encourage all awardees to

develop lay person communications for scientific accomplishments and are happy to assist in developing accessible language to reflect project advancement and successes.

4.13 Notification of Award

Successful applicants will be notified by an official letter, setting forth the amount and duration of the grant. A copy of this letter will be forwarded to the Dean, or the institutional administrative officer named on the application. Please note that any changes to grant funding, including deferrals, extensions, or other required alterations, will be officially noted on an updated Notification of Award. Any policy changes reflected on the Notification of Award will be taken as the most up to date version. It is the responsibility of the awardee to ensure that all conditions are met.

Unsuccessful applicants will be notified by an official letter and will have access to their reviews. It should be recognized that The Kidney Foundation has a limited amount of funds and, although applications may have merit, there may not be sufficient funds to award all such applications.

4.14 Administration of Funds

Payment of Funds

Funds for all grants are to be administered through the business officer of the institution concerned, whose name, contact information must be submitted by the primary applicant. Please note that The Kidney Foundation will only pay one Canadian institution per award.

The Kidney Foundation will make equal quarterly instalments during the months of July, October, January and April of the granting year, payable in trust to the designated financial officer of the sponsoring institution.

Disbursement of Grant Funds

Payments of accounts for the purposes set forth in the grant are made by the business officer of the institution concerned upon authorization from the grantee.

The total disbursements must not exceed the award. Any expenditure by awardee in excess of the award will not be assured by The Kidney Foundation or the Hyatt Family Foundation, nor are either obliged to reimburse the institution concerned.

Expenditures are only to be made for the purposes set forth in the terms of the grant, and any alternative use of funds requires prior, written approval by The Kidney Foundation of Canada. Please note that itemized financial reports may be requested at any time and will be required at grant completion/at the request of an extension.

No-Cost Extensions

The funding year of all Special call research grants is 12 calendar months from the original funding start date. **Please note that all successful applicants will have an additional 6 months after the final payment to complete research and spend grant funds without needing to request an extension.** If the funding start is delayed due to certificates or other delays, all timing will be based off of the originally proposed start date. Carryover of other grant funds beyond this time will require KFOC's prior written permission for a no cost extension and any unspent balance of funds must be returned to The Kidney Foundation following conclusion of the grant.

Under special circumstances and upon written request to The Kidney Foundation, authorization for an extension of time to utilize the unexpended funds in continuation of research may be allowed

provided the request is received **prior to the termination date of the grant (2.5 years post original funding start date)**. To request an extension the grantee should send a letter to The Kidney Foundation indicating the requested extension period (max. 6 months), a justification of how the funds will be used in this period as well as an interim itemized expense report reflecting the estimated amount of unexpended funds signed by the applicant and the institution's financial officer. Please note that only ONE extension will be approved for each research grant.

In such a case, The Kidney Foundation must be provided with a final itemized financial and scientific report no later than 90 days after the end of the granted extension.

4.15 Transfer of Award

A grantee may request a transfer of the grant to another institution. Please note that no transfer is permitted without the prior written approval of The Kidney Foundation of Canada, which may include conditions, including with regard to the new institution acceding to the virtuous circle agreement. A request must include a letter duly countersigned by the appropriate authorities (Dean and Head of the Department) at the new institution and the principal applicant(s) on the grant. The letter should also include the project title, an estimate of the remaining grant funds available, and the effective date of the transfer. You will need to contact the research department for further instructions and documents that need to be submitted (e.g., institutional signatures, ethics approvals etc. from the new institution). Note that Co-Applicants are not required to sign the letter. Arrangements will then be made to transfer a portion of the unexpended balance of the grant. The remainder of the unexpended balance will be transferred upon receipt of a final statement of expenditures from the business office of the institution to which the grant was originally made and final approvals by The Kidney Foundation of Canada.

4.16 Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in Health Research

The Kidney Foundation of Canada is committed to advancing Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in the research system. As such, we have included new sections into the Special Call research grant to encompass this strategic priority.

All applicants **WILL BE EXPECTED** to fill in a self-identification Equity and Diversity questionnaire as part of the application process. We may ask successful candidates to repeat this questionnaire upon receipt of this award. Please note that none of this data will be shared with the peer review committee and will not be used to judge candidates' applications. It will be used to help the Foundation evaluate the accessibility and reach of its funding programs.

In addition to this questionnaire, the KFOC expects that all applicants will integrate, or justify, equitable inclusion in research studies. This includes considering fairness and equity in research participation such as the inclusion of racial minorities, justification of age of recruited participants, inclusion of language considerations, etc (where applicable), and steps taken to ensure appropriate, equitable and realistic dissemination of research results to all communities.

The purpose of this section is to promote rigorous science that is sensitive to equity and diversity factors beyond SGBA and therefore will help to expand our understanding of health determinants across all people. This section does not pertain to the composition of the research team.

The [Tri-Council Policy Statement on the Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans – TCPS 2 \(2018\) – Chapter 4: Fairness and Equity in Research Participation](#), provides helpful Information surrounding research participant Inclusion considerations.

Please note that the incorporation of EDI principles into the research plan will be available to the peer reviewers and will be incorporated in the peer review process. If the proposed project does NOT include EDI principles or considerations, it must be well justified within the application.

Sex and Gender-Based Analysis (SGBA) and Health Research

KFOC expects that all applicants will integrate sex and gender into their research designs when appropriate. Sex- and gender-based analysis (SGBA) is an approach that systematically examines sex-based (biological) and gender-based (socio-cultural) differences between men, women, boys, girls and gender-diverse people. The purpose of SGBA is to promote rigorous science that is sensitive to sex and gender and therefore has the potential to expand our understanding of health determinants for all people. The SGBA section of the CIHR website (<http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/50836.html>) provides helpful resources for applicants, including CIHR's definitions for sex, gender and SGBA, as well as information on applying SGBA to the development and assessment of research proposals.

It is encouraged that all applicants complete the tri-council training modules in SGBA.

Please note that SGBA assessment will be included in the peer review process. If the proposed project does NOT include a SGBA, it must be well justified within the application.

4.17 Knowledge Translation Plan

Each applicant is asked to include a short description of their Knowledge Translation (KT) plan. The purpose for the inclusion of a KT plan in the application is to encourage applicants to begin considering KT at the outset of their research project, to ensure that research findings are broadly disseminated and there is uptake where applicable.

Please note that the Kidney Foundation encourages investigators to broaden their KT plan and consider how their research results and progress will be communicated to the lay community, patients, and caregivers, as well as how it may be applied to result in changes to clinical practice, health policy, or delivery of care (if applicable). This section may also include detail of how lived experience partners have been integrated into the project design and progression, for KT purposes.

It is important to note that knowledge translation and communication of results should be an active consideration throughout all phases of the proposed project.

All applicants will be required to provide a detailed update on the progress of their knowledge translation activities in their end of grant report.

The KT plan is not intended to undermine the ability of the institution or grantee to commercialize its research. For example, and without limitation, it should not include or require disclosures that would prejudice trade secrets or the ability to obtain patents. Any information provided within grant reports will be considered confidential if requested.

If applicants would like additional information on Knowledge Translation plans, please visit the following link: https://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/documents/kt_lm_ktplan-en.pdf

4.18 Commercialization Plan

Each applicant is asked to include a short description of their commercialization plan (if applicable). Although not all projects may be immediately preparing for commercialization, the purpose of the inclusion of a commercialization plan in the application is to encourage applicants to consider commercialization and steps to bring research results to the next phase at the outset of their research project.

This plan may include considerations for potential IP, IP protection, a brief assessment of how their work may fit within the current market, market size, or steps that might be taken to begin investigating these options.

All applicants will be required to provide a detailed update on the progress of their commercialization activities in their end of grant report.

4.19 Value of Grant

The total value of the grant is \$600,000 CAD

The maximal budget allowed for research grants may not exceed \$600,000. Applications meeting this criterion but requesting an early release of year 2 or year 3 funds will be considered for funding only after specific permission is obtained from The Kidney Foundation. Such permission is granted only when fully justified by the project. Under no circumstances can any awardees receive more than the maximal allowable budget for any two sequential years.

These funds are allocated to assist in defraying the cost of research. This includes the purchase and maintenance of experimental animals, materials, supplies and equipment, and the payment of laboratory assistants and trainees engaged in the work. Salaries should conform to those of the institution in which the research is carried out and may include the employer's share of staff benefits for which such personnel may be eligible. Personnel employed under grants are employees of the institution concerned, not The Kidney Foundation.

Grant applications for equipment only will not be considered. Equipment requested as part of the grant application will be considered provided the total amount for equipment does not exceed \$20,000 CAN. In such cases, a full and adequate justification for required equipment must be provided. All apparatus, materials or supplies purchased by the grantee for use with any research funded by The Kidney Foundation becomes the property of the institution concerned.

The maximum request for travel funds **within** a research grant application is \$2,500 CAN per year.

Graduate student or postdoctoral (non-MD) support may be requested as part of the grant. The Kidney Foundation reserves the right to fund the grant with or without support to the graduate students.

Research grants do not provide for salary support of the Nominated Principal Applicant, Principal Applicants and/or Co-Applicants (unless they are a lived-experience partner not otherwise being paid by the institution), in which case compensation can be included) and are not intended to cover the entire cost of the research for which they are provided, since space and certain basic facilities are prerequisites to an application for a grant.

4.20 Scientific, Methodological or Budgetary Overlap: Current Funding and Pending or Contemplated Grant Submissions

The Kidney Foundation of Canada and Hyatt Family Foundation would like to support innovative, transformative, research in kidney health. This includes research that is new, unique, and potentially unconventional. These may be ideas that have the potential for high impact but may span too diverse a range of disciplines, be in developmental stages or be considered too 'high risk', for conventional competitions.

The partners in this opportunity wish to spark new ideas and encourage novel hypotheses and/or generation of new knowledge, concepts and approaches that could ultimately lead to critical discoveries or major advancements to accelerate the field of kidney research and create new innovative options for kidney patients.

Given the nature of this special call, it is acceptable that submitted projects may represent a portion of a larger piece of work which requires additional financial support to be funded in its entirety.

Additional funding from commercial or industrial partners is allowable but not required.

Please note that participation of additional partners does not override the requirement to complete the required virtuous cycle agreement (see section 4.5 for details).

Leveraging of funds within this grant is applicable under the following conditions:

1-If the project proposal requires additional funds to be completed, such funding must be guaranteed, and proof provided at the time of the **full application**. These funds may include institutional contributions, partner contributions, direct donor contributions, additional grants, or industry/commercial support. All additional funds required for the work must be listed on the full application.

2-If the project proposal in its entirety requires additional funding that is NOT secured at the time of application, or the applicant proposes to leverage this application for additional funds, the applicant must make clear that the project plan presented within the application is **feasible as a stand-alone project. (ie the project can be completed meaningfully in the absence of other funding)**

3-There is no DIRECT budgetary overlap (i.e. the applicant must be able to show how the grant will add to another project, not submit the same proposal for duplicate funding)

4.21 Duration and Tenure

This funding opportunity will run for 36 calendar months from the initial grant start date.

4.22 Grant Reports

Scientific/Progress Reports

The Kidney Foundation of Canada is a patient and volunteer-driven organization and is responsible to the community to highlight the outcomes of our research funding. Awardees will be asked to submit a report after each year of funding, and a final end-of-grant report six months after

the end of the term of the grant and a follow up 2 years post funding (Reporting is completed through Proposal Central, and reporting timelines will be illustrated in award letters).

Please note the following:

- All reporting is MANDATORY
- the Foundation may follow up on your report for further information, or request interviews or for participation in knowledge dissemination events/opportunities.
- **Year-end grant reports will be mandatory for the release of further funding**

The year-end grant reports are brief and will be used: (a) to highlight successes and track productivity for impact measurement (b) to address possible challenges or required changes/mitigation strategies. It will be expected that if progress has deviated significantly from the timeline proposed within the application that appropriate justification will be provided. Failure to reach grant milestones without appropriate justification may result in changes to funding status, grant funds being held or grants being cancelled.

The end-of-grant report will be used: (a) to highlight successes, achievements, and the excellence of kidney researchers in Canada, (b) as a tool to help “de-mystify” research to the community and (c) to help increase donations. In lay language you will be asked to describe the work that was possible due to HFF/KFOC funding, to provide an overview of the outcomes and impacts of the project, including efforts made to disseminate the work and the KT plan, and to explain why this research is important and its potential impact in **lay terms**. Progress towards commercialization will also be detailed in the end-of-grant report.

The post-grant report will be required 2 years after the conclusion of the award. This report will include details on the commercialization of the work, additional progress made towards project goals, and any leveraging of additional funds that was made possible by the original grant.

Nothing in the reporting requirements is intended to prejudice the awardee’s or institution’s ability to obtain or protect IP rights, or to commercialize the research and all such reporting will be considered confidential *if requested*.

Please submit your grant reporting on time. You can append updates as needed.

Financial Reports

Provision of Kidney Foundation funds to institutions is dependent upon timely and complete financial reporting from the financial administrators of the institutions at the termination of each funding year.

Grantees will submit an itemized account of expenditures by June 29 of each year, and no later than **three months** following conclusion of the grant period. The statement must be signed by the grantee and the business officer of the institution concerned.

Financial reporting is MANDATORY

The Kidney Foundation of Canada will only send funds to one institution. If funds are then transferred to the institution of a co-applicant, or for any reason leave the institution of the Nominated Principal Applicant, the grantee is responsible to ensure that all spending from any grant funds occurs within the grant policies. This includes ensuring rules around indirect costs, specific spending caps, and alignment to project budget are upheld. Please note that itemized

financial reporting MUST be available from ALL grant funds (i.e. a transfer to another institution will require an accompanying itemized report). The Nominated Principal Applicant is responsible to ensure that all reporting and policy requirements are upheld regardless of the institution from which the spending occurs.

Should The Kidney Foundation so require, the grantee shall render, whenever called upon, an itemized account of expenditures supported by an approved statement of accounts from the institution that administers the grant.

Any changes to the proposed award budget require prior approval from the Kidney Foundation of Canada.

Please note that applicants that have not completed required end of grant reporting (scientific or financial), will not be eligible to receive additional Kidney Foundation of Canada funds (directly or through partnerships) until such a time as the reporting is submitted.

4.23 Future Peer Review Meetings

KFOC is committed to funding excellence in kidney research. We rely on the generous volunteerism of the kidney research community to act as peer reviewers for our research grant competitions. Participation in these peer review committees is a formal condition for award recipients for a 2-year duration. As soon as the date of the peer review meeting is confirmed, an invitation will be sent to all successful applicants. This policy has been instituted at the suggestion of the Kidney Foundation of Canada Research Council to avoid conflict of interest among committee members while ensuring the peer review committee is representative of the Kidney Health community.

5. ELIGIBILITY & APPLICANT CATEGORIES

5.1 Applicant Categories

The KFOC defines a **Nominated Principal Applicant** as an individual who:

- Is an Independent researcher
- will be responsible for the direction of the proposed activities; and
- will assume the administrative and financial responsibility for the grant or award; and
- will receive all related correspondence from the KFOC.

In cases that more than one individual will be responsible for the proposed activities, you may denote ONE additional team member as a Principal applicant. The KFOC defines a **Principal Applicant** as an individual who shares responsibility for the direction of the proposed activities.

Note: A Nominated Principal Applicant or Principal Applicant may apply for the Special call research grant even if they are currently holding another research grant from The Kidney Foundation of Canada.

Please note that KFOC will only interact with a single institution for financial administration.

A **(Nominated) Principal Applicant** is a Canadian citizen or a permanent resident (e.g., a person who has been granted admission to Canada as an immigrant) who is an independent researcher.

Exception: Applicants with the necessary educational qualifications who are neither Canadian citizens nor permanent residents may be (Nominated) Principal Applicants if they are employed or can provide evidence that they will be employed (*at the time the grant begins,*) by an eligible Canadian institution (please see the CIHR list of eligible institutions: <http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/36374.html>) in a position that permits them to engage in independent research activities for the duration of the grant. Note that an independent researcher is someone who is autonomous regarding their research activities (e.g. not a trainee, not a post-doctoral fellow, not a research assistant, and not under the supervision of another person, who is directing the research).

Principal Applicants (NPA and any other principal applicant) must hold an appointment, usually an employment relationship, with an eligible institution (please see the CIHR list of eligible institutions: <http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/36374.html>). This appointment:

- Is the major research appointment of the (Nominated) Principal Applicant;
- Allows the (Nominated) Principal Applicant to pursue the proposed research project, to supervise trainees, and to publish the results of the research; and
- Obliges the (Nominated) Principal Applicant to conform to institutional policies concerning the conduct of research, the supervision of research trainees and the employment of staff paid from the KFOC grant.

Researchers who do not qualify as (Nominated) Principal Applicant at the time of application, but who expect to be so qualified by the start of the funding period, may apply. They must provide a letter, signed by the responsible official of the institution to administer the funds, stating the institution's commitment to confer eligible status by the start date. If the application is successful, funds will be released to the institution only after the researcher's status is confirmed.

(Nominated) Principal Applicants may not receive a salary, a stipend, or an honorarium from a KFOC research grant.

A **Co-Applicant** may be an independent researcher, a research associate, a trainee, lived experience partner, or a foreign researcher, who contributes to project implementation or design, or provides required expertise or resources, but does not directly hold responsibility for project progression.

The KFOC defines a **research associate** as a researcher who has completed formal training in research in a discipline relevant to health research and is employed by an institution. Although research associates may contribute substantially to the intellectual content of the research, they continue to work under the supervision of a Principal Applicant, co-applicant or collaborator, i.e. they are not independent researchers. A research associate may also contribute to, but is not ultimately responsible for, the supervision of staff, including other research associates and trainees, at the discretion of the Principal Applicant.

The KFOC defines a **trainee** as an individual in the process of learning how to conduct research or enhancing their research skills. Training must include actual involvement in research, rather than being limited to courses in research methods. A trainee being paid from a grant would normally fall into one of the following categories:

- Undergraduate student enrolled in a course of study at an academic institution;

- Graduate student enrolled in a postgraduate course of study at an academic institution. In the case of research (e.g., to complete their thesis);
- Postdoctoral fellows (post-PhD) with some form of relationship with a research institution;
- Post-health professional degree fellow (e.g., nursing, physiotherapy, medicine, dentistry) with some form of relationship with a research institution. These fellows need not be pursuing a graduate degree.

Trainees work under the supervision of a Principal Applicant or another Co-Applicant and are not themselves independent researchers. There are no restrictions on trainees regarding nationality or country of residence provided that they meet the requirements of Citizenship and Immigration Canada and have an agreed upon relationship with the academic institution in which they are enrolled.

Research associates and trainees may receive a salary, stipend, or honorarium from KFOC research grants on which they are Co-Applicant. In cases where it is proposed to pay Co-Applicants who are research associates or trainees from the KFOC grant, the Budget of the application must provide full details of the other proposed salary sources (if applicable) for the named Co-Applicant and the time commitment to the project.

Co-Applicants who are not research associates, trainees or lived experience partners may not receive a salary, stipend, or honorarium from KFOC grants on which they are Co-applicant.

The KFOC defines a **Collaborator** as an individual whose role in the proposed research is to provide a special service (such as access to equipment, provision of special reagents, training in specialized technique, statistical analyses, access to patient population, etc.) but who is not involved in the overall direction of the research. Collaborators need not be included as signatories on the application form and may be added to the research team during the research, as requirements for additional services may emerge. Collaborators do not need to include a CV. However, all those appointed as Collaborator in the application must provide a letter, addressed to the Nominated Principal Applicant, indicating the agreement to provide the service or expertise as described in the application.

The KFOC defines a **Knowledge User** as someone who may be able to utilize research results to make policy changes, decisions or changes to programs or practice. A knowledge user does not have to have direct affiliation with an eligible academic institution, although they may provide their affiliation pertinent to the project or role. Please note that the KFOC has no limitations on the numbers of applications on which one can act as a knowledge user (or patient/lived experience participant).

Lived Experience Partners: The KFOC encourages the inclusion of lived experience or patient partners in research projects. Lived experience partners may be included in any applicant category other than principal applicant. If co-applicants are lived experience partners, they may submit a simple CV. In all eligible categories they should also include a letter which details their reason for involvement in the work. Please note that lived experience partners should be compensated for their inclusion in the project and are eligible for compensation from grant funds. Please ensure compensation is detailed in project budget.

For more information on compensation for lived experience partners please see the following link or reach out to the KFOC for guidance.

[Considerations when paying patient partners in research - CIHR \(cihr-irsc.gc.ca\)](https://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/en/considerations-when-paying-patient-partners-in-research)

At the discretion of the Nominated Principal Applicant, Principal Applicants and Co-Applicants who have an appointment at an eligible Canadian institution to administer KFOC funds in trust may receive KFOC funds from the “institution paid” to support the **direct costs** of their research activities relating to the work described in the application.

All individuals whose signatures appear on the signature page of the Research Grant Application Form as (Nominated) Principal Applicant, Principal applicant or Co-Applicant assume responsibilities for the legal and ethical conduct of the research, for the integrity of the research activities and reported data, and for communicating the results of the research recognizing the contributions of the other applicants.

6. CONTACT INFORMATION

For further information on application submissions, please contact:

Christine Marquis

Research Grants and Awards Manager

Telephone: 438-812-5098 E-mail: christine.marquis@kidney.ca

NOTE: Please notify The Kidney Foundation of Canada if you decide to withdraw your application.