



# COVID-19 Recovery Research Program – Call for Expressions of Interest and Instructions for Applicants

## Contents

Introduction .....	2
Purpose .....	2
Scope.....	2
Research Priorities .....	3
Budget.....	3
Research modes.....	3
COVID-19 Considerations.....	3
Instructions and process .....	4
Eligibility.....	4
Submission .....	4
Timeline.....	4
Background .....	4
Management and oversight.....	5
Questions .....	6
Appendix A - Instructions for Expression of Interest (EOI) Template.....	7



## Introduction

Government of Yukon, with the generous support of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC), is seeking Expressions of Interest for research that supports our understanding of and recovery from the direct and indirect impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to academic affiliates and researchers, organizations that are not typically eligible for research funding are encouraged to apply. The latter may include Yukon government departments, Yukon First Nations governments and organizations, municipalities, private businesses and non-profit organizations, whether working in partnership with more traditional research institutions, working independently or with other atypical fundees.

A broad range of research, in theme, mode and method, will be considered under this program. Yukon's COVID-19 Research Recovery Program recognizes that reconciliation can be advanced through research. We acknowledge the need for Indigenous self-determination in research and we support a spectrum of participation, that reflects how communities choose to participate, and that emphasizes the importance of engaging communities at the onset of a project in order to select the Mode that best fits the project's individual needs.

Expressions of Interest will help demonstrate the level and importance of COVID-19 research needs in Yukon, in addition to serving as a starting point for a full proposal and funding application for the research projects in question.

## Purpose

This program aims to fund and support research that will address the planning and decision-making needs of Yukon's governments, communities and institutions in recovering from direct and indirect impacts of the pandemic. More information on objectives and principles for this work is available in the accompanying **Program Objectives and Guiding Principles** document.

## Scope

It is anticipated that research supported by this program will address medium and longer-term (e.g. 2-5+ years) information and planning needs connected to the pandemic. **For this second Call, funding will be limited to projects that can be completed before March 31, 2021.**

Policy research; public health studies; work reflecting Indigenous ways of knowing, doing and being; economic analyses; environmental monitoring or reviews; data analyses and implementation research are among the many forms of study that may be appropriate.

Successful applicants at the EOI stage will be invited to submit a proposal (for which a separate set of criteria and instructions will be provided). Those whose proposal is selected for funding may receive up to \$75,000 in program funding to support their research.



## Research Priorities

The broad priorities for this program are:

1. Increased understanding of social, cultural, environmental and economic impacts of the pandemic (and pandemic response)
2. Increased understanding of mental and physical health impacts of the pandemic (and pandemic response)
3. Other COVID-19 recovery related research (creative, innovative ideas for relevant research that may not be identified under themes above).

Applicants are advised to refer to the accompanying document on **Recovery Research Priorities** for examples.

## Budget

A total budget request of up to \$75,000 per project is allowable. Projects may also seek to leverage funding from other sources, such as federal research funding agencies, where possible, although leveraged funds are not required.

Applicants are advised that funding is delivered through Transfer Payment Agreements, with fixed schedules for payment based on deliverables achieved to-date. Advance payments may be requested within constraints outlined in the agreement.

## Research modes

As noted in the document on **Program Objectives and Guiding Principles**, we value and welcome research that involves Indigenous ways of knowing, doing and being, that uses Indigenous research methods and/or that is led by Indigenous community-based researchers. We recognize the role that research can play in advancing reconciliation, and we invite applications for research across the following three modes – Indigenous-led, Partnership-based and Researcher-led.

Evaluation criteria have been delineated by Mode and applicants are encouraged to review the instructions and criteria before developing a submission, and before submitting. Evaluation of expressions of interest submitted through this call will include an assessment of the appropriateness of the proposed mode of research for project in question.

## COVID-19 Considerations

With the ongoing uncertainty as to the progression of the pandemic recovery, and shifting public health and civic measures, project leads are encouraged to consider how their research will be conducted under a range of scenarios. It is recognized that shifting organizational



priorities, travel restrictions, limits on in-person meetings and other factors may influence the methods and timing for some projects. Risk analysis and mitigation planning will be important at both the project and the program level.

## Instructions and process

### Eligibility

Project leads within any of the following organizations may be eligible for this opportunity:

- Governments (Federal, territorial, municipal)
- Indigenous governments and organizations
- Universities and research institutes
- Businesses and industry organizations
- Non-profit organizations

Leads from other jurisdictions are eligible to apply, assuming other criteria are met. In these cases, however, dialogue or partnership with a Yukon-based organization or community is strongly encouraged.

### Submission

Using the template for an Expression of Interest applicants should submit completed templates to the Government of Yukon's Office of the Science Advisor, at [osa@gov.yk.ca](mailto:osa@gov.yk.ca) by 5pm Yukon Time, October 29, 2021.

Expressions of Interest submissions are limited by maximum word counts in the relevant templates. More information on the **application requirements and instructions** is available in **Appendix A**. Leads are also encouraged to refer to the separate documents on **Evaluation Criteria** and **Research Modes**, for more detail on relevant criteria and considerations.

### Timeline

- October 29, 2021: Deadline for Expressions of Interest
- Week of November 15, 2021: Leadership Team EOI review / decisions
- Week of November 22, 2021: Invitational call for proposals launched
- January 15, 2022: Projected deadline for Call for Proposals
- Week of February 14, 2022: Projected timing for Leadership Team Proposal review
- Week of February 21, 2022: Projected timing for notifying applicants of results

## Background

While the state of emergency that began on March 27, 2020 was lifted on August 25, 2021, we continue to face the impacts of the pandemic and the challenging decisions that it prompts. Since the cancellation of the Arctic Winter Games on March 7, 2020, Yukon has experienced



significant and sweeping changes to our mobility, our social interactions, the way we do business, and much more. Many of these changes occurred before the outbreak and community spread that took us from 87 cases as of June 6, to well over 700 cases today.

Public health and civic measures, both mandatory and voluntary, have reduced our opportunities for social interactions and our ability to participate in cultural and recreational activities. Business closures and requirements for reopening have had economic and operational impacts on those businesses and their employees. Travel restrictions have had serious implications for our tourism industry, as well as limiting the ability of Yukoners to travel within territory or to leave the territory for business, family reasons or leisure. Students shifted quickly to remote learning and were distanced from their peers and educational supports. Many employees, particularly in government settings, have shifted between remote and in-person work as required – putting our information and communication technology infrastructure to the test.

First Nations communities have identified a number of additional impacts, including impacts on governance; implications for cultural practices, such as potlatches; and interactions with Elders in hospitals or care facilities. Pressures on traditional food and medicine sources, due to increased harvesting by non-Indigenous Yukoners, have also been noted.

Federal and territorial government supports were introduced to mitigate some of these changes, through business grants and loans, rental subsidies, income supplements and more. Health and social service providers adapted their delivery of services to minimize risk of exposure, while also attempting to ensure ongoing management of acute and chronic issues and conditions. These supports and shifts have impacts as well – both intended and unintended, and we may be only starting to see the positive and adverse effects of these actions and mitigations.

A number of federal and Yukon-based surveys have attempted to measure the effects of the pandemic on businesses, students, families and our mental and physical well being. These surveys alone, however, are unlikely to answer all the questions we might have about how we have been impacted, and about how we plan for an effective recovery. The ability to conduct additional research, using both the results of these surveys and through additional research involving people, businesses, governments, communities and the environment, will support greater understanding, more informed decision making and a stronger path forward.

## Management and oversight

The Office of the Science Advisor is the lead branch on this initiative at the operational level, and will serve as Secretariat on an ongoing basis. This will include administrative support for application and review processes, as well as for overall program evaluation.



A Leadership Team with relevant research and policy expertise from within and outside of Yukon government will guide this program, from development through to decisions on funding and renewals. This team includes representatives of First Nations organizations and development corporations, academia, and the federal government. As needed, additional expertise may be sought on particular methodological or subject-matter questions that arise during program development, implementation or proposal review and renewal processes.

While consensus among Leadership Team members will be sought to the greatest extent possible, decision making authority will sit with the Chair of the Leadership Team, the ADM of Intergovernmental Affairs and Corporate Programs with Executive Council Office.

### Questions

If you have questions about this program, the process, the requirements or criteria, please reach out to Sabrina Kinsella (Acting Senior Science Advisor) at [osa@gov.yk.ca](mailto:osa@gov.yk.ca).



## Appendix A - Instructions for Expression of Interest (EOI) Template

Leads are advised that only high-level information is required at the Expression of Interest stage, and Evaluation Criteria will be applied with this need for brevity in mind. Maximum word counts are offered to support brevity, and are mandatory - applicants are encouraged to be as brief as possible, while addressing the essential elements of the concept or vision. Leads who are invited to submit a full proposal will be asked to address additional questions, and will have an opportunity to provide more detailed information on each of the fields or questions below, at that time. As needed, one or more meetings may be organized to support successful applicants in moving forward and identifying helpful partners for this purpose.

Some general and Mode specific guidance is provided below. Applicants are encouraged to review the Evaluation Criteria for additional detail on how applications will be assessed.

1. **Research need (Max 25 words):** Provide a short title for the COVID-19 specific research need you have identified.
2. **Research mode (Max 200 words for explanation):**
  - Please indicate into which of the three modes this research falls. Please describe why this mode is the most appropriate mode to address the research question.
  - Refer to the two-page **Info Sheet on Research Modes** and/or contact the Office of the Science Advisor if you require more information. We recommend that you ensure a clear understanding of each before making your selection.
3. **Project lead(s) and contact information:**
  - Provide the name, organization and contact details for the person in need of the proposed research – who we would reach out to, to discuss the research need.
  - For Indigenous-led projects, it is expected that an Indigenous researcher, knowledge holder or community representative will be in a lead role. Justification should be provided for an alternate lead.
4. **Other project team member(s) (Max 200 words):**
  - List other team members, including a description of their role in the project, their name / organization and background. If a role has been identified but it is not yet filled, describe the background and/or organizational representation you would be seeking for that member.
  - All applicants – Consider the range of project activities, and who will be needed to accomplish those (type and level of expertise; number of people; opportunities for capacity building)
  - Special notes by mode:
    - Indigenous-led – Submissions will be evaluated based on intended team roles for community members – including Elders, youth, traditional



knowledge holders and others, as appropriate. Local experience, roles and communication connections will be considered qualifications for leads and other team members, in addition to, or in place of academic / scholarly criteria.

- Partnership-based – Inclusion of an appropriate range of participants, from experienced researchers through community representatives and decision makers will be seen as an asset. Projects involving Indigenous knowledge / research methods are expected to include Indigenous knowledge holders and/or researchers on the project team or in a substantial collaborative role.
- Researcher-led – In addition to ensuring that the team is able to address all of the project needs and considerations, including both experienced researchers and earlier-career researchers in your team will be seen as an asset.

**5. Description of research need or question (Max 500 words):**

- Provide 1-2 short paragraphs describing the research question that will be explored if your application is successful.
- This may include a brief and general description of proposed methods and timeline for completion.
- In addition to alignment with the program objectives / Yukon's COVID-19 recovery needs, specific criteria will be assessed for each mode:
  - Indigenous-led – Indigenous-led projects are expected to reflect and/or support Indigenous ways of knowing, doing and being, and Indigenous values. The importance and value of the research to the COVID-19 recovery efforts of the Indigenous lead organization, partner(s) or community(ies); the contribution of the research to community / Indigenous government approaches and resilience; and the degree to which the applicant demonstrates that the project reflects the community's or communities' cultural, governance, and community systems and values will be assessed.
  - Partnership-based – Originality, excellence, focus and coherence of the research question will be assessed. Applicants are expected to demonstrate how the research question aligns with the identified research priorities, and/or other identified COVID-19 recovery efforts and needs in Yukon. If aspects of the research question are to be refined or determined in collaboration with external parties, describe this process. Submissions will also be assessed for whether / how they will reflect



different ways of knowing, including Indigenous knowledge, values and perspectives, as appropriate.

- Researcher-led –Originality, excellence focus, coherence and clarity of the research question will be assessed. Applicants are expected to demonstrate how the research question aligns with the identified research priorities, and/or other identified COVID-19 recovery efforts and needs in Yukon. If aspects of the research question are to be refined or determined in collaboration with external parties, describe this process.

**6. Nature of research need:**

- Check one or more boxes that apply to the described research need. *Examples for the priority themes are provided in the Guiding Principles and Research Priorities document. Applicants should not feel obligated to select from the examples provided and are encouraged to identify research that meets the needs of the relevant organization(s) and/or community(ies).*

**7. Description of recovery-related decisions this research would support, how results will reach decision-makers / end-users (Max 500 words) :**

- Provide a brief description (1 paragraph) of the broad or specific decision(s) this research would support. E.g. Is there an urgent need for this research to understand the economic impacts on a specific sector, to supports its recovery from COVID-19? Is this research to support system-level understanding of COVID-19 impacts for government-wide recovery planning purposes?
- Mode specific instructions:
  - Indigenous-led applicants should demonstrate the connection of this research to the Indigenous community's (or communities') COVID-19 recovery needs, and how the research results will be shared or mobilized to address these needs. Alternate knowledge mobilization methods, such as cultural awareness and skill building activities, are valid and valued.
  - Partnership-based projects will be expected to address how the research will support decision making of partners (in addition to a broader community / audience, as appropriate). Include a description of how partners will be involved in the dissemination planning and implementation (ensuring results reach the intended audience).
  - Researcher-led applicants are expected to demonstrate that the research question is relevant and important to recovering planning and decision-making, whether at a Yukon-wide level, or for a specific community or organization. In addition, Researcher-led applicants should briefly



describe their plan for sharing results with relevant target audiences, including decision makers.

- Please refer to the Evaluation criteria for additional guidance.

**8. Existing and potential community connections, partnerships and/or collaboration; approach to partnerships and collaboration (Max 500 words):**

- Indigenous-led – Collaboration needs may vary based on the composition of the team and the overlap with the community or communities. Applicants should describe how the research team is connected to community interests, values and perspectives (e.g. existing relationships, personal and professional connections, role of team members in community) and should describe how the research team will work with the broader community or communities, from shaping the research through sharing and applying the results, to the extent this has not been addressed elsewhere in the submission. Opportunities for two-way mentorship and training involving community members such as Elders, knowledge holders and/or youth may be highlighted here.
- Partnership-based – Describe existing partnerships; initial conversations you have had with potential partners; potential partners with whom you intend to connect. Describe how you will work in partnership with individuals / organizations throughout the process – roles, relevant principles to partnership, etc. Applicants are expected to demonstrate that they are committed to respectful and meaningful collaboration from initiation through dissemination. Identification of roles for a range of participants – from academics through youth, Elders and other community members – will be seen as an asset (and may be identified here, if not outlined in other fields).
- Researcher-led – Partnerships are not required, but collaboration is expected at key stages of work. Describe how you have involved end-users in shaping research questions, demonstrate that end-users endorse the importance of the project, and describe how whether and how end-users may be involved at each stage of work, including knowledge mobilization. Applicants are expected to demonstrate an understanding of the context and a commitment to working effectively, appropriately and respectfully in collaborative activities.

**9. Would this work involve or benefit from working with Indigenous knowledge keepers, Indigenous researchers, and/or Indigenous ways of knowing, doing and being? (Max 100 words for explanation):**

- Indicate whether this work involves working with Indigenous knowledge holders (Elders or others). This may include research on Indigenous perspectives on impacts of COVID-19 on members and communities and what will be needed to support recovery in these communities; research on Indigenous practices that



may apply to or inform the COVID-19 recovery; cultural impacts and culturally relevant tools and resources and more.

- Working with Indigenous knowledge, **without** the involvement of Indigenous knowledge holders, is discouraged. Similarly, where Indigenous themes or methods are the focus, applicants are encouraged to ensure a prominent or leading role for Indigenous researchers in project activities.
- Mode-specific instructions:
  - Indigenous-led projects, by definition, should involve (and preferably be led by) Indigenous researchers, knowledge holders or other Indigenous representatives. Consequently, it is expected that Indigenous-led projects would reflect Indigenous ways of knowing, doing and being, and that Indigenous-led applicants would provide an explanation / justification for exceptions to this.
  - Partnership-based projects will be assessed for the reflection of different ways of knowing, including the respectful reflection of Indigenous knowledge, values and perspectives, as appropriate.
  - Researcher-led projects would typically not involve working with Indigenous knowledge, as the accompanying requirements for an Indigenous partner or lead would suggest a Partnership-based or Indigenous-led project. If you intend to work with Indigenous knowledge, methods etc. explain why you still consider Researcher-led to be the appropriate mode (if not already described in #5).

**10. Describe how you and/or your organization and existing partners will demonstrate commitment to this project (Max 300 words):**

- Describe ways in which you and/or your partners can demonstrate an existing commitment to ensuring the project moves forward successfully, if funded.
- Examples of demonstrations may include:
  - Clear alignment with existing organizational priorities and/or activities
  - Existing financial and/or in-kind resources within your organization that you can commit to the project
  - Existing financial and/or in-kind resources within a partner organization that they can commit to the project
  - Etc.
- For all Modes, this field is intended to support the assessment of how likely the project is to be successful, given the anticipated budget request, team, and partnerships. Projects whose leads (and partners) are committed to seeing the project through successfully, as demonstrated through human resource,



financial, or other contributions or commitments may be more likely to achieve the intended results.

**11. Description of anticipated budgetary needs:**

- Identify the estimated funding request to expect to submit for this project (keeping in mind the anticipated \$75,000 maximum per project).
- Describe, briefly, the types of expenditures you expect to incur – e.g. project manager; travel (if appropriate / permitted); meeting / engagement costs; analytical supports etc.
- Submissions will be assessed for whether the anticipated budget is aligned with the planned research (i.e. whether it appears realistic, based on the description provided)
- If you project that the total project costs will exceed your budget request, briefly explain how you will address this deficit. (This may overlap with your response to #10).