



COVID-19 Recovery Research Program – Evaluation Criteria

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Introduction

The following criteria are provided to support applicants in submitting a successful Expression of Interest, and to support the Leadership Team in applying a consistent approach to reviewing proposals. It is expected that the level of detail at this stage will be limited for the EOI stage, as reflected in maximum word counts for each field, and that leads will be asked to expand on relevant information at the Call for Proposal stage. Please note that the criteria differ by mode (details beginning page 3). (See **Info Sheet – Research Modes** for a summary of how these modes differ.) As needed, external expertise, such as in technical scientific areas or in Indigenous research methods, may be recruited to support the evaluation process, on a project-by-project basis.

While all the criteria are important, we will weight the criteria as follows, in the overall assessment of a submission.

Category	Weight (Indigenous-led)	Category	Weight (Partnership-based)	Category	Weight (Researcher-led)
Value/importance	30	Alignment	30	Alignment	30
Research team	30	Merit	20	Merit	30
Project concept	20	Feasibility	20	Feasibility	10
Feasibility	10	Partnerships	20	Knowledge mobilization	20
Budget	10	Budget	10	Budget	10



Evaluation Criteria for Indigenous-led Research

Projects in this mode are those in which Indigenous communities take the lead administrative role, as opposed to being a partner or collaborator in the research. Indigenous communities will lead the design and implementation of projects, which may involve Indigenous research methodologies and may or may not involve the support of non-Indigenous researchers. Community-specific protocols for research and/or knowledge governance may apply. The evaluation criteria include:

1. Value to Community / Yukon's COVID-19 Recovery Needs

- Extent to which the proposed research contributes to the Indigenous community's or Yukon's understanding of the:
 - The direct and indirect social, cultural, environmental and economic impacts of the pandemic, and/or
 - The direct and indirect mental and physical health impacts of the pandemic.
 - Or other clearly relevant and important recovery-related research needs.
- A demonstration of the importance / value of this research to the COVID-19 recovery of the Indigenous lead organization, partner(s) and/or community(ies); contribution to community / government approaches and resilience; will be relevant to assessing this criterion.

2. Research Team

- Research team includes an appropriate range and number of members, with the expertise and capacity to complete the research.
 - Team can include Indigenous knowledge holders and Indigenous researchers, as well as academic researchers. The local experience of the personnel, their role and community connection, and their contributions to the local community should be considered – rather than limiting the assessment of the personnel to academic publications or other scholarly metrics.
 - Indigenous-led research would typically have an Indigenous researcher, knowledge holder or community representative in a lead role. A justification of an alternate lead should be offered, if this is not the case.
- Projects offer community members – including Elders, traditional knowledge holders, and youth, as appropriate – opportunities for (two-way) mentorship and training.

3. Project concept

- Originality of the project and/or deliverables.



- May include alternate / experiential / non-traditional research methods and outputs (e.g. culturally strengthened youth, experience, community-action-based forms of research)
- Extent to which project clearly demonstrates link to Indigenous community or communities COVID-19 recovery planning, decision making and programming (ie. A mechanism for ensuring the results are useful, available and accessible to the participating community(ies)).
- Degree to which the project reflects and/or supports Indigenous ways of being, knowing and doing, Indigenous values (e.g. share, care, respect);
- Demonstration that the project reflects the community's or communities' cultural, governance and community systems and values; and has strong community support;
- Demonstrated commitment to effective knowledge mobilization, COVID-recovery action, potentially through alternate means such as increased cultural awareness, skill building

4. Feasibility

- Extent to which project can realistically be completed within the project timeframe.
- Demonstrated commitment of lead and/or existing partners to supporting a successful research project.
- Appropriateness of Research mode.

5. Budget

- Appropriateness of the overall budget, which may include funds requested from the program and the cash and in-kind contributions from other sources
- The provision of cash or in-kind contributions is not required for a successful application.



Evaluation Criteria for Partnership-based Research

1. Alignment to Program Objectives / Yukon's COVID-19 Recovery Needs

- Extent to which the proposed research contributes to understanding of the:
 - The direct and indirect social, cultural, environmental and economic impacts of the pandemic, and/or;
 - The direct and indirect mental and physical health impacts of the pandemic;
 - Or other clearly relevant and important recovery-related research needs.

2. Merit and importance of the research

- Elements of research merit may include the following:
 - Excellence, focus and coherence of the research question
 - Originality of the project and/or deliverables.
 - Reflection of different ways of knowing, including Indigenous knowledge, values and perspectives, as appropriate.
 - Indigenous knowledge holders, other relevant experts appropriately engaged
 - Extent to which project clearly demonstrates contribution that the increased understanding will make to recovery planning, decision making and programming for partners, governments, communities and organizations

3. Feasibility

- Appropriateness of research mode
- Appropriate composition and size of proposed research team.
- Extent to which project can realistically be completed within the project timeframe.
- Demonstrated commitment of lead to a successful partnership-based project.

4. Partnerships and collaboration

- Extent to which project team has considered / explored partnership opportunities
- Research involving Indigenous knowledge or themes includes Indigenous knowledge keepers and/or Indigenous researchers as lead or in other prominent roles.
- Roles / opportunities for range of participants (e.g. academics; decision-makers; elders; youth; other community members) in developing, conducting; disseminating research;
- Demonstrates commitment to respectful and meaningful collaboration from initiation through dissemination, including mobilization of results for broader societal benefit.

5. Budget

- Appropriateness of the overall budget, which may include funds requested from the program and the cash and in-kind contributions from other sources.
- The provision of cash or in-kind contributions is not required.



Evaluation Criteria for Researcher-led Research

1. Alignment to Program Objectives / Yukon's COVID-19 Recovery Needs

- Extent to which the proposed research contributes to understanding of the:
 - The direct and indirect social, cultural, environmental and economic impacts of the pandemic, and/or
 - The direct and indirect mental and physical health impacts of the pandemic.
 - Or other clearly relevant and important recovery-related research needs.

2. Merit and importance of the research

- Elements of research merit may include the following:
 - Excellence, focus and coherence of the research question
 - Originality of the project and/or deliverables.
 - Opportunities for involvement of early career researchers, guided by more experienced research lead(s).
 - Extent to which project clearly demonstrates contribution that the increased understanding will make to recovery planning, decision making and programming for Yukon governments, communities and organizations.
 - The importance of the project is endorsed by intended end-users.

3. Feasibility

- Appropriateness of research mode
- Appropriate composition and size of proposed research team.
- Extent to which project can realistically be completed within the project timeframe.
- Demonstrated commitment to supporting a successful research project, from launch through dissemination of results.

4. Collaboration and knowledge mobilization

- Involvement of end-users in shaping research questions and discussion of plans for knowledge mobilization.
- Knowledge mobilization activities consider the needs of an appropriate range of audiences (format, language, delivery method(s))

5. Budget

- Appropriateness of the overall budget, which may include funds requested from the program and the cash and in-kind contributions from other sources.
- The provision of cash or in-kind contributions is not required.

Appendix A – Scoring Grids

Scoring Grid – Evaluation of Indigenous-led Submissions

	Very strong (9-10)	Strong (7-8)	Moderate (5-6)	Somewhat weak (3-4)	Very weak (1-2)
Value	Very clearly aligned with COVID-19 research needs / interests for the Indigenous community or communities (and/or for Yukon more broadly); very clear explanation of how research would contribute to community understanding of impacts / recovery efforts in Yukon	Clearly aligned with identified research needs/interests for the Indigenous community or communities (and/or Yukon more broadly); clear explanation of how research would contribute to community understanding of COVID-19 impacts / recovery efforts in Yukon. In comparison to top level, less clear / strong in one or more areas (e.g. alignment to priorities; clarity of how research would contribute to those priorities) - some questions in these areas may remain	Somewhat aligned with identified research needs and interests for the Indigenous community or communities; attempted explanation of how research would contribute to understanding of impacts / recovery efforts in community / Yukon. In comparison to top two levels, less clear / strong in one or more areas (e.g. alignment to priorities; clarity of how research would contribute to those priorities) - multiple questions in these areas remain	Tenuous link to community / Yukon's COVID-19 research interests and priorities; limited clarity as to how research will contribute to COVID-19 understanding and recovery in community and/or Yukon - Reviewer has extensive questions about link / possible contribution	Little to no link to community's (or Yukon's) COVID-19 research interests and priorities; no clear path to contributing to understanding and recovery efforts in community / Yukon
Team	Indigenous researcher, knowledge holder or other appropriate Indigenous representative as lead; strong / clear connection to relevant community(communities) for project lead or other senior team members; Membership includes appropriate range of Indigenous expertise - Elders; youth; other citizens; Indigenous researchers; Non-indigenous team members as needed / appropriate (e.g. technical / academic / 'Western' scientific expertise); Team includes range of members from researchers through end-knowledge users; opportunities for capacity building	Indigenous researcher, knowledge holder or other Indigenous lead; strong / clear connection to relevant community(ies) for project lead or other senior team members; some range of expertise among team members, including community representatives; may be minor gaps in envisioned team composition (whether for Indigenous representation or for scientific / other types of expertise)	Indigenous researcher, knowledge holder or other Indigenous lead; strong / clear connection to relevant community(ies) for project lead or other senior team members; some range of expertise among team members, including community representatives; may be moderate gaps in envisioned team composition (whether for Indigenous representation or for scientific / other types of expertise) - likely to need supplementary expertise (or may recommend additional team members)	Indigenous researcher / knowledge holder or other Indigenous lead - may not have strong / clear connection to relevant community(ies) either for lead or senior team member level; additional team members include community representative(s); clear gaps in envisioned team composition - would require supplementary expertise, and/or additional team members	Non-Indigenous lead; Lack of community connection among any team members; lack of appropriate range of Indigenous knowledge holders, other experts among envisioned team composition; would require significant changes to team leadership / composition for successful Indigenous-led project

Project	<p>Project concept demonstrates excellence in all or most of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - concept and/or deliverables are original, innovative - Project is clearly linked to Indigenous community(ies) recovery planning, decision making and programming - Project will reflect and/or support the reflection of Indigenous ways of knowing, doing and being in decision making / planning - Project clearly reflects the community(ies) cultural, governance and community systems values - Indication of strong community support - Clear, strong dissemination plans that may include alternate methods of knowledge mobilization, skill sharing and building 	<p>Project concept demonstrates excellence in some of the following; addresses most or all of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - concept and/or deliverables are original, innovative - Project is clearly linked to Indigenous community(ies) recovery planning, decision making and programming - Project will reflect and/or support the reflection of Indigenous ways of knowing, doing and being in decision making / planning - Project clearly reflects the community(ies) cultural, governance and community systems values - Indication of strong community support - Strong dissemination plans that may include alternate methods of knowledge mobilization, skill sharing and building 	<p>Project concept adequately addresses most or all of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - concept and/or deliverables are original, innovative - Project is clearly linked to Indigenous community(ies) recovery planning, decision making and programming - Project will reflect and/or support the reflection of Indigenous ways of knowing, doing and being in decision making / planning - Project clearly reflects the community(ies) cultural, governance and community systems values - Indication of strong community support - Dissemination plans that may include alternate methods of knowledge mobilization, skill sharing and building 	<p>Project concept addresses most of the following, with some deficiencies and/or does not address a number of the following considerations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - concept and/or deliverables are original, innovative - Project is clearly linked to Indigenous community(ies) recovery planning, decision making and programming - Project will reflect and/or support the reflection of Indigenous ways of knowing, doing and being in decision making / planning - Project clearly reflects the community(ies) cultural, governance and community systems values - Indication of strong community support - Dissemination plans that may include alternate methods of knowledge mobilization, skill sharing and building 	<p>Project concept is seriously deficient in most or all of the following or does not address most of these considerations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - concept and/or deliverables are original, innovative - Project is clearly linked to Indigenous community(ies) recovery planning, decision making and programming - Project will reflect and/or support the reflection of Indigenous ways of knowing, doing and being in decision making / planning - Project clearly reflects the community(ies) cultural, governance and community systems values - Indication of strong community support - Dissemination plans that may include alternate methods of knowledge mobilization, skill sharing and building
Feasibility	<p>Project is clearly achievable within relevant time frame, based on identified team, committed resources, existing partnerships and requested funds; Project lead has clearly demonstrated individual/organizational/partner commitment to achieving success; Indigenous-led is clearly the most well suited mode of research to achieve the desired results / answer the identified question(s).</p>	<p>Project is likely achievable within relevant time frame based on identified team, resources and funding request - may require additional partnerships and/or resources that have not yet been confirmed; Project lead has clearly demonstrated individual/organizational/partner commitment to achieving success; Identified challenges / gaps can be addressed with known supports; Indigenous-led is clearly the most well suited mode of research to achieve the desired results / answer the identified question(s).</p>	<p>Project may be achievable within relevant time frame based on identified team, resources and funding request - requires additional partnerships and/or resources that have not yet been confirmed; may be challenged to complete in time frame identified; Project lead has made a significant effort to demonstrate individual/organizational/partner commitment to achieving success; Identified challenges / gaps may be addressed with known supports; Some questions as to whether Indigenous-led is the most appropriate mode.</p>	<p>Project may or may not be achievable within relevant time frame based on identified team, resources and funding request - clearly requires additional partnerships and/or resources that have not yet been confirmed; Project lead has made a cursory effort to demonstrate individual/organizational/partner commitment to achieving success; Significant uncertainty about availability of appropriate supports to address identified gaps / challenges; Concerns that Indigenous-led may not be appropriate to the questions / objectives / context.</p>	<p>Project is not achievable within relevant time frame and maximum budget, without extensive additional resources that would difficult / impossible to access; No demonstration of individual/organizational/partner commitment to achieving success; Lack of appropriate supports available to address identified gaps / challenges; Indigenous-led is not the appropriate mode based on the questions / objectives / context.</p>
Budget	<p>Budget is reasonable; fits within program parameters (or has clear path to addressing deficits through demonstrated commitments); is well aligned with proposed research question (scope / preliminary concept)</p>	<p>Budget appears reasonable; fits within program parameters; may be some (limited) questions about potential deficits and/or questions about alignment of budget with proposed research question (scope / preliminary concept)</p>	<p>Budget fits within program parameters; lack of clarity whether it is reasonable / appropriate for research question (scope / preliminary concept); moderate concerns about potential budget deficits</p>	<p>Budget may not fit well within program parameters; may not appear reasonable / appropriate for research question (scope / preliminary concept); significant concerns about potential budget deficits</p>	<p>Budget is unrealistic - does not fit within program parameters and/or is not sufficient for question (scope / preliminary concept); serious / major concerns about potential budget deficits</p>

Scoring Grid – Evaluation of Partnership-based EOI Submissions

	Very strong (9-10)	Strong (7-8)	Moderate (5-6)	Somewhat weak (3-4)	Very weak (1-2)
Alignment	Very clearly aligned with identified research priorities; very clear explanation of how research would contribute to broad understanding of impacts / recovery efforts in Yukon	Clearly aligned with identified research priorities; clear explanation of how research would contribute to broad understanding of COVID-19 impacts / recovery efforts in Yukon. In comparison to top level, less clear / strong in one or more areas (e.g. alignment to priorities; clarity of how research would contribute to those priorities) - some questions in these areas may remain	Somewhat aligned with identified research priorities; attempted explanation of how research would contribute to understanding of impacts / recovery efforts in Yukon. In comparison to top two levels, less clear / strong in one or more areas (e.g. alignment to priorities; clarity of how research would contribute to those priorities) - multiple questions in these areas remain	Tenuous link to program objectives and priorities; limited clarity as to how research will contribute to broad COVID-19 understanding and recovery in Yukon - Reviewer has extensive questions about link / possible contribution	Little to no link to program objectives and priorities; no clear path to contributing to broad understanding and recovery efforts in Yukon
Merit	Project concept demonstrates excellence in: - Clear, well-defined research question - High originality and/or importance of topic (to organization; community; etc.) - Considering / reflecting different ways of knowing, including Indigenous ways of knowing; - Appropriate involvement of Indigenous knowledge holders, other relevant experts	Project concept demonstrates excellence in defining research question; strong originality / importance of topic; may be less strong in team composition / size and/or appropriateness of research mode	Project concept is clearly focused on important and/or original topic; research question may need some refinement; less strength in team composition / size; may or may not be appropriate research mode	Project concept is focused on moderately important and/or original topic; research question needs extensive refinement; needs improvement in team composition / size; may or may not be appropriate research mode	Project lacks clarity / is weak in: - Defining research question - Appropriateness of research team - Originality / importance of topic - Appropriateness of research mode
Feasibility	Project is clearly achievable within relevant time frame, based on identified team, committed resources, expected partnerships and requested funds; Project lead has clearly demonstrated individual/organizational commitment to achieving success; Clear demonstration that partnership-based research is the appropriate research mode, suited to the project questions and objectives.	Project is likely achievable within relevant time frame based on identified team, expected partnerships, resources and funding request - may require additional partnerships and/or resources that have not yet been identified; Project lead has clearly demonstrated individual/organizational commitment to achieving success; Demonstration that partnership-based research is well suited to project questions and objectives.	Project may be achievable within relevant time frame based on identified team, expected partnerships, resources and funding request - clearly requires additional partnerships and/or resources that have not yet been identified; may be challenged to complete in time frame identified; Project lead has made a significant effort to demonstrate individual/organizational commitment to achieving success; Some questions about whether partnership-based research is most suited to the research / objectives.	Project may or may not be achievable within relevant time frame based on identified team, expected partnerships, resources and funding request - clearly requires additional partnerships and/or resources that have not yet been identified; Project lead has made a cursory effort to demonstrate individual/organizational commitment to achieving success; Unclear whether partnership-based is the appropriate mode for the research questions and objectives.	Project is not achievable within relevant time frame and maximum budget, without extensive additional resources that would difficult / impossible to access; No demonstration of individual/organizational commitment to achieving success; significant concerns about capacity of lead / expected partners; significant concerns about suitability of partnership-based research for research questions / objectives.

	Very strong (9-10)	Strong (7-8)	Moderate (5-6)	Somewhat weak (3-4)	Very weak (1-2)
Partnerships	Demonstrated strong interest in working with appropriate range of partners; Clear understanding of value of early / ongoing collaboration; Demonstrated understanding of essential involvement of Indigenous knowledge holders and partners in relevant projects; Team composition includes meaningful roles / opportunities for range of experts, community members, etc.; Clear commitment to working in partnership from initiation through dissemination, including mobilization of results for broader societal benefit; Existing (formalized) partnerships may be considered an asset	Demonstrated strong interest in working with appropriate range of partners; Team composition includes meaningful roles for community members, partner representatives, as well as researchers; May require additional guidance in understanding value of early / ongoing collaboration; May require additional guidance in understanding of essential involvement of Indigenous knowledge holders and partners in relevant projects; Existing partnerships may be considered an asset	Moderate interest in working with appropriate range of partners; team composition includes modest roles for community members, partner representatives; requires significant guidance in understanding value of early / ongoing collaboration; Requires significant guidance in understanding essential involvement of Indigenous knowledge holders and partners in relevant projects; Existing partnerships may be considered an asset	Limited interest in working with appropriate range of partners; team composition limited to researchers or to nominal roles for community members, others; demonstrates lack of recognition of value of early / ongoing collaboration; demonstrates significant deficits in understanding of essential involvement of Indigenous knowledge holders and partners in relevant projects; Likely to have no existing partnerships	Clear lack of interest in working with appropriate range partners, even if beneficial; Tokenized or non-existent roles for community members, others in process; Clear disregard for value of early / ongoing collaboration; clear disregard for value of working with Indigenous knowledge holders / partners on relevant projects
Budget	Budget is reasonable; fits within program parameters (or has clear path to addressing deficits through demonstrated commitments); is well aligned with proposed research question (scope / preliminary concept)	Budget appears reasonable; fits within program parameters; may be some (limited) questions about potential deficits and/or questions about alignment of budget with proposed research question (scope / preliminary concept)	Budget fits within program parameters; lack of clarity whether it is reasonable / appropriate for research question (scope / preliminary concept); moderate concerns about potential budget deficits	Budget may not fit well within program parameters; may not appear reasonable / appropriate for research question (scope / preliminary concept); significant concerns about potential budget deficits	Budget is unrealistic - does not fit within program parameters and/or is not sufficient for question (scope / preliminary concept); serious / major concerns about potential budget deficits

Scoring Grid – Evaluation of Researcher-led EOI Submissions

	Very strong (9-10)	Strong (7-8)	Moderate (5-6)	Somewhat weak (3-4)	Very weak (1-2)
Alignment	Very clearly aligned with identified research priorities; very clear explanation of how research would contribute to broad understanding of impacts / recovery efforts in Yukon	Clearly aligned with identified research priorities; clear explanation of how research would contribute to broad understanding of COVID-19 impacts / recovery efforts in Yukon. In comparison to top level, less clear / strong in one or more areas (e.g. alignment to priorities; clarity of how research would contribute to those priorities) - some questions in these areas may remain	Somewhat aligned with identified research priorities; attempted explanation of how research would contribute to understanding of impacts / recovery efforts in Yukon. In comparison to top two levels, less clear / strong in one or more areas (e.g. alignment to priorities; clarity of how research would contribute to those priorities) - multiple questions in these areas remain	Tenuous link to program objectives and priorities; limited clarity as to how research will contribute to broad COVID-19 understanding and recovery in Yukon - Reviewer has extensive questions about link / possible contribution	Little to no link to program objectives and priorities; no clear path to contributing to broad understanding and recovery efforts in Yukon
Merit	Project concept demonstrates excellence in: - Clear, well-defined research question; - Opportunities for early career researchers guided by more experienced academics; - High originality and/or importance of topic (to organization; community; etc.), may be demonstrated through endorsement of importance by intended end-users.	Project concept demonstrates excellence in defining research question; strong originality / importance of topic; may be less strong in providing opportunities for researchers at various stages of career.	Project concept is clearly focused on important and/or original topic; research question may need some refinement; may or may not provide opportunities for researchers at various career stages.	Project concept is focused on moderately important and/or original topic; research question needs extensive refinement; may or may not provide opportunities for earlier career researchers.	Project lacks clarity / is weak in: - Defining research question - Originality / importance of topic - Opportunities for earlier career researchers.
Feasibility	Project is clearly achievable within relevant time frame, based on identified team (composition and size), committed resources, existing partnerships and requested funds; Project lead has clearly demonstrated individual/organizational commitment to achieving success – from launch of project through dissemination of results; Research mode is well suited to the project theme and intentions.	Project is likely achievable within relevant time frame based on identified team, resources and funding request - may require additional expertise / resources that have not yet been confirmed; Project lead has clearly demonstrated individual/organizational/partner commitment to achieving success; Research mode is appropriate to the project theme and intentions.	Project may be achievable within relevant time frame based on identified team, resources and funding request - clearly requires additional expertise and/or resources that have not yet been confirmed; may be challenged to complete in time frame identified; Project lead has made a significant effort to demonstrate individual/organizational/partner commitment to achieving success; Questions about suitability of research mode to project theme and intentions (e.g. whether partner involvement would increase success)	Project may or may not be achievable within relevant time frame based on identified team, resources and funding request - clearly requires additional expertise and/or resources that have not yet been confirmed; Project lead has made a cursory effort to demonstrate individual/organizational/partner commitment to achieving success; Research mode may not be most suitable to project theme and intentions.	Project is not achievable within relevant time frame and maximum budget, without extensive additional resources that would difficult / impossible to access; Team is not appropriate to lead project; No demonstration of individual/organizational/partner commitment to achieving success; Research mode may not be suitable to project theme and intentions.

	Very strong (9-10)	Strong (7-8)	Moderate (5-6)	Somewhat weak (3-4)	Very weak (1-2)
Collaboration and knowledge mobilization	Very Strong, demonstrated commitment to working with end-users to guide research questions and knowledge mobilization activities; Reflects excellent understanding of end-user audience and context; Clear, well-conceived plan for dissemination of results to appropriate range of audiences, including end-users /decision-makers – commitment to development of materials in multiple format / plain language etc. as needed.	Strong commitment to working with end-users to guide research questions and knowledge mobilization activities; reflects general understanding of end-user audience and context – broad understanding of appropriate protocols, but may require some context-specific guidance; Includes commitment to disseminate results to appropriate range of audiences, including end-users /decision-makers – may require some guidance on delivery formats, language and other considerations.	Moderate commitment to working with end-users to guide research questions and knowledge mobilization activities – may need direction to ensure appropriate level and methods of outreach; requires modest level of support to understand end-user audience and context; Dissemination plan is outlined but may require some work to ensure appropriate delivery methods, formats.	Limited commitment to working with end-users to guide research questions and knowledge mobilization activities; limited understanding of context, appropriate methods for outreach; requires significant support to ensure successful development of dissemination plan appropriate to the theme / context.	Clear lack of interest in working with end-users in developing questions or dissemination plans; Clear lack of interest in understanding local decision-making context, or range of local audiences; Dissemination plan may be missing, focused on external academic audiences, or otherwise significantly flawed.
Budget	Budget is reasonable; fits within program parameters (or has clear path to addressing deficits through demonstrated commitments); is well aligned with proposed research question (scope / preliminary concept)	Budget appears reasonable; fits within program parameters; may be some (limited) questions about potential deficits and/or questions about alignment of budget with proposed research question (scope / preliminary concept)	Budget fits within program parameters; lack of clarity whether it is reasonable / appropriate for research question (scope / preliminary concept); moderate concerns about potential budget deficits	Budget may not fit well within program parameters; may not appear reasonable / appropriate for research question (scope / preliminary concept); significant concerns about potential budget deficits	Budget is unrealistic - does not fit within program parameters and/or is not sufficient for question (scope / preliminary concept); serious / major concerns about potential budget deficits