Connection Grants

May 22, 2019
SSHRC Program Architecture

Building Understanding
Developing Talent
Mobilizing Knowledge and People

Connection
Objectives of the Connection Program

- Facilitate the multidirectional flow of knowledge
- Increase the accessibility and use of knowledge
- Support the building of reciprocal relationships
- Support the development of research networks and tools
- Make networks and tools more accessible
Connection Grants

Support short term KM initiatives – maximum one year

Two Streams: Events and Outreach Activities

Engage with social sciences and humanities issues
Events and Outreach Activities

**EVENTS:**
$7,000 to $25,000
Short term activity
Completed within a week
Follow-up activities

**OUTREACH ACTIVITIES:**
$7,000 to $50,000+
Longer in duration
Engage larger public
Speaker series, travelling exhibition, podcast, etc.
Matching Funds

Eligibility requirement: 50% matching funds

Budget requested from SSHRC: e.g. $10,000

Mandatory matching funds: $5,000
Letter of Support Example

Dear (name of applicant),

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

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

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

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

- Research
- Stand-Alone Volumes
- Association Activities
Two Ways to Apply

Individual

CONNECTION GRANTS

Institutional
Multiple Applications Regulations

- **APPLICANT OR PROJECT DIRECTOR**
  - Once per calendar year

- **NO ACTIVE CONNECTION GRANTS**
  - The Achievement Report must be completed

- **AUTOMATIC EXTENSIONS**
  - Extended grants count as active grants
Adjudication Process

FOUR ADJUDICATION COMMITTEES

- MARCH
- JUNE
- SEPTEMBER
- DECEMBER

- CHALLENGE 40%
- FEASIBILITY 30%
- CAPABILITY 30%
Indigenous Research

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

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

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

Guidelines for the Merit Review of Indigenous Research are intended to assist committee members in interpreting SSHRC’s specific Challenge, Feasibility and Capability evaluation criteria in the context of Indigenous research.
Connection Grants: Research Data Management Capacity Building Initiative

New funding opportunity for 2019

Objective: support the research community’s development, adoption and dissemination of research data management standards, practices, tools and skills appropriate to their field.
## Feedback

### Connection Grants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Descriptor</th>
<th>Status</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scores</td>
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<td>Descriptors</td>
<td>Yes, if discussed.</td>
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<td>Additional comments</td>
<td>Yes, if applicable.</td>
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<td>Sextile category</td>
<td>Yes.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ranking</td>
<td>Yes, if application falls in top four sextiles.</td>
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<tr>
<td>External reports</td>
<td>No.</td>
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Frequently Asked Questions

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

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

Yes. Connection Grants can support projects that have both an Event portion and an Outreach Activity portion. In this case, you should indicate that your project is an Outreach Activity on the application form. Make sure that your budget reflects that it comprises both streams – if your budget is only to support the Event portion of your project, then the budget limit of $25,000 will be applied to your project.
I submitted my application. Why has SSHRC not received it?

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

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

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

How many Presenters should I include in my application?

Some projects might have hundreds of presenters. You should not overburden your application and the committee members by listing all of them. It is recommended that you submit a presenter page only for up to fifteen key presenters at your Event or participants of your Outreach Activity. These should include anyone for whom you are asking for SSHRC’s support. When appropriate, the list should also include students as well as established and emerging scholars.
Are recurrent annual events eligible for Connection Grant support?

Yes, recurrent annual events are eligible for Connection Grant support, but you must demonstrate how the event differs from what was previously funded (e.g. what new knowledge is being mobilized, what new methods are being used).
I have been invited to a conference abroad; can I apply for a Connection Grant to support my travel expenses?

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

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

Can my application include bursaries to encourage increased student attendance?

No. Students must have an active role in your Connection project in order to be eligible for support.
How do I know if something is eligible for SSHRC support?

SSHRC grants are governed by the Tri-Agency Financial Administration Guide. If you are not sure whether something you are proposing would be eligible, please contact us. Funding opportunity eligibility rules will be considered alongside Tri-Agency Financial Administration rules – meaning that eligible and non-eligible expenses specific to the Connection Grants prevail over eligible and non-eligible expenses outlined in the Guide.
What is my eligible grant period? Can I ask for funding outside this period?

The eligible grant period is one year, starting on the grant start date. Any budget requests for before or after that period will be declared ineligible and cut from your budget.
Can matching funds be applied to costs incurred before the Connection Grant decision date?

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

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

No. SSHRC considers cash and in-kind support to be of equal value.
A colleague wrote a letter of support. Why has it not been considered towards the 50% matching funds criteria?

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

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

Connection Grants

Connection Program

Connection Grants - Individual, Application Instructions

Connection Grants - Institution, Application Instructions

Indigenous Research

Guidelines for Effective Research Training

Guidelines for Effective Knowledge Mobilization

Guidelines for Cash and In-Kind Contributions

Societal Implications of Genomics Research

Connection Achievement report

Tri-Agency Financial Administration Guide
Your questions

Contact information:

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

Technical Support: webgrant@sshrc-crsh.gc.ca
Thank you!

www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca