

Peer Review Manual – Project Scheme

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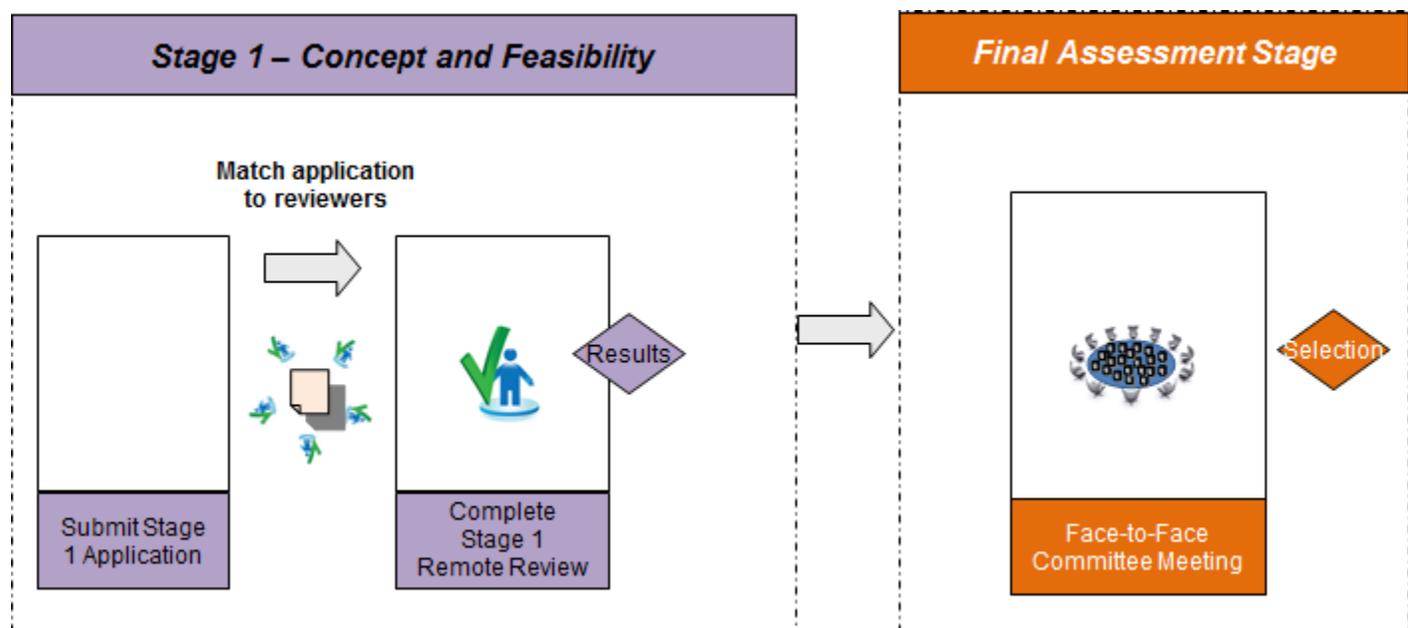
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Purpose of this manual

The purpose of this manual is to provide reviewers with a step-by-step walk through of the adjudication process for Project Grants.

The Project Grant will be supported by a two-stage competition and review process, as illustrated in Figure 1 below. A structured review process will be used to help focus reviewers on specific review criteria at Stage 1. The Final Assessment Stage involves the integration of the results of Stage 1 review.

Figure 1. Overview of the Project Grant Live Pilot Competition Adjudication Process



[Figure 1: Long description](#)

Section 1 outlines the adjudication process for Stage 1 of the competition. It describes the responsibilities of reviewers participating in this stage, which includes the following: 1) preliminary review of the applications, 2) asynchronous online discussion, and 3) submission of the final rank list to CIHR.

Section 2 outlines the adjudication process for the Final Assessment Stage of the competition. It describes the responsibilities of reviewers participating in this stage, which includes the following: 1) pre-meeting activities, and 2) a face-to-face committee meeting.

The Final Assessment Stage committee will be composed of reviewers who have not participated in the previous review stage.

In addition to reviewing the material in this manual, it is **essential** that peer reviewers read and become familiar with the [Funding Opportunity](#). All CIHR peer reviewers are also expected to:

- Agree to abide by CIHR's Confidentiality and Conflict of Interest Policy through [ResearchNet](#)
- Ensure that all review materials are handled according to CIHR's [Guide on Handling Documents used in Peer Review](#)
- Become familiar with CIHR funding policies and guidelines as outlined in [CIHR's Funding Policies](#). CIHR policies reflect areas of importance such as (but not limited to): [Gender and Sex-Based Analysis](#), [Knowledge Translation](#), [Global Health Research](#) and [International Collaborations](#).
- Provide feedback on the adjudication process to CIHR via surveys as requested.

For detailed regulations concerning all aspects of CIHR funding programs, please refer to the [Grants and Awards Guide](#).

Section 1 – Adjudication Process for Stage 1

Stage 1 focuses on assessing a project's concept and feasibility, which is founded on a sound and important idea supported by a feasible plan of execution. These criteria are equally weighted in the overall assessment.

1.1 Preliminary Reviews of Applications

Each application will be assigned to up to five reviewers, based on optimal matching between the application content and reviewer expertise. Each reviewer will receive approximately 10 applications. Matching and assignments will be done on the basis of reviewer declarations of their ability to review and with the assistance and oversight of Virtual Chairs. Reviewers will access their assigned applications through [ResearchNet](#) and complete their reviews remotely.

The application will be presented in a structured format to align with the adjudication criteria. Reviewers will also be asked to review the applicant(s) CV(s). Through their CV(s), applicants

will highlight their recognitions, funding history, activities and contributions that best demonstrate their leadership, significant contributions and productivity in the context of their research field(s).

Reviewers will be asked to provide a rating and to justify the rating by stating the strengths (maximum 1,750 characters) and weaknesses (maximum 1,750 characters) for each sub-criterion as outlined below. It is important for reviewers to clearly articulate the strengths and weaknesses as they will be used for three purposes: 1) to provide the other reviewers assigned to the application with a justification for the rating and ranking given to the application, 2) to provide reviewers in the final stage with a justification for the ratings and rankings given to the application, and 3) to provide applicants with feedback. The fields to outline strengths and weaknesses for each application in ResearchNet are mandatory fields.

Note: The reviews provided for each application at Stage 1 should be clear and complete as they will be used to inform the decision making process during the Final Assessment Stage.

The adjudication criteria, descriptors, interpretation guidelines and other considerations regarding the sub-criteria are outlined in section 1.2. Reviewers should familiarize themselves with the page/character limits for each of the adjudication criteria note that attachments are limited to 2 pages of figures only for all applications.

To ensure consistency, reviewers must adhere to a common adjudication scale. Note that granularity has been built into the top descriptors of the scale acknowledging that many of the ratings are likely to fall into this range. Reviewers are encouraged to use the full breadth of the scale and should use the increased granularity within the top descriptors to express differences within these categories. To facilitate this, the following scale including descriptors and definitions is provided:

Table 1. Rating Scale		
Descriptor	Abbreviation	Definition
Outstanding	O++	For this sub-criterion, the application excels in most or all relevant aspects. Any short-comings are minimal.
	O+	
	O	
Excellent	E++	For this sub-criterion, the application excels in many relevant aspects, and reasonably addresses all others. Certain improvements are possible.
	E+	
	E	
Good	G	For this sub-criterion, the application excels in some relevant aspects, and reasonably addresses all others. Some improvements are necessary.
Fair	F	For this sub-criterion, the application broadly addresses all relevant aspects. Major revisions are required.
Poor	P	For this sub-criterion, the application fails to provide convincing information and/or has serious inherent flaws or gaps.

As each review is completed, ResearchNet will automatically show a ranked list of the individual reviewer's set of assigned applications based on the ratings (highest to lowest). Reviewers may make adjustments to their ratings until they are comfortable with the rankings, however, there will be no requirement to break ties at this stage of the adjudication process. Ultimately it is the application's ranking that will determine its standing within the competition and will be used to make funding decisions.

Reviewers will also be asked to flag applications in ResearchNet that involve any of the issues outlined below. These issues are not to be considered as criteria for adjudication unless they impact the scientific quality of the application. For detailed regulations concerning these issues, please refer to the [CIHR Grants and Awards Guide](#).

- a. **Ethical and other policy requirements:** Responsibility for ensuring that all research meets ethical standards is delegated to the local institution by CIHR. Ethics forms are not required as part of the application. However, the reviewer may flag specific issues, such as the use of human participants, animals, human tissues or hazardous material, or research that appears to involve Aboriginal people, if they feel they have not been adequately addressed.
- b. **Human pluripotent stem cell research:** Applications involving the use of human stem cells which will be funded will also be reviewed by the Stem Cell Oversight Committee (SCOC). Applicants are instructed to check the relevant box in the section entitled "Certification Requirements". It is essential that the use of these stem cells be also assessed by reviewers.
- c. **Section 56 of the Federal Controlled Drugs and Substances Act:** All research proposals that are subject to Section 56 of the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act are required to have an exemption from Health Canada. Reviewers should flag such applications to CIHR staff who will follow up before funds are released, if the application is funded.

1.2 Stage 1 Adjudication Criteria Descriptors and Interpretation Guidelines

Stage 1 focuses on the project **concept** in the context of the project idea's creativity, soundness and value of anticipated contributions. Stage 1 also assesses the **feasibility** of the project's plan of execution.

In this section, each of the sub-criteria relating to the **concept** and **feasibility** are described in more detail. A set of interpretation guidelines and considerations have been summarized for each sub-criterion. These are intended to provide guidance for the assessment of each section of the application.

Criterion 1. Concept (50%)

- Quality of the Idea (25%)
- Importance of the Idea (25%)

Criterion 2. Feasibility (50%)

- Approach (25%)
- Expertise, Experience, and Resources (25%)

Note that reviewers should take into consideration the career stage, research field and institution setting of all applicants when assessing each criterion. The evidence should be notable compared to peers in similar fields and career stages.

Criterion 1: Concept

1.2.1 Quality of the Idea

This sub-criterion is intended to assess the quality of what is being proposed.

1.1 Quality of the Idea (1/2 page)	
Descriptors	Interpretation Guidelines
a) Is the project idea creative? b) Is the rationale of the project idea sound? c) Are the overall goals and objectives of the project well-defined?	a) The project idea is among the best formulated ideas in its field, stemming from new, incremental, innovative, and/or high-risk lines of inquiry; new or adapted research and knowledge translation/commercialization approaches/methodologies; and opportunities to apply research findings nationally and internationally. b) The project rationale is based on a logical integration of concepts. c) The overall goal and objectives of the project are well-defined and clear. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The goal states the purpose of the project, and what the project is ultimately expected to achieve. • The objectives clearly define the proposed lines of inquiry and/or activities required to meet the goal. • The proposed project outputs (i.e., the anticipated results of the Project) are clearly described and aligned to the objectives.
Other Considerations	
Depending on the nature of the idea, the project may have a research and/or knowledge translation/commercialization focus. Depending on the nature of the project, the rationale may be well-supported by evidence (e.g., literature review, previous findings, environmental scan,	

market analysis, stakeholder or partner input). However, this level of justification is not required for all types of projects (e.g., high-risk lines of inquiry).

Projects that have a global health research focus, or include international collaborations, are eligible for support through the Project Grant. CIHR welcomes all ideas with the potential to advance health-related knowledge, and/or improve health outcomes for Canadians or the broader global community.

1.2.2 Importance of the Idea

This sub-criterion is intended to assess the value of the anticipated project contributions, and any advances in health-related knowledge, health care, health systems, and/or health outcomes.

1.2 Importance of the Idea (1 page)	
Descriptors	Interpretation Guidelines
a) Are the anticipated project contributions likely to advance health-related knowledge, health care, health systems and/or health outcomes?	<p>a) The context and needs (issues and/or gaps) of the project are clearly described.</p> <p>b) The anticipated contribution(s) are clearly described, and should be substantive and relevant in relation to the context of the issues or gaps.</p> <p>c) The anticipated contribution(s) are realistic, i.e., directly stemming from the project outputs, as opposed to marginally related.</p>
Other Considerations	
<p>Ideas will focus on addressing an issue (e.g., question, problem, need or gap) in any area across the spectrum of health (health-related knowledge, health care, health systems, and/or health outcomes).</p> <p>This sub-criterion is not intended to assess feasibility of the project, expertise of the team or the potential of success. These will be assessed under Criterion #2: Feasibility.</p> <p>In cases where projects have a primary implementation, or knowledge translation/commercialization (application and uptake of research findings) focus, the importance of the idea should be validated as being substantive and relevant by stakeholders and partners, i.e., by those who could directly benefit from, or make use of, the project outputs.</p>	

Criterion 2: Feasibility

1.2.3 Approach

This sub-criterion is intended to assess the quality of the Project's **design** and **plan**; including how and when the project will be completed.

2.1 Approach (41/2 pages)	
Descriptors	Interpretation Guidelines
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Are the approaches and methods appropriate to deliver the proposed output(s) and achieve the proposed contribution(s) to advancing health-related knowledge, health care, health systems, and/or health outcomes? b) Are the timelines and related deliverables of the project realistic? c) Does the proposal identify potential challenges and appropriate mitigation strategies? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The research and/or knowledge translation/commercialization approaches, methods and/or strategies are well-defined and justified in terms of being appropriate to accomplish the objectives of the project. b) Opportunities to maximize project contributions to advance health-related knowledge, health care, health systems and/or health outcomes should be proactively sought and planned for, but may also arise unexpectedly. c) Timelines for the project should be appropriate in relation to the proposed project activities. Key milestones and deliverables should be aligned with the objectives of the project, and be feasible given the duration of the project. d) Critical scientific, technical, or organizational challenges should be identified, and a realistic plan to tackle these potential risks should be described. An exhaustive list is not expected.
Mandatory Requirements (if applicable)	
<p>Evidence demonstrates that biological, economic and social differences between women and men contribute to differences in health risks, health services use, health system interaction and health outcomes. All applicants to CIHR are expected to integrate gender and sex considerations into their research design, where appropriate, to maximize the relevance and applicability of health research findings to both men and women. This requirement is based on Canada's Health Portfolio Gender-Based Analysis Policy.</p>	
Other Considerations	

Applications submitted to the Project Scheme competition may include an integrated knowledge translation approach or may have a knowledge translation focus, with at least one knowledge-user and one researcher. CIHR defines a knowledge user as an individual who is likely to be able to use the knowledge generated through research to make informed decisions about health policies, programs and/or practices. A knowledge user can be, but is not limited to, a practitioner, policy-maker, educator, decision-maker, health care administrator, community leader, or an individual in a health charity, patient group, private sector organization or media outlet.

CIHR defines integrated knowledge translation as a way of doing research with researchers and knowledge users working together to shape the research process – starting with collaborations on setting the research questions, deciding the methodology, being involved in data collection and tools development, interpreting the findings and helping disseminate the research results.

Designs, approaches, and methodologies will vary by project (e.g., field of research, target audience) and should include a knowledge translation approach that is appropriate to the nature of the project outputs.

2.1 Expertise, Experience, and Resources

This sub-criterion is intended to assess the appropriateness of the complement of **expertise, experience, and resources** among the applicants (Nominated Principal Applicant, Principal Applicant(s) and Co-Applicant(s)), and their institutions/organizations, as it relates to the ability to collectively deliver on the objectives of the project.

It is the responsibility of the Nominated Principal Applicant to ensure the proposed project is **poised for success**.

2.2 Expertise, Experience, and Resources (1 page)	
Descriptors	Interpretation Guidelines
<p>a) Does the applicant(s) bring the appropriate expertise and experience to lead and deliver the proposed output(s), and to achieve the proposed contribution(s)?</p> <p>b) Is there an appropriate level of engagement and/or commitment from the applicant(s)?</p> <p>c) Is the environment (academic institution and/or other organization) appropriate to enable the conduct and success of the project?</p>	<p>a) The applicant(s) should demonstrate the combined expertise and experience needed to execute the project (i.e., deliver the proposed outputs as well as achieve the proposed contribution(s)).</p> <p>The roles and responsibilities of each applicant should be clearly described, and linked to the objectives of the project.</p> <p>b) The level of engagement (e.g., time and other commitments) of each applicant should be appropriate to the roles and responsibilities described.</p>

	<p>c) Project applicants should have access to the appropriate infrastructure, facilities, support personnel, equipment, and/or supplies to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Carry out their respective roles, and; ○ As a collective, manage and deliver the proposed output(s), and achieve the proposed contribution(s).
Other Considerations	
<p>The required complement of expertise will vary by project. Applications with an integrated knowledge translation approach or knowledge translation focus must include knowledge users in defining/refining research questions, informing the research plan, conducting research, interpreting research findings, understanding the receptor community, leading dissemination activities, etc. Knowledge users may also be responsible, and accountable, for the application/uptake of the project outputs. The nature, breadth and depth of the applicant's experiences and contributions, should be assessed in the context of the applicant's career stage.</p> <p>Project environments should be assessed according to their ability to support the proposed project activities. Institutions often function as "networked" environments or interdisciplinary networks, which means there may be multiple satellite environments contributing to the support environment. Reviewers should consider that for smaller institutions, or affiliated research facilities, resources and/or services may be obtained through networks, or may be contracted out.</p>	

1.2 Budget Assessment

Reviewers will be required to review the requested budget and justification. Applicants will be asked to submit their budget using a modular template with budget increments. Reviewers will be required to determine if the requested budget is appropriate to support the proposed project and if it is realistic and well-justified. Appropriate budget planning should be demonstrated. The requested resources, together with any existing resources, should be adequate to financially support the full scope of the project.

Partner contributions, if applicable (required for partnered applications), should be considered when reviewing support for the proposed project. Partner contributions will be outlined in letters of contribution and in the budget module through ResearchNet.

Please note that the budget assessment must not be factored into the scientific assessment. Moreover, detailed scrutiny of each item is not expected. Reviewers may recommend that the **budget remain as requested** or **recommend an adjusted** amount. If a reviewer adjusts the budget, he/she will be required to provide comments to justify their recommendation.

Budget Recommendation

The budget recommendation is intended to inform CIHR funding levels. Grant values and durations will be commensurate with the requirements of the project proposed, and will vary depending on the field, proposed approach, and scope of activities.

While budget recommendations are not factored into the overall rating of an application, CIHR values the experience and perspectives of reviewers in estimating overall budget requirements of the proposed project.

Budget Recommendation	
Descriptors	Interpretation Guidelines
a) Is the requested funding appropriate to support the project? Is it realistic and well-justified, taking into account any other sources of funding?	<p>Appropriate budget planning should be demonstrated. The requested resources, together with any existing resources, should be adequate to financially support the full scope of the project.</p> <p>Reviewers are asked to consider the proposed budget of the project, and to provide a justified recommendation as to whether the budget should be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Accepted, as described; orb. Adjusted to the level of \$X per annum.
Other Considerations	
<p>The applicant(s) has been asked to indicate his/her budget using pre-set incremental levels. A precise valuation of all line items in the budget justification is not expected or provided. A detailed item-by-item scrutiny by the reviewer is not expected.</p> <p>Grant values and durations will be commensurate with the requirements of the project proposed, and will vary depending on the field, proposed approach, and scope of activities.</p>	

1.3 Online Discussion

Once the preliminary reviews are submitted to CIHR, the other reviewer's reviews will be accessible through ResearchNet. Reviewers will be able to discuss each of their assigned applications with the other reviewers who were assigned to the same applications. An asynchronous online discussion tool has been developed to allow reviewers to communicate with each other to share expert perspectives and to discuss any discrepancies.

Virtual Chairs will be assigned to applications. They will be tasked with ensuring that discussions take place if warranted, and may prompt reviewers to discuss an application. CIHR staff may also initiate a discussion, or provide input where necessary, to ensure that CIHR policies and procedures are followed.

The objective of the discussion is to discuss and understand discrepancies in reviews and budget recommendations. **There will be no requirement to reach consensus.** Each reviewer's name and their preliminary review (rating, written comments, budget recommendation and ranking) will be visible for each application. If any reviewer has suggested a change in the budget, this will need to be discussed. The Virtual Chair may communicate with Stage 1 reviewers if there is a need for clarification. If there are no or limited discrepancies in reviews, it is possible that a discussion may not be required.

The discussion period will last 3 days and reviewers will be made aware of the scheduled discussion period well in advance of the review submission deadlines. Reviewers may log in at any time during the discussion period and will not be expected to participate in online discussions simultaneously.

The discussion for all applications will open on the scheduled discussion period start date therefore it is important to respect the established review submission deadlines. Reviewers who have not submitted their preliminary reviews will not be able to participate in the discussion and this will be flagged in their online status. If all reviewers assigned to an application submit their reviews ahead of the discussion period start date they will be able to begin discussion on that application.

Once the discussion for each application is complete, reviewers will be given the opportunity to make adjustments to their reviews as required. This may include changing their ratings, rankings and/or editing their comments.

It should be noted:

- a. Every reviewer will have the ability to initiate a discussion thread. Every comment will be shared with every reviewer assigned to the application. Once comments are posted, reviewers will not be able to delete or edit them.
- b. Reviewers will be able to post comments for the attention of CIHR staff. These comments will be visible to the other reviewers.
- c. A notification email will be sent daily to advise reviewers of new posts.
- d. As applications are discussed, reviewers may find it necessary to update their preliminary ratings and reviews. This can happen at any time both during and after the discussion period. These modifications **will not** be accessible to other reviewers.
- e. A transcript of the online discussions **will not** be given to the applicants.

1.4 Submit the Final Rank List to CIHR

Once the asynchronous discussions are complete, reviewers will be asked to finalize their reviews and their individual ranked list. At this point, reviewers must break any ties in their

individual ranked list. Once ties are eliminated, reviewers may modify the rank order of their assigned applications by moving the applications up or down the rank list. The original rank order will remain visible as a reference point. Once satisfied with the rank order of applications that they have been assigned, the reviewers will be asked to submit the final rankings to CIHR. Note that reviewers will not see the final rank lists of other reviewers. At this point, the adjudication process for Stage 1 is complete.

Once all rankings have been received, CIHR will calculate a consolidated ranking for each application and compile a list of all applications in the competition ranked from highest to lowest. Each application will have a review from each reviewer, a ranking from each reviewer, a consolidated ranking and a standard deviation for Stage 1.

CIHR will determine which applications will advance to the Final Assessment Stage based on the number of applications, consolidated ranking, standard deviation and funds available for the competition.

Section 2 – Adjudication Process for Final Assessment Stage

This stage will be completed by one interdisciplinary committee. The committee will be comprised of reviewers covering the full spectrum of health research and will include a Chair and Scientific Officer (SO). The final stage of review will be a face to face meeting to integrate the results of reviews from the prior stage, and to discuss "grey zone" applications, with particular emphasis on applications with large variances in independent reviewer rankings. This final stage therefore builds on Stage 1 where applications will have been thoroughly and expertly assessed. Based on the results from the prior stage, CIHR will identify the highest ranked applications, with low standard deviation that will be considered for funding; these applications will constitute the "green zone" and do not require further discussion.

CIHR will also determine which applications will be discussed at the final stage based on the number of applications, consolidated ranking, standard deviation and funds available for the competition. The "grey zone" applications are those that can be afforded in the competition (beyond green zone), were ranked just below those in the green zone and include some that are highly ranked but have a large standard deviation.

2.1 Pre-Meeting Activities

Prior to the face-to-face meeting, each committee member will be assigned a subset of between 10 and 15 applications and each application will be assigned to three committee members. For each application, the committee member will have access to information from Stage 1, including the reviews, the consolidated rankings, standard deviations and the full applications.

In order to help committee members differentiate between applications, a binning system will be used. Reviewers will be asked to assign applications to a "Yes" bin (to be considered for funding) or a "No" bin (not to be considered for funding). Each reviewer will be allocated a minimum number of applications that may be placed in the "Yes" and "No" bins. Given the competitiveness of the funding environment it is expected that all applications moving to the

Final Assessment Stage will be of high quality, and so the guidance for binning will depend on the funds available for a given competition. Committee members will be asked to submit their recommendations to CIHR prior to the meeting.

Based on the yes/no binning recommendations reviewers made as part of the pre-meeting activities, CIHR will rank all the Final Assessment Stage applications in order from the highest ranked to lowest ranked. The primary sort criteria will be the number of “Yes” votes received, and the secondary sort criteria will be based on the Stage 1 results.

The Chair of the committee will have an opportunity to review the recommendations from the committee members prior to the meeting. CIHR staff will prepare a schedule for the face-to-face committee meeting in consultation with the Chair and SO.

2.2 Face-to-Face Committee Meeting

The interdisciplinary committee will be asked to make recommendations on which applications should be considered for funding.

Prior to the meeting, CIHR will have compiled the results from the pre-meeting activities where committee members binned their assigned applications. At the meeting, committee members will see the grant applications ordered from highest-rated to lowest-rated according to a combination of the pre-meeting yes/no binning recommendations and Stage 1 results. Based on these results, CIHR will place the applications into one of three groups:

1. Group A (applications that the majority of assigned committee members recommended for funding)
2. Group B (applications for discussion at the meeting)
3. Group C (applications that the majority of assigned committee members did not recommend for funding)

The meeting will start with the committee Chair asking the committee members to validate the groupings of applications. To validate, the committee Chair will ask if any committee member would like to move any of the proposed Group A or Group C applications into Group B so that they may be discussed by the committee. Once the committee is satisfied with the groupings, the Group A and Group C applications will be locked in and will not be discussed any further at the meeting.

An estimated funding cut-off line will be displayed within the list of Group B applications. This line is calculated using both the available budget for the competition and the budget requested in the grant applications.

The Chair will moderate the discussion of all Group B applications, and the Scientific Officer (SO) will prepare the notes that summarize the key points discussed for each application.

For each application that is discussed, the following process will be used:

- a. Any committee member in conflict with the application will be asked to leave the meeting room.
- b. The Chair will ask the assigned reviewers of the application to indicate whether they voted “Yes” or “No” during the pre-meeting activities.
- c. The Chair will ask the reviewer(s) who voted the application “Yes” to start the discussion and then the reviewer(s) who voted “No” to continue the discussion. The discussion will focus on the key points that led to their yes/no assessments.
- d. Committee members not assigned to the application will then be asked to contribute to the conversation by asking questions and adding their opinions/advice/expertise to clarify points of disagreement.
- e. The SO will read the SO notes, which will capture the key elements of the discussion, to the committee for approval.

Once all the applications in Group B have been discussed, members will be asked to vote on the Group B applications. Members will be provided with a maximum number of “Yes” votes (to be considered for funding). This maximum will be based on both the number of applications in Group B and the estimated funding cut-off line, given the available budget.

Committee members will be expected to adhere to the [Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality Policy of the Federal Research Funding Organizations](#). While committee members will not be in the room during the discussion of the applications with which they are in conflict, they will not be asked to leave during the voting process. They will not be permitted to vote on any in-conflict applications, however, they will see the final rank order of all applications.

The committee will conclude its work after the voting is complete. The committee’s recommendations will be summarized and submitted to CIHR for the final review of budgets and the funding decision. Applicants will be informed of the results of the competition once CIHR funding has been approved.

An important component of any peer review committee meeting is the final review of the committee’s effectiveness and functioning, as well as a discussion of policy issues that may have arisen in the course of its deliberations. This discussion is important as it provides an opportunity for CIHR staff to address any concerns of the committee members and for staff to record feedback on the piloted adjudication process.

Applicants, research administrators and reviewers will be asked to complete surveys after each stage of review to provide their feedback. Feedback received through the surveys will help refine the design of the new Open funding programs and peer review processes.