



2025 Canadian CAM Research Fund (CCRF) Application Guidelines

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: **JULY 15, 2025 at 11:59 PM ET**

The Canadian Interdisciplinary Network of Complementary Medicine Researchers (INCAM) operates as a collaborative and interdisciplinary research network dedicated to advancing excellence in complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) research within Canada.

Established in September 2009, the Canadian CAM Research Fund (CCRF) represents an annual competitive research funding initiative that is administered by INCAM and is exclusively available to INCAM members. Through a stringent peer-review process, grants are awarded to select research project proposals.

In recognition of the philanthropic vision of Dr. Marja Verhoef, a Co-Founder of INCAM, and the continuous support from the INCAM membership, the CCRF sustains its mission by annually awarding one (1) grant of up to \$5,000.

GOALS & RESEARCH PRIORITIES

The principal objective of the CCRF is to augment and fortify the research capacity within Canada's CAM landscape. This is achieved through the provision of support and funding to propel pertinent* and top-tier studies that align with one or more of the prescribed research priorities:

1. Efficacy, effectiveness, cost-effectiveness, and/or safety of CAM interventions (products, independent modalities, and practices).
2. Evaluation of healthcare delivery models that incorporate CAM.
3. Development and evaluation/assessment of CAM specific policies in the context of healthcare delivery in Canada.
4. Effectiveness and/or usefulness of knowledge translation activities related to CAM information (to public, practitioners, etc.) dissemination.

* The following types of studies are **NOT** eligible under the CCRF: (1) IN-VITRO studies, (2) ANIMAL (NON-HUMAN) studies. For the purpose of the CCRF competition, studies on modalities, practices, therapies, and systems of care categorized as complementary, alternative, and integrative medicine (CAM) will be considered. The proposed study must directly aim to assess, evaluate, examine, and/or test such an intervention. For a list of therapies included as CAM, see Appendix 1.

ELIGIBILITY

Eligibility for this grant is limited to individuals who are:

1. **Members** of the Canadian Interdisciplinary Network of Complementary Medicine Researchers (INCAM). Prospective members may apply for an INCAM membership by visiting: www.incamnetwork.ca/join-incam. For inquiries or assistance regarding membership, please contact incam.network@gmail.com.
2. **Established Canadian researchers** who are affiliated with academic institutions in Canada.
3. **New researchers or research trainees in the CAM field** who are undertaking MSc and PhD level thesis projects at a Canadian university. They must be under the supervision of an INCAM member at an academic institution capable of administering the funds on their behalf.
4. **CAM practitioners collaborating with an established researcher** or research trainee at an academic institution capable of administering the funds on their behalf. Projects demonstrating collaborative relationships between CAM practitioners and researchers across disciplines will receive priority consideration.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

1. Complete the online 2025 CCRF Application Form in English or French.
2. Adhere to word limits specified in the application form.
3. Ensure project alignment with at least one of the CCRF research priorities (please refer to page 1).
4. Mandatory sections include Background, Rationale & Objectives, Research Design & Methodology (including planned analysis), and Significance of Research and Reference list.
5. Provide a comprehensive outline of the proposed budget, detailing specific expense items and estimated costs.
6. Supporting documents must include:
 - a. Short curriculum vitae for the Principal Investigator, co-PIs, and co-I that is limited to 4 pages per CV.

- b. Ethics approval documentation (if applicable or available). Note: If not available at the time of submission, ethics approval (if applicable) must be provided before funds can be disbursed.
- 7. Optional supporting documents (up to 10 pages) may be submitted as Appendices to the application and include:
 - a. Data collection instruments (e.g., questionnaire, outcome measure(s), interview guide)
 - b. Letters of support from partners

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

Funds shall be disbursed following the submission of the ethics approval letter for the proposed study, where applicable, along with a duly signed funding agreement. CCRF grants are allocated for utilization within a one-year timeframe from the disbursement date, with extensions subject to prior notification.

FOLLOW-UP REQUIREMENTS

Grant recipients are required to submit a (1) progress report, and a (2) final report. A standardized template for reporting will be provided to the principal applicant. Additionally, all beneficiaries of CCRF grants are strongly encouraged to share and present their study's outcomes at the subsequent INCAM Research Symposium.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Please follow the instructions provided in the online CCRF Application Form. The online form and all supporting documents must be submitted no later than **11:59 pm ET on July 15, 2025**.

GENERAL FORM SECTIONS

The application form consists of four (4) sections which **MUST** be completed:

1. SECTION 1: GENERAL INFORMATION

Includes affiliation and information about the institution that will hold the funds and signatures.

- Name, institutional affiliation, email address, phone number, mailing address for all applicants, project title, institutional grant administrator name and contact information

2. **SECTION 2: PROJECT INFORMATION** (upload as a single PDF - 5 page limit)
 - 2.1 Lay abstract (300 words max) (not included in the page limit)
 - 2.2 Background, rationale, and fit with the call for proposal
 - 2.3 Objectives
 - 2.4 Research Design & Methodology (including planned analysis)
 - 2.5 Significance of Research
 - 2.6 Applicant(s) including collaborators and partners
 - 2.7 Research environment/setting/support
 - 2.8 Ethical considerations
 - 2.9 Dissemination Plan
 - 2.10 References (not included in the page limit)
3. **SECTION 3: PROPOSED BUDGET** (upload as a single PDF)
4. **SECTION 4: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS** (upload as a single PDF)
 - Required: Short curriculum vitae for the PI, co-PIs, and co-I applicants (maximum 4 pages each)
 - Ethics approval (if available at the time of submission)
 - Optional: Data collection instruments
 - Optional: Letters of support

FORMATTING GUIDELINES

- Use a font size 12 point, black type. Do not use condensed/narrow font sizes, type density, or line spacing. Smaller text in tables, charts, figures, and graphs are acceptable, as long as it is legible when the page is viewed at 100%.
- Section 3 should be five pages single line spacing (abstract and references are not included in the 5 page limit)
- Insert a margin of 2 cm ($\frac{3}{4}$ inch) - minimum - around the page.
- Observe page limitations, additional pages may NOT be added unless specified.
- Use only letter size (21.25 cm X 27.5 cm / 8.5" X 11")

CONTACT US

If you have any further questions regarding this funding competition or the application process please contact incam.network@gmail.com.

APPENDIX 1

List of therapies included as CAM:

A	Acupressure Acupuncture (e.g., needle acupuncture, electroacupuncture) Alexander technique Aromatherapy Arts therapy (e.g., dance therapy, drama therapy, music therapy) Ayurvedic traditional medicine (Ayurveda)
B	Balneotherapy Bee products (e.g., honey, pollen, propolis, royal jelly, venom) Biofeedback
C	Chelation therapy* Chinese traditional medicine Chiropractic (i.e., spinal manipulation) Color therapy (i.e., chromotherapy) Craniosacral manipulation
D	Dietary supplements (non-herbal)* (e.g., vitamins, hormones, amino acids) Diet therapy* (e.g., low fat diets, vegan diets) Distant healing
E	Electric stimulation therapy* (e.g., transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation) Electromagnetic therapy* Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR)
F	Feldenkrais method
H	Herbal supplements (e.g., echinacea, garlic) Homeopathy Hydrotherapy Hyperbaric oxygenation* Hypnosis
I	Imagery (i.e., visualization techniques)
L	Light therapy* (phototherapy)
M	Magnetic field therapy* (e.g., transcranial magnetic stimulation) Massage Meditation

	Morita therapy Moxibustion
N	Naturopathy
O	Osteopathic manipulation Ozone therapy*
P	Play therapy Prolotherapy
Q	Qi gong
R	Reflexology Reiki therapy Relaxation techniques
S	Snorezen Speleotherapy Spiritual healing (e.g., prayer)
T	Tai chi Therapeutic touch Traditional healers and healing practices (other than Chinese) (e.g., Kamp, Shamanism) Tui na
U	Ultrasonic therapy*
Y	Yoga

*Depending upon the condition being treated, these therapies may also be standard Western allopathic treatments.

Reference: Wieland LS, Manheimer E, Berman BM. Altern Ther Health Med. 2011; 17(2):50-59