



2026 Canadian CAM Research Fund (CCRF) Application Guidelines

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: **JULY 15, 2026 at 11:59 PM ET**

ABOUT INCAM AND THE CCRF

The **Canadian Interdisciplinary Network of Complementary Medicine Researchers (INCAM)** is a national network that supports high-quality research in complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) in Canada.

INCAM established the **Canadian CAM Research Fund (CCRF)** in 2009 to support research projects that strengthen CAM knowledge, practice, and policy. The fund is supported through the generosity of INCAM members and honours the legacy of **Dr. Marja Verhoef**, Co-Founder of INCAM.

Each year, **one grant of up to \$5,000** is awarded through a competitive, peer-reviewed process. Only INCAM members are eligible to apply.

GOALS OF THE CCRF

The main goal of the CCRF is to **build research capacity in CAM in Canada** by supporting high-quality projects that are relevant to practice, education, policy, or public understanding.

Projects must align with at least one of the following priorities:

- Studying the **effectiveness, safety, or cost-effectiveness** of CAM therapies, practices, or products
- Evaluating **healthcare models** that include CAM approaches
- Examining or developing **CAM-related health policies** in Canada
- Evaluating **knowledge translation** efforts (e.g., how CAM information is shared with the public, practitioners, or policymakers)

WHAT TYPES OF STUDIES ARE ELIGIBLE?

The proposed study must directly investigate a CAM therapy, practice, system of care, or intervention.

The following types of studies are **not eligible**:

- In-vitro (lab-based) studies
- Animal (non-human) studies

A list of therapies considered CAM for this competition is provided in Appendix 1.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Applicants must be **INCAM members**. You can join at: www.incamnetwork.ca/join-incam.

Questions about membership can be sent to: incam.network@gmail.com

Eligible applicants include:

- **Established Canadian researchers** affiliated with a Canadian academic institution
- **Graduate students (MSc or PhD)** conducting CAM-related thesis research at a Canadian university, supervised by an INCAM member
- **CAM practitioners**, if they are collaborating with a researcher or trainee at an academic institution that can hold and administer the funds

Applications that demonstrate **strong collaboration between researchers and practitioners across disciplines** will receive priority consideration.

WHAT YOU MUST SUBMIT

You must complete the **online CCRF application form** (available in English and French) and upload the required documents by the deadline.

Your application must:

- Stay within word and page limits
- Clearly align with at least one CCRF research priority
- Include all required sections and documents

REQUIRED APPLICATION SECTIONS

SECTION 1: General Information

Includes:

- Names and contact details for all applicants
- Institutional affiliation
- Project title
- Institution that will hold the funds
- Grant administrator contact information

SECTION 2: Project Description

Upload as **one PDF (maximum 5 pages, excluding abstract and references)**

Must include:

- Lay Abstract (max 300 words - not included in page limit)
- Background, rationale, and fit with CCRF priorities
- Objectives
- Research design and methodology (including planned analysis)
- Significance of the research
- Applicant(s), collaborators, and partners
- Research environment and supports
- Ethical considerations
- Dissemination plan
- References (not included in page limit)

SECTION 3: Proposed Budget

Upload as **one PDF**

Must include:

- Clear list of expense items
- Estimated costs
- Explanation of how funds will be used

SECTION 4: Supporting Document

Upload as **one PDF**

Required:

- Short CVs for PI, co-PIs, and co-investigators (max 4 pages each)
- Ethics approval (if available at time of submission) - *Note: If ethics approval is required but not yet available, it must be submitted before funds can be released.*

Optional:

- Data collection tools (e.g., surveys, interview guides)
- Letters of support

FUNDING CONDITIONS

- Funds are released once ethics approval (if applicable) and a signed funding agreement are received
- Grant funds must be used within **one year** of disbursement
- Extensions may be granted if requested in advance

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Successful applicants must submit:

- One progress report
- One final report

Grant recipients are also strongly encouraged to **present their findings at a future INCAM Research Symposium.**

FORMATTING GUIDELINES

Please follow these formatting rules:

- Font: 12-point, black
- Do not use condensed fonts or tight spacing
- 2 cm ($\frac{3}{4}$ inch) minimum margins
- Letter size pages only (8.5" x 11")
- Respect page limits (extra pages will not be reviewed)
- Smaller font may be used in tables and figures if still clearly readable

CONTACT INFORMATION

For questions about the application or process, 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	Snorezelen 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