



# 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.

Historically, **one grant of up to \$5,000** has been awarded through a competitive, peer-reviewed process.

This year we are offering **two awards**:

1. A \$5000 grant open to all researchers
2. A \$3000 grant open to students (supervised by an established researcher) or early career researchers (as defined by CIHR <https://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/34190.html#r14>)

Only INCAM members are eligible to apply.

## GOALS OF THE CCRF

The main goal of the CCRF is to **build research capacity in Traditional, Complementary and Integrative Medicine (TCIM) 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 TCIM therapies, practices, or products
- Evaluating **healthcare models** that include TCIM approaches
- Examining or developing **TCIM-related health policies** in Canada
- Evaluating **knowledge translation** efforts (e.g., how TCIM information is shared with the public, practitioners, or policymakers)

## WHAT TYPES OF STUDIES ARE ELIGIBLE?

The proposed study must directly investigate a TCIM 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 TCIM 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](http://www.incamnetwork.ca/join-incam). Questions about membership can be sent to: [incam.network@gmail.com](mailto:incam.network@gmail.com)

Eligible applicants include:

- **Established Canadian researchers** affiliated with a Canadian academic institution
- **Graduate or health professional students (MSc, PhD, DC, ND, RMT, RN, etc)** conducting TCIM-related thesis research at a Canadian university, supervised by an INCAM member
- **TCIM 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.

Applications may include international applicants; however, the funds must be held at a Canadian institution.

## 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.*
- If applying as an early career researcher, a letter of support attesting to your status is required

### 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 (¾ 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](mailto:incam.network@gmail.com).

## APPENDIX 1

List of therapies included as TCIM:

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

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

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

#### References:

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

[https://www.who.int/health-topics/traditional-complementary-and-integrative-medicine#tab=tab\\_1](https://www.who.int/health-topics/traditional-complementary-and-integrative-medicine#tab=tab_1)