

AHSC AFP Innovation Fund

Framework and Guidelines – Year XIII (2020-21)

Innovation Fund Provincial Oversight Committee

THERE ARE SEVERAL MAJOR CHANGES FOR YEAR XIII:

1. Policies related to Year XIII COVID-19 Interim Competition can be found on pages 4 – 5, and will be applicable for this year only.
2. Budgets must align (see page 5).
3. Please look at forms carefully as there have been changes made to the G1 (to properly track Covid-19 interim competition projects), the G3, as well as the P2 and P4
4. G1 will be available soon, and no later than September 1 2020.
5. Changes to the G1 will include requests for additional information for projects receiving new funding. Please review the instructions at the front of the G1 Form carefully, and contact us if you have any questions.
6. Please complete and upload G1 AFTER P1s and P2s
7. Reminder: Online Interim Report after 2 years are now required
8. Reminder: with the exception of projects delayed due to COVID-19, extensions are no longer available.

Release Date: June 30, 2020

Revised: July 7, 2020

AHSC AFP Innovation Fund Year XIII (2020-21)

Background, Process and Framework – Table of Contents

INNOVATION FUND PROJECTS - BACKGROUND AND PROCESS	4
1.0 IMPORTANT IFPOC POLICY UPDATES	4
1.1 COVID-19	4
1.2 ALIGNMENT OF BUDGETS	5
1.3 REPORTING AND EXTENSIONS	5
1.4 LEAVE	5
1.5 ADMINISTRATIVE FEES	6
2.0 OVERSIGHT AND ADMINISTRATION	6
2.1 AWARDS AND SHOWCASE	6
2.2 INTEGRATION AND IMPLEMENTATION INITIATIVE	6
2.3 FORMS AND DATA INPUT	6
3.0 IF YEAR XIII 2020-21 TIMELINE	8
4.0 PROVINCIAL FUNDING, APPROVAL, AND ACCOUNTABILITY PROCESSES	9
4.1 FUNDING AND POLICY ON SUBSTITUTIONS, UNSPENT FUNDS, AND INTERIM REPORTS	9
4.2 GENERAL APPLICATION, REVIEW, AND REPORTING PROCESS	10
4.3 TERMINATION OF A PROJECT	14
4.4 INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND PROJECT INFORMATION	14
5.0 ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA	15
5.1 SCOPE OF PROJECTS ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING	15
6.0 EVALUATION OF PROJECT PROPOSALS	16
5.1 COMPETITIVE PEER REVIEW PROCESS	16
5.2 REVIEW CRITERIA	16
5.3 COMMON SCALE FOR EVALUATION	17
5.4 RELEVANCE REVIEW	17
5.5 PROCESS INTEGRITY (CONFIDENTIALITY AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST)	17
7.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND CONTACT INFORMATION	18

AHSC AFP Innovation Fund Year XIII (2020-21)

Background, Process and Framework – Table of Contents

APPENDICES AND HOW TO ACCESS IFPOC FORMS **19 – 27**

APPENDIX A: AFP GOVERNANCE ORGANIZATION PROCESS DETAILS: **20**

1.0 FUNDING REQUESTS FORM G1	20
2.0 POLICY CONFIRMATION FORM G3	21
3.0 ONLINE INTERIM REPORTS	21
4.0 FINAL PROJECT STATUS AND ACCOUNTING REPORTS (ONLINE FINAL REPORTS SUMMARY, P3, AND P4)	21
5.0 SUBSTITUTIONS FORMS G2 AND D	22
6.0 CHANGE OF STATUS FORM P5	22

APPENDIX B: APPLICANT PROCESS DETAILS: **23**

1.0 PROJECT PROPOSALS – INCLUDING HOW TO ADD TABLES AND FIGURES	23
2.0 FORM P1	24
3.0 FORM P2	25
4.0 FORM D	26
5.0 FINAL PROJECT STATUS AND ACCOUNTING REPORT (ONLINE FINAL REPORTS SUMMARY, P3, AND P4)	26

APPENDIX C: OMA PER DIEM GUIDELINES **27**

AHSC AFP Innovation Fund Year XIII (2020-21)

Background, Process and Framework

PREAMBLE: This “Framework” document is intended to assist (i) Governance Organizations to draft their calls for applications and (ii) Project Leads to draft their proposals.

Ontario AHSC AFP Innovation Fund

The Innovation Fund was established by the Alternative Funding Plan agreement between the Academic Physicians, the Ontario Medical Association (OMA) and the Ontario Ministry of Health (MOH). Until recently, ~\$10M was provided annually by the MOHLTC to Academic Physicians to support the development of new and innovative approaches to health care delivery and to provide leadership in the dissemination of new knowledge across the healthcare system. Now ~ \$20M is being provided to AHSC AFP Governance Organizations, in proportion to their allocation of FTEs.

All participating academic physicians are eligible to apply, and a competitive peer review process selects the most deserving projects at each Academic Health Sciences Centre (AHSC).

The Innovation Fund provides short-term (one year or two year) seed funding to support innovative projects and to enable academic physicians to develop programs sufficiently to qualify for additional support and evaluate novel strategies to transform health care delivery in Ontario.

Projects would be deemed particularly “innovative” if they:

- Have definite potential to **impact** health care delivery
- Are **implementable** (realistic project goals)
- Have clear **measurable** metrics for success
- Offer opportunities to **translate new knowledge** into medical practice
- Are **transferable** to other institutions or regions of the province

This year, the amount available to AHSCs is **\$20,418,292.00** in total, across the 17 participating organizations.

1.0 IMPORTANT IFPOC POLICY CHANGES and UPDATES

1.1 COVID-19 Interim Competition

IFPOC invited GOs to propose projects for a mid-year one-time interim and abbreviated competition to address needs resulting from COVID-19 pandemic, with unique one-time only deadlines and requirements.

OPTION 1: GOs submit projects as “Contingencies” for Year 12 projects (2019-20) that were not able to start due to COVID-19, and which had not yet spent any of their allocated funds. These projects were required to match funds with the project (or projects) being (temporarily) replaced. Projects placed on hold due to COVID-19 did not require any further approvals, and were granted an automatic additional 12 month extension. If the projects being temporarily replaced are still moving forward, they may be funded out of Year 13 general IF funds in January 2021 without further review by IFPOC. If they are not moving forward, **you are asked to identify which ones on your G1 (*NEW*)**, and may use that funding for other projects that should be reviewed by IFPOC.

OPTION 2: GOs submit projects early for Year 13 (2020-21) competition for immediate consideration by the IFPOC, accessing funds available effective April 30, 2020 for COVID-19 specific projects.

In both cases, participation was entirely optional. Proposals were to be abbreviated, to alleviate the time pressures associated with producing the full proposal (for the project leads) and to allow expeditious review (for IFPOC Committee members).

In order to maintain accountability, IFPOC will require a fuller more detailed application than the initial abbreviated 2-page proposal. IFPOC requires a full P1/P2 by Dec 1, 2020 to serve as a comprehensive guide and record of what the funded IF project proposes (or intended if the project has wrapped up). The P1/P2 will not be adjudicated or reviewed (again).

In order to be eligible, the projects were expected to begin immediately, and agreed to follow the general guidelines and deadlines of the IFPOC Framework.

If the Project Team had also applied for alternate sources of funding, we recommended the funds might be placed temporarily on hold as approved. Later if alternate funding was secured and the IF support was not needed, they might decline the offer and that funding would still be available for other projects during the January 2021 (Year 13) comprehensive competition. This change would need to be communicated to IFPOC for our records and tracking via an email to Janicehutchison@rogers.com.

1.2 Budgets/Funding Requests Must be Aligned (NEW)

In the past, we have recognized that Project Leads may submit requests for budgets whose projects are subsequently approved by their internal peer review committee for funding at a different (usually lower) amount. As a result, budget documents (P2) are not always aligned with funding requests made by the GO on behalf of the project and it has become increasingly difficult to track project funding amounts. Therefore, IFPOC **requires** that any **P2 and budget sections in P1 submitted (uploaded) by a GO be aligned with the online requested amount**. We understand that in some cases, this may require revisions to P1s and P2s after Projects have undergone local peer review, and that GOs may have to build in extra time for this additional step. This is important for IFPOC and GOs to be able to track and therefore remain accountable to MOH for these funds.

1.3 Online Interim Report, Extensions, and Unspent Funds

In order to reduce the amount of granted Innovation Fund funding being returned to the Government of Ontario, and to adhere to MOH guidelines, IFPOC has implemented an online interim report. This is to be completed in March, two years after funding approval from IFPOC, for ALL projects (whether they are funded for one or two years). The interim report is for Governance Organizations to report on the progress of individual projects thereby eliminating the necessity for extensions of the Final Project Status and Accounting Report. Projects can instead focus on implementing remedial action to adjust or re-focus the project within its original context, change its personnel, or ask their hospital administration for any other required assistance to complete the project on time.

We understand that the projects may not have completed their anticipated activity by the end of the second year, but we hope that with the GOs' assistance, interventions will permit Project Leads to adequately advance their projects and spend their funds before the Final Project Status and Accounting Report is due.

1.4 Leave Policy

For maternity, parental, medical or family medical leave of the Project Lead (or Co-Lead), an extension of the term of the grant for up to two years may be granted after IFPOC review and approval of a request submitted by the GO. This request should detail **the circumstances and upcoming length of time granted to the Project Lead (or Co-Lead) by their institution when the individual will be away from their clinical activities**.

Governance Organizations, please inform your Project Leads and ask them to share information about their upcoming leave. We will also include these instructions in the section for Project Leads.

1.5 Administration Fees Policy

If GOs wish to charge fees to Projects for administrative costs associated with a project, they must inform IFPOC on their G3 (Policy Confirmation) and explain what the administrative fees will cover and why. Then, they must apply it fairly to their projects. If they wish to charge a flat fee, that flat fee **should not add up to more than 2%** of IF funding provided to each project. Under all circumstances, the total fee should not add up to more than **\$5,000** over the full length of the project.

1.6 Innovation Fund Awards

This year's Annual Innovation Fund Awards for 2020 have been cancelled due to COVID-19.

2.0 Oversight and Administration of the Innovation Fund:

The Provincial Academic Medicine Steering Committee, with the support of the AHSC AFP Governance Organizations, established the Innovation Fund Provincial Oversight Committee (IFPOC) to oversee the AHSC AFP Innovation Fund. The IFPOC includes representation from the research and innovation sector, academic medicine, government as well as the AFP Governance Organizations. Dr. Richard Weisel chairs the Committee, and Dr. Davy Cheng is Vice-Chair.

2.1 Innovation Fund Showcase and Innovation Fund Awards

To support the dissemination of new knowledge and best evidence practices across the healthcare system, IFPOC sponsors the Innovation Fund Showcase, held in November 2010, 2013, 2016, and 2019. The next Showcase was anticipated in November 2022, subject to rules and regulations concerning public gatherings at that time (TBD). Because of the delay in starting the funded research due to COVID-19, IFPOC may decide to delay the Showcase for a year to 2023. The Showcase brings together Project Leads from around the province, fostering enhanced collaborations. IFPOC also sponsors Awards for the most innovative projects that have the potential for a substantial impact on health care delivery in Ontario in various categories. Beginning in 2015, these awards were added as an annual feature in November of each year. This year however, Awards have been cancelled due to COVID-19. For the next Showcase, consideration will be given to holding a virtual event. More details will follow in Year XIV.

2.2 Integration and Implementation

To facilitate integration and implementation, and to reduce overlap and duplication, the IFPOC website is being upgraded to enable keyword searches. We hope that this initiative will foster and facilitate collaboration among groups within and across the Province and beyond.

In 2018, based on recommendations from past IFPOC AFP Innovation Fund Showcases, the IFPOC focused on facilitating innovation adoption by encouraging integration and implementation of IFPOC Innovation Projects in health care delivery across other Ontario institutions. IFPOC identified innovative projects which were in alignment with MOH health services research priorities and had the potential for integration and implementation. In collaboration with MOH, mechanisms to support successful IFPOC projects for their "next phase" including financial support and additional partnerships were identified, linkages were offered, and connections made. After feedback from the 12 selected projects and the MOH members, IFPOC plans to institute this Integration and Implementation Initiative for selected highly impactful projects every 3 years, in alignment with the Showcase cycle, in the year that immediately follows Showcase. Due to the pandemic, IFPOC will need to push this initiative out by approximately 12 months and will include previous 4 years of projects. We plan to re-institute this in the next year (2021) to give us an opportunity to include the critically relevant COVID-19 projects in this initiative.

2.3 Forms and Data Input

Since 2014, IFPOC has had a website where forms for the submission of applications for funding are uploaded. Each year IFPOC has provided new policy clarifications and earlier release dates intended to streamline the Grants Administration process. Due to COVID-19, IFPOC responded to the need for urgent and immediate funding of innovative projects to address the myriad of issues arising from the pandemic. Many changes were undertaken for

this funding cycle only, specifically to address the hospitals', health care workers' and patients' needs arising from this unprecedented event. In addition, the release of Year XIII Framework and Forms was delayed by one month as a result of the pandemic. Please note that these COVID-specific approaches are INTERIM, and are only in place for this funding year.

For Governance Organizations, the required elements are:

FORMS FOR UPLOADING:

G1: Funding Request (REVISED to reflect INTERIM competition, with specific project details and project codes being required from all projects. Therefore this form will need to be completed after all new project requests are uploaded.)

G2: Substitution Request

G3: Policy Confirmation REVISED (required whenever changes are made, AND every 3 yrs – next one REQUIRED in 2021)

FORMS TO BE ENTERED MANUALLY ONLINE:

- Online Project Summary - Key information from P1 into online system (**NEW**please note that funding requests online must be reflected accurately in the proposal budget P2 and the project proposal budget section P1)
- Copy "Plain Language Abstract" from top of Page 2 of P1
- only for NEW projects – not for year 2 of existing projects, unless you are submitting a P5 Change in Status Form, in which case, please replace online project summary with revised abstract from line 103 of P5.
- Online Interim Report - Key information is also requested at the end of two years (known as Online "Interim Report") for ALL projects
- Only for NEW projects, not for Year 2 of existing projects
- Online Final Report Summary - Key information from P3 and P4 into online system (required for completion of Final Project Status and Accounting Report) including abstract from bottom of page 2 of P3 and final accounting details.

For Applicants, the required elements are:

FORMS TO BE PROVIDED TO GOVERNANCE ORGANIZATIONS PRIOR TO DEADLINES

- P1 - Project Proposal
- P2 - Proposal Budget

- P3 - Final Narrative Report (Part 1 of Final Project Status and Accounting Report)
- P4 - Final Budget and Financial Statement (Part 2 of Final Project Status and Accounting Report)
Please distinguish between IF funding, and other funding.

- P5 - Change in Status Form - Where Applicable (when changing from one to a two-year project with no major changes to content or approach of project)

- D - Declaration for Substitution (only if you are a contingency project being activated)

IFPOC FORMS CAN BE FOUND AT IFPOC.ORG . PLEASE BE SURE TO SUBMIT THE DOCUMENT IN THE MANNER EACH FORM REQUIRES AS STATED ON THE FORM OR IN THE FRAMEWORK.

IN SUMMARY, ALL COMPLETED FILLABLE FORMS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED IN THE SAME FORMAT AND EACH BUDGET DOCUMENT (EXCEL FILE), NEEDS TO BE SAVED AS A PDF PRIOR TO UPLOADING. PLEASE DO NOT SUBMIT/UPLOAD COPIED OR SCANNED VERSIONS OF IFPOC's FORMS.

3.0 INNOVATION FUND Year XIII 2020 –2021 Timeline

June 30, 2020

IFPOC issues “Framework” document to Governance Organizations, and all Forms are available at ifpoc.org

November 27, 2020

IFPOC issues reminder of upcoming March 31 2021 Final Project Status and Accounting Report deadlines.

December 1, 2020 ** NEW**

AFP Governance Organizations upload complete P1 and P2 for each COVID-19 Year 12 Contingency Project, and Year 13 Interim Projects.

December 1, 2020

AFP Governance Organizations upload G3 (information about policies, guidelines and procedures) to IFPOC (required ONLY if any changes have been made since Year X)

December 1, 2020 (TBC)

IFPOC issues call for nominations for Awards 2021 (due May 3, 2021)

January 15, 2021

Those AFP Governance Organizations submitting funding requests for NEW (not renewal) projects (and any contingency project) will upload P1 and P2 for each new Year 13 project. Then, all AFP Governance Organizations upload G1, complete with specific project codes.

January 15 - February 5, 2021

IFPOC reviews proposals and submits to the GOs questions or concerns about eligibility or whether the proposals meet the requirements established by IFPOC or the individual Governance Organizations. The AFP Governance Organizations will respond to IFPOC with explanations or the submission of alternate proposals.

February 10, 2021

IFPOC meets virtually for Annual Review of Project Proposals.

February 13 - 28, 2021

IFPOC submits Committee’s questions to GOs, and subsequently makes recommendations to AMSC for distribution of 2020 - 2021 (Year XIII) AHSC AFP Innovation funds.

March 31, 2021

MOH distributes Innovation Fund allocations to each AHSC AFP Governance Organization, on the basis of proposals approved for funding by the IFPOC and AMSC

March 31, 2021

Interim and Final Project Status and Accounting Reports are due.

May 3, 2021

Governance Organizations submit nominees for IF Awards 2021.

June 1, 2021

IFPOC issues “Framework” document to Governance Organizations, and all Forms are available at ifpoc.org

November 2021 - Date TBD:

IF Awards 2021 announced

4.0 Provincial Funding, Approval, and Accountability Processes

4.1 Funding

Funding will be allocated on the following basis, as set out by the Academic Medicine Steering Committee (AMSC) and approved by the AHSC AFP Governance Chairs:

- Each AHSC AFP has been allocated a portion of the available Innovation Funds in fiscal 2020 - 2021, based on a minimum \$100,000 base allocation to each Governance Organization, with the remaining funds distributed to each Governance Organization (GO) based on the number of Full-Time Equivalents (total FTEs participating in AFP) at each AHSC.
- AHSC AFP funding is allocated only for approved projects and cannot be employed for any other purpose. Carry-overs are not permitted. Funding may not be allocated by Governance Organizations for unspecified purposes and cannot be moved between projects.

4.1.1 IFPOC Policy on Substitutions, Terminations, and Unspent Funds:

Contingency projects, substitutions, terminations, and changes to Project Leads

Funding Period

1. *COVID-19 Projects (this year only): Funding for each accepted project began immediately upon approval. The Project Leads have until March 31 2021 to initiate their project and begin to spend their funds.*
2. Funding for all other accepted projects begins April 1st 2021 (after funds are forwarded to the institutions from the MOH) and the Project Leads have until March 31st of the following year (2022) to initiate their project and to begin to spend their funds.

Annual Review

3. Each project should be reviewed annually by their Governance Organization to determine whether (1) the project has made acceptable progress on its program and (2) the project has spent any of its funds.

Contingency Projects and Substitutions

4. *COVID-19 Projects (this year only): All GOs were invited to submit as many “contingency” projects as they chose to temporarily replace Year 12 projects that had been placed on hold due to COVID-19.*
5. At all other times, each Governance Organization is invited to submit up to 3, 4 or 5 “contingency” projects (depending on size of their funding envelope) for prior approval in case any of their priority projects do not get started within one year of approval. Contingency projects are optional.
6. If no “contingency” projects have been previously reviewed by IFPOC, no substitutions may be made for that year in the future.
7. If a project did not make acceptable progress and has not spent any of its funds after Year 1, the Governance Organization may request that IFPOC permit a substitution of that project with a “contingency project” which had been previously reviewed and approved by IFPOC.
8. To obtain approval for a substitution, the Governance Organization must submit Form G2 that describes the reason for the lack of progress of the unsuccessful project and Form D from the contingency project stating that it will be able to initiate its project immediately (within three months) and that it will be able to complete the project with the funds available from the unsuccessful project within the original timeframe (1 or 2 years from April 1st).

Interim Report

9. At the end of two years, an ONLINE INTERIM REPORT should be filled in by the Governance Organization.
10. However, if funds have been spent by any project and if the Governance Organization identifies concerns about the progress, they should consider remedial actions including, if necessary, a change in project lead so that the project is not in default at the time of the Final Project Status and Accounting Report. If however, remedial actions are unsuccessful, then the project may be **terminated** and the remaining funds returned to the Government of Ontario and IFPOC notified. If approved as terminated, the project will be filed in IFPOC system as “retired”, and the GO will arrange to return funds to the Government of Ontario, as well as submit a detailed budget of funds spent to date.
11. In addition, the GO should indicate on the interim report either what remedial steps are being taken or confirm to IFPOC that the project is returning funds (P4).
12. Under exceptional circumstances, if a project is unable to proceed at any time during the granting period (1 or 2 years), and if the Governance Organization makes a compelling explanation to IFPOC, then the project

may still be substituted with a contingency project provided the unsuccessful project has not spent any of its funds.

13. No substitutions may be made if any Innovation Fund money has been spent on an “unsuccessful” project.

Change in Project Lead

14. If a “Project Lead” cannot continue to lead a project before the Final Project Status and Accounting Report is submitted, a co-Lead, or another qualified AHSC AFP physician may be substituted after approval has been granted by IFPOC. If a Project Lead is unable to continue to lead a project, then another Project Lead can assume that position provided that the new Project Lead is either designated as participating in the original application, or has adequate qualifications. All substitution requests must be submitted in an email to IFPOC, stating that the replacement project lead is a qualified AHSC AFP physician, has the necessary qualifications to take over the project and has been approved by the GO. All substitutions must be approved by IFPOC.

4.2 Application, Review, and Reporting Process

- Individual AHSC AFP Governance Organizations will issue to their Participating Physicians a request for proposals along with the Year XIII Framework for projects seeking support through the AHSC AFP Innovation Fund.
- Each AHSC AFP Governance Organization, according to the Framework and Competitive Peer Review Process and Review Criteria set out below, will establish a common and transparent competitive peer review process to adjudicate and rank proposals being considered for support with Innovation Funds.
- Selection committees will choose the best proposals for their institution. From among those, IFPOC specifically requests that Selection Committees and Governance Organizations give priority to projects that could impact health care delivery beyond their institution and/or could be adapted across the province.
- All Governance Organizations are required to submit a G1 form annually through ifpoc.org – if they are submitting new projects or not.
- If new projects are being submitted, the relevant P1 and P2 forms must also be uploaded prior to the G1. These must be submitted by each Governance Organization “as is” and not further copied, scanned or PDF.
- Applicants are asked to fill in P1 and P2 for submission by their Governance Organizations – found at ifpoc.org. These fillable forms should be downloaded and saved, before being filled in. Please do not alter these forms or they will be rejected. P2 must be saved as a PDF prior to uploading.
- The P2 budget amount being requested from IFPOC must match the amount being requested on behalf of the Project by their Governance Organization. (**NEW**). This same amount should also be reflected in the P1.
- Governance Organizations are asked to fill in Online Interim Reports for ALL projects using the online form by March 31st, two years after the project has been approved for funding.

4.2.1 Local budgetary and conflict of interest policies and guidelines: G3

(Required every three years – or in December if changes have been made over previous 12 months) – Please note that due to COVID-19, we are delaying the requirement to submit a G3 Policy Confirmation this year. We will ask you to submit next December 2021 – **unless you have made any significant changes to your own internal policies** since the last time you submitted.

4.2.2 Existing Funding Confirmation: G1 (Required annually)

Even if a Governance Organization is not submitting NEW projects for funding, we ask that they complete Form G1 annually to indicate that previously approved projects are on track and eligible for second year funding according to the GO-approved guidelines. G1 will also confirm support for funding and related policies. During this process, we recommend that GOs ascertain whether or not projects still in their first year have spent any of their funds.

For this year, include your COVID-19 Interim Year 13 projects on your G1 (we have made adjustments to the forms to accommodate this, and to keep the two separate). Also, please note that we now require the G1 be completed and uploaded AFTER all the project files, to ensure project codes and funding amounts are all aligned.

4.2.3 Online Interim Report – (replaces Annual Online Report)

GOs are asked to fill out an “ONLINE INTERIM REPORT”, for ALL projects two years after funding has been granted. This **short online form** will indicate that each previously approved project is on track, and has spent some of its budget. This report is due by March 31st two years after funding has been awarded. Beginning in March 2020, this form will be required for each project.

4.2.4 New Funding Requests: Form G1, P1, and P2

Project Leads must submit their project proposals to their AHSC AFP Governance Organization using the Forms **P1 and P2 (available at the bottom of the home page: <https://ifpoc.org/>. Scanned, copied, or altered documents are not acceptable.**

- Governance Organizations may only submit funding requests to IFPOC for 1 or 2 years. **Any requests for funding additional years of any projects will be declined.**
- **Governance Organizations may only submit funding requests to IFPOC that add up to their maximum amount allowable** in any single funding year. The **total funding request on G1** for all projects in any year may not be an amount higher than the allocation allowable from the Ministry (but the amount may be lower). The online forms will calculate the amounts, and reject any G1 that requests funding beyond that which is allowable from the Innovation Fund. **At an individual project level, it is essential that the project budgets and financial reports (P2 and P4) are clear about how much funding is provided by IFPOC, and how much of that funding is spent. We also welcome information about additional sources of funding, but these should be reported on separately in the P4 as per instructions. GOs are not required to report any earned interest on funds provided.**
- Governance Organizations are asked to indicate on G1 that they have reviewed and approved all NEW proposals submitted to the IFPOC for funding according to the provincial framework and according to the process they had previously submitted for approval by IFPOC contained in their G3.
- AFP Governance Organizations will submit individual Project Proposals (P1 and P2) recommended for funding to the IFPOC in January. The budget amounts being requested from IFPOC by Project Leads for their projects in the P1 and P2 (Year 1 and Year 2) must match the amount being requested by GOs on behalf of that project in the online project summary.
- The IFPOC will then evaluate each proposal recommended for funding and will ensure that all proposals are consistent with the provincial framework and locally defined guidelines.
- Governance Organizations may recommend any level of AHSC AFP Innovation funding for individual projects, with the proviso that the total level of funding from the Innovation Fund for such projects may not exceed the per annum allocation of AHSC AFP Innovation Funds to their own Governance Organization. Supplementary funding may be provided for each project from other sources, but the Governance Organization must ensure that such funds are available before the project is recommended for funding.

- Use of Innovation Funds for physician remuneration may not exceed current OMA Per Diem rates (see Appendix C) whether or not this remuneration is for actual clinical activity.
- If Innovation Funds are being used to support physician remuneration, and if any changes to these policies are being made, Governance Organization should provide this information to the IFPOC using G3.
- If GOs wish to charge fees to Projects for administration costs associated with a project, they must apply them fairly across all projects. If GOs wish to charge a flat fee, that flat fee **should not add up to more than 2%** of IF funding provided to each project, but it may be less. Under all circumstances, the total fee should not add up to more than **\$5,000** over the full length of the project.
- If Innovation Funds are being used to pay for project administration, and if any changes to these policies are being made, Governance Organizations should provide this information to the IFPOC using G3, and explain what the administrative fees will cover and why. A new section has been added to the G3 to accommodate this.
- On Form G1, Governance Organizations are asked to confirm that the budget of each project submitted for funding has been carefully reviewed and is in compliance with their internal Governance Organization policies and guidelines.

Contingency Projects

- This year, for the COVID-19 projects funded during the interim competition ONLY, GOs were invited to submit as many contingency projects as they wished, provided the amounts matched/aligned with the projects being placed on hold temporarily. These were only allowed if those Year 12 projects being temporarily replaced had not spent any of their funds.
- At all other times, Governance Organizations are invited to submit **additional projects**, in their order of preference (which are not included in the calculation of “allowable funding”), as “contingency” projects, for pre-approval by IFPOC. The number of contingencies you are invited to submit is dependent on the size of the GO’s funding envelope. Small Governance Organizations are invited to submit up to 3 contingency projects (Montfort, Baycrest, Bloorview MacMillan, Bruyère, CAMH, ROH, UOHI, and WCH). Medium Governance Organizations are invited to submit up to 4 contingency projects (CHEO, NOAMA, SEAMO, SHSC, and SMH). Large Governance Organizations are invited to submit up to 5 contingency projects (AMOSO, HAHSO, MSH-UHN, and TOHAMO).
- Normally, contingency projects will not be funded immediately, but could step in to take the place of a previously approved and funded project from that same funding year should a recommended project not be successful for any reason (such as unable to receive ethics or other approvals). This movement of funds will only be allowed if a) the projects are from the same funding year, and b) **if NONE of the Innovation Fund monies have been spent.**

4.2.5 Innovation Fund Provincial Oversight Committee Review

- The IFPOC may ask for further details and/or clarification regarding any proposal at its discretion.
- The IFPOC may not delay the transfer of funds from the MOH to Governance Organizations, but may request that funds not be released by Governance Organizations to support a particular proposal until the IFPOC is satisfied with the clarification sought.
- Governance Organizations will monitor and be accountable for funding received through the AHSC AFP Innovation Fund. Governance Organizations are required to review all funded projects annually to ensure that they are on track and worthy of continued funding (where appropriate). Governance Organizations are particularly encouraged to review previous year’s projects to ensure they have begun their work and to see if any funds have been spent. This is especially important in view of the March 31 deadline for substitutions with contingency projects, which can only take effect if no funds have yet been spent.

4.2.6 Reporting: Interim and Final Reporting

- Each project's "Final Project Status and Accounting Report" contains three elements: a P3 (Final Narrative Report – provided by the Project Lead), a P4 (Final Budget and Financial Statement – provided by the Project Lead), and an Online Final Report Summary – to be filled in online by the GO that confirms amounts spent/unsent and provides abstract of final results.

Project Leads are required to submit Forms P3 (Final Narrative Report) and P4 (Final Budget and Financial Statement) to their own Governance Organization for review and if approved, the Governance Organizations are required to submit them to IFPOC. Each "Final Project Status and Accounting Report" is due by March 31, within two years after the funding term of the project (e.g. 1-year projects funded in March 2018 must submit Final Project Status and Accounting Reports by March 31, 2021, and 2-year projects funded in March 2018 must submit these by March 2022).

- Many projects may not have completed all of the aims of the original proposal at the time Final Project Status and Accounting Reports are due. However, **we request that a report which documents the progress made and the amounts spent be provided 2 years after the end of the funding period, regardless of progress made.** All projects are required to submit their Final Project Status and Accounting Report at the end of this two-year period **and any unspent funds must be returned to the Ontario Government.** For any projects that have not provided a report, the Governance Organizations will be asked to provide an explanation along with a financial accounting of funds spent to date to IFPOC and the Ministry, and any unspent funds for those projects will be subject to return to the Province.
- For projects reporting before the end of their term date (within the first year for one-year projects, and within the first two years for two-year projects), Governance Organizations are asked to contact the system administrator at the IFPOC.ORG website for special instructions for uploading "early" reports.

Online Interim Report (Governance Organization)

- The Governance Organization should review all projects. Project Leads should provide evidence to their Governance Organization that the project has been initiated and is working towards its goal before second year funds are approved. Governance Organizations, through G1, are asked to confirm that they have reviewed each project after its first year, and must confirm this yearly, whether or not they are seeking funding for NEW projects. In addition, they will be asked to fill in an "Online Interim Report" for all projects at the conclusion of year two – due no later than March 31.

FINAL PROJECT STATUS and ACCOUNTING REPORT:

Online Final Report Summary (Governance Organization)

- The Governance Organization should first complete the Online Final Report Summary by answering five questions for each project: the amount provided by the IF, spent, and unspent (if any); approval by Governance Organization; and a final abstract which must be inserted for each project from the P3. The amount spent should equal the amount spent indicated on the P4. If there are unspent funds, the Governance Organization must check a box to indicate that the MOH will be advised, and that the unspent funds will be returned. Then upload each P3 and P4. Annually, IFPOC will issue a reminder in November/December about Final Project Status and Accounting Reports coming due March 31st of the following year.

P3 and P4 – Final Project Status and Accounting Report (Project Lead)

- Project Leads are required to provide a detailed final narrative report (P3) that includes a project summary and a detailed separate budget and financial statement (P4). The Project Leads requesting funding for more than one year are required to provide an annual progress report to their own Governance Organization which may then report the progress to IFPOC. Project Leads must submit P3 and P4 through their Governance Organization to IFPOC at the completion of the funding agreement – **within 60 days of completion of the project, and no more than two years beyond the end of the funding term – whether the project is completed or not.**

Extension Requests

Extension requests are no longer permitted. Under exceptional circumstances, requests for extensions to projects funded prior to 2019 may be considered for approvals but only if these requests are received by IFPOC at least two months prior to the project's original due date and subject to IFPOC approval. Any requests for extensions for projects funded and approved prior to Year XI will be considered on an individual and exceptional basis by IFPOC, and should be made via email to Sarah Garson (sgarson@garsonconsulting.com) and/or Janice Hutchison (JaniceHutchison@rogers.com).

4.3 Termination of a Project

Governance Organizations are encouraged to use all means available to support Project Leads to complete their projects. In the unfortunate event that a project is unable to continue – either it has lost its Project Lead, the concept is no longer viable, or for any other unforeseen reason, the Governance Organization may send a letter (email) to IFPOC requesting that a project be terminated. The email should be sent to the Chair, Vice Chair, and administrators and copied to the MOH, and should contain the following information:

- i. Reason for termination – a detailed explanation.
- ii. If any funding has been spent, a detailed budget.
- iii. If any funding remains, the balance must be returned to the Government of Ontario.

If approved, the project will be filed in IFPOC system as “retired”, and the GO will arrange to return funds to the Government of Ontario.

4.4 Intellectual Property and Project Information

The Innovation Fund Provincial Oversight Committee has established the following policy for the dissemination of Innovation Fund information:

- i. Ownership of the Intellectual Property will remain with the Institution and/or Project Lead.
- ii. Once a project has been **approved** for funding, **the name and contact information of the Project Lead, the total amount of Innovation Fund funding, as well as the abstract (located on page 2 of Form P1) will be made public** either by IFPOC or the Government of Ontario.
- iii. Once a project is **complete** and its final report has been submitted and approved, **the name and contact information of the Project Lead, the final amount of Innovation Fund funds spent, as well as the abstract (located on page 2 of Form P3) will be made public** by IFPOC through our website ifpoc.org or the Government of Ontario.
- iv. Any further details regarding a project will be released to interested parties only with the agreement of the Project Leads.

5.0 Eligibility Criteria

- The “Project Lead” for each proposal must be a Participating Physician, as defined in the AHSC AFP Agreement.
- Innovation Funds should be used to support the human resources and infrastructure necessary to implement, test and/or evaluate new concepts and modes of health care delivery. In general, the funds are not intended for equipment; however, the innovative use of equipment could form the basis of a project. With the exception of projects focusing on COVID-19, funding may not be used to defray the cost of implantable medical devices or drug trials. While this funding is clearly intended to support innovative clinical care to patients, it is not intended as a substitute for perceived inadequacies in either the OHIP fee schedule or individual institutional funding. Innovation Funding is not intended for use to fund long-term clinics, facilities or other “bricks and mortar” endeavours.
- The Innovation Fund was intended to support projects with funding for **up to 2 years**. Additional funding for the project beyond 2 years should be sought from sources other than the Innovation Fund.
- Each AHSC should **provide either a clear definition of “innovation” for their institution on G3**, or indicate that the IFPOC definition is being used. Each individual proposal should reference that definition and indicate why the project is innovative for that institution and each Governance Organization should indicate that each project conforms to its definition of innovation.
- The IFPOC will review each application. Those projects that do not conform to the Provincial Framework or do not meet the criteria established by their own Governance Organization will be returned to the Governance Organization for revision, or the Governance Organization will be invited to replace that project with another application during the review process that year and no later than the end of March.

5.1 Scope of Projects Eligible for Funding

Innovative, promising and deserving projects are eligible to receive funding through the Innovation Fund across a wide scope of areas of focus including but not limited to:

- COVID-19
- Patient education and enablement
- Continuity of care
- Process improvement models in efficiencies, patient safety and quality of care
- Support/collaboration from AHSCs with the community
- Virtual care
- Knowledge transfer across AHSCs and the broader health care system

In order to facilitate IFPOC’s ability to provide “leadership in the dissemination of new knowledge”, the Innovation Fund particularly encourages projects that address the current health system priorities including: virtual care; mental health and addictions; patient safety; effectiveness of health care delivery; home and community care; indigenous health; francophone health; quality improvement; sustainability; social determinants of health; health system funding reform; better care pathways for pregnant women; and, cost– benefit comparisons.

For 2020 – 2021, based on past experience, and **with the exception of projects focused on COVID-19**, the following are examples of projects that were judged to be less innovative by IFPOC:

- Stand-alone databases
- Drug or other industry related projects
- Projects designed to evaluate a new device / drug in which there is significant industry sponsorship

6.0 Evaluation of Project Proposals

IFPOC requests that each project be reviewed twice: once by each GO's internal competitive review process, and a second review, by IFPOC.

6.1 Competitive Peer Review Process

Each AHSC AFP Governance Organization will establish a competitive peer review process that invites expressions of interest from across the AHSC and results in funding recommendations that are based on demonstrated merit, not equity. For example, the allocation of Innovation Funds on a per FTE basis at individual AHSCs would not be supported. Governance Organizations are encouraged to include one or more representatives on their peer review committee from outside of their AHSC Governance Organization, to support an objective review process.

6.2 Review Criteria

The assessment of proposals by each Governance Organization competitive peer review committee should continue to be guided by the above, and should be based on the following criteria:

a. *Potential impact*

- Potential impact within and beyond the local institution and the academic community: the likely significance of the project in generating and transferring new knowledge and beneficial results beyond the project participants.
- Potential to improve understanding in the project's subject field: presence of a documented and coherent knowledge translation strategy for exchanging information generated by the project beyond the project participants.

b. *Proposal merit*

- Innovative and original idea(s)/objectives
- The applicants should indicate why the proposal is innovative for their institution or constituency
- Well-written and focused proposal
- Comprehensive relevant performance metrics that can be used at the end of the first year (and any subsequent years) of funding
- Appropriateness and relevance to scope of Innovation Fund
- Feasibility and viability of project, including consideration of budget costs

c. *Team strengths*

- Experience and skills of the project team - track record; historical productivity and impact; the inclusion of early career investigators; likelihood that this team can complete the Innovation project being proposed; time and availability to commit to the project; and, collaborative arrangements with colleagues if applicable

d. *Assessment*

- What are the metrics for evaluation?
- What are the timelines and when do you expect to see progress?
- What kinds of progress do you expect?
- How will you judge whether or not your project has been a success?

e. *Priority*

- IFPOC requests that review committees and Governance Organizations give priority to projects which have the potential to impact health care delivery in multiple institutions or across the Province
- If two projects otherwise have equal merit, the Selection Committees and Governance Organizations are asked to give priority to projects that could impact health care delivery beyond their institution and/or could be adopted across the province.

IFPOC Members will consider the proposals submitted for funding based on a number of guiding criteria:

- *Assessment*: clear and measurable outcomes indicating that the project will improve health care delivery
- *Merit*: distinctly “innovative”
- *Potential impact*: the project can be translated to clinical practice and impacts health care delivery
- *Strength*: quality of proposal and participants
- *Scope*: the potential to impact health care delivery in multiple institutions across the Province

6.3 Common Scale for Evaluation

Each Governance Peer Review Committee should use a single evaluation scale for evaluating, rating and ranking its proposals. The CIHR Merit Review Scale is one such example.

6.4 Relevance Review

Governance Organization Competitive Peer Review Committees may evaluate proposals for relevance in relation to previously identified health care priorities for their particular institution (if applicable, as entered on G3).

6.5 Process Integrity

The integrity of the Innovation Fund competitive peer review process, like others, will be dependent on shared principles of confidentiality and conflict of interest.

Confidentiality:

- All information contained in expressions of interest should be considered strictly confidential. The applications and any discussions related to them may not be used for any purpose beyond that for which they were originally intended. Outside of their group deliberations, peer review committee members must not discuss expressions of interest with other parties.

Conflict of Interest:

- Governance Organizations, review committees, and Project Leads are expected to be aware of, and to manage, any conflict of interest situation within the peer review committee. To that end, we have added a section to the P1 so that Project Leads may declare any potential conflicts and explain how they will mitigate any unwanted impact from that Conflict of Interest. For example, if a project lead is also participating in the design/sale of a product which will be used in testing an innovation in their workplace. We also ask that Project Leads declare who (individual or organization) will hold title, patent, or commercial ownership of any such product.
- AFP Governance Organizations are being asked to confirm with IFPOC how potential conflicts of interest will be managed at their institution (G3).
- Governance Organizations must make every effort to ensure that the decisions of its peer review committee are fair, objective and transparent, and that the peer review process is communicated broadly to practice plans and Participating Physicians. Peer review committee members may be assessed to have a conflict of interest if they, or an individual Participating Physician they represent, submit an Innovation project proposal for consideration by the peer review committee. Peer review committee members deemed to have a conflict of interest on this basis shall be excused from discussions and decisions of the peer review committee as they pertain to project proposals for which the conflict of interest exists. Each member should attempt to avoid adversely influencing competing applications.

7.0 Acknowledgements and Contacts

Should Project Leads (or Governance Organizations) wish to acknowledge Innovation Fund as the source of funding for their projects at conferences, on posters, in publications, or on websites, the correct acknowledgement is as follows:

“... was supported by the Innovation Fund of the Alternative Funding Plan for the Academic Health Sciences Centres of Ontario.”

For information about IFPOC, the Innovation Fund, its framework and/or process, please visit IFPOC.ORG to download forms, for FAQs and to use contact links, or to contact us directly:

Richard D. Weisel, MD FRCS

Chair, Innovation Fund Provincial
Oversight Committee
Tel: 416-581-7662
Email: richard.weisel@uhn.ca

Davy Cheng, MD MSc FRCPC FCAHS CCPE

Vice-Chair, Innovation Fund Provincial
Oversight Committee
Tel: 519-859-0219
Email: Davy.Cheng@lhsc.on.ca

Sarah Garson

Executive Director, Innovation Fund
Provincial Oversight Committee
Tel: 416-200-2704
Email: sgarson@garsonconsulting.com

Janice Hutchison

Consultant, Innovation Fund
Provincial Oversight Committee
Tel: 416-985-7063
Email: Janicehutchison@rogers.com

AHSC AFP Innovation Fund Year XIII (2020-21)

Appendices

Please find attached **within this Framework** instructions related to the following documents, each of which can be found at IFPOC.ORG:

For Governance Organizations:

Appendix A: AFP Governance Organization Process Details regarding:

- a) Policies and Procedures (G3)
- b) Funding Confirmation and new Funding Requests (G1, Online Summary, P1, and P2)
- c) Reporting (Online Interim Reports, Online Final Report Summary, P3, and P4)
- d) Substitutions (G2 and D)
- e) Changing Project Status (P5)

For Innovation Fund Applicants:

Appendix B: Applicant Process Details regarding:

- a) Proposals and Budgets (P1 and P2)
- b) Reports and Budgets (P3 and P4)
- c) Declaration for Substitution (D)
- d) Changing Project Status (P5)

For Governance Organizations and Innovation Fund Applicants:

Appendix C: OMA per diem Guideline (updated)

Please find **located at IFPOC.ORG by clicking on <https://ifpoc.org/>** the following 9 related documents:

FUNDING REQUEST:	G1
SUBSTITUTION REQUEST:	G2
POLICY CONFIRMATION:	G3
PROJECT PROPOSAL:	P1 (some GOs have individualized P1s)
PROJECT BUDGET:	P2
FINAL REPORT:	P3
FINAL BUDGET:	P4
CHANGE OF STATUS:	P5 (only if applicable)
DECLARATION FOR SUBSTITUTION:	D

AHSC AFP Innovation Fund Year XIII (2020-21)

AHSC AFP Governance Organization Process Details

Each project, once approved by IFPOC, is assigned a unique identifier: a three letter GO identifier – a two-digit year identifier – and the unique three-digit code identifier for each project. This coding system allows IFPOC and the Project's Governance Organization to track all projects and document their progress to date, funding allocated, and reporting. **In any communications with IFPOC regarding a specific project, please use this IFPOC identifier so that we can quickly identify the project in question.**

In order to most efficiently fill in any of our forms, we recommend you use Adobe Reader. If you don't currently have Adobe Reader, speak to your IT manager, or it can be downloaded for free at adobe.com or:

Windows: <http://www.adobe.com/support/downloads/product.jsp?platform=windows&product=10>.

Mac: <http://www.adobe.com/support/downloads/product.jsp?platform=macintosh&product=10>.

FORMS:

G1 – Funding Request (please complete and upload AFTER P1/P2 to ensure project codes are included)

G2 – Substitution Request

G3 – Policy Confirmation

P5 – Change of Status

These forms are intended as tools to support the management and administration of the Innovation Fund. Each of these forms is now provided to you online at IFPOC.ORG. We ask that you submit these by filling out a few selected online fields and then uploading each to the Innovation Fund website.

1.0 About Funding Request Form G1

The Funding Request Form has two purposes:

- a) To confirm that previously funded projects are on track and should receive their second year funds (when applicable)
- b) To confirm that projects selected by the Governance Organization have been reviewed and approved by the relevant hospital and university.

We ask that you please complete and upload this form by **January 15, 2021** after you have uploaded your project proposals P1 and P2 to ensure codes are included and budget request amounts are aligned. If you are also submitting "contingency" projects, we ask that you upload these project proposal files at the same time as other funding requests, and before uploading a final G1. Please note that a G1 is required annually from EACH Governance Organization, regardless of whether or not they are submitting new projects for funding.

For this year only: please remember to add the COVID-19 Interim Year 13 projects to your G1 (in addition to your new projects requesting funding). We have changed the forms to accommodate this.

1.1 Notes About Project Proposals P1 and P2

Based on our past experiences, when projects contain significant information technology components, the Chief Information Officers (CIOs) of their institution can facilitate the activity of the projects. Therefore, **we encourage Project Leads to advise their CIOs if their projects are deemed to have significant IT components** (integrated into proposal P1 for applicants). Likewise, Governance Organizations are requested to ensure that their institutional IT staff review and approve proposals before sending project proposals to IFPOC for funding (integrated into G1).

We are also now requiring that P2 (proposal budgets) and P1 funding requests are aligned with the final amount deemed by a Governance Organization to meet the needs of the project being recommended for funding. To that end, **we recommend that organizations build in a bit of time to ask Project Leads to revise and re-submit P1s and P2s** before uploading them so that they align.

2.0 About Policy Confirmation Form G3

Policy Confirmation confirms a Governance Organization's: selection process, conflict of interest guidelines, definition of innovation (if different or more specific than those of IFPOC), and health care priorities (if you have any for Innovation Fund). It also informs us about your decisions regarding whether or not you allow physicians to be remunerated out of Innovation Funds, and whether or not you charge projects administration fees (and how). Please upload the G3 **by December 1, 2020 only if there have been any changes**.

3.0 About Online Interim Reports

IFPOC now requires an "Online Interim Report" for ALL (one and two year) projects, due in March at the end of the second year after initial approval and funding.

3.1 Governance Organization Responsibilities

Governance Organizations are required to review each project at the two-year mark to ensure it is on track for completion. The "Online Interim Report" works to ensure that project extensions are no longer required of projects funded by Innovation Fund.

GOs will be asked to

- a) confirm that projects have been reviewed and are "on track" to completion as per original proposal
- b) inform IFPOC how much funding was i. Approved ii. Flowed to date to project lead, and iii. Has been spent to date by the Project lead.
- c) If the GO has concerns about the ability of a project to proceed, they are encouraged to institute remedial actions so that the project moves toward completion and spends its funds before the Final Project Status and Accounting Report is due. If changes to the project lead and/or other personnel are necessary for the project to complete spending of the funds, IFPOC should be notified and asked for approval.

4.0 About Final Project Status and Accounting Reports – Online Final Report Summary, P3 and P4

Governance Organizations are responsible for oversight of projects within their own institutions. Forms P3 and P4 should be sent by Project Leads to their Governance Organization for review before submission to IFPOC. Once approved by the Governance Organization, a short ONLINE FINAL REPORT SUMMARY should be completed by the Governance Organization that includes: indication of approval of P3 and P4 by Governance Organization; amount of Innovation Fund funding received, spent and unspent (if any) that must match the amounts listed on the P4; a project abstract, copied and pasted from page 2 of FORM P3, and finally a check box to indicate that MOH will be notified if funds remain unspent and need to be returned. Once this step has been completed, the project P3 and P4 will be able to be uploaded.

If any funds remain unspent, we ask that the GO contact the MOH to inform them of the amount, the project it relates to, and the method of repayment to Treasury of Ontario and copy IFPOC.

4.1 Final Project Status and Accounting Report – on time required

In order to meet the requirements of the Government of Ontario and the Auditor General, it is imperative that Final Project Status and Accounting Reports (all 3 sections) are submitted on time. After the deadline passes, in the absence of details about how the funding was spent, the IFPOC will assume that the project has not spent any funds, and the entire amount originally provided will need to be returned to the Treasurer of Ontario. Please ensure that reports regarding the project as well as use of the funds are prepared and submitted by the deadline. IFPOC will begin contacting GOs in November about Final Project Status and Accounting Reports due at the end of March.

5.0 About Substitutions, G2, and D

Although substitutions may be made, we anticipate that they will be rarely implemented. The rules for substitutions are as follows:

5.1 Project Lead Substitutions

If a “Project Lead” cannot continue to lead a project before the Final Project Status and Accounting Report is submitted, a co-Lead, or another qualified AHSC AFP physician can be substituted subject to approval by IFPOC. A physician might be deemed qualified should they: be designated as participating in the original application, or have adequate qualifications, and they must be a Participating Physician, as defined in the AHSC AFP Agreement.

Process:

- Governance Organizations are asked to communicate in email to IFPOC with details about the rationale and plan for keeping the project on time and within budget.
- IFPOC will review the request within two weeks, and if approved, will ask the Governance Organization to update the project files with the relevant personal information for the new Project Lead.

5.2 Project-for-Project Substitutions (G2 and Form D)

Each Governance Organization is invited to submit “contingency” projects annually to IFPOC for prior approval in case any of their priority projects do not get started in a timely fashion.

Substitutions will **not** be permitted:

- a) If no “contingency” projects have been previously reviewed by IFPOC,
- b) If any Innovation Fund money has been spent

Process:

- Once Form G2 and the corresponding Form D have been uploaded to the system, Governance Organizations may expect to receive a decision from IFPOC within two weeks regarding the substitution.
- After approval by IFPOC, and if Governance Organizations have directed IFPOC to do so, IFPOC will list the old project as inactive and the new project will be listed as active.

6.0 About Change of Status (P5)

Subject to approval by IFPOC, a P5 may be used by those Governance Organizations who

1. Fund projects one year at a time, and
2. Elect to change funding period from one to two years with no other major changes to the project

These Governance Organizations may not submit the project as an entirely new project. By using the P5, Governance Organizations agree to extend the existing project, from a one to a two-year project, and to thereby extend the due date of the Final Project Status and Financial Report by one year (regardless of how long it has been since the initial project was funded for one year). No projects may take any longer than 4 years from the date of funding before they must submit the Final Project Status and Accounting Report, regardless of when they are approved for Year 2 funding. They must also use the existing project code, so that IFPOC can track these projects.

AHSC AFP Innovation Fund Year XIII (2020-21)

Applicant Process Details – Proposals and Final Reporting

Proposals should be submitted electronically to your own Governance Organization using the P1 and P2 forms that can be located at <https://ifpoc.org>. All elements are required in order to be eligible for consideration.

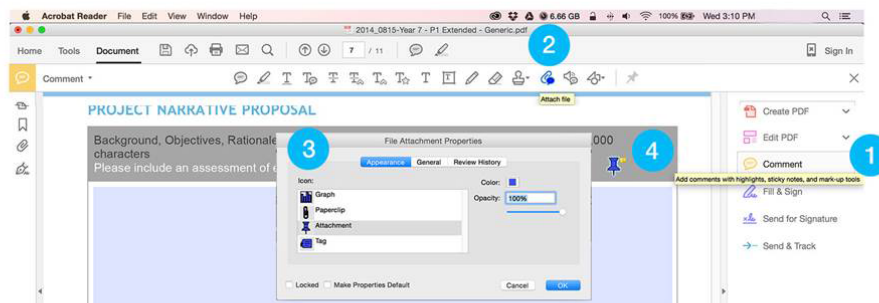
1.0 About Project Proposals (P1 and P2)

A complete Project Proposal consists of two documents: the Project Proposal P1 and the Project Budget P2. In order to be eligible for funding, both elements must be included in the submission to your Governance Organization.

You may include up to 2 pages of supporting documentation (these may be either bibliographic references or letters of support) on the P1 Form. Should you wish to include these, up to 2 pages may be copied and pasted into the P1 Form. Each Governance Organization will be asked to submit P1 and P2 to IFPOC no later than January 15, 2021. Governance Organizations will not be permitted to upload projects that do not include both elements.

If you wish, you may include tables and figures in the P1 and P3. However, there are strict character limitations on all sections of the forms, and the use of tables and figures will reduce the space available for text. Some Governance Organizations have elected not to permit the use of attachments, but if allowed, to add tables and figures, please first download the appropriate form and save as a PDF. Then,

IFPOC ATTACH FILE INSTRUCTIONS



- 1 Click the “Comment” button on the right side menu to attach file
- 2 Click the “Attach file” button and place it on your document
- 3 Browse and select your file. Click OK.
- 4 Right-click “Attach file” icon to “Save embedded file to disk” or double-click to open

2.0 Form P1

Form P1 will ask you:

- Identify projects with a **significant IT component** (we encourage applicants to advise or seek input from their CIO or IT representative as early in the proposal preparation stage as possible. This can provide welcome support and advice to applicants before they receive funding, as well as support afterwards).
- Provide a **brief summary** of the proposed project in **non-technical language** – which will become the abstract for your project available on the public Innovation Fund website.
- What is the **length of the project** (one year or two years)?
- **How much funding is being requested** from the Innovation Fund for the project each year, and in total ? Please note that the amount you are requesting will be reviewed by your Governance Organization for consideration. If they recommend the project for approval to IFPOC, in some cases, they may only approve a portion of the funding originally requested. We are now **requiring the two amounts to be aligned**, so please be aware that you may be asked to revise the funding request to reflect the amount agreed upon with your GO.
- What is the **full value of funding** required (if different than above) for the project?
- Identify 5 key words that define your project, in order of importance. Please select from among the list of indicators for focus, methodology and outcomes. This will be used to identify your project in the searchable Innovation Fund database. (Unfortunately, we have not been able to develop a workable drop-down menu for these lists that can also be printed out – they can be found on pages 6 – 8 of the P1.)
- Provide a narrative proposal that includes objectives of the project, impact on knowledge translation, collaborators, approach and work plan, timelines, metrics to measure success, and project funding.
- Please remember to inform your Governance Organization if, during the duration of your project, you take leave (parental, maternal, medical) so that appropriate arrangements can be made with IFPOC.

2.1 About the Narrative Proposal

Pages 9 - 11

Background, objectives, rationale, significance, and justification for the innovative nature of the project and an assessment of outcomes

This section should provide a concise description of the objectives and question(s) to be addressed **that will allow reviewers without technical or specialty expertise in that area** to understand the importance, feasibility and relevance of the project. This section should also address: existing research, knowledge and practice in this area; importance and likely outcome of the research; and, relevance to patients and the health care system in general. For example:

- Describe the “Innovation” and why it is innovative for your institution
- What issue does the proposed research address within the eligible areas of scope?
- What evidence is there that this issue is important from a broad system perspective?
- How will the research results be used and to whom will they be applicable?
- How broadly relevant will they be? Will the results of the project potentially lead to sustainable changes in practice, process and/or education?
- What are the plans or opportunities for knowledge translation or dissemination of the project outcomes and to improve health care in Ontario?
- To what extent does this proposal support leadership in the dissemination of new knowledge across the healthcare system?

Page 12**Team**

This section should include the names and affiliations of the team members, with a brief statement of their roles, experience, area(s) of expertise, whether any are early career investigator physicians, time commitment and planned contributions to the project.

Approach and work plan

This section should provide a description of the approach to be used as well as a detailed project work plan.

Page 13 - 15**Timeline**

This section should provide a target start date, target completion dates for significant steps (milestones) leading to the proposed outcomes, and target finish date for the project.

Metrics to evaluate outcome of the project

This section should outline in detail what the anticipated outcomes would be and how the outcomes will be measured. It should provide a list of measurable milestones (outcomes) upon which the team will periodically report (and will submit to IFPOC via their Governance Organization at the 2-year mark). How will the Project Leads determine if the project was successful?

Please indicate:

- What will you measure to determine success?
- How will you measure it?
- What is the expected benefit and how will it be measured?

Page 16 - 20**Project funding**

The project team should identify all current sources of additional funding for the proposed Innovation Fund project, as well as applications for funding currently in progress.

Any other relevant information

The project team should identify any other relevant information.

List of References and/or Support from Partners (optional)

A brief list of bibliographic references and/or letters of support from other partners may be included.

Note regarding priority: Project Leads are reminded that IFOPC has requested review committees and Governance Organizations to give priority to projects which have the potential to impact health care delivery in multiple institutions or across the Province. If two projects otherwise have equal merit, the Selection Committees and Governance Organizations are asked to give priority to projects that could impact health care delivery beyond their institution and/or could be adapted across the province.

3.0 Form P2

Form P2 will ask you to describe and justify all requested budget expenditures, and:

- To include sufficient detail to allow for an assessment of the eligibility of these budget expenditures, including remuneration levels for physician and non-physician costs (such as compensation for non-physician team members).
- To specify the contributions (cash, in-kind, other) of any other funders/contributors.
- How much funding are you requesting from the Innovation Fund for the project each year, and in total?
- What is the **full value of funding** required (if different than above) for the project?

Please note that the amount you are requesting will be reviewed by your Governance Organization for consideration. If they recommend the project for approval to IFPOC, in some cases, they may only approve a portion of the funding originally requested. We are now **requiring the two amounts to be aligned**, so please be aware that you may be asked to revise the budget to reflect a lower funding amount.

4.0 Form D

D is a declaration by Project Leads whose projects were selected as “alternates” or contingency projects during the initial round of any given competition. If these Projects Leads are later invited to proceed with their project, they must first fill in Form D for review and approval by their Governance Organization and by IFPOC.

The declaration itself is intended to demonstrate to the IFPOC that the Project Lead is:

- **Ready to begin** the project within the next three months
- Prepared to complete the project within the **same timeframe** as the project being replaced
- Able to complete the project **using the Innovation Fund money available** from the project being replaced

5.0 Forms P3 and P4 – Final Reporting

A complete Final Project Status and Accounting Report from the Project Lead consists of two documents: the Final Narrative Report P3, and the Final Budget and Financial Statement P4. Both elements must be included in the reporting to your Governance Organization.

This Final Project Status and Accounting Report needs to be submitted to IFPOC by your Governance Organization by March 31 of the year report is due. Please submit your final report your AHSC AFP Governance Organization as soon as possible so that they can do their own internal review and approvals before submitting to IFPOC. All Final Project Status and Accounting Reports must be received by IFPOC within 2 years after the end of the term of Innovation Funding (e.g. Projects receiving one year of funding in March 2018 must submit Final Project Status and Accounting Report by March 2021, and Projects receiving two years of funding in March 2018 must do so by March 2022) – whether or not you have finished the project. **At the end of this period, regardless of status of the project, a report is required and unspent funds must be returned.**

Please note that the reporting requirement, Final Project Status and Accounting Report includes these three elements: the Online Final Report Summary (provided by your Governance Organization), the Final Narrative Report (P3) and the Final Budget and Financial Statement (P4). Governance Organizations will not be permitted to upload final reports that do not include these three elements.

AHSC AFP Innovation Fund Year XIII (2020-21)

OMA per Diem Guidelines¹

Appendix C

Page 1 of 2

Please note: If permitted in your institution, physician compensation is eligible for funding based on the time involved at a rate no higher than the OMA per diem rates whether or not remuneration is for actual clinical activity (see attached Appendix “C”)

Use of funds: Innovation Funds may be used to compensate participating physicians for evaluating the quality of existing or new health care services, to enable the development of new models of health care delivery, and to optimize health care delivery within the framework of the current health care system.

OMA – Claim Guidelines JANUARY 1, 2019

1. HONORARIUM

A. Rates for Meeting, Teleconference, and Travel Honorarium:

OMA Honorarium Basic Rates Meeting Attendance (Hourly rate only used for meetings up to 2 hours)

Days Served since January 1	Hourly Rate	Half-Day Rate
Up to 15	119.00	415.00
15.5 to 25	145.00	507.50
More than 25	166.00	582.50

Honorarium for Meetings:

Meeting duration	Basis for honorarium
0.5 to 2.0 hours	Hourly
2.5 to 4.5 hours	One half-day
5.0 to 9.5 hours	One full day
More than 9.5 hours (on same calendar day)	Three half-days
Teleconferences and travel are calculated to the nearest half hour	

- Members will be paid at the highest tier for all days served during the calendar year, retroactively if necessary.
- Members of designated bodies and Committee chairs will be paid a premium rate of 25% for meetings of the designated body to reflect time spent outside formal meetings which would not otherwise be paid.

¹ ONTARIO MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, MEMBER HONORARIUM & EXPENSE CLAIM – JANUARY 1, 2019