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Brain Canada
2021 Platform Support Grants (PSG)
Request for Applications (RFA)

About Brain Canada

Brain Canada is a national registered charity that enables and supports excellent, innovative, paradigm-changing brain research in Canada. For two decades, Brain Canada has made the case for the brain as a single, complex system with commonalities across the range of neurological disorders, mental illnesses and addictions, and brain and spinal cord injuries. Looking at the brain as one system has underscored the need for increased collaboration across disciplines and institutions, and to ensure that Canada has a robust pipeline of talent to remain at the forefront in the field of brain research. This will lead to a smarter way to invest in brain research that is focused on outcomes that will benefit patients and families. Brain Canada's vision is to understand the brain, in health and illness, to improve lives, and achieve societal impact.

The Canada Brain Research Fund is an innovative partnership between the Government of Canada, (through Health Canada) and Brain Canada, designed to encourage Canadians to increase their support of brain research, and maximize the impact and efficiency of those investments. The Fund supports the very best Canadian neuroscience, fostering collaborative research and accelerating the pace of discovery, in order to improve the health and quality of life of Canadians who suffer from brain disorders. Since 1998, Brain Canada and its donors and partners have invested $277 million in more than 370 research projects across the country.

www.braincanada.ca

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Rationale

High-impact research in the neurosciences has always required skill, imagination, determination, and insight. Today, research additionally requires access to shared equipment, facilities, services, databases, computing/informatics facilities, patient repositories, and biobanks; collectively referred to as "platforms". Such platforms are complex, highly sophisticated, and expensive but are now recognized as important enablers of capacity building and a cost-effective means of accessing cutting-edge equipment, technology, and services beyond what any researcher could achieve on their own. Platforms also play a critical role in fostering innovation and interdisciplinary collaboration. As such, access to platforms is essential to address the evolving needs of research.

Leveraging the full potential of a platform relies on the expertise of the staff operating it to make it accessible, and to ensure that performance and efficiency are optimized. As technologies evolve, there is a need for service-oriented expert scientists with the ability to implement, run, improve and adjust technologies to keep up with research demands.

Brain Canada has identified support for research platforms as a gap in the neuroscience research funding environment and the *Platform Support Grants (PSG)* program aims to continue addressing this critical issue.

Scope

The PSG program supports major research platforms (local, regional, or national) for up to three years with the goal of providing *enhanced technical and research capabilities* to multiple investigators in the neurosciences.

Examples of platforms which fall within the scope of PSG include brain banks, clinical trial networks, imaging facilities, transgenic animal facilities, specialized high-throughput genomics facilities, drug discovery platforms, data repositories, informatics systems, and data-sharing systems. The linking and coordination of existing local or regional facilities into a national framework or network is especially encouraged under this scheme, as is the integration of Canadian resources into an international platform or consortium (as long as these actions improve its accessibility and utility to Canadian investigators). Since technical approaches commonly used in other fields of health sciences can be applicable to the neurosciences, platforms may serve researchers working in other fields, however, the proposed platform enhancement must be of specific and unique benefit to the neuroscience community.

Central to PSG is the concept of added value, support from Brain Canada and sponsors must result in at least one of the following outcomes:

- Improvement in operations and capabilities of existing platforms such that research is facilitated and/or accelerated.

- Access to specialized technology or integration and coordination of existing infrastructure such that quality is improved and more widely accessible.

- Creation of new data pools, or improved access to existing data, which allows for the conduct of research activities not previously feasible.

- A discernable impact on Canada's capabilities in neuroscience research, even for local and regional platforms.

Examples of added value include:

- Improved maintenance strategies to extend the lifespan of current platforms;

- Performing essential repairs, and upgrading hardware (see eligible costs);

- Increasing or upgrading technical support in order to offer additional services, improved client support, or extended hours of service;

- Reducing user fees to the academic-sector (i.e., enables those previously unable to access the platform to do so);

- Enhancing the ability of neuroscience researchers to share and retrieve research data, biological samples, and/or adopt common methodology;

- Standardizing the acquisition and curation of materials and developing standard operating procedures that will improve reliability and reproducibility;

- Demonstration of research projects that would be otherwise impossible without the services and/or information provided by the platform (see eligible costs);

- Faster uptake of novel techniques due to the availability and shared resourcing of trained personnel

- Developing novel technical and methodological approaches for neuroscience research, including informatics tools and software, that will have broad applicability and impact on research progress;

- Engaging stakeholders to ensure that knowledge is more rapidly translated to practice and that ethical issues in neuroscience research are addressed.

PSG are not intended to replace current sources of funding or merely sustain current levels of platform service and capability.

Grant Details

Brain Canada, through the Canada Brain Research Fund, has allocated $15 million dollars to the 2021 PSG program, to be matched by funding provided by sponsors secured by applicants. Grants will be over three years. Total grant amounts are flexible to accommodate the needs of each platform. Historically, research grants awarded through the PSG program have ranged from $138,000 - $6.1 million (including matching funds) across three years.

Sponsored Opportunity

Through this sponsored PSG funding opportunity, Brain Canada aims to assist sponsoring organizations, agencies, institutions, and individuals who wish to build capacity and develop or enhance research platforms in specific thematic and/or geographic areas. The research team must apply for funding with one or more eligible sponsors. Brain Canada will deduct a 5% operating expense fee from the sponsor(s) contribution and will match the remaining funds for research. For example, if a sponsor(s) provides $1M, $50,000 will be used by Brain Canada as an operating expense fee to manage the grant. The remaining $950,000 will be matched by Brain Canada for a total of $1.9M going directly towards research. Therefore, if the sponsor is providing $1M, the research budget prepared by the Applicant must total $1.9M. **Contributions must be cash; in-kind contributions are not eligible for matching under this program.**

Potential sponsors can contact Brain Canada should they have any questions regarding the matching policy.

It is strongly advised that researchers and sponsors begin to discuss possible sponsorship of a project as early as possible in the application planning process. Registration Forms may be submitted without a firm commitment from a sponsor; however, they must be accompanied by letters from potential sponsors expressing an interest in supporting the platform.

- Eligible sponsors include individual donors, charitable organizations, provincial government agencies and ministries, for-profit enterprises, research institutions, hospitals and health-care organizations, and any other entities, including foreign entities or organizations, which do not receive more than 50% of their funding from the Government of Canada.
- While international sponsors are permitted, Brain Canada funds (i.e., 50% of the total research grant funds) can only be disbursed to Canadian institutions. Expenses incurred outside of Canada may be covered by sponsor funds, up to a maximum 20% of the total research grant amount.
- **A sponsor may support any number of applications and multiple sponsors may support a single application, but no sponsor can commit less than 20% of the matched funding required for one single application.**
- Sponsor(s) must declare any real or received conflicts of interest in their letter of support; to be submitted with full applications.
- Subsequent to the Registration Form, **Full Applications will not be accepted unless accompanied by a letter of commitment from the sponsor(s)**. If a sponsor is unable to honour its funding commitment at any time, Brain Canada will be required to withdraw its funding.
- Sponsors' support of PSG will be acknowledged in all presentations and publications. Brain Canada will advise sponsors of any impending media opportunities related to the supported platform, and vice-versa.

We expect this opportunity to be of particular interest to:

Institutional Benefactors and Donors to Charities who want to support either a specific aspect of brain research, a neuroscience or mental health research project at a specific institution, or a research project conducted by a particular research team. Through a combination of tax credits from their donations to the institution or charity and the matching funds provided by Brain Canada, their donations will be leveraged 2.5-3 fold, depending on the province.

Health Charities and other Funders who can use this opportunity for exceptional leverage to attract additional donations and support more high-quality research relevant to their mission than would otherwise be possible.

Research Institutions that can use this opportunity to attract additional donations and build their capacity for brain research by supporting their investigators at a reduced cost.

Industry Partners who can use this funding opportunity as a low-cost approach to supporting innovative research in the neurosciences.

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Some sponsors may intend to use the application process to help them select the most meritorious applications for funding. For example, a university may commit to funding the two most-highly rated and fundable applications from among the three submitted by applicants from that university. This is permissible, so long as this additional contingency is clearly stated in the letter of commitment that accompanies all the applications to which it applies. The commitment must still provide 50% of the requested funding, alone or in combination with other sponsors, for the projects, if selected. It is important that the applicants understand that this additional contingency, essentially an inter-sponsor competition, applies to their application.

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

Evidence clearly shows that increasing equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) in research environments enhances excellence, innovation and creativity. In addition, incorporation of principles of EDI in the design and execution of research involving human participants is critically important for broadening the potential impact of the work and the potential for new knowledge to be translated into health benefits. Given this heterogeneity and the diversity of the Canadian population, applicants must consider biological variables (i.e., sex, age, etc.) and social determinants of health (i.e., gender, socioeconomic status, etc.) in the research design, where appropriate. We encourage applicants to refer to CIHR's guidance on How to integrate sex and gender into research for more information. Applicants are also encouraged to consider how their proposed research addresses EDI consistent with CIHR's position on EDI, available in the Tri Agency Statement on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion.

In addition to EDI considerations in the research design, Brain Canada is committed to excellence through equity and encourage applicants of diverse backgrounds to apply to this funding opportunity, which will promote the expression of diverse perspectives, approaches, and experiences, including those of underrepresented groups.

Eligibility

This competition is open to groups of investigators working in neuroscience research. Broadly, this encompasses all areas of neuroscience and any disciplines that are being applied to the study of the nervous system in health and disease including: neurological and mental health disciplines as well as associated social, biological, chemical, physical, engineering, mathematics, and computer sciences areas that have a primary objective of advancing our understanding of the brain, nervous system, and special senses, or to resolve problems arising from their dysfunction.

- One of the platform team members will be designated the Principle Investigator (PI), nominated by the platform team, to be the individual responsible for submitting the application on its behalf and for all communications with Brain Canada. The PI is generally the individual responsible for overall management of the Platform. If the Platform is a physical entity, it would generally be located at the PI's institution. The PI must be conducting research at, and affiliated with, a Canadian institution for the entire duration of the grant. Academic appointments must have started by the deadline for Full Application submission.
- Members of the platform team must be based at a recognized research institution and eligible to receive funding from the federal granting agencies. Investigators must be considered independent researchers at their institution. Such individuals normally hold the rank of assistant, associate, or full professor; can initiate and direct their own independent lines of research as principal investigator; have full responsibility for running their laboratories; have full control of

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their research funds; and are permitted to supervise trainees (if applicable, as per their institution's policy). As a reminder, no more than 20% of the total research grant amount may be disbursed to international institutions.

- The Platform will have additional impact if they also increase opportunities for interaction and partnerships between collaborators from different sectors, countries and socioeconomic backgrounds who intend to use the platform such as scientists, international researchers, clinicians, and key stakeholders (i.e., industry, government and other non-academic sectors).

Importantly, please note that:

- Applicants must be able to initiate the project in November 2022, when funding will start.
- **Applicants who received funding from the *2019 Platform Support Grants* program, cannot apply with the same platform.** In other words, recipients of a 2019 PSG are only eligible to apply with a platform that did <u>not</u> receive funding from the previous iteration of this program.
- Applicants who have also submitted an application to the *Brain Canada Youth Mental Health Platform, powered by RBC Future Launch* program are eligible to apply to this competition with the same platform or with a platform that has distinct objectives from those proposed for the *Brain Canada Youth Mental Health Platform* program. Please note that those applying with the <u>same</u> platform and objectives to both programs cannot hold grants from both the *Brain Canada Youth Mental Health Platform* program and *2021 Platform Support Grants* program. Should they be selected to receive funding through both programs, the applicant will be required to accept only one.

Use of Funds

The funds must be allocated toward the direct costs of the research project for which they were awarded and should be directly attributable to the project or activity being performed.

Eligible Costs	Ineligible Costs
Purchase of service contracts, equipment repairs and other improvements to prolong the life of the platform, ensure it remains "state of the art", to increase its performance, capacity, and/or number of users supported. *Purchase of equipment and hardware may not exceed one quarter of the total value of the grant.*	Renovation or construction of space, purchase of standard office and laboratory furniture (cabinets, stools, computer desks, etc.)
Specialized supplies and services necessary for operation which will increase the platform's performance and number of users supported.	Basic laboratory services (heat, light, HVAC, municipal water supply, natural gas, security, cleaning, etc.) and research support services normally provided by an academic institution (e.g., libraries and other repositories of published works, basic animal care, technology transfer functions)
Salaries and benefits for technical and professional personnel responsible for developing, operating, and maintaining the platform.	Salaries of any individual Principal Investigator or researcher holding an academic appointment.

Development and dissemination of, and access to: databases, data repositories, patient registries, informatics platforms and portals to access and deposit data, development of technical protocols, data standards, and standard operating procedures.	Costs involved in meeting regulatory or ethical requirements, occupational health and safety requirements, audits or requirements for licensing, Insurance, etc. Costs associated with protection of intellectual property.
Training programs for new users and technical staff; advertising the availability and capability of the platform to users; communications between users intended to improve utilization and operation of the platform; meetings of management committees for the purpose of improving operations of the platform.	Costs for the operation of platforms that are for other than neuroscience research and incurred by users who are ineligible to receive funding from the federal granting agencies (CIHR, NSERC and SSHRC).
Expenses related to a demonstration research project intended to demonstrate the utility and value of a newly-formed platform and secure sustaining funding from other sources, *not to exceed one-half of the total value of the grant*.	For platforms that integrate research with other activities, such as service delivery or education and advocacy, costs that are not directly attributable to research and associated knowledge translation activities.

Note that this list is not exhaustive, and Brain Canada may rule any other expenditure eligible or ineligible. Applicants are advised to contact Brain Canada before submitting an application requesting support for other types of expenditures.

Criteria for Assessment

Innovation and Impact

a) *Quality and impact of the platform and research being proposed.*

The platform enables excellent researchers to generate novel results that:

- Contribute to the advancement of theory and concept or lead to the development of new approaches for prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of neurological and mental illness;
- Could not have been conducted in its absence, except at much greater cost (i.e., by duplicating existing infrastructure) and with significant delay;
- Will enhance Canada's capacity in neuroscience research by facilitating user access to the platform and/or improve its operational capabilities, quality, or capacity;
- Has an ultimate impact which will reduce the burden of disease, improve quality of life, and/or stimulate economic development in Canada;
- Will stimulate intersectoral (e.g., university/industry, university/health care service) or international collaboration. Linkages to other databases, repositories, biobanks, and registries are described;
- For new platforms where some funding will be used for a demonstration research project, the project is scientifically excellent and of high potential impact.

b) *Distinctiveness of the platform.* The platform is unique in its capabilities within the nation, region, or locality.

c) *Sex, Gender and Diversity Considerations.* Incorporation of sex, gender and diversity considerations in the design and execution of research is critically important for broadening the

potential impact of the work and the potential for new knowledge to be translated into health benefits to all. As such, the application clearly demonstrates how sex, gender and diversity considerations will be integrated in the development and use of the platform.

d) ***Open Science.*** The platform makes scientific information available to all and encourages knowledge translation. The scientific research outputs of the platform are "FAIR", i.e., Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable, and promote open education, open access publications, open data and materials, etc. The platform adopts a sustainable approach with concrete steps forward and commitment for Open Science so that, subject to applicable laws and regulations, its data and specimens will be useful and accessible to the neuroscience community including stakeholders, researchers, clinicians, and end users. *Applications for support of repositories, databases, and registries which contain personal health information must explain how their platform conforms to the relevant ethical guidelines.*

Platform Feasibility

a) ***Management of the platform:***
   - The governance and organizational structure are strong, effective, and widely understood by users;
   - There is an equitable and user-friendly process for access, and users receive training and assistance, allowing them to use the platform and its services in the most efficient, safe, and economical fashion;
   - There is regular budget planning for operations and maintenance, and for technical modifications to keep pace with scientific progress;
   - For established platforms, users attest to the smooth operation and minimum down-time of the platform and know how to communicate suggestions and concerns to the responsive operators;
   - The operation of the platform is reviewed or audited regularly against defined performance benchmarks and identified deficiencies are corrected.

b) ***Budget***. The amount of funding requested is in-line with the scope of the proposal and there is a clear plan for budgeting and disbursement of funds across the grant period.

Long-Term Value and Sustainability of the Platform

a) ***A plan for the future growth of the platform.*** The application includes a plan for how the team will leverage the proposed research plan to ensure the platform's growth over time, while accounting for the long-term value of the platform beyond the impact, outcomes and collaborations initially proposed at this time. In addition, there is a clear statement for how the team will ensure that the knowledge acquired through the platform will be mobilized.

b) ***Sustainable commitment to platform support.*** The application is clear on the extent to which the existing platform, or the components that will be coordinated or integrated using the PSG, is/are supported from other sources. There are explicit commitments from the other funding partners of the platform and interest from external stakeholders. There is a credible plan for sustaining the platform after the expiry of Brain Canada funding.

Timeline

Launch of Request for Applications	December 1, 2021
Deadline for Receipt of Registration Forms	**16:00 EST, February 7, 2022**
Access to Grant Management System	By February 11, 2022
Deadline for Receipt of Full Applications	**16:00 EST, April 22, 2022**
Notification of Award	July 2022
Funding begins	November 1, 2022

Application Process

Registration forms are to be submitted via email to platformgrant@braincanada.ca by **16:00 EST on February 7, 2022**. While submission of a Registration Form is a requirement to submit the Full Application, please note that all applicants will receive access to Brain Canada's electronic grant management system so that they may begin working on their Full Application by Friday, February 11, 2022. The Principal Investigator must complete all required application fields in SmartSimple before the **16:00 EST, April 22, 2022** deadline. **There will be no appeal to late submissions.**

Researchers should contact Brain Canada (platformgrant@braincanada.ca) with inquiries regarding the application process.

Registration Form

Please click [here] to download the Registration Form.

Please send the completed Registration Form, along with the required attachments, as a PDF file to platformgrant@braincanada.ca. The PDF and accompanying attachments will need to be formatted using 12-point Times New Roman or 10-point Arial font, single-spaced, on a letter-size page with 1" minimum margins. The font size for figures and legends must be a minimum of 10 points. Use of a condensed font and spacing is not permitted. Registration forms received in any other format, exceeding the word limits, incomplete, or late, will be rejected. **It is the sole responsibility of the applicant to ensure their submission adheres to these requirements and that it is received before the deadline.**

Applicant Information
Brain Canada has implemented a demographic survey to evaluate the progress of programs in fostering EDI. Please note that the survey will be sent via email, upon confirmation of the applicant's submission of the Registration Form. The information collected will not be shared in an identifiable form with the public, external stakeholders (e.g., Health Canada, funding partners, etc.), or reviewers, and will have no impact on the evaluation of submitted grant applications. Survey responses are completely anonymized and aggregated to ensure protection of the identity of any individual. Please see Brain Canada's [Privacy Policy].

Platform Summary
- Title of proposal;
- Estimated total research grant amount;
- List up to 10 key words describing the platform;
- Provide a summary description of the platform and how it will be used to advance research in neuroscience, and the impact of the platform on the field; include an explanation of the special

services, capabilities, or expertise that the platform will offer to researchers and the scope of the platform (local, regional, national, or international). Explain how the data or materials acquired, curated or analyzed by the platform will be made available to other qualified researchers (with appropriate safeguards in the case of human data) (maximum 500 words).

Attachments
- Support letter(s) from potential sponsor(s). The letters do not have to be accompanied by a formal funding commitment at this stage but should highlight the potential Sponsor(s)'s interest in supporting the platform by explaining why the project is important to them, the likely uptake of the research results, and the overall impact of the platform (maximum 1-page per letter).

Optional Information
- Provide names and contact information for up to three individuals (Canadian or International) who are knowledgeable in your research area and would be able to evaluate the application. Individuals should not have a conflict of interest.
- Individuals to whom the application should **not** be sent for review.

Full Application

Platform Summary – Same as in Registration Form, update as needed.
- Title of proposal;
- Project start and end dates (Note: The project start date must be November 1, 2022);
- List up to 10 key words describing the platform;
- Provide a summary description of the platform and how it will be used to advance research in neuroscience, and the impact of the platform on the field; include an explanation of the special services, capabilities, or expertise that the platform will offer to researchers and the scope of the platform (local, regional, national, or international). Explain how the data or materials acquired, curated or analyzed by the platform will be made available to other qualified researchers (with appropriate safeguards in the case of human data). (maximum 500 words).

Lay Summary (maximum 300 words)
- Suitable for publication and understandable by non-scientists

Proposal (maximum 8 pages)
- Provide details on the platform being proposed, addressing all the assessment criteria listed above. *For platforms where funding will be used for a demonstration research project, an additional 3 pages may be added so that the project may be described in more detail and properly evaluated.*
- Describe the anticipated collective impact and outcomes of the platform on the research of the platform team, on Canada's capabilities in neuroscience research and on the potential for intersectoral and international partnerships between collaborators from different sectors, countries and socioeconomic backgrounds who intend to use the platform such as scientists, international researchers, clinicians, and key stakeholders (i.e., industry, government and other non-academic sectors). Emphasize the added value of the PSG in improving the platform's accessibility, performance, and reach to the neuroscience research community.
- Figures (maximum 3 additional pages) and References.

Research Plan and Timeline (maximum 5 pages; excluding the timeline and anticipated milestones Gantt Chart)

- List the overall objectives of the platform and grant milestones. Milestones should be described for every 6 months of the proposed grant and must be accompanied by a set of metrics that can be evaluated by a third party to gauge progress. In addition, approvals and compliance with national policies on the ethical use of human subjects, animals, and biohazards will be required by the November 2022 start date. Please include an overview of any new approvals, addendums, or additional approvals specific to your proposal that may need to be added, and their respective timelines.
- Please include a 1-page timeline and anticipated milestones Gantt chart separately, which outlines the general timeline for the project within the requested funding period (36 months). A template will be provided at the Full Application stage.

Team Member Details

- List the names and affiliations of each investigator of the platform as well as their role in the proposed platform project. Please only include those that will have an active and direct role in the development and/or execution of the platform and research outlined in the application. It is recommended to include a URL for each individual's institutional or personal webpage of each member. Provide a brief CV in standard NIH biosketch format outlining each member's qualifications and achievements (maximum 4 pages). A template will be provided at the Full Application stage.

Budget

- Provide an outline budget for the full period of funding, listing the major line items as described under "Eligible Costs", above. A template will be provided at the Full Application stage.
- Provide a brief statement explaining how each major line item will support the intended operation of the platform and the details of staffing requirements such as technicians, coordinators, managers, and trainees (maximum 2-pages).

Sex, Gender and Diversity Considerations

Sex, gender and other determinants (ethnicity, income, age, education, etc.) may affect health. Throughout the research process, from conceptualization (research hypothesis development) to completion (knowledge translation), the removal of systemic barriers and biases to enact the practice of inclusion ensures that all individuals have equal access to and benefit from the platform.

Sex and Gender Considerations (maximum 1 page)
How sex- and gender-based analysis plus (SGBA+) will be taken into account in any of the research projects that will utilize this platform?

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Considerations (maximum 1 page)
Please describe how the platform will target the inclusion of diverse populations, such as Indigenous peoples, women, members of the LGBTQ+ community, newcomers, racialized communities, those that self-identify as low socioeconomic status, people not in employment, education or training, and individuals in both rural and remote areas, which may utilize this platform.

Letters of Support

Sponsors must provide the Principal Investigator, before the full application deadline, official letters of commitment (maximum 1-page per sponsor). It is understood that this commitment is contingent on the application being recommended for funding, and the availability of matching Brain Canada funds, which

will be allocated to applications in order of merit. If these contingencies are met, the sponsor(s) will be required to sign a formal Joint Funding Agreement consistent with the terms of the letter of commitment, and with Brain Canada's funding terms.

- Please attach official letters of support from the sponsor(s) which clearly state why the project is important to them, the likely uptake of the research results, and the overall impact of the project.
- The letter should also specify the amount of funding each sponsor is willing to invest in the project, including explicit acknowledgement and confirmation of the 5% operating expense fee to be deducted by Brain Canada. If possible, the sponsor should include a timeline of their funding commitment over the 3-year the grant duration as well. *Note: No sponsor may commit less than 20% of the total matching funds for the project*.
- Please note that Brain Canada may ask sponsor(s) to be flexible with regards to funding disbursement and may, in fact, request asymmetrical payments from the sponsor(s) so that Brain Canada can be in measure to disburse its portion of the funds prior to the sponsor(s). In the sponsor letter, the sponsor(s) should indicate their willingness, or lack thereof, to consider asymmetrical payments.

Certification and Signatures
- Signature of the Principal Investigator is mandatory for the application to be considered.
- Institutional Signatures: Signature of the responsible official of the institution where the Principal Investigator will conduct the research is required.
- All signatures must be submitted along with the application by the deadline for Full Application.

Confidentiality and Ownership

Brain Canada Foundation will keep all materials submitted for this funding opportunity confidential, and only share them with reviewers, Review Panel members, and observers who have signed confidentiality and non-disclosure agreements. Funded applications will be retained for comparison of intended and actual outcomes, as part of the final evaluation of the Canada Brain Research Fund.

Brain Canada does not claim ownership of intellectual property (IP) arising from the research they fund and expects that any IP arising from this funding is developed and commercialized according to the policies of the research institutions in which the research is performed. Platform team members must resolve IP ownership issues with sponsors before submitting the application. Where the sponsor is a for-profit entity, Brain Canada must be consulted to determine if the IP arrangements are acceptable as this will be a component of the Joint Funding Agreement.

Review Process

Registration Form
The purpose of the Registration Form is to provide Brain Canada with an overview of the level of interest in the Platform Support Grants program within the research community, confirm eligibility of applications, and to help inform the selection of reviewers that will evaluate the full applications. While the registration document itself will not be evaluated, the submission of a Registration Form by **16:00 EST on February 7, 2022** is a requirement to gain access to the Full Application through Brain Canada's electronic grant management system.

Brain Canada will manage the review process and recruit a Peer Review Panel composed of experts, from within and outside Canada, with a broad range of expertise and training to review full applications. Review Panel members will be recruited according to the topics of the PSG applications proposed at the

Registration stage and are not in conflict with the applications.

Full Application
Applications submitted by the deadline will be reviewed by at least two reviewers.

Based on the reviewer scores, the Peer Review Panel will discuss the top applications via a virtual panel meeting. The Panel will recommend to Brain Canada the applications that have received a high merit score. Applicants will receive anonymized written comments from the Reviewers. Applicants whose applications were discussed at the Peer Review Panel meeting will additionally receive Scientific Officer notes from the proceedings. Funding will be allocated to applications in descending order of merit, until the dedicated funds are exhausted, or all recommended applications are funded. Brain Canada will not enable an appeal process against the assessment of the Peer Review Panel.

Successful applicants will be notified that their proposals have been conditionally approved and informed of any conditions that must be met before funding can be released. Brain Canada may require documentation (e.g., service contracts, or repair/upgrade estimates, etc.) from those applicants whose PSG proposals have been conditionally approved. Where the platform involves the management of personal information or material derived from or to be used in human studies, the applicants will be required to provide copies of appropriate institutional ethical, confidentiality and other approvals as necessary before funds are released. The required documents must be received, and other conditions resolved within a reasonable period specified by Brain Canada, before funds can be released to the institution of the PI.

Communications

Recipients of the *2021 Platform Support Grants* must make every effort to attend events organized by Brain Canada, and present their projects, if applicable, to demonstrate the implications and importance of their research. They may also be requested to participate in other knowledge exchange activities, such as podcasts, interviews, etc.

Contact Information

For more information, or if you have any questions regarding the application process, please contact Brain Canada at platformgrant@braincanada.ca