

## PROGRAMME IMPULSION

### Version anglaise

## IMPULSION PROGRAM

Competition year: 2021–2022

Deadline (application): April 29, 2021, 4 p.m.

Amount: up to \$100 000

Funding period: 1 year

Announcement of results: July 2021

This program refers to the [Common General Rules](#) (CGR) of the Fonds de recherche du Québec (FRQ), which apply to all FRQ programs. Only the specific conditions with respect to the **IMPULSION** program are detailed here and take precedence over the CGR.

The links to the [Electronic Portfolio](#) (E-portfolio) and competition forms are available in the [Portal access](#) tab of the website. Further details are available in the *About FRQnet* section. It is the entire responsibility of the applicant to select the right form. In the event of an error, the Fonds shall not transfer any form from a program or call for proposals to another and shall deem the application ineligible.

Applicants are required to add their [Canadian Common CV](#) (CCV) and detailed contributions (in PDF format) to their E-portfolio. Note: Applicants must ensure that all CCVs are in the appropriate format, as required by the Fonds that is managing the call for proposals.

**APPLICATIONS RECEIVED AFTER THE COMPETITION DEADLINE OF APRIL 29, 2021, AT 4 P.M. SHALL BE DEEMED INELIGIBLE.**

## BACKGROUND

The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly changed the lives of Quebecers. The implications of the health crisis have had an impact on many aspects of our society and undermined key pillars, including the province's economy and financial health. To support the pandemic exit, it is important to create concrete initiatives that will underpin Québec's research strengths and help rebuild the economy. With that in mind, the three Fonds de recherche du Québec are joining forces to launch the **IMPULSION** program, which targets four priority areas.

## 1- OBJECTIVES

The **IMPULSION** program chiefly aims to create favourable conditions and an environment that supports the post-pandemic economic recovery. Funded projects must provide solutions to a range of societal issues and establish or develop collaborations in the very short term with community organizations, private companies and other user communities in Québec to foster the quick and proper ownership of knowledge that addresses their needs.

Under the **IMPULSION** program, four calls for proposals will be launched to support the development of rapid deployment research projects rooted in one of these areas:

1. Agri-food
2. Education
3. Green energy
4. Ageing

Projects funded under the **IMPULSION** program must:

- explore a research issue that is aligned with the needs of community organizations, private companies and user communities by drawing on current knowledge;
- generate results and benefits in the very short term in the form of concrete solutions that community organizations, private companies and user communities can quickly make their own; and
- create added value for Québec (improvement of processes, resource optimization, enhanced well-being, inclusion, development of intellectual property, job creation and support, etc.).

## **RESEARCH AREA – AGEING**

Certain population groups were harder hit than others by the COVID-19 pandemic. This is particularly the case for seniors. This call for proposals chiefly aims to quickly respond to the health and social issues related to ageing and seniors that have arisen in recent months. The research results, including the identification of issues and implementation of concrete solutions that are adapted and sustainable in terms of the well-being of seniors, their autonomy, the health care and services offers, technological advancements and social innovations, will help prevent some of the stumbling blocks caused by the emergency from reoccurring.

**The ageing research area includes two topics.**

### **Care system efficiency:**

- Best practices in home care, including telemedicine, digital health, etc.;
- Best practices in long-term care in a pandemic;
- Outlook to improve interprofessional cooperation in senior care and services during and after the COVID-19 pandemic;
- Innovative practices and approaches developed in the context of the pandemic emergency and their scale up potential in the health and social services network, seniors' residences and long-term care facilities.

**Solutions to the direct impacts of COVID-19 on the health of seniors:**

- Mitigation of the impacts of pandemic confinement on seniors to:
  - maintain their autonomy and determine possible solutions to ensure the well-being of seniors
  - maintain mobility
  - maintain quality of life and life expectancy
  - reduce social isolation and improve mental health
- Physical and psychological vulnerability factors in seniors, the importance of socialization during and after the COVID-19 pandemic and means to mitigate these impacts;
- Development and management of senior living communities to ensure their physical and mental well-being and safety.

Researchers who wish to submit an application should consult the list of projects funded by the FRQ in this research area (see [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#)) to ensure their proposed research provides true added value, specifically with regard to research issue and approach.

## **2- ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

**The research team must include at least three (3) individuals:**

- One principal investigator with status 1, 2 or 3 under the [CGR](#);
- One co-investigator with status 1, 2 or 3 under the [CGR](#); and
- One co-investigator with status 4a), 4b) or 4c) under the [CGR](#) who represents a user community.

Researchers may only submit one application to the **IMPULSION** program (all areas) as a principal investigator. However, there is no limit to the number of proposals an individual may contribute to as a co-investigator.

**Research teams may include an unlimited number of additional members:**

- **Co-investigators** with status 1, 2, 3, 4a), 4b), 4c) or 4d) under the [CGR](#);
- **Collaborators:** individual with one of the four research statuses under the [CGR](#), with the exception of the statuses applicable to training awards (page 7 and following of the [CGR](#)), which are ineligible.

The role and status of each team member must be clearly stated in the application documents. All team members must adequately demonstrate their active contribution to the proposed project and indicate their level of involvement. The engagement of user communities must also be detailed.

The Fonds de recherche strongly encourage collaborations between researchers with expertise in different research areas.

### **3- SUBMISSION OF THE APPLICATION FOR FUNDING AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS**

**The form for calls for proposals in agri-food and green energy is only available through an FRQNT E-portfolio, for calls for proposals in education through an FRQSC E-portfolio and for calls for proposals in ageing through an FRQS E-portfolio.**

As indicated in the [CGR](#), the form may be filled out in French or English. However, the title and abstract must be in French, since they may be used by the Fonds for promotion and dissemination purposes.

Only the forms accessed, completed and submitted via the FRQnet platform are eligible. Any information in excess of the maximum number of pages for each section of the application shall be removed from the submission and shall not be considered in the review process. Any attachment to the application that is not required under the competition rules shall not be submitted to the review committee. Any documents received after the competition deadline shall not be considered. The Fonds reserve the right to validate the authenticity of any document or information provided in the application with relevant authorities.

#### Applicants must submit these documents:

- Online application form, including the tabs:
  - Project description based on the evaluation criteria (up to 6 pages);
  - Budget to account for planned spending (2 pages);
  - Other documents:
    - A. For clinical researchers: a letter from the clinical department director or faculty dean stating the number of hours for which the applicant shall be released from her/his clinical obligations to lead the research project;
    - B. Canadian Common CV of the status 4a) researcher and detailed contributions;
    - C. Abridged CV (2 pages) of status 4b), 4c) and 4d) co-investigators.
- Canadian Common CV of the principal investigator and all team members, except co-investigators and collaborators with 4b), 4c) and 4d) status;
- Canadian Common CV of the principal project leader and all team members, except co-researchers with 4b), 4c) and 4d) status

## *IMPULSION program – Support for the economic recovery*

Co-investigators and collaborators with 4a) status must provide the principal investigator with their CCV and detailed contributions in PDF format. Those with 4b), c) and d) status must provide the principal investigator with their abridged CV (2 pages) in PDF format.

### **IMPORTANT NOTE**

All team members with status 1, 2 or 3 must fill in their CCV (updated in the 12-month period preceding the competition deadline) in the format required by the Fonds that is managing the call for proposals. The detailed contributions must be filled in the format required by the Fonds and included with the submission in the relevant section of the E-portfolio of the Fonds that is managing the call. For more information, read the Drafting a CV for the Fonds (Préparer un CV pour les Fonds) in the program toolbox. Any changes to the format of a CV (for a different Fonds) must be made at least **24 hours prior to the competition deadline** or the application shall not be submitted.

To ensure its successful submission to the Fonds, the detailed contributions of team members must be in PDF format (.PDF) and sent through the Canadian Common CV section of the FRQnet portal of the FRQ.

Each co-investigator must consent to being part of the team prior to the deadline set by the managing institution, if applicable, or the form shall not be submitted. Co-investigators who have not created an FRQnet account should follow the steps to create one in the toolbox.

## **4- REVIEW PROCESS**

As stated in Section 4 of the [CGR](#), the Fonds receive applications, determine the eligibility of the applications and submit them for review by committees assembled for this purpose. When necessary, the Fonds may also call upon external experts. The reviewers may be from Québec, Canada or elsewhere.

To be recommended for funding, the application must earn an **overall score of at least 70%**.

## IMPULSION program – Support for the economic recovery

Applications are evaluated according the following criteria, sub-criteria and weightings.

Criteria	Weighting
<b>Project</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project’s ability to adequately meet the need(s) identified by targeted user communities in innovative ways;</li> <li>• Clarity of the issue addressed by the project and methodological rigour;</li> <li>• Feasibility and realism of the project timeline.</li> </ul>	25
<b>Team</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relevance and complementarity of the project-related expertise and output of team members;</li> <li>• Team’s ability to collaborate with community organizations, companies and other user communities;</li> <li>• Integration of students and post-doctoral trainees.</li> </ul>	25
<b>Short-term benefits</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Level of applicability of the proposed solution or approach and significance of potential benefits for user communities;</li> <li>• Efficiency of the planned strategy to mobilize and transfer knowledge to user communities and ability to foster the appropriation of the solutions developed as part of the project;</li> <li>• Concrete contribution to the post-pandemic economic recovery, especially through value creation.</li> </ul>	50

Review committee members will give special consideration to the relevance of projects in relation to the specific objectives and themes of the program areas and benefits in the very short term.

## 5- DESCRIPTION AND NATURE OF THE FUNDING

The funding period is one (1) year with no extension.

Type of funding	Maximum budget per project (including IRCs)	Period
Research project	\$100 000*	1 year
Maximum number of projects funded in each research area	5	
Total budget for the four (4) calls (green energy, agri-food, ageing, education)	\$2 000 000	

*\*The amounts may be revised at any time and without notice depending on factors including the credits available under the program.*

## **IMPULSION program – Support for the economic recovery**

Refer to Section 8 of the [CGR](#) for information on eligible expenses. Under the **IMPULSION** program, the indirect research costs (IRCs) are considered as an eligible expense, according to the following breakdown.

<b>Status of the principal investigator</b>	<b>Maximum amount in funding</b>	<b>Maximum amount in IRCs</b>
<b>Status 1 or 2</b>	\$78 740	\$21 260**
<b>Status 3</b>	\$100 000	\$0***

\*\* IRCs represent 27% of the total funding.

\*\*\*IRCs do not constitute eligible expenses for status 3 principal Investigators.

### **ADDITIONAL amount for eligible status 3 college researchers with teaching duties**

**College researchers with teaching duties who join a research group** shall each receive an additional amount of up to \$40 000 that will be paid directly to the college institution to compensate for part of the salary to release the researcher from teaching duties. Applications must include a supporting document to this effect in the *Release – Colleges (Dégage ment – collèges)* tab of the FRQnet form. The principal investigator must identify the college researchers for whom a release from teaching duties is requested.

Should funding be granted and the principal investigator accept it, a form meant specifically for the amounts related to a release from teaching duties will be available in the E-portfolios of team members who are college researchers.

## **6- FOLLOW-UP AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

In accordance with sections 6.2 and 7.1 of the [CGR](#), the grant holder shall approve the annual financial reports submitted by the managing institution in the three months following the end of the Fonds' fiscal year ending on March 31 of each year, before June 30.

By accepting the grant, the grant holder agrees to submit a scientific report. The terms and conditions of accountability and content of the report shall be detailed in the grant letter.

The FRQ may use the scientific report for reproduction, adaptation, publication, translation and communication to the public through any means, in compliance with copyright and for non-commercial purposes only.

In all releases, reports, articles and communications, the grant holder shall acknowledge that the research was funded by the FRQ.

## **7- ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE RESULTS**

## *IMPULSION program – Support for the economic recovery*

The grants awarded by the FRQ are conditional upon the allocation of credits by the National Assembly of Québec and the decisions of the boards of directors of the FRQ. They are therefore subject to change without notice.

For information on the results of the competition, contact the program manager or consult the website of the Fonds.

### **8- INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

In addition to Section 5.6 of the [CGR](#) on intellectual property, the following elements and clarifications shall be considered.

**Recognition of intellectual property rights** – The FRQ recognize the rights of the grant holder and managing institution to the intellectual property of the research, including the original raw data, interim research, progress report, scientific report, final report and research results, in any form, resulting from the work funded under this program ([CGR](#), section 5.6).

**Rights of the FRQ with respect to the use of the research** – All requests related to the use of the research, including reproduction, translation, performance and public communication of the work, through any means, shall be submitted directly to the grant holder or managing institution. The grant holder or managing director shall consider their obligations, including those related to the protection of research and compliance with intellectual property policies as they apply to the research.

### **9- CONTACT PERSON**

**Sandy Lalonde**

Program Manager

**IMPULSION Program – Ageing**

514-873-2114, ext. 4250

[sandy.lalonde@frq.gouv.qc.ca](mailto:sandy.lalonde@frq.gouv.qc.ca)