

# **Blood Efficiency Accelerator Program Guidelines**

These guidelines (the “Guidelines”) describe the requirements for the Canadian Blood Services’ Blood Efficiency Accelerator Program. The terms and conditions of the Blood Efficiency Accelerator Program are subject to change without notice. Applicants should always refer to the latest edition of the Guidelines.

## **I. General Program Information and Priorities**

Canadian Blood Services (CBS) is a not-for-profit charitable organization. Regulated by Health Canada as a biologics manufacturer and primarily funded by the provincial and territorial ministries of health, CBS operates with a national scope, infrastructure and governance that makes it unique within Canadian healthcare. In the domain of blood, plasma and stem cells, we provide services for patients on behalf of all provincial and territorial governments except Quebec. The national transplant registry for interprovincial organ sharing and related programs reaches into all provinces and territories, as a biological lifeline for Canadians. Through our research, development and education activities, we facilitate the creation, translation, and application of new knowledge to support a safe, effective, and responsive system of blood and related biologics for Canada.

The objective of our Blood Efficiency Accelerator Program is to improve the efficient and appropriate utilization of blood products, while maintaining the safety of the blood system. To achieve this objective, this competitive Program will support innovative research projects that seek new knowledge or accelerate the application of existing knowledge. In the context of this competition, blood products are defined as therapeutic products derived from the donation of blood or blood components and includes red blood cell and platelet concentrates, plasma and plasma derivatives (including plasma protein products), and hematopoietic stem cells (including those derived from cord blood). Improvements can be made at any point from vein to vein, i.e., from the point of blood collection, through the processing, distribution, and blood banking processes, to clinical utilization. Projects with a defined knowledge translation strategy to accelerate the uptake of the study findings or of existing knowledge by the knowledge user group will also be prioritized.

## II. Eligibility

- **Primary Applicant:** The Primary Applicant must be affiliated with a Canadian academic institution as a faculty member or with Canadian Blood Services. The Primary Applicant must be able to hold funds at their institution. The Primary Applicant is responsible for submitting the application, delivering the project as approved, and reporting on project progress to CBS.
- **Team composition:** All project teams require at least one CBS employee. All project team members must have a defined role in the project, and their expertise must be clearly required to adequately address project goals.
- Any applicant, or application with a team member (including trainees), who is currently affiliated with, or in receipt of funding or in-kind support from one or more of the institutions on the Government of Canada's Named Research Organizations' list (NROs) is not eligible to participate in this Program.
- **Program objective and research priorities:** The project must have a clear plan with defined goals that are expected to be completed within the two-year term of the grant. The project must be aligned with the Blood Efficiency Accelerator Program objective and research priorities outlined in Section I.
- **Budget:** The proposed project budget must not exceed \$30,000 total for the two-year term of the award. See Use of Funds in section IV, General Terms and Conditions of the Grant, for more details on eligible expenditures.

## III. Application Process and Evaluation

- Complete the CBS Blood Efficiency Accelerator Program Application Form and prepare the supporting documents for the Application Package, as per the Instructions in the Application Form.
- Submit the Application Package (Application Form and supporting documents) by email to [centreforinnovation@blood.ca](mailto:centreforinnovation@blood.ca) on or before the competition deadline, as per the instructions in the Application Form. **No applications, updates, or additional materials will be accepted after the deadline.**
- Canadian Blood Services will acknowledge receipt of the Application Package by email. **It is the responsibility of the Applicant to ensure the Application Package has been received by Canadian Blood Services.** Contact us if your Application Package is not acknowledged (see Section VI for contact information).
- The duly received Blood Efficiency Accelerator Program Application Package constitutes an agreement to adhere to the terms and conditions governing the grant.

Last Updated: 2025-05-22

- Canadian Blood Services will convene a peer review committee to review applications and make funding recommendations. In assessing the merit of the applications, the following criteria are considered:

Criterion	Weight	Description
<b>Relevance</b>	40%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does the project address the objective of the award and identified priorities for this competition? How significant is the issue that is being addressed? What is the anticipated impact of the project deliverable(s)?</li> <li>• Does the project present a defined knowledge translation strategy to accelerate the uptake of the study findings or of existing knowledge by the knowledge user group?</li> </ul>
<b>Merit/Feasibility</b>	60%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is the project proposal well-conceived and justified? Are the project activities, milestones and deliverables aligned with the purpose of the project? Is the budget adequate and aligned with funding criteria?</li> <li>• How likely will the project plan be successfully executed within the two-year term of the grant? Do the project team members' skills and backgrounds support the project's objectives? Have project considerations related to sex and gender-based analysis+ been considered and described and if they have not been considered, has an explanation been provided?</li> </ul>

- The peer review committee recommendations will be used to make funding decisions, subject to final approval by a Canadian Blood Services' management responsible for the competitive funding programs.
- Canadian Blood Services will inform applicants of the competition outcomes within four (4) months of the submission deadline.
- Successful applicants will be given an Acceptance of Funding form to be signed and completed by the Awardee. Following the return of the completed Acceptance of Funding form, the Awardee will be sent a Transfer of Funds Agreement requiring institutional approval, to facilitate the funds transfer to the Awardee's Institution.
- Information on successful applications will be posted on the Canadian Blood Services website.

## IV. General Terms and Conditions of the Grant

These Guidelines, including the terms and conditions of the grant, may be altered by Canadian Blood Services without notice. Awardees and their institutions shall comply with the latest edition of the Guidelines.

## **AWARDEE AND INSTITUTION RESPONSIBILITY**

The Awardee's Institution must agree to provide adequate research facilities and to administer the grant in accordance with the terms and conditions of the grant as per the Guidelines.

The Awardee and its Institution must complete an Acceptance of Funding form and a Transfer of Funds Agreement prior to the initiation of the grant.

The Awardee, its Institution, and the Project Team will comply with all applicable laws and policies pertaining to privacy and confidentiality in dealing with information and records related to the project.

## **START DATE**

The Blood Efficiency Accelerator Program grant should begin within three (3) months of notification of funding.

## **DURATION OF THE GRANT**

The duration of a Blood Efficiency Accelerator Program grant is two (2) years.

## **CONDITIONS OF FUNDING**

The Awardee and Institution must respect any limitations placed on the use of the grant funds as outlined in the formal notification of decision.

The Awardee must ensure that any research project involving humans includes a research protocol that is consistent with the principles set out in the *Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans* and that appropriate records are maintained. The Awardee will provide such records to Canadian Blood Services upon request. Please be aware that a study may not begin until all required approvals are in place. **The Principal Investigator (PI) is responsible for ensuring all approvals required to execute the project are in place within 6 months following the release of funds.** Approvals may include an institutional REB approval, certifications, biohazard permit, etc.

The Awardee must immediately notify Canadian Blood Services (see Section VI) of their inability, for any reason, to carry out or complete the research for which the grant was received. Any change in the research plan, in the status of the Awardee at the Institution, or in the location of tenure of the Blood Efficiency Accelerator grant recipient requires the prior approval of Canadian Blood Services. Revisions must be submitted to Canadian Blood Services (see Section VI).

Funding for Canadian Blood Services competitive funding programs, including for the Blood Efficiency Accelerator Program, is provided by the federal government (Health Canada) and the provincial and territorial ministries of health. Should Canadian Blood Services funding levels become unavailable or decrease due to unforeseen circumstances, Canadian Blood Services

Last Updated: 2025-05-22

reserves the right to reduce, defer or cancel funding of grants received through this funding opportunity.

## **USE OF FUNDS**

Blood Efficiency Accelerator Program use of funds is outlined below.

- Funds may be used towards the payment (salary and benefits, where applicable) of research staff (e.g., research assistants or technicians), the payment (stipend and benefits, where applicable) of research trainees (e.g., post-doctoral fellows, graduate students, summer students). Funding may be used for the payment of contracted services on a fee for service basis (e.g., statistical support), and towards consultant and service fees.
- Funds cannot be used for salary support for investigators (i.e., individuals who are eligible to apply for operating funds from the federal agencies).
- The purchase of small items of equipment is permissible; however, the maximum that can be spent on equipment is \$8,500 (exclusive of applicable taxes). Small equipment including electronic devices comprising communication, computer, or audiovisual devices may be purchased using these funds. Canadian Blood Services assumes ownership of all equipment purchased with Blood Efficiency Accelerator Program funds.
- Funds may be used towards the purchase of expendable materials and supplies, and the purchase and maintenance of experimental animals.
- Funds may be used towards project team collaborative and networking activities (e.g., team meetings, conference calls, travel), and knowledge dissemination activities (e.g., publication costs).
- Funding cannot be used for equipment maintenance or service contracts.
- Funds are only to be used towards the direct costs of research; no funding is to be used for indirect costs, including institutional overhead.

## **PROGRESS REPORT**

Progress Reports are due at the end of each fiscal year (April to March) and within 1 month of the Award end date. Additional progress reports may also be requested during the tenure of the Award. A progress report template will be provided. Materials submitted to Canadian Blood Services may be shared at the discretion of Canadian Blood Services. Awardees shall ensure that any materials submitted to Canadian Blood Services do not infringe third party intellectual property rights and comply with appropriate copyright and academic authorship standards.

## **DISSEMINATION AND PUBLICATIONS**

Any publications, reports, or public presentations resulting from work conducted with a Canadian Blood Services Blood Efficiency Accelerator grant must acknowledge the support of Canadian Blood Services. Detailed instructions on acknowledging support from the Blood Efficiency Accelerator Program will be provided.

## **OFFICIAL LANGUAGES**

Where appropriate, the Awardee should deliver their services, programs, projects, or activities in both official languages.

## **RECORDS**

The Awardee and its Institution must keep all records, information, databases, reports, financial information, costs and expenditures, and all other documentation related to the project for a period of six (6) years from the end of the Period of the Grant.

Canadian Blood Services and/or its funders shall have the right to: (i) monitor and review the project through site visits or other means, and (ii) conduct inspections of financial records or audit the Awardee, Institution, and Project Team, to confirm compliance with these Guidelines and the appropriate use of funds. Canadian Blood Services shall have the right to share copies of reviews, evaluations, and audit reports with its funders.

The Auditor General of Canada also reserves the right to conduct an inquiry into the Project Team's use of funds. The Awardee, Institution, and Project Team shall cooperate with Canadian Blood Services, its funders and/or the Auditor General of Canada and his/her representatives or agents in connection with such a review, audit, or inquiry and shall grant access to its documents, records, and premises as required for purposes of any such review, audit, or inquiry. The results of the inquiry by the Auditor General of Canada may be reported to Parliament in a report of the Auditor General.

## **V. Financial Administration of Grant Funds**

Financial administration of the grant funds will be through Canadian Blood Services' Research Services secretariat. The secretariat will instruct Canadian Blood Services' Finance Services to transfer the approved funds to the Awardee's Institution, subject to the terms of a Transfer of Funds Agreement completed by the Awardee and its Institution. The Awardee and its Institution are responsible for administering the funds according to the Guidelines and for financial reporting on expenditures using Form 300 or equivalent to Canadian Blood Services at the end of each fiscal year (April to March).

Awardees are expected to exercise appropriate stewardship over the financial resources entrusted to them from the grant. In no circumstances shall the total disbursement exceed the

Last Updated: 2025-05-22

funds available for the grant. Expenditures exceeding the grant will be neither assumed nor reimbursed by Canadian Blood Services. The Awardee and its Institution will return to Canadian Blood Services any funds to which it is not entitled, including payments made in error and paid costs that are not eligible for reimbursement.

Requests for a no-cost budget extension to extend resources beyond the funding End Date must be made in writing to Canadian Blood Services (See Section VI) three (3) months before the end of the award; however, the authorization to extend the resources is at the sole discretion of Canadian Blood Services. No-cost extension requests are expected to enable the completion of the proposed work. All requests will be evaluated against the scope and budget outlined in the submitted application. Any unspent funds remaining at the end of the project must be returned to Canadian Blood Services.

## **VI. Contact and Enquiries**

Enquires should be address to [centreforinnovation@blood.ca](mailto:centreforinnovation@blood.ca).