

GENOMICS INNOVATION FUND (GIF)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

Q: ARE THE INFO SESSION SLIDES AVAILABLE?

A: Yes, the slides plus a recording of one of the info sessions is available on our website.

Q: HOW MANY PROJECTS WILL BE FUNDED IN EACH INTAKE?

A: Approximately \$2 Million will be awarded per intake, depending on the applications received and the review. This equates to around 8 projects.

Q: CAN AN APPLICANT BE ON MORE THAN ONE PROJECT, FOR EXAMPLE AS A LEADER ON ONE, AND COLLABORATOR ON ANOTHER?

A: Yes, a project leader can only submit one Expression of Interest to the GIF but can participate as collaborator or co-applicant on another project.

Q: IF A PROJECT HAS BEEN STARTED AT A UNIVERSITY OUTSIDE OF BC, BUT IS MOVING TO BC, DOES THERE NEED TO BE PROOF THAT THE PROJECT HAS MOVED TO BC? WHAT WOULD THIS PROOF LOOK LIKE?

A: Academic project leaders moving from research institution outside to BC will need to provide proof that they have accepted a position at a BC research institution, and that they will start the position before the GIF projects starts.

Q: COULD ONE ORGANIZATION WITH DIFFERENT PROJECT LEADERS APPLY WITH DIFFERENT PROJECTS?

A: Yes. Multiple project leaders from one organization can apply for the GIF with each project leader only submitting one EOI.

Q: CAN AN ADJUNCT PROFESSOR APPLY AS A PROJECT LEADER?

A: The eligibility of Adjunct Professors to apply as the Project Leader will depend on their institution. Adjunct professors should consult with their institution prior to applying to GIF to ensure that they will have the ability to receive research funding through the institution, manage the project and perform all administrative duties normally required of a Project Leader. The Institution will need to sign off on the Expression of Interest (EOI) to confirm their approval of the submission.

Q: WHAT ARE THE CRITERIA FOR ASSESSING INDUSTRY APPLICANTS TO GIF?

- To be eligible to apply to GIF, industry applicants must:
 - Have BC-based research operations. Funds must be spent in BC.
 - Include relevant genomics expertise and capacity to do the project work.
 - Have sufficient funds to maintain operations for the duration of the project.

- Be small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).
- Industry applicants should be prepared to provide documentation to support the viability of the company at the EOI stage if requested.

Q: HOW DOES GENOME BC DEFINE GENOMICS/OMICS?

A: The comprehensive study, using high throughput, cutting edge technologies, of the genetic information of a cell or an organism includes the function of specific genes, gene clusters, their interactions with each other or the surrounding environment as well as regulation such as: bioinformatics (as applied to omics), epigenomics, lipidomics, metabolomics, metagenomics, proteomics, transcriptomics.

Q: IS THE PROJECT IN ANY DISCIPLINE ELIGIBLE AS LONG AS IT IS RELATED TO OMICS? DOES THE RESEARCH FIELD MATTER? FOR EXAMPLE ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE? BIOLOGY? AGRIFOOD?

A: GIF covers a broad range of sectors if it involves omics (see definition above).

Q: IS THERE A MINIMUM STARTING TRL?

A: Our objectives is to help projects advance along the scale therefore there is no minimum starting point for GIF Fund.

Q: WHAT DOES “FREEDOM TO OPERATE” REFER TO IN THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA?

A: Freedom to operate refers to the availability of the product/service to use or sell without incurring legal liability by infringing protected intellectual property held by a third party.

Q: WHAT IS GENOME BC LOOKING FOR IN REGARDS WITH DEMONSTRATING FTO?

A: FTO analysis can vary. If a company already has investors from outside of the company, we will rely on the existing FTO opinions documented by legal counsel. If the company initiated the patent process, the opinions from the patent reviewers on FTO will be accessible via the patent office and can be provided to Genome BC.

Q: DO SALARIES ELIGIBLE FOR ALL SALARIED EMPLOYEES IF THEY DON'T HOLD A SALARIES' POSITION?

A: In the current Guidelines version (Version 1_12Dec2023), it's indicated that salaried employees are not eligible to receive funding through this program. However, Genome BC has recently revised this criterion.

Salaries for project team members are eligible. Note that these must represent at least 0.15 FTE per annum.

Salaries for Project Leader or Co-leaders may be eligible, unless the individual holds a salaried position that covers their activities within the project. Note that salaries for these roles will require strong justification.

Q: WILL THERE BE FINANCIAL SUPPORT OR RESOURCE PROVIDED FOR INCORPORATION AND PATENT PROCESSES?

A: As of current state, the GIF fund focuses on direct project cost. Additional funding to support incorporation and patent processes has not been allocated yet.

Q: WOULD GIF COVER CAPITAL EXPENSES SUCH AS BIOREACTORS AND LAB EQUIPMENT?

A: Equipment can be eligible cost if there is a direct link to the project. The GIF Guidelines provides more details regarding cost eligibility categories. Refer to Appendix 3.

Q: COULD FUNDS BE USED FOR REGULATORY FEES RELATED TO COMMERCIALIZING THE INNOVATION?

A: It depends on the stage of the innovation. Since GIF funds a ~12 month project, it is important to consider the length of the project and whether it is genomic-related study or the regulatory study.

Q: CAN SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT BE COVERED BY THIS FUNDING?

A: Yes. If they have a direct link to the project.

Q: IF THE COMPANY IS BASED IN B.C. BUT THEY USE A CONTRACTOR/SERVICE PROVIDER OUT OF THE PROVINCE FOR SOME OF THE GENOMIC TECHNOLOGY, IS THIS ALLOWED?

A: They are cases where Genome BC funds can be used to cover service contracts. Justification needs to be provided why service providers located within BC cannot be used.

Q: WOULD IT BE OK TO SUBMIT THE SAME PROPOSAL TO BOTH PROGRAMS (ONE WITH AN ACADEMIC PARTNER (GENESOLVE) AND ONE WITHOUT (GIF))? WHAT ARE THE SUCCESS RATES?

A: If applicants already have partnership involved, the GeneSolve program is a better fit with likely a higher success rate than the GIF program.

Genome BC will not accept application submissions to two programs running concurrently. Please contact Genome BC if you would like to talk to a Research and Innovation Manager to identify the best program for your proposed project.