Weston Family Foundation

# Rapid Response 2024 Program
# Frequently Asked Questions

This FAQ aims to address common inquiries related to the Rapid Response 2024 program. However, we encourage you to refer to the Program Details document for more in-depth information. If you have any project specific questions (e.g., whether an idea is in-scope), please contact us directly via email.

### Who is the Foundation's main contact for the program?

Applicants who have questions about the program or wish to discuss specific project details can reach out to Dr. Teenu Sanjeevan at teenu.sanjeevan@westonfoundation.ca.

### When will applicants be notified of awards?

Award notification is expected in November 2024, however, the Foundation may change the timeline of the application process should it encounter unforeseen circumstances or delays. The Foundation will make every effort to broadly communicate any timeline changes.

### When should projects begin?

We suggest factoring at least 1 month for contracting of grant agreements after receiving the award notice. Therefore, a reasonable project start date is 2 months after the award notification.

### Is matched funding (cash or in-kind) expected for this program?

No.

### How will funds be administered for teams with applicants from more than one institution?

Funds of awarded projects will only be provided to the institution of the Principal Applicant who must be based at a Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) qualified donee institution. The Principal Applicant's institution is responsible for dispersing funds according to the project deliverables. Please refer to the Program Details document for additional information.

### Will a percentage of funds be available at the start of the project for project start-up costs?

Yes, but budget details are not required in the Letter of Intent (LOI). If invited to submit a full Proposal, applicants can request a small amount of funds to cover start-up costs (e.g., REB submissions, purchasing reagents) in the "Milestones" section of the application. More details about how to complete the Proposal application template will be provided to those who are successful following the LOI stage.

### How many grants will the program fund?

A maximum of six projects, each funded up to a maximum of $300,000 is the target. However, the review committee may recommend less than six applications depending on the quality and suitability of applications received.

### Can an applicant submit more than one application?

Yes, applicants can submit more than one application as a Principal Applicant, co-Applicant, and/or Collaborator. Current or past Foundation grantees can also submit applications. *For more information about applicant eligibility, please refer to the "Eligibility of Applicants" section of the Program Details document.*

### Does the Principal Applicant need to be working at least 50% of time at a CRA qualified donee institution?

Yes. *For more information, about the eligibility of applicants, co-applicants, and collaborators, please refer to the "Eligibility of Applicants" section of the Program Details document.*

### Can collaborators be based outside of Canada?

Yes. However, it is expected that the majority of work be conducted at a CRA qualified donee institution located in Canada. *For more information, about the eligibility of Principal Applicants, Co-applicants, and Collaborators, please refer to the "Eligibility of Applicants" section of the Program Details document.*

### Can collaborators be from industry?

Yes, but the Principal Applicant must be a researcher working in Canada at least 50% of the time and hold a position at or above the level of Assistant Professor or equivalent at a CRA qualified donee institution located in Canada. *For more information, please refer to "Eligibility of Applicants" section of the Program Details document.*

### Do all clinical sites of a multi-site study need to be in Canada?

No. A proportion of the funds can be used for unique international resources (e.g., in-licensing IP, costs associated with accessing a database). However, it is expected that the majority of the funds will go towards work conducted in Canada. *For more information, please refer to the "Funding Specifications" and "Eligibility of Applicants" sections of the Program Details document.*

### How do you define preliminary data?

As noted in the Program Details document, preliminary or pilot data is required for this program, and is any data (from the applicants' lab or the literature) that can support the rationale, hypothesis and feasibility of the proposed work. Preliminary data can be based on results from human or animal studies.

### Are the use of animal models permitted for the program?

The experimental design of projects using animal models or data derived from animal models is in scope of the program.

### Is tool validation in scope for this program?

Yes. *For more information about what is in/out of scope, please refer to the "Scope and other Project considerations" section of the Program Details document.*

### Are letters of support required at the Letter of Intent (LOI) phase?

Letters of support are only required at the Proposal phase.

### Are partnerships required for submission of an application?

Partnerships are not mandatory. However, we encourage applicants to build collaborations as necessary to ensure the project team has the expertise and resources needed to successfully execute the proposed work. If a particular expertise is missing at the time of the LOI submission, it can still be added at the Proposal phase, if the applicant is invited to submit a full Proposal.

### What expertise is on the review panel?

The review panel consists of an international group of experts covering a range of different areas of therapeutic and tool development for neurodegenerative diseases of aging research.