

AHSC AFP Innovation Fund Process for Distribution of Funds

Last Approved:	NOAMA Board	June 22, 2021
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The approved funds will be released in accordance with the **IFPOC Framework and Guidelines** and **NOAMA Innovation Fund Local Guidelines and Application Process**.

1. Ethical Review:

Research Ethics Board (REB) approval may or may not be required, depending upon the nature of the project. The release of funding will be conditional upon receiving ethical clearance(s) from an appropriate Research Ethics Board (REB) or a letter (from a REB) stating that REB approval is not required for the project(s). The REB approval or clearance confirmation must be on the letterhead of the organization and include an authorized signature. Emailed copies of the signed letter will be accepted.

NOSM's Research Office, who can be contacted at research@nosm.ca, is available to provide assistance with the research ethics application package.

2. Administration of Project Funds:

For individuals or groups awarded Clinical Innovation Opportunities funding, identification of an appropriate transfer payment agency or accountability mechanism for the monies is required. Where there is no appropriate transfer agency, the funding will be transferred to NOSM's Research Unit for administration. Project Leads are required to follow the approved policies and procedures of the transfer payment agency.

Examples of an appropriate transfer agency include the hospital, clinic, university, or Local Education Group that the physician is associated with.

3. Changes to Approved Projects:

Project Leads are to request any changes to the project to NOAMA, including but not limited to methodology, budget, or personnel, prior to the changes being implemented to ensure that all aspects of the project continue to meet NOAMA and IFPOC funding criteria.

For budget reallocation and project extension request templates, visit our website at <http://www.noama.ca/afp>

4. Supporting Documents

The Transfer Payment Agencies/Project Leads must keep complete and accurate records on the use of NOAMA funding, including verifiable audit trails with complete supporting documentation for each transaction, for a minimum of seven years.

5. Progress Reports (templates available at <http://www.noama.ca/afp>):

One-Year Projects:

Project Leads are required to submit progress reports six-months after ethical clearance has been received, demonstrating that the project has commenced and is achieving the stated objectives, using the **Six-Month Progress Report Template**. Any changes to timelines are to be communicated to the NOAMA office.

Two-Year Projects:

Projects approved for funding for more than one year will be reviewed at the end of the first year. Project Leads are to provide a detailed progress report using the Year-End Progress Report Template. Second-year funding will be released once an approved budget has been received and 75% of first-year funding has been utilized. If second year funding is requested within 9 months of the final report date, NOAMA will hold second year funding and the grant will be considered for termination. All unspent funds are subject to return.

6. Final Reports:

All Project Leads are required to provide a detailed final report prior to timelines outlined in the approved guidelines and application process. Final Report Templates prescribed by IFPOC are required (available at <http://www.noama.ca/afp>).

Project Leads are required to submit Final Project Reports and Final Budgets within 18 months after the end of the project term, whether or not you have finished the project. At the end of this period, regardless of the status of the project, a report is required, and unspent funds are subject to return.

7. Recognition of Funding:

All publications and presentations related to the project funded from the NOAMA AHSC AFP Innovation Funds are to acknowledge, *"Supported by the Northern Ontario Academic Medicine Association (NOAMA) AHSC AFP Innovation Fund award"* and are to include the NOAMA logo. The logo is available from the NOAMA office at grants@noama.ca.