



Growth and Economic Opportunities for Women (GrOW) Frequently Asked Questions

Call for proposals on the effects of patterns of growth on women's economic empowerment

Table of Contents

- Thematic focus4**
 - Does my application need to address ALL research questions posed in the call document to be selected?4
 - What if I propose research questions that do not align with the GrOW research questions?4
 - Can the research focus on a single country/context?4
- Eligibility criteria4**
 - I am not affiliated with an institution, can I apply alone?4
 - Which kinds of organisations are eligible for funding?4
 - If we are a team of researchers (consortium) applying, do we all have to submit a proposal and related materials?5
 - If my application does not focus on a low-income country/countries, can I still apply?5
 - Which countries does GrOW consider low-income?5
 - Are there any countries that are not eligible for research grants?5
 - Are institutions based in the global North eligible to apply?5
 - What is a southern-led application emerging from a research consortia?6
 - Is there preference given to applicants with strong southern partnerships?6
- Funding6**
 - What is the maximum amount of funding I can request?6
 - Can I apply for additional funding through another source and qualify for GrOW funding for the same project?6
 - Are there conditions related to the funding? (i.e. activities that will not be covered or limits on certain budget items).....6
- Project Duration7**
 - What is the maximum duration permitted for the research project?7
- Application process7**
 - Can I submit this application via email or post?.....7
 - I had technical difficulties and failed to attach a document, can I send it via email at a later date from my online submission?7
 - If I have questions on the application, where should I turn?7
 - What is the timeline for the application?.....8
 - Will I receive feedback on my application?8

Selection process	8
What does a two-stage selection process mean?	8
How many applications will be shortlisted at the end of the first stage?	8
How is the review process conducted?.....	8
How many projects will be selected in the end?.....	9
About other GrOW calls for proposals	9
Can I submit an application for any of the other GrOW themes at this time?	9
If I applied to a previous GrOW call for proposals or are interested in applying to an upcoming call, can I still submit an application at this time?	9

Thematic focus

Does my application need to address ALL research questions posed in the call document to be selected?

While preference is given to applications that can propose a suite of projects covering a wide spectrum of the broader research questions described above, applicants are encouraged to only respond to questions they can adequately address. Quality is preferred to quantity of questions addressed. The scientific merit of the research proposal and its potential for development impact is a main selection criteria.

What if I propose research questions that do not align with the GrOW research questions?

Besides attempting to address the research question(s) posed in the call document as comprehensively as possible, applicants are also encouraged to propose other questions for research within this theme. However they will have to justify how it will add value to the existing knowledge on this theme and contributes to GrOW objectives.

Can the research focus on a single country/context?

Research applications should NOT focus on a single country or economic context. Applications must demonstrate the application or relevance of the research for cross-country and/or regional experiences.

Microeconomic studies on specific barriers to women's economic empowerment will NOT be considered for funding in this call.

Eligibility criteria

I am not affiliated with an institution, can I apply alone?

Applications from individual persons will NOT be accepted.

Which kinds of organisations are eligible for funding?

Proposed projects are to be undertaken by – or in the case of a research consortium, led by – a research-oriented institution with legal corporate registration.

UN, donor and multi-lateral organizations are NOT eligible to apply.

If we are a team of researchers (consortium) applying, do we all have to submit a proposal and related materials?

Research consortia comprised of up to three institutional partners may apply, however one partner must be designated as the lead institution. The choice of the lead institution is entirely up to the consortium.

The lead institutions should submit the application to IDRC on behalf of the consortium. A two page summarized CV is required for the lead investigator. Additional investigators should be listed in the application (in no more than one page), including their title and organisation. Including a link to CVs online of additional investigators and/or relevant publications is permitted.

If my application does not focus on a low-income country/countries, can I still apply?

Research under this call is not restricted to low-income contexts. The selection committee will look for countries with varied growth experiences. However, regardless of the country of focus, all applications must be relevant and provide lessons for low-income.

Which countries does GrOW consider low-income?

A list of low income countries can be found at: http://data.worldbank.org/about/country-classifications/country-and-lending-groups#Low_income

Are there any countries that are not eligible for research grants?

Research organisations in Cape Verde, Comoros, Equatorial Guinea, Mauritius, Sao Tome and Principe, Seychelles, Somalia are not eligible for research grants.

Organisations not based in these countries but intending to do research in the countries mentioned above are also not considered eligible for research grants.

Are institutions based in the global North eligible to apply?

Institutions based in the global North and global South are eligible to apply. In selecting final projects, weighting will be given to Southern-based research institutions, and North-South research consortiums.

What is a southern-led application emerging from a research consortia?

In terms of the application process, southern-led applications emerging from a research consortia mean that a southern research institution takes responsibility for submitting the application on behalf of the consortium. Communications from the GrOW team with applicants during the selection process will take place with the lead investigator on record.

Is there preference given to applicants with strong southern partnerships?

The selection committee will give preference to applications that demonstrate a substantive involvement by southern institutions on the proposal's design, implementation, including capacity building and research uptake strategies, as well as monitoring and evaluation.

Funding

What is the maximum amount of funding I can request?

It is envisaged that through this call a single consortium will undertake 6-8 projects within a total budget of up to CAD 2 million. There is however scope for 1-2 individual research projects of under CAD 300,000 being funded directly if the proposed research is on a priority area.

A value for money assessment is conducted as part of the review process.

Can I apply for additional funding through another source and qualify for GrOW funding for the same project?

If you have currently secured additional funding for the research project, or intend to secure it, make sure to make that information part of your application. You will be required to submit a budget. Include the amount and source of funding and what that would cover separately from the allocations you would expect the GrOW funding to cover.

Are there conditions related to the funding? (I.e. activities that will not be covered or limits on certain budget items)

IDRC has a standard grant agreement, which details the conditions of any funding. This will be shared at the full proposal stage.

Project Duration

What is the maximum duration permitted for the research project?

Projects should be scheduled to be completed within a timeframe not exceeding 24 months, including all research activities and final reporting.

GrOW understands that achieving research uptake is not limited to a 24 month framework. However, applications must develop all research activities within that timeline and elaborate on how research uptake and monitoring and evaluation strategies will allow them to disseminate results and assess the success of uptake after the project timeline concludes.

Application process

Can I submit this application via email or post?

Only applications made through the online system will be accepted.

I had technical difficulties and failed to attach a document, can I send it via email at a later date from my online submission?

The deadline for submission of concept notes using online application is February 23, 2015. Incomplete or late applications would not be considered. We thus recommend you apply well in advance to avoid any technical difficulties from impeding your successful submission online within the established timeline.

If you encounter technical difficulties, please contact grow@idrc.ca at least 72 hours prior to the submission deadline to ensure a prompt response.

If I have questions on the application, where should I turn?

To ensure the fairness and objectivity of the selection process, GrOW staff will not address any questions on the substance of your application. The FAQ and call documents should address most relevant questions.

The FAQ will be updated during the application period to respond to pertinent questions for all applicants. Please refer to the FAQ on a regular basis.

If additional technical questions or difficulties arise, contact grow@idrc.ca and the GrOW team will respond to questions deemed appropriate. Please note GrOW will not respond directly to queries.

What is the timeline for the application?

The deadline for submission of applications is February 23, 2015. Shortlisted applicants will be informed of the status of their application by April 05, 2015.

Applicants who were NOT shortlisted are expected to be notified in June 2015.

Shortlisted applicants must submit full proposals online by July 7, 2015. A final decisions is expected to be communicated to selected applicants by August 20, 2015. Internal project approval and granting processes follow immediately after.

Will I receive feedback on my application?

Applicants who are shortlisted to submit a full application will receive feedback on their application summarizing key comments and areas of improvement identified by reviewers.

Given that the volume of applications is not yet known, at this time, GrOW does not plan to provide feedback to applicants who are not shortlisted.

Selection process

What does a two-stage selection process mean?

The online application you will be submitting is the first step of two in the selection process for funding. At this first stage, you are requested for limited information on your proposal via a concept note and respective annexes. Applications will be reviewed by the GrOW selected committee.

How many applications will be shortlisted at the end of the first stage?

GrOW envisages that up to 4 selected teams will be asked to submit a full research proposal for review and funding consideration.

How is the review process conducted?

Upon receiving complete applications, a review process begins by the GrOW team, including our donors, and a set of external reviewers, comprised of qualified researchers and practitioners with thematic and regional expertise.

The review process is anonymous and personal information from both applicants and reviewers are kept confidential. The review process is done electronically, with each reviewer providing feedback according to each of the selection criteria highlighted in the call document.

Shortlisted applicants receive feedback from the review process in preparation for full applications. A final selection is conducted based on the criteria available in the call document.

How many projects will be selected in the end?

At this stage, GrOW envisages that a single consortium will undertake 6-8 projects within a total budget of up to CAD 2 million. There is however scope for 1-2 individual research projects of under CAD 300,000 being funded directly if the proposed research is on a priority area.

About other GrOW calls for proposals

Can I submit an application for any of the other GrOW themes at this time?

This call is only for research that specifically looks at theme 2 – the effect of specific patterns of growth on women’s economic empowerment.

The call for applications for research under theme 1- barriers to women’s economic empowerment- is now closed and funded projects are underway.

Research for theme 3 -How does women’s economic empowerment affect economic growth? - is pursued through another call. Please refer to the separate guidance for theme 3 if you wish to apply.

If I applied to a previous GrOW call for proposals or are interested in applying to an upcoming call, can I still submit an application at this time?

Applications led by principal investigators who are already leads on any other GrOW-funded projects will NOT be accepted. However, applications from GrOW-funded institutions submitted under the leadership of a different principal investigator are eligible to apply.

More than one application may be submitted per institution if projects are led by different principal investigators.

Organisations who applied to previous GrOW calls and did not receive funding are eligible to apply for this call. Previous unsuccessful applications have no bearing on the selection process.

Organisations applying to the call for proposals for theme 2 can also apply to the theme 3 call for proposals. The final selection process will take into account the need for a balanced portfolio of projects engaging a variety of researchers, themes and regions.