Digital Health & Discovery Platform

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Project Selection for DHDP's Digital Health Innovation Fund (or 'Innovation Fund')

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I. Purpose of DHDP Selection Committee

As written on the original invitation:
The DHDP Selection Committee will evaluate funding applications submitted to the Innovation Fund, ensuring that selected projects are aligned with DHDP's goals. Committee members will receive an honorarium of $500, in alignment with TFRI honorarium guidelines. The purpose of the Selection Committee is to select eligible projects to use the Platform to share data for their intended use cases, contributing to advancements in research, technological development, and commercial potential.

II. Review Process and Reviewer Duties

Reviewers will be assigned **~5–10** proposed projects determined by the TFRI President and Scientific Director after TFRI and DHDP internal review for:

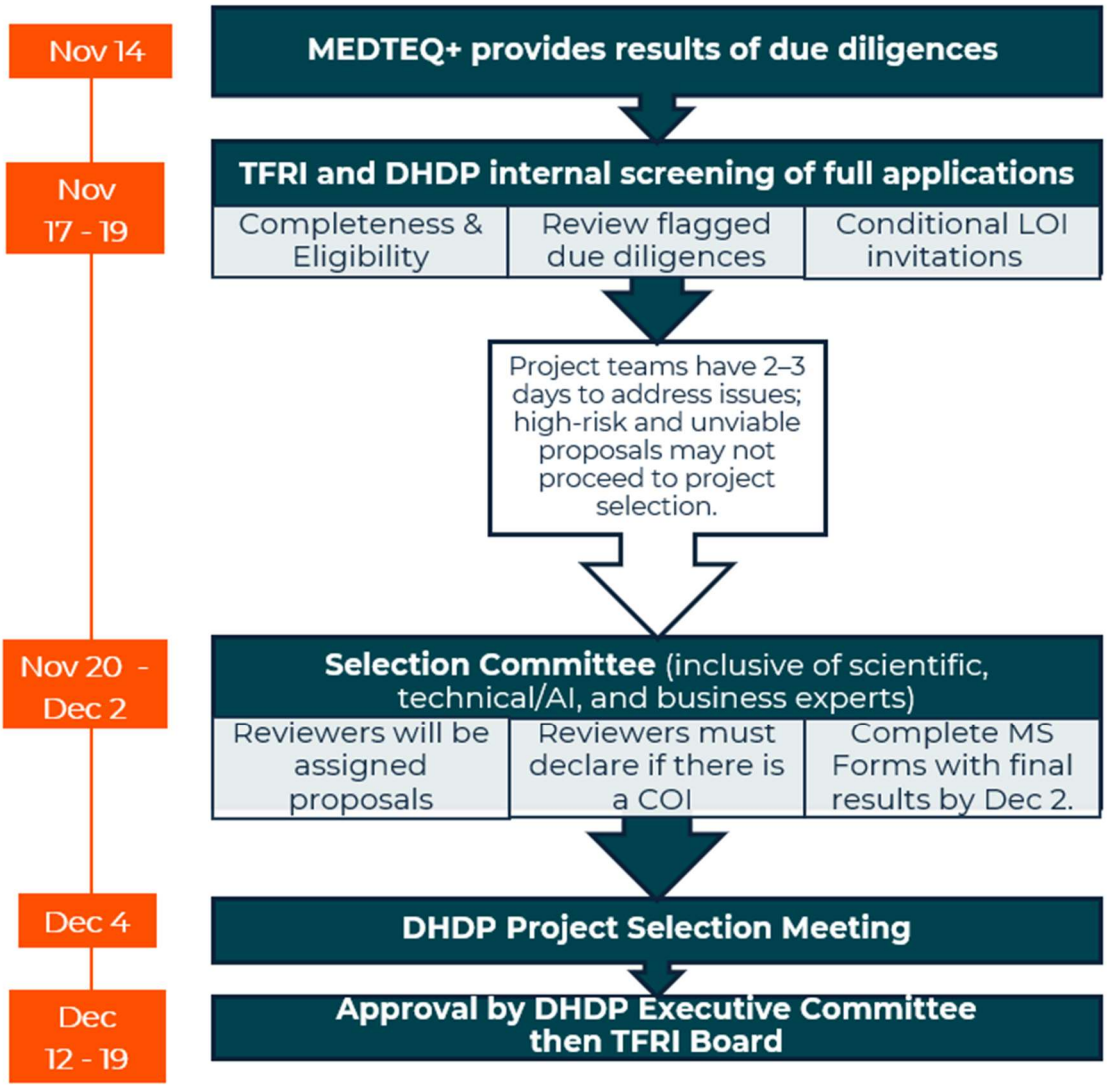
- completeness and eligibility,
- fulfillment of deficiencies noted on conditional invitations, and
- high risk or concern flagged by MEDTEQ+ after due diligence (assessment of company backgrounds, financial history, and Background IP)
- domain expertise that is most appropriate based on project's disease, technical focus, and business focus.

Key information about projects will be documented by the DHDP team during internal review to pose forth valuable context about a project proposal to the Selection Committee before a consensus is arrived on.

Timeline	Review Duties
Nov 20-21	Reviewers will be assigned project proposals and are required to disclose any potential (real or appearance of) conflicts of interest (COI). Refer to Terms of Reference 'Conflict of Interest'.

Nov 20 – Dec 2	**Individual Review will take place asynchronously. Complete the MS Forms (to be sent closer to Nov 20) to digitally attest no COI and submit review results/recommendations by December 2.** Refer to 'III. Evaluation Scoring and Criteria' in this document for questions / fields that will be incorporated into MS Forms.
Dec 4	**Virtual Full-Day (5-6 hour) meeting for project selection by the Committee.** All proposals will be reviewed by members of the expert committee, but to ensure time is used most efficiently, discussions will focus on those applications with disparate scores.

Diagram of Process and Timeline



Approval of Projects Selected

The Executive Committee is responsible for the approval of funding, based upon recommendations from the selection process for eligible projects. Proposals that are approved by the Executive Committee will be shared with the DHDP government

funder (ISED) prior to funding announcements. Within the review process, feedback or reason for scoring will be documented to ensure the highest quality of proposals going to the DHDP Executive for approval. Upon approval of funding, the execution of the Ultimate Recipient agreement will reinforce the IP, financial, and partnership requirements for the project.

Clarification Process

Applicants who wish to submit an appeal on the basis of a procedural error in the review of the application must submit their appeal in writing within 10 calendar days of receipt of funding decision. The appeal submission should include the basis for the appeal and any relevant documentation.

III. Evaluation Scoring and Criteria

All reviewers are expected to evaluate each proposal holistically and within their respective areas of expertise. Each project will have a scientific, technical/AI, and business reviewer assigned. Technical/AI and business reviewers are required to review additional application documents to conduct domain-specific evaluation.

Evaluation Steps

1. Review the RFA in EN or FR to understand the DHDP goals and purpose of the Digital Health Innovation Fund.
2. Review the Evaluation Scale (next page) then review each project individually between **November 20 – December 2**.
    a. Upon assignments of project proposals Nov 20-21, you will be sent an MS Forms link (specific to your evaluation focus: scientific, technical/AI, business shown on page 5) to digitally attest no COI and submit review results/recommendations by December 2.
3. Participate in the December 4th Project Selection meeting to determine projects advancing to the approval stage.

SUCCESS RATE

The Digital Health Innovation Fund is designed as an inclusive reimbursement program rather than a competitive grant. We anticipate a success rate of 70-90%.

- We anticipate several proposals to be high-risk but offer high value given the program's requirement for two (2) small and medium-sized businesses to provide significant contributions (75%) to carry out projects.

- Please keep the high success rate in mind when conducting evaluations using the scale below. The goal is to ensure that quality, eligible projects receive support and to enable a broad base of impactful collaborations. Projects have already been pre-screened for eligibility and alignment internally at TFRI with MEDTEQ+ at the LOI stage.

Evaluation Scale

Recommend	Recommend but requires clarification	Do not Recommend
Project demonstrates feasibility, value, and readiness for digital health innovation. A project that is high risk though high reward could classify here.	Project poses certain risks which could hinder project initiation or achievement of milestones if not addressed. Projects are asked to note clarification needed for a recommendation to be possible.	Major concerns regarding the overall project feasibility and value. Please note reason(s).

Holistic Review

Documents for review by all members of Committee:

- Project SOW
- Partner Workplans
- Evaluation Plan
- Overall Budget (with respect to need and feasibility)

To what extent will the project team utilize the DHDP platform to contribute to DHDP goals?

Is it innovative and timely? Is the project approach logical and likely to achieve the stated goals?

Consider what the expected impact this research will have on:

- To what extent will the project team utilize the DHDP platform to contribute to DHDP goals? Contributions to DHDP outputs and outcomes, including publications, R&D investments, new jobs (including co-op) and business creation, and IP generation.
- Economic, innovation, scientific merit, and potential health and social benefits.
- Benefits to the health and digital sectors in Canada.

- Benefits which strengthen and promote the sustainability of the Network (e.g., data accessibility).
- Diverse and equitable representation of research in Canada's healthcare and AI landscape, with a mix of organizations including small and medium-sized enterprises (SME), large corporations, and public-sector partners (e.g., hospitals).

Domain-specific review

	Scientific	Technical/AI	Business
Additional Documents for review	None	• Data Access Protocol	• IP and Commercialization Plan • Term Sheet
Evaluation Focus	Importance of project research and goals for the respective area(s) of disease research. Primary disease categories include oncology, neurology, diabetes, and cardiology. Reviewers will be assigned corresponding to their background.	Technical feasibility and technological advancement. Consider: • Data accessibility and governance • Data readiness (e.g., readily available, de-identification, OMOP standard) • Fit for use case	The potential for projects to stimulate commercialization, including plans for protecting proprietary information and empowering employees (IP training, relevant policies, IP ownership). Consider: • Partnership structure and readiness • Resources and finances to realize Proof of Concept • Return on Investment