

# SCOTTISH RITE CHARITABLE FOUNDATION OF CANADA

## MAJOR RESEARCH GRANT

Supporting Biomedical Research into Helping Solve the Puzzles of the Mind



**Value: A maximum of \$40,000 per year for a period of up to 3 years**

**Deadline for Receipt of Applications: April 30, 2024**

**NEW: See new submission requirements under the section “Submitting Applications”**

### **BACKGROUND OF FUNDING FOUNDATION:**

The SCOTTISH RITE CHARITABLE FOUNDATION OF CANADA (SRCF) is a private charitable Foundation registered with Revenue Canada under Letters Patent of Incorporation (1964), funded by donations and bequests from the members of The Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry of Canada. The Foundation labours for the benefit of all Canadians, regardless of race or creed. Applicants require no association with the Masonic Order or the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry. The SRCF annually approve grants and awards totalling \$480,000. Approximately 12 new or renewal grants are made each year.

### **OBJECT OF MAJOR RESEARCH GRANTS:**

SRCF Major Grants support biomedical research into Solving the Puzzles of the Mind focused on the following:

- a) The causes of Puzzles of the Mind, such as Dyslexia and Autism, especially as it affects children;
- b) The causes and eventual cure of cognitive impairment such as Alzheimer's disease and other neurodegenerative diseases; and
- c) Research into other Puzzles of the Mind may be considered.

*Note:* The focus of the research should be on the causes and cure of the disease as opposed to the active treatment or palliative care.

### **ELIGIBILITY:**

- Applications are limited to researchers who have no more than five (5) years' experience as an independent investigator as of **January 1, 2024**.
  - The Foundation will consider with acceptable justification, breaks in the applicant's research career due to maternity or parental leave, extended sick leave, clinical training, and family care.
- A researcher who is designated as the *Principal Investigator* on the research grant must be based in, or formally affiliated with (but not necessarily receive salary support from), an eligible Canadian Host Institution such as a university, research institute or health care agency.
- The Principal Investigator should be independent as to their research activities and would hold an academic or research appointment, usually an employment relationship, with an eligible Canadian institution. The Foundation does not consider trainees including Postdoctoral Fellows, research assistants or research associates to be eligible to apply as the Principal Investigator.
- Research projects must be endorsed by the Research Services Department or equivalent of the Host Institution
- Research must be carried out within Canada.

## **PAYMENT AND USE OF FUNDS:**

- Grants will be paid to the financial officer of the sponsoring institution by October 30<sup>th</sup>. The grantee shall draw funds as required.
- Documents of approval from the Research Services Dept., including an ethics, animal care and biohazards review, must be submitted to the Foundation before funds are released to successful applicants.
- Funds awarded shall be used for direct research support as presented in the approved budget.
- Funds may be used to purchase specific equipment and laboratory supplies, for general operating expenses specified in the application including funding for technicians, graduate and summer students.
- Funds shall not be used to pay the applicant's salary or benefits, for construction or renovations, for travel or conference fees or to purchase computer equipment. Indirect costs/overhead are not eligible costs to be charged to a Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation Grant.
- Equipment purchased with grant funds remains the property of the institution.
- Funds remaining at the end of the award period shall be returned to the Foundation unless the SRCF Awards Committee approves an extension.

## **APPLICATIONS:**

Applicants must submit on official SRCF form (SRCF-2024) the following:

1. Three or more Key Words that identify your proposal
2. Three or more Methodologies that identify your proposal
3. Up to 5 co-applicants can be part of an application
4. Non-Scientific Summary (Maximum of 4,500 characters) under the headings: 1) Introduction 2) Objective 3) Outline of research 4) Projected benefits and application of findings
5. Re-applications: Investigators who are submitting a revised grant application can submit either an "Initial" application or a "Re-Application". A "Re-Application" allows investigators the opportunity to offer a response to the review or indicate what improvements have been made as a result of the critiques. This response must not be more than 4,500 characters in length. If you choose to respond to the previous critique, a copy of the review comments must be attached.
6. Detailed Research Proposal (a maximum of 18,000 characters): In a concise manner describe the current state of knowledge about the subject including relevant work done by the applicant and delineate the objectives and research plan, providing a rationale for choosing the particular method and approach. References and a maximum of two additional pages for figures and tables can be attached.
7. Budget (a maximum of 4,500 characters): Showing the proposed application of this funding grant.
8. Summary of other funding applied for and received.
9. Curriculum Vitae for each applicant containing information about when and where the applicants received their degrees, an employment history, and a list of publications, patents, significant presentations, and awards and for the last 5 years. The personal information cannot exceed 3 pages. Should applicants have any career interruptions (such as maternity or parental leave, extended sick leave, clinical training, and family care), they may provide this information on an additional page, no other material is to be included on this additional page.  
There is no page limit for the publications and other accomplishments. Applicants can use formats prepared for other agencies as long as it contains the necessary information.
10. Documents of approval from the Research Services Department or equivalent of the University, Hospital or Research Institute following notification of application approval and before funds are released.

11. Suggested Referees (see application form for details).
12. Appendices containing additional information that may be of benefit to the SRCF in assessing the proposal may include letters of support from involved parties and a maximum of three relevant manuscripts that have been submitted for publication or are currently in press. Letters of support should be scanned and included in PDF format in the electronic submission.

### **SUBMITTING APPLICATIONS:**

**Applicants must submit the completed application form electronically including all supporting documentation to [grantsubmission@srcf.ca](mailto:grantsubmission@srcf.ca) on or before April 30, 2024. This submission should consist of two files. The SRCF-2024 PDF form (in original, fillable format) and one PDF file containing all additional relevant information. Ensure that the total size of these two files does not exceed 20 MBs. Contact the Office if your files are too large.**

**NOTE: Applications submitted in other formats will not be accepted for review and the application will be rejected without review.**

**When the deadline falls on a weekend or holiday, the next business day will be considered the deadline date.**

**Original signatures are no longer required. The electronic form can be digitally signed.**

**Naming of files: Files should be named with the following convention –  
Lastname\_SRCF\_Application\_20XX and Lastname\_SRCF\_Appendices\_20XX.**

### **REVIEW PROCESS:**

Applications will be assessed according to the following criteria:

- a) The quality of the proposed research project,
- b) Relevance to the focus areas described above,
- c) Potential impact on the field of research and the focus group.

Applications are reviewed by the Awards Committee in consultation with an expert review panel and recommended for approval to the Directors of the Foundation. Applicants will be notified by September 30<sup>th</sup> of the Committee's decisions.

### **BIOMEDICAL, ANIMAL CARE AND HUMAN SUBJECT PROTECTION:**

For research involving the use of biological materials and/or experimental animals, certificates of approval must be submitted guaranteeing that the project will be conducted under conditions which satisfy the “[Canadian Biosafety Standards and Guidelines](#)” Second Edition, 2015 and/or the [Canadian Council on Animal Care](#). For research involving human subjects, a certificate must be submitted from the appropriate committee of each institution involved stating that the protocols and methods have been found acceptable from an ethical point of view in accordance with the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, [Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans - TCPS 2 \(2018\)](#).

### **REPORTING:**

- An interim report (maximum of 2 pages) shall be sent to the SRCF by April 30<sup>th</sup>, the following year, describing the progress of the research being undertaken for inclusion in the Annual Report the SRCF. This report should include any abstracts, papers, invited talks that highlight the research

funded by the SRCF.

- The Foundation will consider a no-cost extension, but this must be submitted at least 6-months prior to the end of the grant. If funds remain unexpended at the end of the grant they must be returned.
- The grantee shall submit to the Foundation, within two months after the end of each grant, a final report of the work performed with an accounting statement as to how the funds were spent. The financial statement can be submitted on the Tri-council Form 300 or equivalent.

**TERM OF GRANT:**

The Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation grant year is October 1<sup>st</sup> to September 30<sup>th</sup>.

**DURATION OF SUPPORT:**

Grants are awarded for a maximum of three years contingent on the receipt of progress reports and proven research results. Renewal applications for a second three-year term will be considered under exceptional circumstances. Grantees will not be supported more than 6 years maximum.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT:**

The following should appear in any presentation, publication, poster or abstract resulting from work supported by this grant.

**"This work was supported by a grant from *The Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation of Canada.*"**

**NOTE:** Grant recipients may be asked to assist in a peer review of future applications.

Any questions or inquiries should be made to the:

**The Awards Committee**

**Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation of Canada**

**4 Queen Street South**

**Hamilton, Ontario L8P 3R3**

Phone: 905-522-0033

Fax: 905 522-3716

Email: [grantsandawards@srcf.ca](mailto:grantsandawards@srcf.ca)

Foundation web page – [www.srcf.ca](http://www.srcf.ca)