

ALES RESEARCH

TIP SHEET #7 – Tri-Agencies

May 2023



Is your research related to human health? Are you unsure which of the Tri-Agencies would be the best fit for your research? You could be missing an opportunity for funding.

To help select the correct Agency, check the [Selecting the Appropriate Federal Granting Agency](#) website.

1. CIHR (Canadian Institutes of Health Research)

- All current CIHR funding opportunities can be found on [ResearchNet](#). There are often multiple opportunities besides the main Project Grant Program.
- Eligible projects must align with CIHR's mandate to "*excel, according to internationally accepted standards of scientific excellence, in the creation of new knowledge and its translation into improved health for Canadians, more effective health services and products and a strengthened Canadian health care system.*"

2. CIHR or NSERC? (Natural Sciences & Engineering Research Council of Canada)

- If you are not sure if your research falls under CIHR or NSERC, below is an example of how the subject areas of Pharmaceuticals, Nutraceuticals and Functional Foods breaks out under these two Agencies:
 - "*CIHR supports research whose main focus is screening for substances - such as nutrients, nutraceuticals or potential active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) - or determining or validating the bioactivity, clinical effects, pharmacokinetics, toxicity, safety, adverse events, or efficacy of those substances.*"
 - "*NSERC supports research related to food components, nutraceuticals, or functional foods if it aims to elucidate the mechanism of action of a dietary component purported to affect a specific structure or physiological function. Also eligible is research focusing on novel ways of obtaining or producing an ingredient known for its health benefits, the role of a nutrient in a product matrix, or the manufacturing process of a new product that contains such an ingredient.*"

3. CIHR or SSHRC? (Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council of Canada)

- "*Investigators whose proposed research is health-related should consult CIHR's mandate first to explore eligibility.*"
- For more detailed information about SSHRC's guidelines for the eligibility of applications related to health, see Subject Matter Eligibility on the [SSHRC's website](#). (please continue to back page....)

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- *"SSHRC considers eligible applications within the broad areas of social, developmental, personality and educational psychology including proposals related to theory and methods in these areas. SSHRC does not support clinically oriented research with an intent to improve health, or research involving clinical trials."*

4. Why should you consider applying to CIHR?

- CIHR average awarded grant amounts are larger than NSERC or SSHRC grants.
- CIHR Project Grants have 2 application cycles per year, allowing for more flexibility in timing.
- CIHR often offers a wide range of specialized calls for funding opportunities.

5. Tri-Agencies by the numbers

- The table below shows a comparison of the national results for recent funding cycles:

Agency	Program/year	Success Rate	Average Annual Amount
CIHR	Project Grant /Spring 2022	19% ¹	\$177,521
NSERC	Discovery Grants /Fall 2021	68%	\$37,609
SSHRC	Insight Grant /Fall 2021	52.5%	\$32,653 ²

¹Success rates are higher for applications under the categories of: Social / Cultural / Environmental / Population Health (22%), Indigenous Health (43%), and applications with Knowledge Users (43%).

²Total average funded was \$163,265, and awards can be 2-5 years. A period of five years was used to calculate the annual average.

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