Grand Challenges Canada

Stars in Global Health Grants

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Grand Challenges Canada

Funded by the federal government to support “bold ideas with big impact in global health”.

• Funds innovators in low- and middle income countries AND Canada.
• Bold ideas supported integrate science and technology, social and business innovation.
• Want to bring successful innovations to scale.
Stars in Global Health Program Information

• Provides ≤$100,000 in seed funding.
• Projects are 12-18 months long.
• Approach must be easily implemented in developing countries to save and improve lives.
• Can encompass development/deployment of products and/or services in any spectrum of global health.
  – Examples include: drug discovery, vaccine development, diagnostics, health and medical education, maternal and child health, non-communicable diseases (including cancer and mental health), health-related water and sanitation, and health-related agriculture and nutrition.
Stars in Global Health Program: Eligibility

- Open to all (non-profit and for-profit).
- Early career investigators encouraged to have a mentor.
  - Defined as having <10 years in their career.
- Canadian applicants MUST have a collaborator in an eligible developing country.
Stars in Global Health Program: Application

• Application consists of:
  – 2 page proposal
  – PI’s CV
  – 2 minute video explaining the global health problem, proposed solution, and why the idea is innovative

• You can have one or more co-applicant.
• You can submit more than one application to Phase I.
• Preliminary data not required, but is a strength.
• Peer-review conducted by GCC and CIHR.
Stuck on how to incorporate the business innovation?

• In Phase I, you need to speculate on potential private/public partners that can help you scale-up.
• Reviewers want to see that you are capable of partnering with a social enterprise that can help take your innovation to scale.
• Can your project attract scale-up capital from private investors, donors or governments in the target country in a sustainable way?
Consider the Program

• If you have a project in mind that is:
  • Able to integrate the scientific, social, and business innovation
  • Has a strong likelihood of achieving measurable health gains

• Desirable if your project is:
  • Extremely affordable
  • Able to be easily assimilated into cultural practices and existing health delivery mechanisms
  • Appropriate for settings with limited infrastructure (e.g., lack of water or electricity)
  • Minimal in maintenance and training
  • Able to lead to a sustainable social enterprise
The Video

• Video judged by how well you engage the public.

• GCC is not expecting or encouraging a high tech video.
  – Webcam or cell phone

• Sample submission video on YouTube

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2ic0QsSUyyI
Program Facts as of December 2013

- 22% success rate (409 funded since 2010)
- 3 applicants from the UofM have been successful in this program (only began applying since 2013)
- Innovators in 31 countries
- 54% innovators are academics
Questions about the program?

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Julie’s Presentation

- http://www.grandchallenges.ca/grantee-stars/0386-01/