

NeuroSpark Innovation Grants Program Guidelines

Program Description

Campus Alberta Neuroscience (CAN) is offering small grants for entrepreneurship/commercialization in the field of neuroscience in Alberta.

Desired Outcomes

This program is designed to foster and encourage neuroscience innovation and entrepreneurship in Alberta by supporting individuals, businesses and/or companies with novel ideas, technologies, or approaches that have the potential to advance the understanding or translation of neuroscience research.

Eligible Activities

- **Business Development:** Support the growth and expansion of neuroscience startups by providing resources to develop and implement business strategies.
- **Market Penetration:** Facilitate the market entry and adoption of neuroscience innovation by providing resources for marketing and promotional activities.
- **Intellectual Property Protection:** Assist the neuroscience industry in Alberta in protecting their intellectual property assets.
- **Prototype Iteration:** Enable neuroscience startups to iterate and improve their product or service prototypes based on user feedback and market demands.
- **Technology Validation:** Help neuroscience startups validate the effectiveness and performance of their technologies.

Ineligible Activities

- Basic research without a clear translational application.
- Capital expenditures.
- Non-neuroscience related projects.

Eligibility Criteria

Applicant

- Housed within the University of Lethbridge, University of Calgary, and University of Alberta and is a [Campus Alberta Neuroscience Member](#)
- Is a key contributor to a small or medium sized neuroscience company, or is creating a company.

Company

- Actively engaged in the development of neuroscience innovation.
- Potential for generating revenue and/or developing high quality personnel in Alberta.
- Collaborates with the applicant (or is the applicant).

Terms and Value

Campus Alberta Neuroscience will provide:

- Funding from \$1,000 - \$50,000 CAD
- Support for engaging and connecting with industries and funders

How to Apply

Applications for the Campus Alberta Neuroscience NeuroSpark Innovation Grants Entrepreneurship Grant Program will open July 17, 2023 and will be accepted until the funding is expended or December 15, 2023 whichever is sooner. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered for funding.

A complete application consists of:

- Completed Campus Alberta Neuroscience NeuroSpark Innovation Grant Application form.

The Application Form requires a description of:

- The proposed activity/activities, including the objectives, approach, and expected outcomes.
- How the proposed plan will be achieved.
- How the proposed activity grant will contribute to the Alberta economy.

Adjudication

- The CAN Review Committee will review all applications. Decisions will be based on satisfying the eligibility and adjudication criteria and the potential for the visit to create positive impacts in the neuroscience industry
- The Review Committee will provide comments for the applicant and a recommendation for funding to CAN
- Final decisions will be made based on the level of funding available with consultation with scientific and business experts.

Adjudication Criteria

- Overall scientific and technical merit of the project or company.
- Entrepreneurial potential and significance to the Alberta neuroscience industry.
- Feasibility of the proposed activity/activities to produce the desired outcome(s)
- Collaboration and partnerships across, or outside of, the neuroscience industry in Alberta.
- Clarity and appropriateness of the budget proposed for the activity.

Administration of Award

- Applicants will be notified of the decision in writing by Campus Alberta Neuroscience
- The notice of decision normally takes 20 working days following submission of the application and/or the submission deadline.
- All decisions are final and cannot be appealed
- The number of applications supported is dependent upon the availability of funds.

Reporting Requirements and Deliverables

You will be required to complete an online final report for CAN before March 31, 2024 which will include:

- If the activity funded achieved the intended results
- What was learned and next steps
- Financial information required by CAN for our final report to our funder
- As well, CAN will ask additional evaluation questions from time to time reporting.

Questions

If you are interested in applying to this program and require further information, please contact Campus Alberta Neuroscience at abneuro@ucalgary.ca