

2026-01-14

PARTICIPATORY INTERSECTORAL RESEARCH PROGRAM

DEADLINE FOR PROJECT PROPOSALS:
MARCH 31, 2026, 5PM

Announcement of results: July 2026

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1. Background

1.1 Mission

The Intersectoral Research Initiative “Towards a More Inclusive Quebec Society,” also known as Société Inclusive, brings together and mobilizes stakeholders from academic and community sectors to develop innovative intersectoral participatory research projects.

Its goal is to create more inclusive physical and social environments for individuals of all ages living with disabilities—whether motor, sensory, intellectual, cognitive, language-related, or related to neurodiversity or aging.

1.2 Financing program objectives

The Intersectoral Participatory Research Program (the Program) of Société Inclusive provides financial, material, and human resources to support innovative intersectoral participatory research projects. These projects must generate concrete changes in various aspects of life for people living with disabilities by supporting the transformation of associated ecosystems (caregivers, community organizations, public institutions). The solutions developed through these projects should help reduce environmental and social barriers that these individuals face in their daily lives.

- In 2026, Société Inclusive will fund up to 12 participatory and intersectoral research projects, divided into two calls for proposals (winter and fall). Up to six projects will be funded in each round.
- The maximum duration for proposed projects is 18 months, ensuring that community organizations (main partners) receive timely support.
- For the winter 2026 call for projects, the deadline for submission is March 31, 2026, at 5:00 PM. Approved projects may begin in September 2026 and must be completed by March 31, 2027 at the latest.
- Another call for projects will be launched in Fall 2026.
- Each project will receive \$35,000 in funding, with at least \$10,000 allocated to supporting partner involvement.
- A portion—or the full amount—of the research team’s funding (up to \$25,000) may be used as financial leverage within the [Mitacs Accelerate program](#), allowing for the compensation of one or more interns. Research teams are strongly encouraged to seek assistance from Intersectoral Coordination Officers (ACI) to determine the best financial structuring for their needs

1.3 Support from intersectoral cooperation officers (ACI)

We strongly encourage teams wishing to submit a project to contact an ACI at an early stage (or as soon as possible) to benefit from their support in developing the project. ACIs are responsible for ensuring links between partner organizations and researchers, monitoring and documenting project progress, and disseminating tools, results and best practices as widely as possible. To contact an ACI, simply send an e-mail to info@societeinclusive.ca.

1.4 Financial partners

This contest is financed thanks to the support of the Mirella & Lino Saputo Foundation, the Azrieli Foundation and Mitacs. We would like to thank them for their support, which together will help to improve the inclusion of people with disabilities and, more broadly, to make our community more inclusive.



2. Eligibility criteria

Projects will be assessed based on the four criteria outlined below. Each criterion must be met and demonstrated in the submission form, otherwise, the application will not be considered.

2.1 Alignment with Société Inclusive's Themes

Proposed research projects must be structured around broad intersectoral research themes that encourage scientific complementarity and help address key societal challenges championed by Société Inclusive, including:

- ✓ - Physical environment and personal mobility
- ✓ - Social environment
- ✓ - Health and rehabilitation-adaptation
- ✓ - Attitudes, prejudice, and discrimination

For more details, please visit: <https://societeinclusive.ca/en/proj/thematiques/>

2.2 Project focused on a need identified by at least one community organization

Projects must address a REAL need expressed by one or more organizations directly related to the needs of people living with disabilities or the defense of their rights. *Therefore, it is essential that the proposed project responds to a need identified by a community organization rather than emerging from theoretical research. Since this is an eligibility criterion, the project description and the partner organization's letter must clearly demonstrate this alignment.*

The partner organization's commitment letter must also showcase its role in identifying the need, designing, and implementing the project to meet that need. Additionally, it should explain how the project's results will be integrated into the organization's activities.

The main partner organization must be a non-profit organization (NPO) located in Québec, whether or not it has a registered charity number.

2.3 Responding to the needs of people living with disabilities

From this perspective, our actions aim to tangibly and inclusively address the needs of people living with disabilities, focusing on the following objectives:

- Produce concrete changes in various aspects of the lives of people with disabilities.
- Accompany the transformation of associated ecosystems (caregivers, community organizations, public agencies).
- Implement solutions to reduce the environmental and social obstacles faced by people with disabilities in carrying out their lifestyle routines.

Important: Projects focused solely on mental health difficulties or on prevention are not eligible.

2.4 Team Composition

2.4.1 Researchers.

The research team submitting a project proposal must include two principal researchers.

At least one of the principal researchers must hold university researcher status, clinician-researcher status, or college researcher status as defined by the Fonds de Recherche du Québec (Status 1 to 3). Institution-based researchers are also eligible (Status 4). Eligibility criteria can be found in the following document:

<https://frq.gouv.qc.ca/en/common-general-rules/>

At least one of the co-principal investigators must be affiliated with one of our partner research centers, networks or groups:

- [Centre de recherche interdisciplinaire en réadaptation du Montréal métropolitain](#) (CRIR)
- [Centre interdisciplinaire de recherche en réadaptation et intégration sociale](#) (Cirris)
- [Réseau pour transformer les soins en autisme](#) (RTSA)
- [Réseau québécois de recherche sur le vieillissement](#) (RQRV)
- [Réseau en recherche en santé de la vision](#) (RRSV)
- [CommunAutés Rurales et Éloignées en Santé](#) (CARES)
- [Regroupement stratégique en Ingénierie de technologies interactives en réadaptation](#) (INTER)

REVISED eligibility criterion

- Each principal investigator or organization may submit only one project per year, regardless of the status of previous or ongoing projects.
- A verification of the status of reporting for previously funded projects will be conducted, and any unjustified delay in reporting may result in ineligibility for this competition.

Postdoctoral fellows cannot act as principal researchers but may serve as co-researchers within the research team.

It is also possible for a team to include a researcher from outside Québec, but they will not be eligible for funding.

2.4.2 Eligibility of the Principal Partner

To be eligible as a principal partner, the organization must:

- Be a non-profit organization (NPO) located in Quebec, with or without a charitable registration number;
- Offer direct services to people living with disabilities, or work to defend their rights;
- Participate in only one application as lead partner per year.
- Private companies and public, parapublic or government bodies (e.g. CIUSSS, municipalities) are not eligible as principal partners, but may contribute as secondary partners.
- Associations of organizations and not-for-profit social economy enterprises are also eligible as principal partners.

Associations of organizations and non-profit social economy enterprises are also eligible as principal partners.

A collaborative approach is required and must be clearly demonstrated in the application. While the involvement of multiple partners is encouraged, only one organization must be designated as the principal partner.

2.4.3 Include a person with experiential knowledge in the research team

In addition to researchers and partners, the team must include at least one person with experiential knowledge, i.e. a person with one or more disabilities. We encourage teams to compensate this person appropriately for his or her participation in the research project.

3. Evaluation Criteria

Projects that are submitted and deemed eligible will be analyzed based on six criteria. Each criterion must be met and demonstrated in the application form, otherwise, the application will not be considered.

3.1 Potential for Real Impact on Social Inclusion

Applicant teams must show how their project addresses a specific need clearly identified by the lead partner. This demonstration should include an analysis of the partner's needs and a justification of the strategies chosen to address them.

The project's impact on the social inclusion of people with disabilities must be clearly detailed, emphasizing the anticipated benefits for these individuals. The impact may be immediate or projected over time.

If the expected impact is not immediate, the team must outline the planned steps and actions to achieve social inclusion, along with a progressive and realistic strategy that includes intermediate objectives.

Projects demonstrating the ability to assess and adapt their approach based on results obtained during implementation will be positively evaluated.

3.2 Involvement and consultation of team members

Applicant teams must demonstrate how their project offers concrete and diversified opportunities for active participation at every key stage: from initial conception to the implementation of activities, and to the appropriation and implementation of results.

It is expected that all team members, including partners, collaborators and relevant stakeholders, will be involved in a way that is meaningful and appropriate to their respective roles and expertise.

Projects will be assessed on the team's ability to integrate an inclusive and collaborative approach, favoring co-construction and shared responsibility. Approaches that enable equitable and rewarding participation for each member will be particularly valued.

3.3 Realism of the project and quality of the scientific approach

Applicant teams must demonstrate how their project offers concrete and diversified opportunities for active participation at every key stage: from initial conception to the implementation of activities, through to the appropriation and valorization of results.

It is expected that all team members, including partners, collaborators and relevant stakeholders, will be involved in a way that is meaningful and appropriate to their respective roles and expertise.

Projects will be assessed on their ability to integrate an inclusive and collaborative approach, favoring co-construction and shared responsibility. Approaches that enable equitable and rewarding participation for each member will be particularly valued.

3.4 Commitment of the target community to adopt the developed solution

Candidate teams must demonstrate the active involvement and support of the stakeholder community throughout the project. This commitment must translate into concrete actions, such as collaboration in the design, implementation and evaluation of the solution developed, as well as a clear willingness to adopt and integrate this solution into their practices or organization.

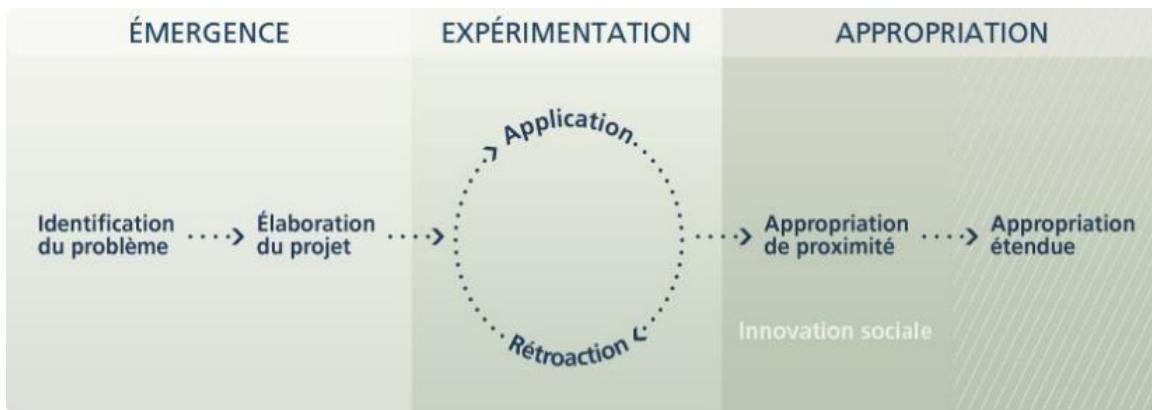
Projects will be assessed on their ability to establish a solid and lasting partnership with the stakeholder community, fostering effective appropriation of the results. The team will also have to show how it will ensure that the solution meets the real and specific needs of the target community, and how it plans to support the latter in adopting and sustaining the solution.

Documentation of the commitments made by the target community (letters of support, contributions in kind or expertise, etc.) will reinforce the credibility of the project.

3.5 Innovation potential and general assessment

Applicant teams must demonstrate that their project is part of a clear and ambitious social innovation process, contributing to the resolution of concrete problems through innovative approaches. The project can be part of one, or more than one, of the three phases of the social innovation process:

- Emergence (involving problem identification and project development);
- Experimentation (based on an iterative scientific approach to knowledge application, co-construction and feedback);
- ✓ Appropriation (appropriation of knowledge in the target environment or elsewhere).



Source : Réseau québécois en innovation sociale, *Acteurs et processus d'innovation sociale au Québec*, 2007.

Please note that a more complete version, better reflecting the various interwoven stages, is available by following this link: [Cycle de vie d'une innovation sociale](#).

Projects submitted must aim to reduce barriers to the participation of people with disabilities, but must also be :

- ✓ **Transferable:** in other words, that the knowledge acquired can be used to promote the social inclusion of people with disabilities. The use of scientific results must be clearly demonstrated, as well as the transferability of knowledge, with a view to improving practices in the recipient environment(s).
- ✓ **Be disseminated:** in other words, the projects selected must have established a plan for disseminating the results within the networks of the partner(s) involved, as well as among their collaborators. The dissemination plan must demonstrate the progress made.
- ✓ **Innovative:** i.e. they propose a new idea or approach, a new service, product or type of organization that responds more adequately and sustainably than existing solutions to a well-defined need.

This conception of social innovation is marked by a break with the existing or a significant improvement in an approach, a service, a product or a type of organization. The team must demonstrate how its project offers the potential for social innovation, and how it will provide a response to an issue that currently has no solution.

3.6 Intersectoral Project

Research teams are encouraged to go beyond merely bringing together or juxtaposing different disciplines and sectors. Instead, intersectoral research aims to foster true interdisciplinary collaboration to address research problems in a more integrated way.

Intersectoral research can take various forms, such as:

- Joint design and development of research problems that bring together shared questions and objectives across different sectors.
- Development of an innovative methodology, specifically tailored to each issue and integrating perspectives from all represented sectors.
- Team composition, including researchers from at least two of the three major sectors covered by the FRQ: natural sciences and engineering, social sciences and humanities, arts and literature, and health sciences.
- Inclusive research approaches, involving user communities and citizens, creating living labs, and encouraging knowledge-sharing—both scientific and experiential—to integrate research-driven innovations into Québec society.

More details are available at: <https://frq.gouv.qc.ca/recherche-intersectorielle/>

4. Financing and expenses

4.1 Financing and eligible expenses

The project can be funded up to a maximum of \$35,000, divided between the research activities and the partner(s). A minimum of \$10,000 must be paid to the partner(s) involved in carrying out the project. Funding will be provided by the Fund for an Inclusive Society, managed by Université Laval's Philanthropy Department. Researchers will be required to pay the planned sums to the partners. In addition:

1. The research project must be carried out over a period of 12 to 18 months, starting on the date the funding is disbursed. An additional 6 months may be granted to facilitate the mobilization of results by the partner(s).
2. Expenses must comply with the FRQ's common general rules. Only expenses directly related to the realization of the project are eligible:
 - Lead partner costs associated with the project;
 - Costs related to the remuneration and benefits of the personnel involved;

- Scholarships and bursaries for undergraduate and graduate students and postdoctoral fellows. Students enrolled in an undergraduate or professional master's program may be eligible, provided that participation in the research project does not constitute a mandatory training activity or internship;
- Fees for consultants and professionals associated with research;
- Training and development costs for personnel using specialized equipment or facilities;
- Remuneration of team participants providing experiential knowledge (excluding researchers);
- Sums or compensation paid to research participants; approved by the ethics committee;
- Materials, equipment and resources directly related to research activities, up to a maximum of \$1,000 per project;
- Travel and accommodation expenses related to the project;
- Dissemination and knowledge mobilization costs;
- Other expenses deemed acceptable by the evaluation committee.

Projects whose budgets have been improved through requests for funds or additional inmate financing will be given priority. These requests can be made in collaboration with Société Inclusive's ACIs. Please note that in the form, a half-page will allow teams to describe additional objectives that will be achieved through additional funding (optional).

For members of the INTER strategic cluster, it is possible to submit a complementary component to the project submitted for INTER mandate funding. Deadlines for INTER mandate calls are usually in November, February and June.

4.2 Mitacs Acceleration (subsidy enhancement)

We encourage teams to apply for additional Mitacs Acceleration funding. Mitacs funding is mainly dedicated to the remuneration of students and trainees involved in the research project. These are student grants, in the form of "internship units" lasting 4 to 6 months. Each team determines its needs in terms of internship units. In this way, funding for a research project can be greatly enhanced. The research team can meet with an ACI to complete the budget section, so as to anticipate and maximize the sums available according to the project's needs.

4.3 Ineligible expenses

Indirect research costs

Program funding does not include any indirect research costs.

5. Financing conditions

1. Société inclusive reserves the right to propose groupings between teams submitting similar projects or projects on similar themes.
2. When the project is accepted, the signed funding application form acts as a memorandum of understanding between the principal partner (and possibly other partner organizations), the principal investigators and Société inclusive, specifying the parameters for carrying out the project and the obligations of the parties. The award letter formalizes funding by Société inclusive via the Fonds pour une Société inclusive administered by Université Laval. Once the project has been accepted, the team must complete and sign the Acceptance of Funds form.
3. We also encourage you to sign a collaboration agreement with the partner(s) to carry out the project. Société Inclusive can provide you with a template if required.
4. Funding is non-renewable and non-transferable.
5. Research teams awarded funding under the Program will be required to submit a progress report at mid-term and at the end of the project. This report should include the following elements: abbreviated presentation of the project (300 words), budget status, results obtained, deliverables, outcomes and spin-offs of the project, next steps (if applicable). Any request for an extension must be accompanied by a progress report and reasonable justification.
6. Funded teams must acknowledge the financial support of Société Inclusive, the Mirella and Lino Saputo Foundation, the Azrieli Foundation and Mitacs in any report, article, work or communication resulting from the grant.
7. Funded teams will be required to carry out ad hoc follow-ups with an ACI. These follow-ups will be posted on the Société Inclusive website (www.societeinclusive.ca) or otherwise.
8. With a view to sharing and transferring knowledge, funded teams undertake to present the progress and results of their research project during Société Inclusive activities (e.g. networking, knowledge transfer or annual exchange forum).
9. Funded teams, and in particular the partner(s), undertake to disseminate the results of the research project within their networks.

6. How to Submit Your Application

Research teams interested in submitting a project proposal must provide the following documents:

- Completed application form including the following sections:
 - ✓ Presentation of the participatory and intersectoral research project.
 - ✓ Timeline;
 - ✓ Budget.
 - ✓ Download and complete the following form: [Submission Form](#)
- Commitment letter from the lead partner, explaining their needs, planned use of results, and the number of people impacted by the research project.
- Collaboration letter(s) from other partners (*optional*).
- Canadian Common CV (SSHRC, CIHR, NSERC, FRQS/NT/SC with contributions for last 5 years) of both principal investigators;
- Tables and figures;
- Bibliographical references.

Important : Ensure that all documents are ready before **March 31, 2026, at 5 p.m.**, which is the deadline for submitting your application.

If you have any questions, please contact:

- ✓ Nathalie Gordon
Nathalie@societeinclusive.ca (the fastest option)
418-649-3735 POSTE 2458
- ✓ All project proposals should be sent by e-mail to: info@societeinclusive.ca

The **submission deadline** for project proposals is **March 31, 2026, at 5:00 PM**

Please note that all documents must be submitted in English or French (if the application is written in English, a French summary must be provided).

7. Evaluation of project proposals

7.1 The evaluation process

The evaluation process is based on an [assessment grid](#) consisting of two parts:

1. Relevance of the project and the involvement of partners.
2. Scientific evaluation

7.1.1 Assessing eligibility

Project eligibility is assessed by the Société Inclusive team. Eligible projects are submitted to the scientific committee.

A committee made up of Société Inclusive directors and financial partners assesses each project with respect to the eligibility criteria. Only selected projects will be evaluated by the scientific evaluation committee.

7.1.2 Scientific evaluation.

The scientific evaluation committee is made up of ten to twelve people, selected according to the competition and the number of applications received. The committee is made up of representatives of financial partners, community organizations and researchers from research centers, networks and groups associated with Société Inclusive.

Projects deemed eligible are submitted to the scientific committee, which evaluates the applications using the evaluation grid based on specific criteria.

Please note that the evaluation process is confidential.

Up to six projects with the highest scores will be selected to receive the available funding, from each competition.

Successful projects are presented to the steering committee of Université Laval's Fonds pour une Société Inclusive for funding approval.