

# EVALUATION CRITERIA

**Funding Program:** Impact Fund

**Fiscal Year:** 2026-2027

**Program Goal:** Catalyze federal or private investment in large-scale research projects that advance impact in one or more priority sectors.

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## Criteria

The application will be assessed based on the following criteria:

Category	Assessment Questions
<b>Relevance &amp; Alignment</b>	<p>To what extent does the proposal align with the funding program?</p> <p>To what extent is the proposal relevant within the priority and/or enabling sector?</p>
<b>Impact &amp; Outcomes</b>	<p>To what extent does the proposal clearly articulate intended outcomes and measures for success?</p> <p>To what extent does the proposal engage research users?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In the case of highly applied projects, to what extent does the work seek to solve or improve upon the issue at hand for the research user?</li> </ul> <p>To what extent will the proposal's expected outcomes demonstrate an impact in NB?</p>
<b>Knowledge Mobilization</b>	<p>To what extent does the proposal outline activities to mobilize project findings inside and outside of the research setting?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To what extent are the partners engaged in the project active research users and contributors to the ongoing work?</li> </ul>
<b>Sustainability</b>	<p>To what extent does the proposal demonstrate that outcomes, including partner engagement, are likely to be sustained beyond the duration of award?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- If the project is highly applied in nature, to what extent does the work build capacity in the PI or research team for future, similar projects?</li> </ul>

	<p>To what extent does the proposal demonstrate consideration of funding sustainability beyond the duration of the award?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- If the project aims to deliver a final result within the award period, to what extent will the work as described in the proposal enable the PI and the research team to pursue additional partnership opportunities and/or secure additional funding?</li> </ul>
<b>Capacity &amp; Feasibility</b>	<p>To what extent does the researcher provide evidence of relevant skills, experience, and resources to successfully deliver the project?</p> <p>To what extent does the proposal demonstrate a realistic and achievable delivery plan, considering timelines, budget, resources, and key risks?</p>

### Scoring Rubric

<b>1</b>	<b>Does not satisfy the criterion</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Partially satisfies the criterion</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Satisfies the criterion</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Strongly satisfies the criterion</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Exceeds the criterion</b>

### Review & Scoring Processes

This funding program uses a peer level review. Peer reviewers are external subject-matter experts and who hold a Doctor of Philosophy degree in their field.

Criteria will be scored using the above scoring rubric. Each reviewer's scores are averaged across the evaluation criteria. The final score for each application is the average score across all reviewers, which is then used to rank applications.