



## CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR RESEARCH GRANTS

CIGI's Africa Initiative (AI) announces a call for proposals for its research grants competition. The deadline for receipt of applications is **January 31, 2012**. Winners of this competition will be notified by **March 30, 2012**.

Applicants must submit a completed application form, research proposal, and CV by email to [airesearch@cigionline.org](mailto:airesearch@cigionline.org) on or before the deadline. Application forms can be downloaded from the following website: [www.africaportal.org/research](http://www.africaportal.org/research).

### Background

The Africa Initiative (AI) is a multi-year, donor-supported program, with three components: a research program, an exchange program, and an online portal. The AI aims to contribute to the deepening of capacity and knowledge in the thematic areas of conflict resolution, energy, food security, health, migration, and climate change. By supporting field-based research in Africa, the AI looks to develop innovative research and policy recommendations for decision makers in Africa.

### Priorities

Proposed research must be field-based and should seek to address substantive policy-relevant challenges facing African policymakers in one or more of the AI thematic areas of conflict resolution, energy, food security, health, migration, and climate change. **Special consideration will be given to proposals that are amenable to cross-country comparison and develop benchmarks for measuring policy outcomes.** All proposals on the AI thematic areas will be considered but particular attention will be given to proposals that deal with one or more of the following topics:

- Distribution of food and water as a public good
- Financing for innovative solutions to challenges in the areas of climate change and energy
- Emerging donors in Africa, such as India, China and Brazil
- Implications of demographic change and urbanization
- Policy implementation gaps in local health care delivery and treatment of infectious diseases
- Sources of funding for rebel movements

### Eligibility

Applications are encouraged from relevant fields in the physical and social sciences. **Applicants must hold a doctorate degree at the time of applying in addition to being a resident of Canada or an African country.** Canadian-based researchers must be either in the early (i.e. post-doctoral or assistant professor) or middle (associate professor) stages in their careers.

### Guidelines

Applications for grants must be submitted in English and should include the following:

- Title for the research proposal/paper
- Statement of the policy challenge and its significance

- Description of methodology and/or conceptual framework
- Outline of potential findings and their policy implications
- Brief review of relevant academic and policy literature
- Expected field-based research sites and duration of the study
- Itemized budget for the proposed research
- Plan for dissemination of results and identification of target audience
- Bibliography of materials used to write the proposal

The main text of the proposal (excluding budget, bibliography, tables, etc.) must not exceed 2,500 words.

### **Selection Process**

Applications will be pre-screened by AI Management and assessed by an international review panel of distinguished scholars in the physical and social sciences. All decisions relating to this competition and the size of awards will be made by AI Management, taking into account assessments by external reviewers.

### **Requirements**

Successful applicants will be given a timeline of no more than six months and will be required to produce on completion of their field-based research (1) a discussion paper of up to 8,000 words showing key findings of the research; and (2) a policy brief of up to 3,500 words outlining policy implications of the research. Selected outputs will be published by the AI and/or CIGI.

Researchers have the freedom to publish the findings from their research in formal peer-reviewed publication at their own initiative. Any published work that is derivative of the research supported by the grant must acknowledge the financial support received from CIGI and the AI. A copy of the final publication may be provided for CIGI and AI archives.

### **Awards**

Awards will include an honorarium of CAD\$5,000 and reimbursement for bona fide research costs of up to CAD\$10,000 such as travel, food, accommodation, research materials, telecommunications and computing expenses. The honorarium will be paid after satisfactory completion of all requirements. Expenses will be reimbursed against receipts. An advance for expenses will be considered if necessary.

### **Timeline**

January 31, 2012	Application deadline
March 30, 2012	Selected applicants will be notified
November 31, 2012	Deadline for submitting all requirements

### **Contact**

All inquiries can be addressed to: [airesearch@cigionline.org](mailto:airesearch@cigionline.org). Please clearly indicate the nature of your email in the subject line.

More information is available at the following website: [www.africaportal.org/research](http://www.africaportal.org/research)