Compute Ontario 2022-23 Call for Proposals: RDM-aligned Projects

Call for Proposals

Compute Ontario invites expressions of interest (EOIs) in partnering on Research Data Management (RDM) aligned projects that are to be completed by March 31, 2023. Proponents of successful EOIs will be invited to submit a full project plan. We envision selecting at least four projects, each reimbursed for eligible expenses up to a maximum of $75,000.

Advancing Research Data Management Best Practices

Compute Ontario invites proposals that advance innovative and sustainable approaches to addressing research data management (RDM) challenges with the goal of making research data FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable). Proposals from all areas of research are welcome, but proposals that address RDM challenges associated with Advanced Research Computing (ARC) and/or Research Software (RS) are particularly sought. All researchers, and those who support or seek to support the research enterprise (e.g. RDM Librarians, data specialists, ARC/RS professionals, Ethics officers, etc.), from individual institutions, research institutes, or research hospitals, are encouraged to apply, with collaborative partnerships being welcome. This call is intentionally broad, and could include initiatives such as:

- Advancing use of Persistent Identifiers (PIDs) in RDM workflows and processes.
- Embedding data management best practices (such as data management planning) into research workflows.
- Developing training to address RDM needs (i) generally, (ii) specific to ARC and/or RS, or (iii) applicable to a particular discipline.
- Improving the curation of data into appropriate repository storage (e.g. addressing particular metadata needs associated with a data type and/or discipline).
- Addressing metadata issues related to a particular data collection or class of data (e.g. geospatial data), with the goal of improving discoverability and reusability.
- Forging closer ties between ethics and/or research office processes and RDM workflows.
- Improving data discovery to promote reuse.
- Collaboratively advancing research data management practices that support Indigenous data sovereignty under the CARE Principles, OCAP, or other applicable frameworks.

Preference will be given to proposals that clearly identify issues or gaps, and that provide well-articulated, sustainable, and impactful solutions that will help advance the RDM ecosystem. Any outputs must be made available at no cost for broader use and potential repurposing under Creative Commons licensing, must recognise having received support from Compute Ontario, and must be made accessible to researchers at all levels (graduate students, postdocs, faculty, etc.). This funding call is not intended
to fund the creation of data repository platforms or other such long-term infrastructure projects, but could fund targeted improvements (other than normal software upgrades/maintenance) to established platforms. Funding may also be used to cover eligible expenses associated with running an event that supports the intent of this call.

Preference may be given to proposals that:

- partner or align with other initiatives in the RDM/DRI ecosystem
- advance RDM at the intersection of ARC and/or RS
- leverage in-kind investments by the proponent

**Expressions of Interest (EOIs):**

EOI applications should be submitted in MS Word or PDF format to opportunities@computeontario.ca and are **not to exceed 3 pages**. Required EOI sections include:

- project description (problem and proposed solution)
- timeline
- budget summary
- sustainability plan
- expected impact

EOIs must be received by the deadline provided in the ‘Application Timelines’ section, below.

**Eligible Expenses:**

Eligible expenses include salaries and benefits, small hardware and software purchases (up to $5,000 per item), and/or costs associated with running an event. Event costs should be included in the budget summary and will be evaluated as part of the proposal. Honoraria are not eligible costs, but professional (or expert) fees may be considered. All expenses related to the proposal must be Ontario-based and incurred during the funding period (to March 31, 2023).

**Selection Process:**

Projects will be selected by Compute Ontario’s Technical Leadership Advisory Committee based on evaluation criteria described below. Applicants and all expenses must be Ontario-based.
Evaluation Criteria
EOI applications will be adjudicated based on the quality and clarity of each of the following elements:

- Alignment of the application with criteria outlined in the funding call
- Identification of a challenge, issue, or gap in the RDM ecosystem
- Description of the proposed solution and how it advances the FAIR Principles
- Description of sustainability and impact of the initiative
- Timeline and budget summary

Full project plans will be evaluated using similar, but more fulsome criteria.

Application Timelines:

- EOIs due by: 5:00 PM on Friday, 16 Sept, 2022
- Successful EOI applicants notified by: 5:00 PM on Friday, 23 Sept, 2022
- Full project plans due for consideration by: 5:00 PM on Friday, 14 October
- Final funding decisions announced no later than 5:00 PM on Wed, 26 October
- Last date for eligible expenses to be incurred: March 31, 2023