



2025
CALL FOR PROPOSALS

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Land Acknowledgement

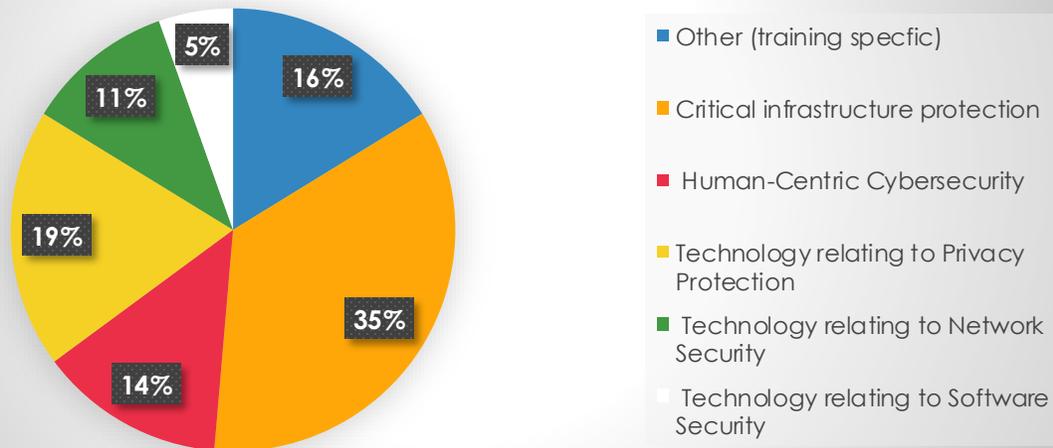
I would like to begin by acknowledging the Indigenous Peoples of all the lands that we are on today. While we meet today on a virtual platform, I would like to take a moment to acknowledge the importance of the lands, which we each call home. We do this to reaffirm our commitment and responsibility in improving relationships between nations and to improving our own understanding of local Indigenous peoples and their cultures. From coast to coast to coast, we acknowledge the ancestral and unceded territory of all the Inuit, Métis, and First Nations people that call this land home.



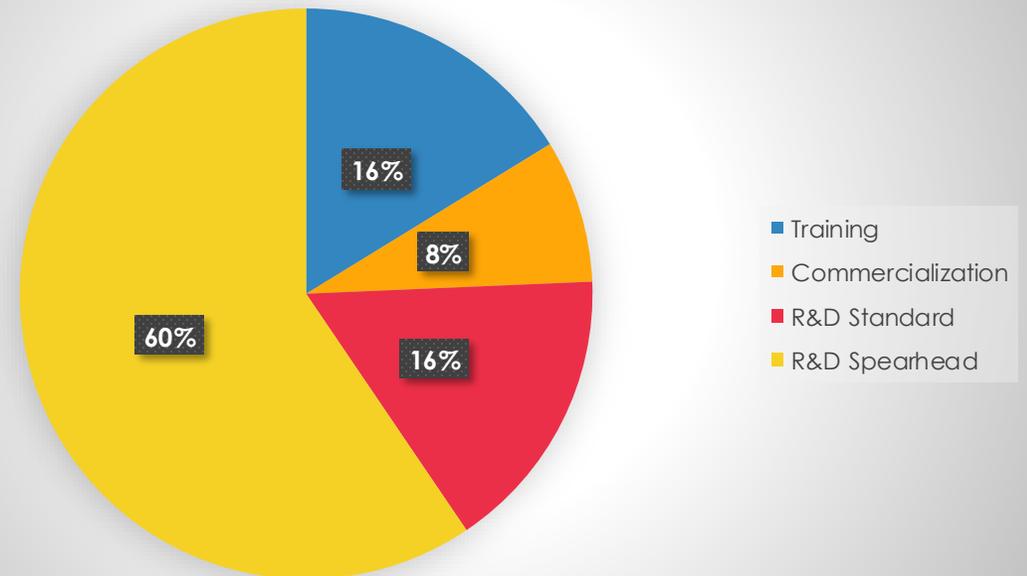
Summary of Call 2024

The National Cybersecurity Consortium (NCC) provided grants from CSIN to **37 eligible projects** for a total of **\$22.8 million**.

2024 Awardees by NCC Focus Area



Awardees by Project Stream



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The NCC has three categories for funding

1 Accelerated Projects

Goal: Make impactful progress on highly targeted projects intended to be quickly transformative

Framework:

A targeted initiative that will address a critical current need facing cybersecurity/privacy

Matching funds must be in place and fully committed by Stage 3

Clear KPIs and tangible deliverables must be identified

Funding is only provided using the reconciliation approach

Projects must be complete and all expenses paid by March 31, 2028

2 New Projects

Goal: New projects that fall under one of three current funding streams (Commercialization, R&D and Training) to ensure the NCC/CSIN program continues its current momentum

Standard or spearhead projects can be funded under this category

Projects must be complete and all expenses paid by March 31, 2029

3 Top-Ups to 2023/2024 Awarded Projects

Goal: To increase the impact of projects already vetted and approved by the NCC by allowing them to incorporate nascent insights or cover gaps that emerged through the work to date.

Agreements with NCC for original project must be fully executed by July 3rd, 2025 to be eligible to apply in this category

Projects must be complete and all expenses paid by March 31, 2029



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For Accelerated Projects and New Projects – projects fall into one of three streams

1 Research and Development Projects

TRL 1-6

Design and implementation of innovative cybersecurity technologies, working to advance the state-of-the-art, or looking to conduct studies relating to:

- Critical Infrastructure Protection
- Network Security
- Software Security
- Human-Centric Cybersecurity
- Privacy Protection

2 Commercialization Projects

TRL 7-9

Products and services that address key cybersecurity challenges with a defined pathway into the marketplace.

3 Training: Skills & Talent Development Projects

Development of robust and varied opportunities for students and/or professionals to upskill and reskill across various disciplines focused on:

- Training HQP – Research Based
- Training Capacity Training leading to certification
- Cybersecurity Awareness
- Targeted training to enhance equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) engagement and expertise in cybersecurity and privacy.



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Standard vs. Spearhead R&D Projects

STANDARD PROJECTS

- Standard projects are research, training, or commercialization projects that are larger in scope and have clearly defined goals and milestones.
- Matching funds do not have to have been fully secured at Stage 1 of the grant competition process but must be in place and documented with commitment letters, by the time the Stage 2 submission is made.

SPEARHEAD PROJECTS

- Originate from post-secondary educational institutions (PSE) and/or not-for-profit (NFP) organizations but perhaps do NOT have matching funds identified.
- Novel in nature and explore riskier early-stage ideas.
- **NOT curiosity-driven projects.**
- Have defined goals and milestones but should be sufficiently flexible to adapt as new insights emerge.
- Although matching funds not required for a spearhead project, a plan must be provided to describe how a broader set of collaborators will be engaged over the lifespan of the project.



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Top-Up to 2023/2024 Projects

- Goal:
 - To increase the impact of projects already vetted and approved by the NCC by allowing them to incorporate nascent insights or cover gaps that emerged through the work to date.
- Framework:
 - Enhanced support to bring on additional expertise, expand the project, or increase the impact of existing projects
 - Matching funds must be in place and fully committed at full proposal submission due date
 - Incremental KPIs and tangible deliverables must be identified and/or a strong rationale for why these funds are required to achieve the originally anticipated milestones
 - Budgets must be updated to reflect new funds and deliverables



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Approximately \$20M of available NCC funds to support \$60M+ worth of activities

Funding Category	Maximum Request of NCC Funding (CDN \$)	Recommended* Matching Contribution+
Accelerated Projects	\$2.5 Million	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 70% for commercialization proposals 50% for all other project types
New 2025 Projects		
R&D Standard	\$2 Million	50%
R&D Spearhead	\$500 000	Matching not required
Commercialization	\$1 Million	70%
Training	\$1 Million	50%
Top-Up to 2023/2024 Awarded Projects	\$500 000	50%

*Applicants are strongly encouraged to meet the recommended level of matching contribution for their proposals but it is a part of the evaluation criteria.

+ It is recommended that [matching contributions](#) be comprised of 50% cash. The relative composition of matching funds (cash versus in-kind) is part of the [Evaluation Review Criteria](#)



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Accelerated and New Projects Process

Stage 1 - LOI

An overview of the proposed project, project costs, and potential / confirmed sources of matching contributions.

Review for completeness, eligibility and collaboration opportunities.

Invitation to submit a project proposal.

For Project Proposals to proceed beyond Stage 2, the Lead Organization must be a member in good standing of the NCC.

Stage 2 – Project Proposals

Address project specifics to demonstrate merit, feasibility, leverage of funding, and impact to the Canadian cybersecurity ecosystem.

Reviewed and scored by external subject matter experts.

Shortlisted candidates to submit Administrative Details.

For Accelerated Projects – All matching funds need to be committed by the end of this stage

Stage 3 – Administrative Details Submission

Additional information to complete and validate the submission from Stage 2.

For New Projects – All matching funds need to be committed by the end of this stage

Award

Project Lead(s) and their Organization(s) will be notified of their Project Proposal funding status.

Incremental Membership Fee of 3.5% applied to awarded projects.

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Accelerated Projects and New Projects Timeline

Stage 1: Call Launch - LOI Applications open for submission	Monday, February 24, 2025
Q&A Session	Tuesday, March 11, 2025
Stage 1: LOI Deadline	Monday, March 24 th , 2025
Stage 2: Project Proposal Launch (by invitation)	Monday, April 7 th , 2025
Stage 2: Proposal Submission Deadline	Friday, May 9 th , 2025
Stage 2: Results Notification	Tuesday, July 3 rd , 2025
Stage 3: Due Diligence Submission Portal Open	Wednesday, July 4 th , 2025
Stage 3: Due Diligence submission deadline	Tuesday, August 5 th , 2025
Public Announcement of Awarded projects	Wednesday, October 22nd, 2025

Subject to change based on availability (monitor the NCC website for updates).



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Top Ups to 2023/2024 Awarded Projects

Stage 1 - LOI

An overview of work completed to date, proposed new work/gaps to be addressed and matching contributions.

Review for completeness, eligibility

Invitation to submit a project proposal.

Stage 2 – Project Proposals

Address the enhanced support to bring on additional expertise, expand the project, or increase the impact of existing projects

Incremental KPIs and tangible deliverables must be identified and/or a strong rationale for why these funds are required to achieve the originally anticipated milestones

Budgets must be updated to reflect new funds and deliverables

All matching funds need to be committed by the end of this stage

Award

Project Lead(s) and their Organization(s) will be notified of their Project Proposal funding status.

Top Up Timeline	
LOI Applications due	July 3rd, 2025
Notification and Invitation to Submit Proposal	By end of July 2025
Proposal Submission Deadline	October 1st 2025
Review of Proposals	September – November 2025
Public Announcement of Awarded projects	January 2026



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Membership

- The organization's Project Lead will need to be a member (base membership fee paid) to move from Stage 1 to Stage 2.
- Incremental membership fee is applied to awarded projects – 3.5% of total NCC contribution

BENEFITS

OUR MEMBERS ARE VALUED
Inform future strategies and identify needs and trends for Canadian investment into the cybersecurity ecosystem.

COMMITMENT to INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY We offer a place where diversity, equity, and inclusion are embraced and where integrity, honesty, and respect are core values. A dedication to "inventor-owned" IP and scientific rigor.

EXPANSIVE CYBERSECURITY NETWORK Part of a unique network that gathers cybersecurity experts from across the country and worldwide providing a variety of opportunities for partnership, collaboration and creativity



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Evaluation Criteria

ELIGIBILITY

- Organization
- Project
- Matching contributions – depending on category of application
- Membership status

MERIT

- Significance or value
- Known gaps
- Outcomes for the Canadian cybersecurity ecosystem and economy
- Demographics – pan-Canadian, variety of organizational types

FEASIBILITY

- Project team expertise
- Budget appropriateness
- Matching contributions
- Project duration and evaluation

ECONOMIC IMPACT

- Project sustainability
- Overall impact

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Questions?

The NCC Grant Administration Team is here to answer any questions you might have about the application process.

Get your questions answered:

projects@ncc-cnc.ca



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Summary of the Application Process

	Commercialization	R&D	Training
Stage 1: LOI	ALL - Project Overview, including high level budgets, project dates, team members and key objectives		
Stage 2: Project Proposal	ALL <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project team - CVs required • Project costs and matching contributions - Letters of Commitment strongly encouraged • Project Plan -including Activities to be Conducted, timelines and Major milestones • Intellectual property Plan - Ownership arrangements for the project (including names of the IP partners, how the IP will be shared/distributed, IP Partner Organization location, etc.) and any restrictions (if applicable) that are realized. 		
	Commercialization Strategy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the size of the market and the targeted niche within the market; • potential competitors and competing products, processes, or services; and • the market penetration objectives and associated challenges. 	Evaluation Strategy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • projected number of IP filings • projected number of commercial partners • how the Project Team will measure the success 	Evaluation Strategy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Type of program • Target audience certifications to be awarded, • projected number of trained personnel, • how the Project Team will measure the success of the project.



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Summary of the Application Process (cont.)

	Commercialization	R&D	Training
Stage 3: Administrative Details Submission	ALL <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments from review committee • Organization's current cybersecurity structure • Confirmation of Project costs – Letters of Commitment needed • Key performance indicators and evaluation strategies • Intellectual property agreements • Project plans supporting EDIA principles if applicable • Supplier quotes • Copies of relevant permits and licenses • HST rebate information (i.e., rebate rate) • Other documentation, as required 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commercialization strategy (market assessments if needed) • Incorporation documents and information on ownership (names and percentage of Ownership) • Constituting / incorporating documents and list of directors/members of the board • Financial statements (current and last two years) 		



Questions!