

## CALL FOR PROPOSALS

### CANADIAN RESEARCH DATA CENTRE NETWORK & JUSTICE CANADA

**Proposal deadline: May 15, 2023**

**Submit proposals via the online submission form.**

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#### 1. Background and purpose

In 2021, as part of a larger government initiative to improve data holdings, the Department of Justice Canada and Statistics Canada received funding to modernize justice data. Known as the [Justice Data Modernization Initiative](#), the goal is to strengthen the collection and utilization of disaggregated data to help reduce the overrepresentation of Indigenous peoples and racialized groups in the criminal justice system.

In support of this initiative, the Canadian Research Data Centre Network (CRDCN) and Justice Canada have identified research areas that would benefit from CRDCN's data access and subject matter expertise. The following themes are of particular interest, specifically where they intersect with criminal justice involvement and Indigenous and racialized identities (see Annex A for further details):

- Effects of childhood experiences (e.g. experiences as either victims or witnesses or experience in or with the child welfare system)
- Labour markets, employment status and poverty measures (e.g., housing, food security)
- Educational attainment
- Victimization
- Non-individual factors (neighborhood level characteristics)

CRDCN and Justice Canada are issuing this call for proposals for research projects that make use of the rich microdata available through the Research Data Centre (RDC) program to produce research reports in the priority areas listed above in order to support Justice Canada's evidence-based activities. Funding for up to five projects at a maximum of \$25,000 each is being made available for a total amount of all projects not exceeding \$123,000.

All intellectual property resulting from the research conducted will remain with the researchers and/or their research institution according to applicable institutional intellectual property policy. Researchers are encouraged to publish their findings in open access scholarly journals so that results of the research are freely accessible to professionals working in the field, as well as to members of the public. Researchers will be asked to acknowledge the financial support from Justice Canada in any publications. Researchers will also be asked to grant permission to Justice Canada to produce knowledge dissemination products (such as infographics and research briefs) based on the findings of the studies. It will be a condition of each project award that all developers under each project will grant a non-exclusive, royalty-free, perpetual, non-assignable license to Justice Canada, to use, reproduce, and translate all works developed under the current project, for the purpose of research, dissemination of knowledge, and the creation of products and white papers.

#### 2. Proposal details

Proposals are invited from researchers wishing to conduct research and analysis on one question related to the selected theme. The maximum budget for a project is \$25,000.

Each proposal must contain:

- (a) Completed RDC proposal template (can be downloaded [here](#))
- (b) Completed policy relevance statement (see Annex B for further details)
- (c) Project related expenses (see Annex B for further details)

(d) Graduate student applicants must also include [a letter of support](#) from a faculty member who will assist in developing and monitoring the project, including, but not limited to, reviewing any drafts before submission.

To facilitate fair adjudication, no personally identifying information should appear in the completed proposal template.

**Submit proposals [via the CRDCN website](#)**

### 3. Proposal adjudication

Successful proposals will focus on one of the identified research themes described above (see Annex A for further detail). The choice of theme will not influence the proposal’s likelihood of receiving funding; each theme will be treated as equally important. Note that researchers should clearly outline the research question(s) they wish to pursue within their selected theme. Adjudication will be carried out by a committee consisting of academic researchers and government officials from Justice Canada. Evaluation criteria are set out in the table below. Please note that priority may be given to proposals that specifically examine the intersection between the themes listed in Annex A, criminal justice involvement, and Indigenous and racialized identities.

Evaluation criteria	Description	Weighting
Proposed research question(s)	Rationale and objectives of the research question(s) and how the proposed research would contribute to research/policy literature	30%
Data and methodology	Suitability of the data and methodology for inquiry and analysis of the proposed research question(s)	30%
Intersectional approach to the research question	The intersectional approach being taken is clearly articulated. <sup>1</sup>	20%
Policy implications	Alignment of the proposed research to contribute to Justice Canada’s activities	20%

### 4. Deadlines, deliverables and fund disbursements

Deadline	Deliverable	Fund disbursement
May 15, 2023	Application submitted	n/a
June 30, 2023	Adjudication announcement/award package signed	40%

<sup>1</sup> For example, per [excerpt from SSHRC website](#): “Intersectionality is a theoretical framework that was developed by professor Kimberlé Crenshaw in 1989 in a paper for the University of Chicago Legal Forum entitled “Demarginalizing the Intersection of Race and Sex: A Black Feminist Critique of Antidiscrimination Doctrine, Feminist Theory and Antiracist Politics” to explain how African-American women face overlapping disadvantages and discrimination related to sexism and racism. This approach or lens is a best practice and assists researchers to better understand and address the multiple barriers and disadvantages that individuals with intersecting social identities, such as race, gender, sexuality and class, face. Using an intersectional approach to develop policies and research projects helps better identify and address systemic barriers.”

December 30, 2024	Key findings document and presentation (Annex C)	30%
June 30, 2025	Working paper or pre-print of journal article (Annex C)	30%

**Questions about the Statistics Canada datasets can be directed to your local Research Data Centre analyst.**

**Any questions about the CRDCN, this opportunity, or the proposal process should be directed to:**  
[grant.gibson@crdcn.ca](mailto:grant.gibson@crdcn.ca)

## **ANNEX A: DETAILS OF RESEARCH THEMES**

Applicants need not limit themselves to these research topics but should be aware that a proposal’s alignment with these topics of interest is part of the adjudication criteria.

The focus for the call for proposals is social determinants of criminal justice system involvement, and the potential impact that interventions could have on improving individual and community well-being and/or reducing criminalization. As the goal of this research is to support efforts to address the overrepresentation of Indigenous peoples, and Black and other racialized groups in the criminal justice system, funded projects are expected to take an intersectional approach with a focus on these populations.

A secondary goal of this research is to help parameterize a simulation model of flows in and out of the criminal justice system, currently in development by Statistics Canada in partnership with Justice Canada. This tool is being designed to provide a mechanism for estimating the potential impacts of policies, programs, and legislation on the overrepresentation of Indigenous peoples and racialized groups in the Criminal Justice System. Studies that can demonstrate statistically the effect of characteristics or interventions, using standard measures of effect size, and a methodological discussion on the use of such studies in simulation models, on criminal justice system involvement may be prioritized.

Research that investigates the following thematic areas will be prioritized:

- Effects of childhood experiences (e.g. experiences as either victims or witnesses or experience in or with the child welfare system)
- Labour markets, employment status and poverty measures (e.g., housing, food security)
- Educational attainment
- Victimization
- Non-individual factors (neighborhood level characteristics)

Other potential topics may be proposed or explored, and exceptional proposals that do not focus on priority themes will still be considered.

Consider the following elements when creating your proposal:

- Proposed projects need not be national in scope, but if not, a description of the potential limitations on external validity should be presented.
- Proposals that can distinguish between the direct and indirect effects of the characteristics of interest will be prioritized.
- Researchers should make clear which outcome they are studying. Proposals that address multiple types of justice system contact will be prioritized.

- Researchers who have contextual data to use with the RDC microdata should highlight the value of these supplemental data in their research plan.

## ANNEX B: APPLICATION DETAILS

In addition to a completed RDC proposal, a policy relevance statement and details on the project-related costs must be completed as described below.

### Policy Relevance Statement (maximum: 2 pages)

The policy relevance statement should answer the following questions:

- What is the policy question/focus?
- What, if any, changes have been made to these policies since their inception?
- What research (scholarly and others) has focused on this topic and policy changes?
- What potential policy changes might your findings recommend?
- How do the data you plan to use support an investigation into policy with an intersectional lens?

### Project related expenses

Please complete the table below to describe anticipated expenses related to stipends, student work, travel and publishing. Researchers may use part of the funds to publish their work as open access in the journal of their choice, but preferably, would have a pre-print published and freely available. This budget provided below does not need to be a detailed, but rather, should be a summary of the needed resources you anticipate over the course of the project. Please add any rows for categories not reflected in the table below, noting that expenses for durables (e.g., computers, furniture) are not eligible.

Category	Details	Amount
Graduate student researcher		
Faculty course release/stipends		
Conference fees and/or travel		
Pre-print document preparation or publishing open access		
Other		
Indirect costs for applicant home institution <sup>2</sup>		
<b>Total</b>		<b>[max \$25,000]</b>

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<sup>2</sup> This funding opportunity permits indirect costs for the applicant's home institution. CRDCN recommends no more than 5% as there is minimal administrative burden for the applicant's home institution (related to transfer of funds only). The administrative burden associated with reporting on the research activities will be undertaken by CRDCN.

## ANNEX C: DETAILS ON DELIVERABLES

Researchers with funded projects will be required to present a one-hour webinar, submit a three-page summary of research results and a working draft or pre-print of a journal article as described below.

### I. Key findings to date – document

Researcher(s) will provide CRDCN and Justice Canada with a research summary document entitled “Key Findings to Date.” This document should be approximately 3-4 pages in length, with an introduction, methods, and a summary of the analytical findings.<sup>3</sup> CRDCN and Justice Canada reserve the right to comment and make suggestions on the “Key Findings to Date” document, which the researcher(s) will consider and discuss with CRDCN and Justice Canada. Researchers using First Nations, Inuit or Métis data are encouraged to consult the CRDCN resource document on using such data.<sup>4</sup> Modifications mutually agreed upon by the researchers and CRDCN and Justice Canada will be implemented. The researchers will also provide a summary of the research results in the form of a presentation during a Justice Canada and/or CRDCN event.

In advance of receiving funds for the project, the researcher(s) will be required to sign a License Agreement with Justice Canada that provides Justice Canada additional licensing rights in relation only to the “Key Findings to Date” Research Summary. Further to the rights granted in relation to all works developed under the current project, the researchers will grant a non-exclusive, royalty-free, perpetual, non-assignable license to Justice Canada, to publish and authorize to reproduce the Research Summary and communicate the Research Summary to the public by telecommunications.

The researcher(s) will *also agree to not publish in print or online anything related to this research for a period of six months* after delivering to Justice Canada the “Key Findings to Date” Research Summary.

### II. Key findings to date – presentation

The researchers will provide a summary of the research results in the form of a presentation during a Justice Canada or CRDCN event.

### III. Working paper and/or pre-print of journal article

In advance of finalizing a working paper or journal article submission, researchers are encouraged to invite input from Justice Canada, via CRDCN, on the draft paper/article submission. Researcher(s) will provide CRDCN and Justice Canada with the final version of a working paper or pre-print copy of a research article prepared and/or submitted for publication to a research journal.

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<sup>3</sup> The analytical findings can and should be elaborated upon in the final working paper/pre-print copy of a research article. The findings should reflect and possibly expand upon those presented in the “Key Findings to Date” document.

<sup>4</sup> Contact [johanne.provencal@crdcn.ca](mailto:johanne.provencal@crdcn.ca) or [grant.gibson@crdcn.ca](mailto:grant.gibson@crdcn.ca) for a copy of the resource document.