

Funding Overview – 2025/2026

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National Claims Research Directors Meeting

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Brief Overview

- FY 2020-2021 – Funders unilaterally develop new funding guidelines, driven by internal belief that specific claims research funding is “under subscribed” and program needed to go public
- FY 2020-21 & 2021-22 – public guidelines are discussed. No consensus reached. Funders publish guidelines despite pushback from CRU working group.
- FY 2022-23 – huge spike in interest in specific claims funding requests & total \$ sought by First Nations/CRU
 - First year of mass rejections of applications due to lack of money.

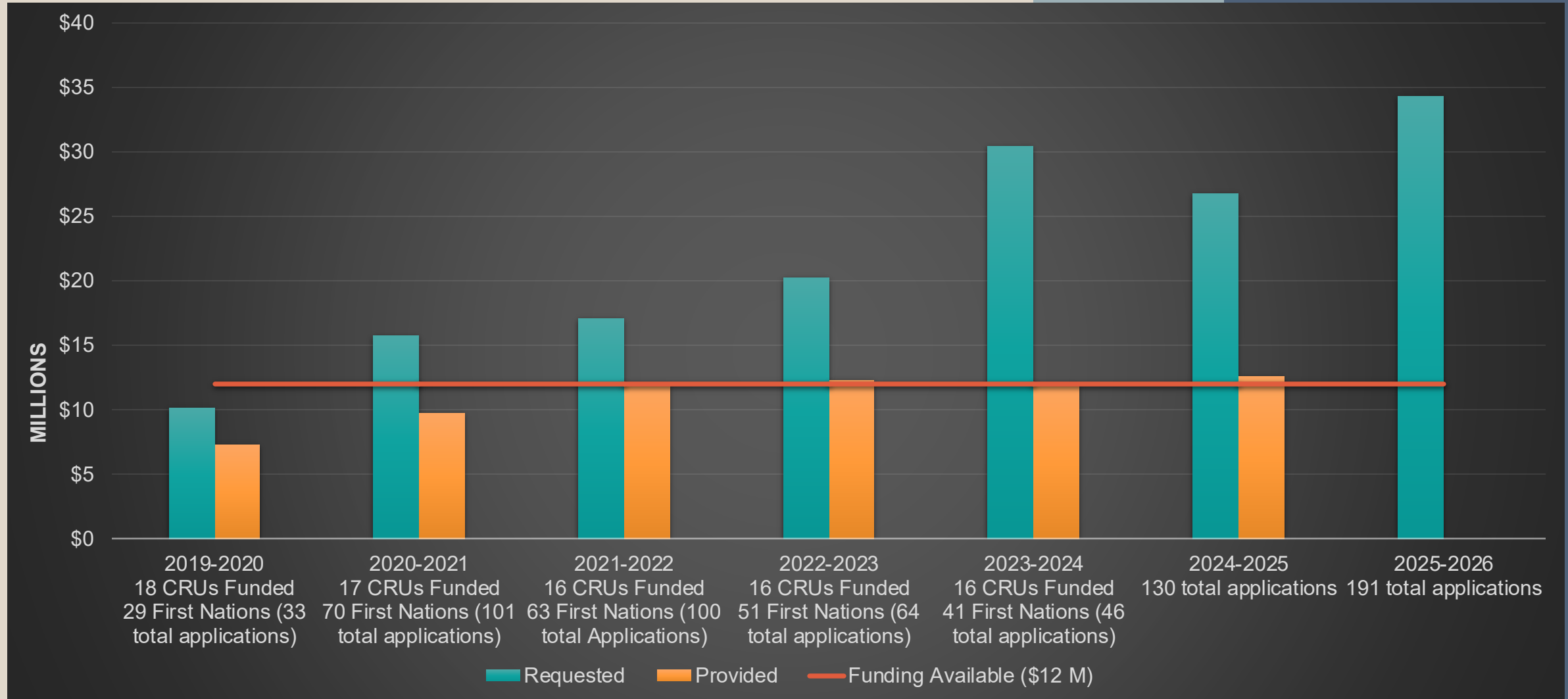
Funding Allocation - Overview

Overview			No public guidelines	Guidelines being developed		Guidelines and templates are now on Canada's website			
Line #	Category		2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026 as of May 2025
1	Intake	Total number of funding applications received	53	132	143	128	143	130	191
2	Intake	Total number of claims for which funding was requested	0	0	968	833	865	865	1332
3	Intake	Total number of claims for which funding was requested - CRUs	0	0	799	650	650	650	994
4	Intake	Total number of claims for which funding was requested - First Nations	0	0	169	183	215	215	338
5	Intake	Total number of ineligible applications	0	0	0	0	25	25	23
6	Intake	Total number of ineligible applications - CRUs	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
7	Intake	Total number of ineligible applications - First Nations	0	0	0	0	24	24	23
8	Intake	Total funding requested by all applicants	\$10,178,409	\$15,717,123	\$17,001,927	\$20,291,328	\$33,342,797	\$26,810,932	\$34,351,986
9	Intake	Total funding requested by CRUs	\$0	\$0	\$8,871,931	\$9,677,680	\$10,179,138	\$11,132,947	\$11,383,423
10	Intake	Total funding requested by First Nations	\$0	\$0	\$8,129,996	\$10,613,648	\$23,163,659	\$15,677,986	\$22,968,562
11	Intake	Total funding requested by eligible applicants	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$22,759,926	\$30,976,958
12	Intake	Total amount for eligible expenditures	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$20,519,657
13	Selection	Total program funding available to eligible recipients	\$0	\$0	\$11,971,057	\$12,289,126	\$12,000,000	\$12,000,000	0
14	Selection	Total funding provided to eligible recipients	\$7,291,471	\$9,766,295	\$11,971,057	\$12,289,126	\$12,950,000	\$12,570,834	0
15	Selection	Total funding provided to Claims Research Units	\$5,997,340	\$6,880,354	\$7,817,575	\$8,586,414	\$9,195,919	\$8,438,334	0
16	Selection	Total funding provided to First Nations	\$1,294,131	\$285,941	\$4,153,482	\$3,702,712	\$3,754,081	\$4,132,500	0
17	Selection	Total number of claims funded	0	0	940	768	610	712	0
18	Selection	Total number of claims funded for CRUs	0	0	799	650	524	562	0
19	Selection	Total number of claims funded for First Nations	0	0	141	118	86	150	0
20	Selection	Total number of claims not funded	0	0	28	65	327	153	0
21	Selection	Total number of claims not funded for CRUs	0	0	0	0	137	88	0
22	Selection	Total number of claims not funded for First Nations	0	0	28	65	190	65	0

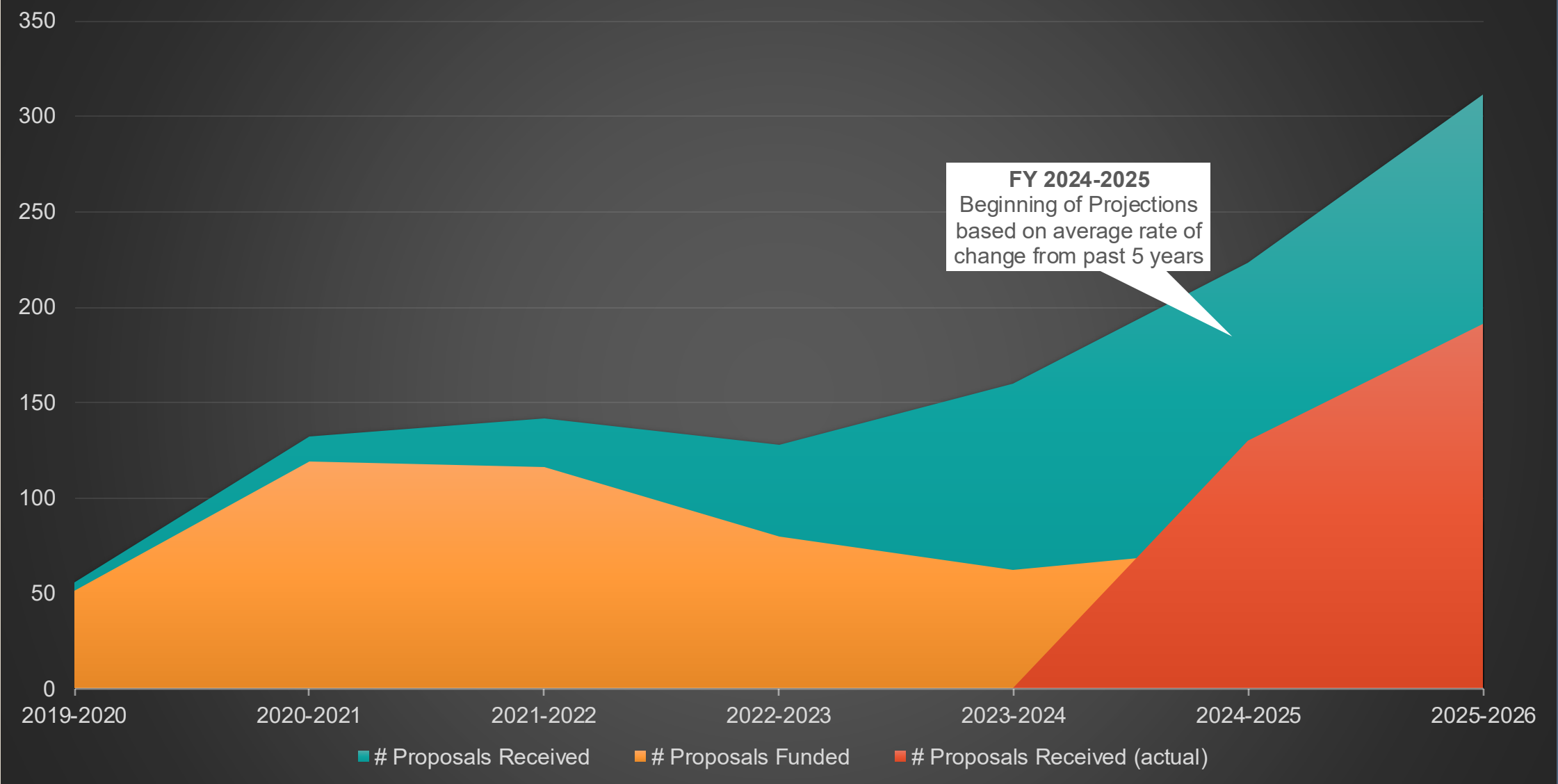
0/\$0 = no data received

Mass Rejections Occur

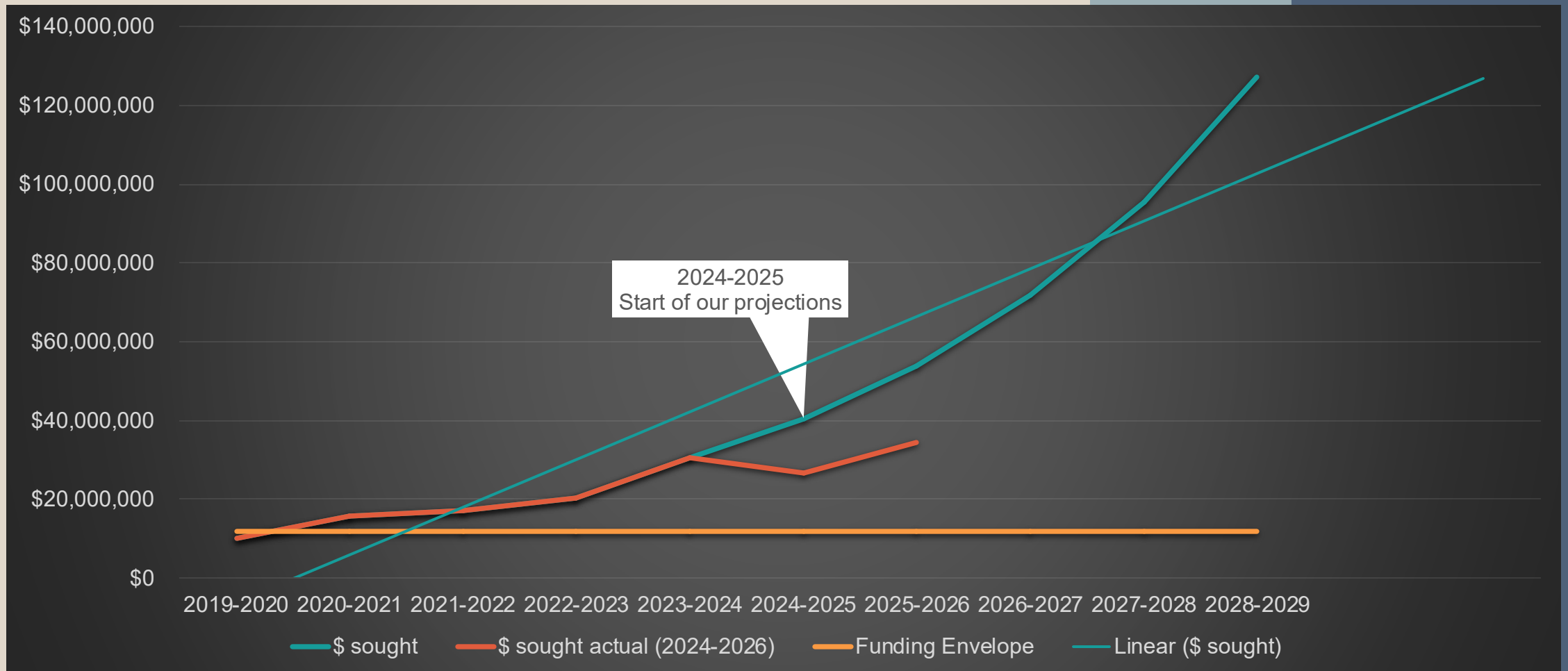
Funding Overview: Asked vs Allocated



Funding Overview: Proposals received vs those funded (updated)



Rate of change in \$ sought by First Nations (updated)



NCRW Update

1. Why are TARR MB and SCRC the only 2 CRUs whose funding is administered by CIRNAC?

- a. All agreements fall under the Research Program at CIRNAC, but they are managed based on the location of the master agreements. The majority of funding agreements are administered in the regions by ISC, with the exception of these two.

Thank you. I think people want to understand why/how these two are managed by HQ – since for many regional practices can sometimes cause delays in flow of funding. These two are managed by HQ because it's where the first agreement was signed.

2. Where did the extra funding come from that was allocated in the fall?

- a. The additional funding came from the Tribunal Program, within the CSI directorate.

3. Will you review proposals on receipt (eg December 15) or will you hold off until all proposals are received on Jan 30th. Does getting them in early increase the chances that offers will go out early.

- b. Applications will be assessed as they are submitted; however, decision on funding allocation will only be conducted after the deadline to ensure that funding is fairly allocated to all eligible application

NCRW Update

4. Claims submitted and waiting for early review and then for Canada to determine lawful obligation are not counted as active? Even though CRUs may have to support?

- a. An active claim is considered 'active' when it is in the research stages between I and VII. The Specific Claims Branch will advise if further research is required, and we could allocate additional funding, if available, to support these efforts.
- b. This is a significant and unilateral change in the previously jointly developed Stages of Research that does not reflect the work we do. The CRU/CSI Working Group should take this up in earnest since CRUs First Nations do carry out support work in post VII stages especially (but not exclusively) related to Stage VIII - minimum standards review, reviewing and responding to SCB letters. If you remove Stage VIII and some later work, the work is not funded? Same response An active claim is considered 'active' when it is in the research stages between I and VII. The Specific Claims Branch will advise if further research is required, and we could allocate additional funding, if available, to support these efforts.

5. Funding offers have been made later and later each year. The causes disruption to research schedules, and compromises the amount of work we are able to complete in a year. We can't do a full year of research when we find out about funding 6 months into the year.

No answer to be provided since it is not a question.

I think the comment still needs to be addressed.

NCRW Update

6.Over the past few years, changes have been made to the funding process without First Nations' input or notice. Why and how will we be consulted going forward?

- a. Recent changes to the funding process were made to address evolving program needs and operational requirements, with decision-making authority residing within the program. As a contribution program, we must operate within a specific policy and regulatory framework, which means that not all decisions can involve external consultation. However, we are committed to increasing transparency and engagement where possible.

The CRU/CSI working group was struck many years ago in part to ensure that First Nations concerns and needs are met. This should form an agenda item in our working group meetings.

7.What has your team done to address the research funding shortfall crisis? When will the \$40,000 maximum per claim be increased?

- b. Our team is engaging with senior management to advocate for increased funding allocations that better reflect the needs of the program and its participants. As for the \$40,000 maximum per claim, we recognize that this cap may not fully cover the scope of research required by many projects. Any changes to this limit would require approval within the broader funding framework. We will keep stakeholders updated on any progress or changes in funding policy.

I believe you are referring to any increases, not just changes since. I think the maximum can and has been reduced.

NCRW Update

8.Are you going to be able to address the delay in funding?

- a. We recognize that the current timeline—where the application deadline is January 31 for funding beginning on April 1—creates challenges for both applicants and administrators. Addressing these delays is a priority for our team, and we are exploring adjustments to streamline the review and approval process.

Will you discuss working version of these adjustments with the CRU-CSI Working Group. CSI will collaborate with the CRU-CSI Working Group.

9.The \$40K per spec. claim is peanuts! Barely that! It's crumbs! No answer to be provided since it is not a question.

I think the comment still needs to be added

What this tells us...

- Despite a dip in applications in FY 2024-2025, likely tied to mass rejections the FY prior, First Nations believe in the Specific Claims program.
- Canada knew, or should have known, that demand would continue to increase with the publication of the funding program – their own data tells that story.
- Since FY 2022-23, the funders have been allocating the full \$12M envelope
 - In a few FY's, additional funds found from other under-subscribed programs increase allocation beyond that point
- Canada needs to increase available funding
 - Research Directors will support any calls by the funders for an increase to the program envelope but should prepare advocacy around these matters as the new federal government prepares its budgets.