

Frequently asked questions

FAQ – 1: Updated grant capping for the Investigator, Ideas and Synergy Grant schemes

Question:

What are the changes to the eligibility framework, introduced for the Synergy Grants 2024 Guidelines?

Answer:

The changes to the eligibility policy introduced from the 2024 Synergy Grant round have simplified eligibility policy for CIAs and RAOs. These changes have not negatively impacted applicants to the Investigator Grants 2024 round.

The new cross-cutting eligibility policies for these schemes:

- streamline the capping limits (from the Synergy Grants 2024 round onwards) on CIs to holding up to 2 grants from the Investigator, Ideas and Synergy Grant schemes concurrently (removing the exceptions to this rule for CIs holding 2x Ideas Grants)
- adopt a 'last-in, first-out' approach to ruling ineligible applications that have breached capping policies, where only the last submitted application in a funding round will be removed from further consideration (previously, all active applications were ruled ineligible)
- mean that eligibility determinations are now based on the 'original' end date of the held grant, such that variations that extend the original end date of the grant will no longer impact the eligibility of CIs to apply for further grants.

These changes have been implemented after sector feedback indicated the previous exceptions to grant capping limits caused confusion and were the cause of the majority of applications being ruled ineligible.

Question:

I am a Chief Investigator (CI) on 2x Ideas grants with original end dates after 1 January 2025. Can I submit an application to the Synergy Grants 2024 round?

Answer:

No. Grant capping rules have been simplified from the Synergy Grants 2024 round onwards.

Section 4.2.1 of the Synergy Grants 2024 Guidelines state that:

“CIs can hold a maximum of 2 grants concurrently from the Investigator, Synergy and Ideas Grant schemes.”

This change **does not** impact CIs already in receipt of 3 grants from the Investigator, Ideas and Synergy Grant schemes.

For further details please see [Appendix E](#) of the Synergy Grants 2024 Guidelines, the [Eligibility FAQ page](#) and/or [Eligibility Web Tool](#) on the NHMRC website.

Question:

I am a CI on 1x Ideas Grant with an original end date after 1 January 2025. Can I submit applications to both the Synergy and Ideas Grant rounds in 2024?

Answer:

No.

Section 4.2.1 of the Synergy Grants 2024 Guidelines state:



“If any CI (CIA–CIJ) submits an Investigator, Synergy or Ideas Grant application(s), in the same funding round, in excess of the maximum for which they are eligible to apply for or hold, the breaching application(s) (i.e. the last submitted) on which that CI is named may be ineligible and excluded from consideration, irrespective of:

- the scheme to which they have applied
- that CI’s position or role on the application.”

For further details please see [Appendix E](#) of the Synergy Grants 2024 Guidelines, and the [Eligibility FAQ page](#) and [Eligibility Web Tool](#) on the NHMRC website.