

## **CMB OPEN COMPETITION REVIEW PROCESS**

### 美国中华医学基金会公开竞标项目评审过程

By *Shufang Zhang*, PhD,  
United Nations Research Institute for Social Development  
张术芳，博士，联合国社会发展研究院

The key principle of the review process of CMB's Open Competition (OC) proposals is to ensure transparency and fairness. Reviewers of the OC proposals are chosen to ensure the balance of discipline representation as well as the academic rigor and credential in Health Policy and System Sciences (HPS) research.

The proposals are reviewed and assessed based on five main criteria: the likely value of the project, the appropriateness of the methods, feasibility, cross-disciplinary content and the research experience of the PI and Co-PIs. Among those five criteria, appropriateness of the methods carries the highest weight, followed by feasibility. These criteria are applied throughout the entire review process.

The review process of the CMB's Open Competition (OC) grants includes two major stages: the review of the proposal abstracts and the review of the invited full proposals.

At the review stage of proposal abstracts, each reviewer is asked to assess and score a proposal abstract based on the above mentioned 5 criteria, and make suggestion regarding whether the full proposal of the abstract shall be invited or not. The final decision on the full proposal invitation is made based on the combined results of recommendation made by each independent reviewer, whose views are weighted equally.

The review stage of the full proposal includes two steps. In step one, all submitted full proposals are reviewed and scored based on the same criteria mentioned above. Reviewers are asked to recommend based on his or her scoring whether a proposal definitely shall be funded, maybe funded conditional on revision, or not to be funded. Reviewers are also asked to provide brief comments of each proposal. The decision regarding whether a full proposal is invited for further revision is made based on the combined results of recommendations made by each independent reviewer, whose views are weighted equally. Applicants whose proposals are suggested to be funded or funded conditional on revision based on reviewer's recommendation are provided with reviewer comments of their full proposal and invited to submit a revised full proposals for final review in step two. In step two, reviewers are asked to assess and score the proposals based on the same criteria mentioned above and make final recommendations whether a proposal shall be funded or not, with brief comments of each proposal. The final funding decision is then made based on the consolidated review results and recommendations by the reviewers.

The review process follows the common standard and the decision is made purely based on the merits. In rare cases when a reviewer might have a conflict of interest, the proposals under concern are reviewed by other reviewers without conflict of interest for the proposals under concern.

In case an applicant has questions regarding the review results, CMB provides open channels for communication and clarification.