

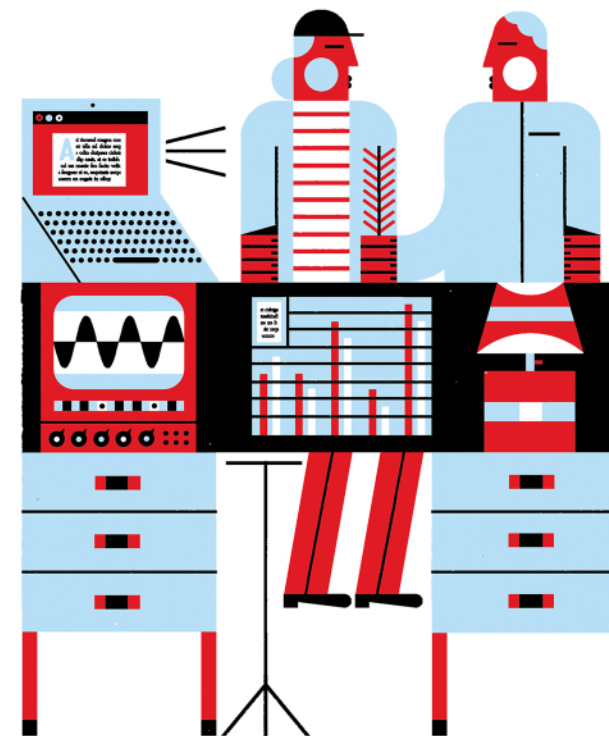


NSERC News and Research Grants 2026 Competition Results

Presented by: Catherine Harrison

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Research Grants and Scholarships

Additional Space for French Applications

Discovery Grant Applicants submitting in French receive  **20% more space** for the following sections:

- **Highly Qualified Personnel Training** includes *Training Plan and Past Contributions*
- **Research Contributions** includes *Significant Contributions and Additional Information*
- **Proposal**

How: In the Research Portal, choose French as the application language. This lets you upload the **3 Optional Supplemental Attachments** (one per section).

Implementation this year

Research Grants and Scholarships

The French-language research support service (SARF) of ACFAS

What is it?

- A Canada-wide research support service
- Assists researchers with preparing their **French** research grant applications to submit to Canada's three federal granting agencies:
 - Administrative and strategic review of research grant applications
 - French-language informational webinars on various funding programs
 - Coordination of external peer reviews for research proposals

Who is it for?

- Exclusively for researchers working in **francophone minority contexts** (outside Quebec)

How to use it?

- Offered through partnership agreements with postsecondary institutions outside Quebec
- If your institution is not yet among SARF's **partners**, please contact SARF or your institution's research office to express interest in establishing a partnership agreement.

Questions? Please contact :

Thierry Drapeau, PhD
Director

thierry.drapeau@acfas.ca

514-849-0045, ext. 236

[À propos du SARF | Acfas](#)

Research Grants and Scholarships

Discovery Grants Requirement for Indigenous Research

Applicants who indicate that their proposal involves Indigenous research (by checking the relevant box in the DG application) are required to submit a **NSERC Indigenous Engagement & Collaboration Agreement**

This requirement aims to:

- Support respectful, ethical, and reciprocal Indigenous research practices
- Document meaningful and ongoing engagement with Indigenous communities
- Clearly outline roles, responsibilities, benefits, and consent

Key details:

- Required **only** for applications that involve **Indigenous research**, including research activities **on lands or waters**
- Submitted at the **full application stage**
- The template from CY2026 will be updated this summer with clarification



Research Grants and Scholarships

New! Geoffrey Hinton Prizes

- ✓ Have you creatively applied AI in a natural sciences and engineering field?
- ✓ Has this work generated, or is it poised to generate, significant impact?
- ✓ Are you an early-stage researcher (10 years or less since 1st academic appointment, plus eligible delays)?
- ✓ Are you applying to Discovery Grants (DG) this year?

Consider applying for the new Geoffrey Hinton prizes!

- Three prizes of \$100,000 each
- No action required at DG NOI stage
- November 2 – submit your full DG application
- November 5 – submit the following:
 - A supporting document (one page in English, one and a half pages in French)
 - A Terms and Conditions form

Launching summer 2026 – stay tuned for more information!

Contact:
hinton@nserc-crsng.gc.ca

Research Grants and Scholarships

CRTAS Harmonized Talent Program - administered by CIHR, NSERC and SSHRC

Canada Research Training Awards Suite (CRTAS)

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graph TD; CRTAS[Canada Research Training Awards Suite (CRTAS)] --> CGRS_M[Canada Graduate Research Scholarship – Master’s (CGRS M)]; CRTAS --> CGRS_D[Canada Graduate Research Scholarship – Doctoral (CGRS D) *]; CRTAS --> CPRA[Canada Postdoctoral Research Award (CPRA) *];
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Canada Graduate Research Scholarship – Master’s (CGRS M)

\$27K for 1 year

Canada Graduate Research Scholarship – Doctoral (CGRS D) *

\$40K per year for 3 years

Canada Postdoctoral Research Award (CPRA) *
\$70K per year for 2 years

*Now available to international applicants

Questions? Contact NSERCScholarships-BoursesCRSNG@NSERC-CRSNG.GC.CA

Research Grants and Scholarships

Harmonized Tri-agency Scholarship and Fellowship Program

Programs	Award value and duration	Awards for international applicants (%)	Awards held abroad (%)	Eligibility window
CGRS M	\$27K for 1 year	N/A	N/A	0-12 months of full-time studies (or equivalent) in the degree for which funding is requested OR 4-12 months of full-time study in a master's program to be completed before the award activation, by Dec 31
CGRS D	\$40K/year for 3 years	Up to 15%	Up to 20%	≤ 36 months of full-time (or equivalent) study in the program for which funding is requested, by Dec 31
CPRA	\$70K/year for 2 years	Up to 20%	Up to 30%	Have completed your doctoral degree ≤ 3 years before Sept 1

Questions? Contact NSERCScholarships-BoursesCRSNG@NSERC-CRSNG.GC.CA

Other Updates

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Use of AI in the preparation and review of grants:

- [Updated guidance](#) and [FAQ](#)

Applicants

- Permitted to use AI to develop applications
- Not required to indicate AI use
- Remain fully accountable for the contents of the application

Reviewers

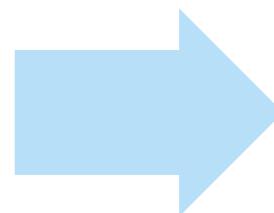
- **NOT** permitted to use online, publicly available tools (e.g. ChatGPT) for review
- Must ensure the confidentiality and protection of intellectual property

Other Updates

Tri-agency CV

Canadian Common CV (CCV)

- 2027 Discovery Grants
- Other NSERC funding opportunities



Tri-agency CV (TCV)

- 2027 Discovery Horizons
- 2027 Arthur B. McDonald Fellowships

- The CCV will continue to be used for the next Discovery Grants competition
- Details and resources: [TCV landing page](#) & [TCV Template](#)

Questions? TCV-CVTO@nserc-crsng.gc.ca

Other Updates

Research and Technology Partnerships (RTP) News



1. New Funding for Quantum Research
2. Working with Research and Innovation Partners Abroad
3. Partnering with Research and Innovation Organizations in Canada
4. Alliance Grants Program Updates
5. Modernization of Idea to Innovation (I2I) Grants
6. New Advisory Position on Entrepreneurship

Alliance Quantum grants

Advancing the development and adoption of quantum technologies in Canada

In support of Canada's National Quantum Strategy (NQS), the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) has launched a call for proposals to advance the development and adoption of quantum technologies in Canada. Alberta Innovates is participating as another funding agency in this call for proposals.

Objective

Reinforce, coordinate and scale up Canada's domestic research capabilities in quantum science and technology through partnerships between university researchers and organizations from the private, public or not-for-profit sectors.

Requirement

The proposal's thrust **must** aim to **advance one or more** of the [NQS missions](#) through the development of **specific areas** of quantum technologies.

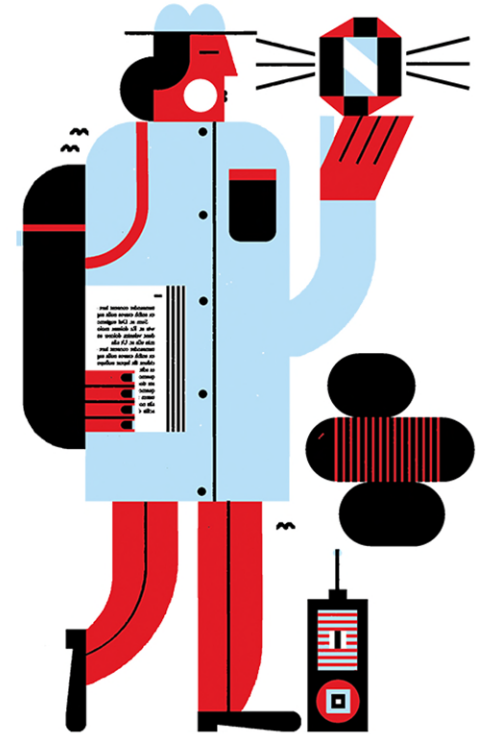
More information:

[Alliance Quantum grants – Advancing the development and adoption of quantum technologies in Canada](#)

Questions? alliance_quantumquantique@nserc-crsng.gc.ca

Call for proposals	✓ Advancing the development and adoption of quantum technologies in Canada
Partner organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Can be from the private, public or not-for-profit sectors ✓ No cash contributions required ✓ At least one partner organization whose cash contributions would be recognized for cost sharing, had there been any required ✓ At least one partner organization with the ability to exploit the project's research results ✓ Active participation of all partner organizations and support through in-kind contributions
Financial support	✓ NSERC : \$100,000 to \$650,000 per year to the academic team for up to two years toward all eligible costs of research
Additional financial support	✓ Alberta Innovates (Campus Alberta Small Business Engagement program): Up to \$150,000 per year to the academic team for up to two years if the applicant is from an Alberta university and the project involves an SME incorporated or registered in Alberta
Duration	✓ Up to 2 years
Applicants	✓ Canadian university researchers eligible to apply for and hold NSERC grant funds
Application submission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Through NSERC's online system ✓ Letter of intent: July 27, 2026, before 8:00 pm (ET) ✓ Full application: October 5, 2026, before 8:00 pm (ET)

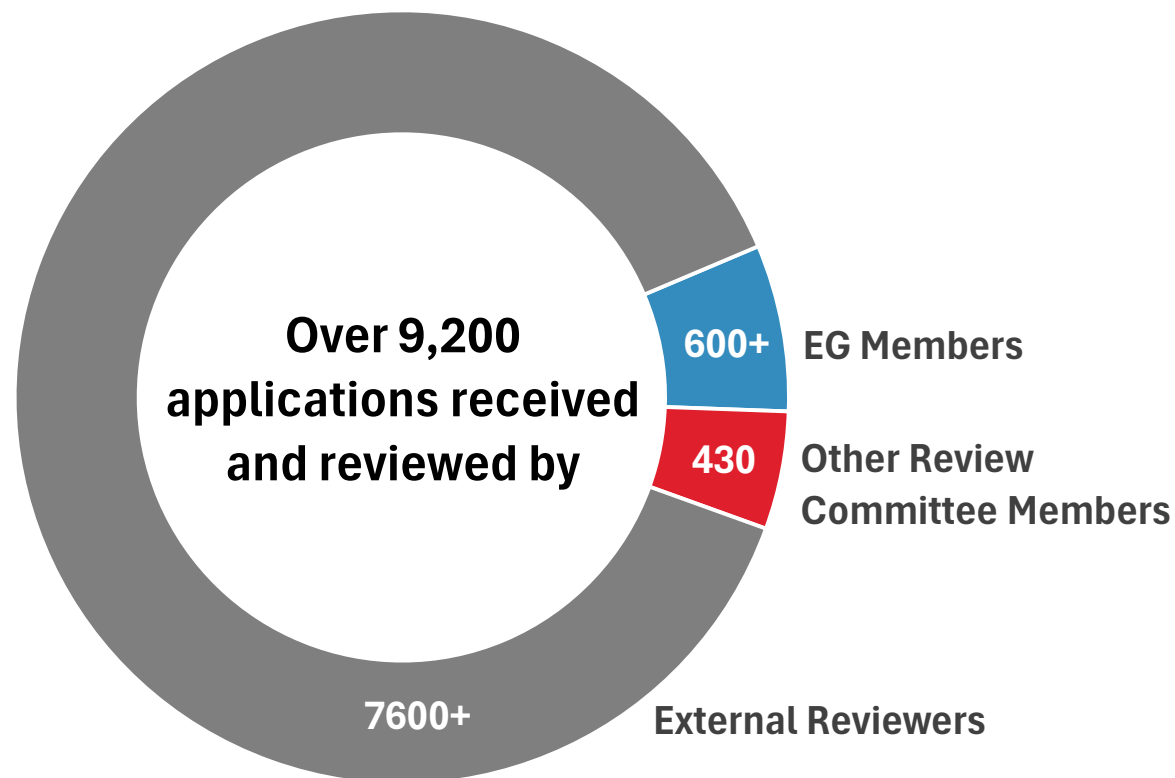
1. 2026 Discovery Grants Results – Overview



2026 Discovery Grants Results – Overview



Thank You!

Peer review is essential to the success of NSERC programs. A massive amount of work from members of the research community creates a fair and thorough peer-review process for applicants in the Discovery & Talent programs



2026 Discovery Research Program Results - Overview

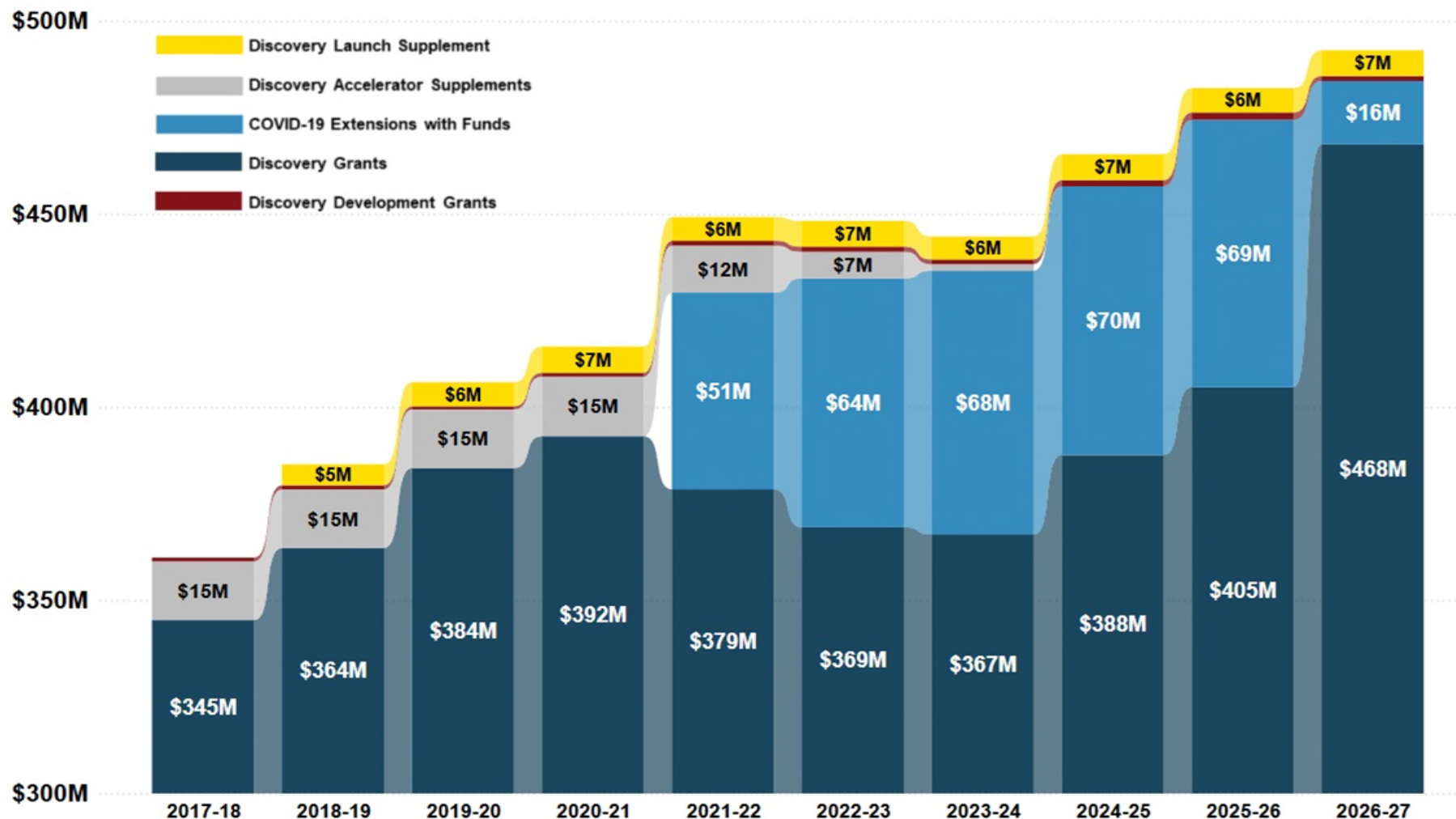
2026 Discovery Research Program Competition Results

	# Apps 	# Awards 	Success Rate %	Amount Awarded \$
Discovery Grants	3,764	2,294	61%	\$539.1M
Research Tools and Instruments	734	188	26%	\$25.1M
Subatomic Physics	58	39	67%	\$31.2M
Discovery Horizons	36	13	36%	\$4.8M

Renewing Discovery Grant awardees saw an average increase of over \$9K/year to their Discovery Grant
 This year saw the largest number of applications and the largest number of new awards of any Discovery Grant competition

2026 Discovery Grants Results - Overview

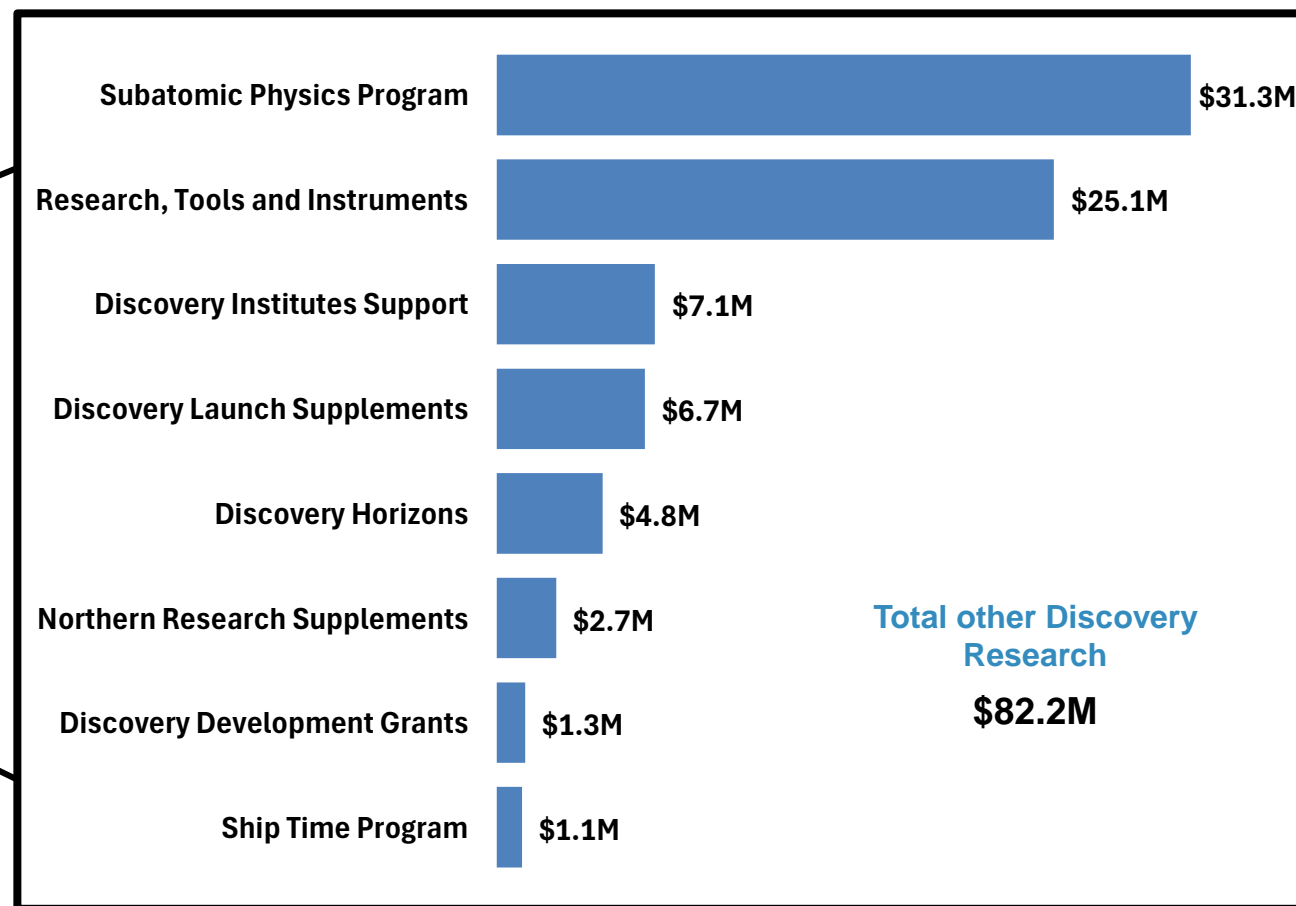
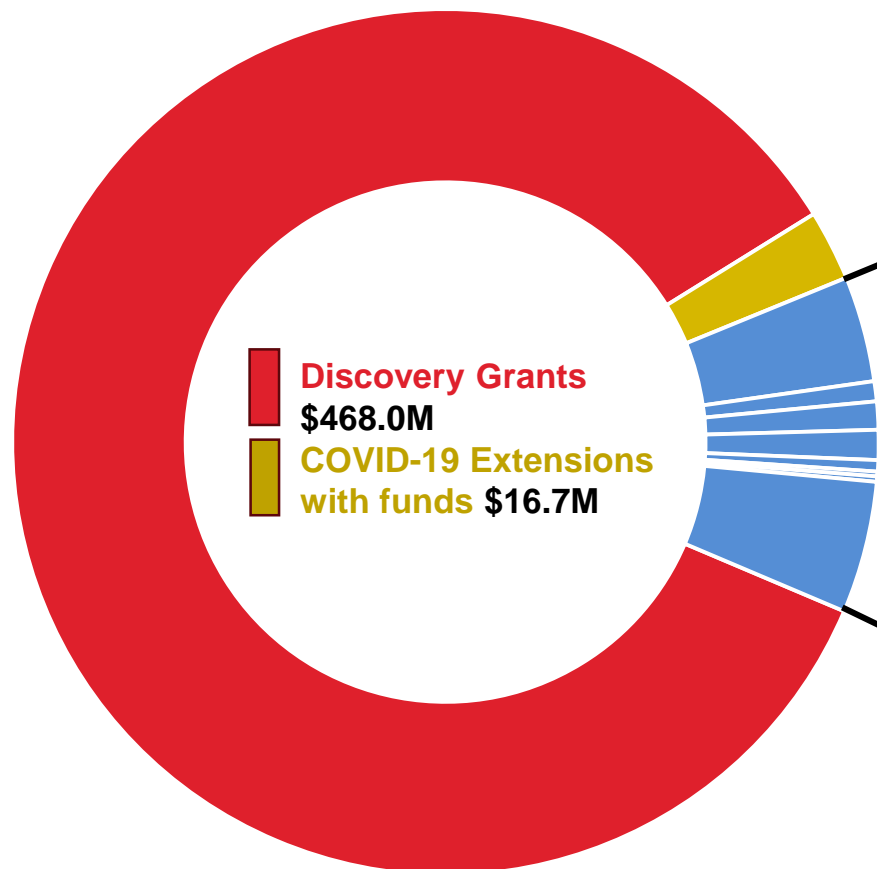
Total Investment in Discovery Grants



2026 Discovery Grants Results - Overview

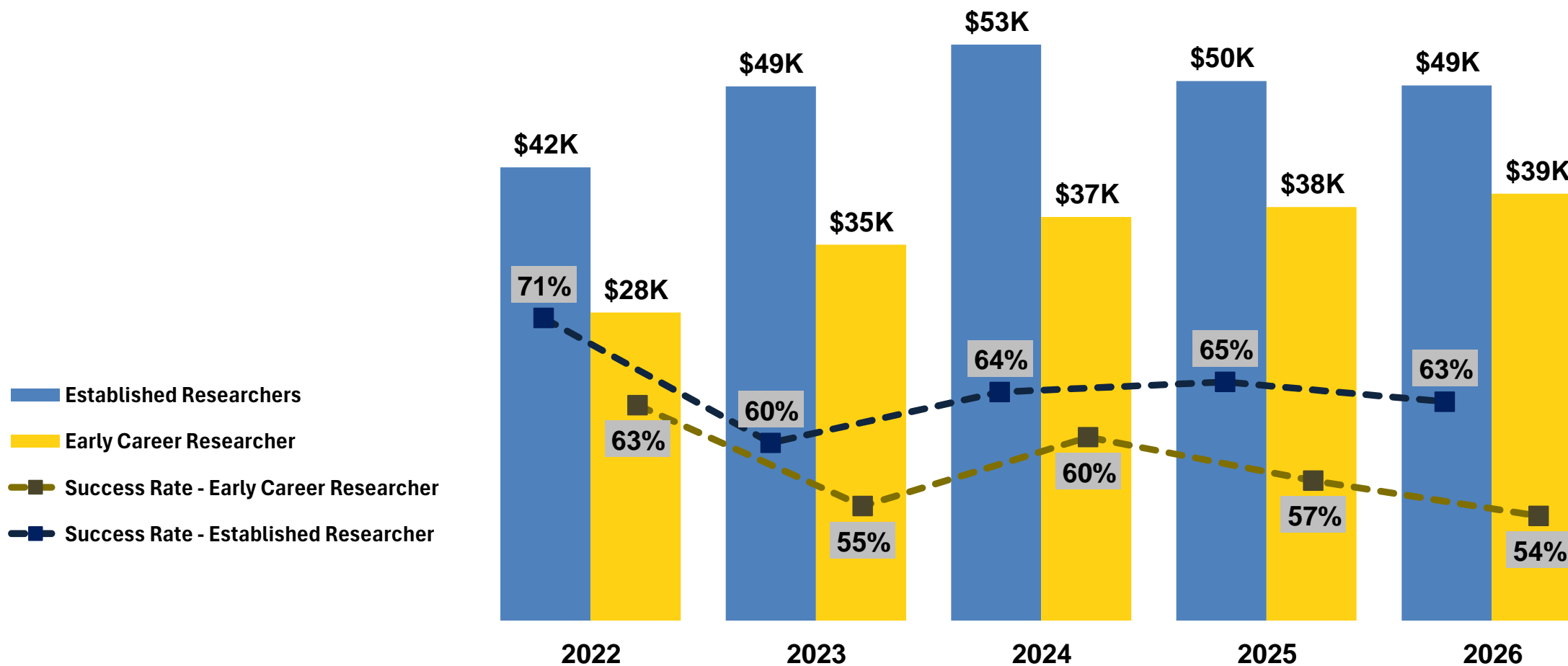
Discovery Grants and other research grants

Discovery Research Programs Multi-Year Commitments FY2026-2027



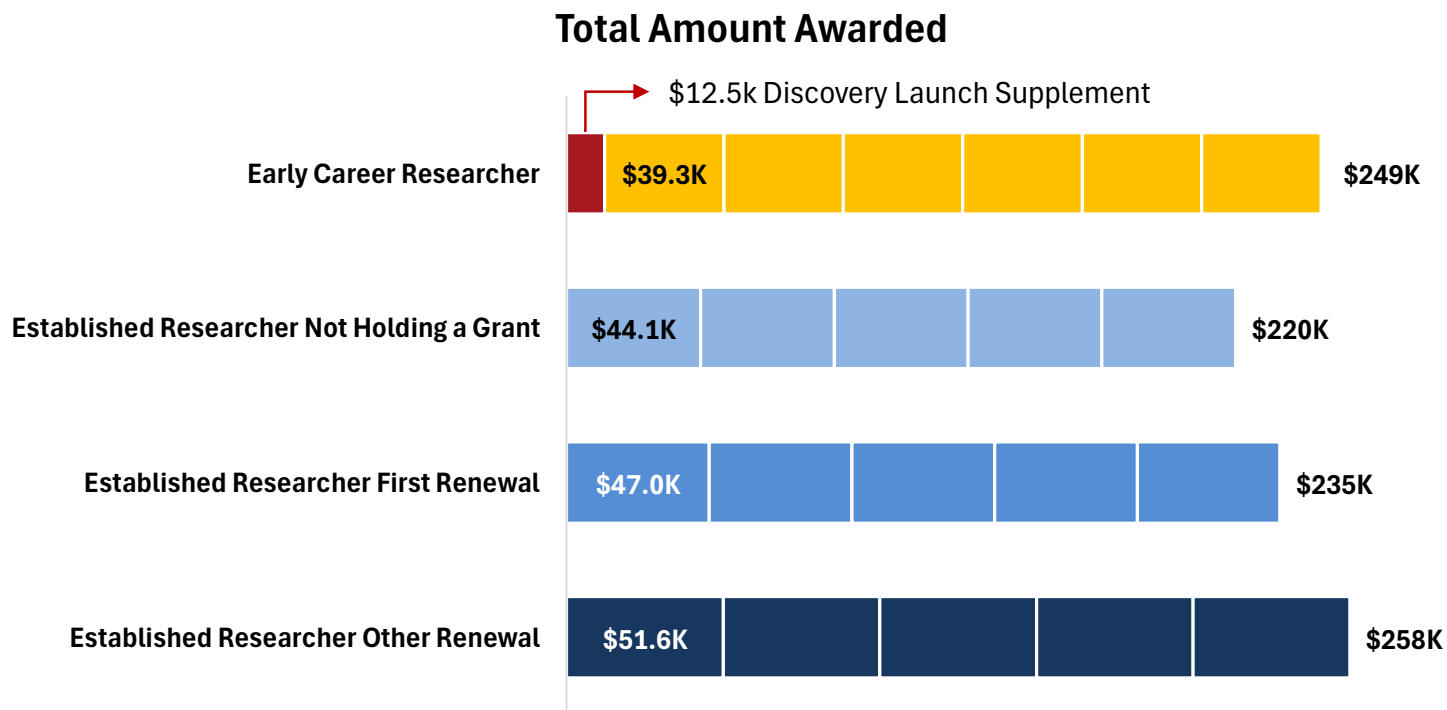
2026 Discovery Grants Results - Overview

Discovery Grants over the last 5 years



2026 Discovery Grants Results – Overview

Strengthened support for Early Career Researchers



- Most Early Career Researchers (ECRs) who apply within the 5-year eligibility window are funded
- The window is adjusted for eligible delays (credited as twice the amount of time taken)
- ECRs receive a one-time Discovery Launch Supplement (\$12,500) and the option of a 6th year of funding
- The success rate of applicants who reapply after their first grant is over 70%

2026 Discovery Grants Results – Overview

Overall DG – Results by Applicant Category

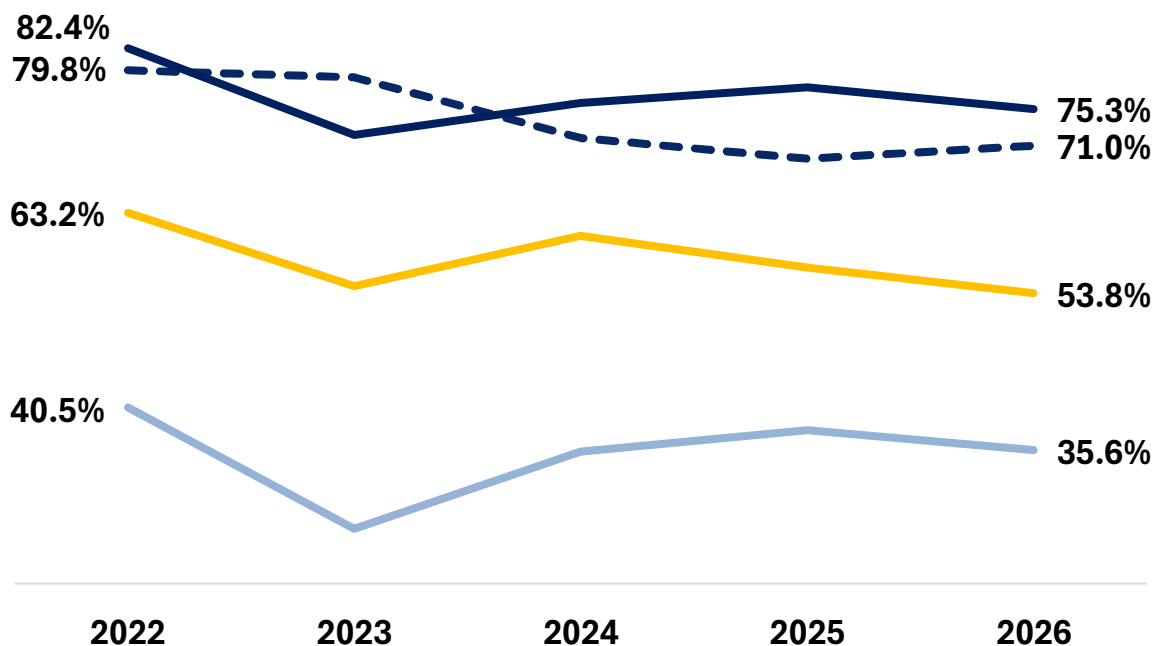
	Early Career Researcher (ECR)	Established Researchers (ER)			All Established Researchers	Overall
		<i>First Renewals</i>	<i>Other Renewals</i>	<i>Not Holding a Grant</i>		
# of applications	992	552	1,396	824	2,772	3,764
# of awards	534	392	1,075	293	1,760	2,264
Success Rate	54%	71%	77%	36%	63%	61%
Average Grant (yearly)	\$39,345*	\$47,002	\$51,603	\$44,085	\$49,327	\$47,003

* Does not include additional Discovery Launch Supplement funding provided in first year (\$12,500)

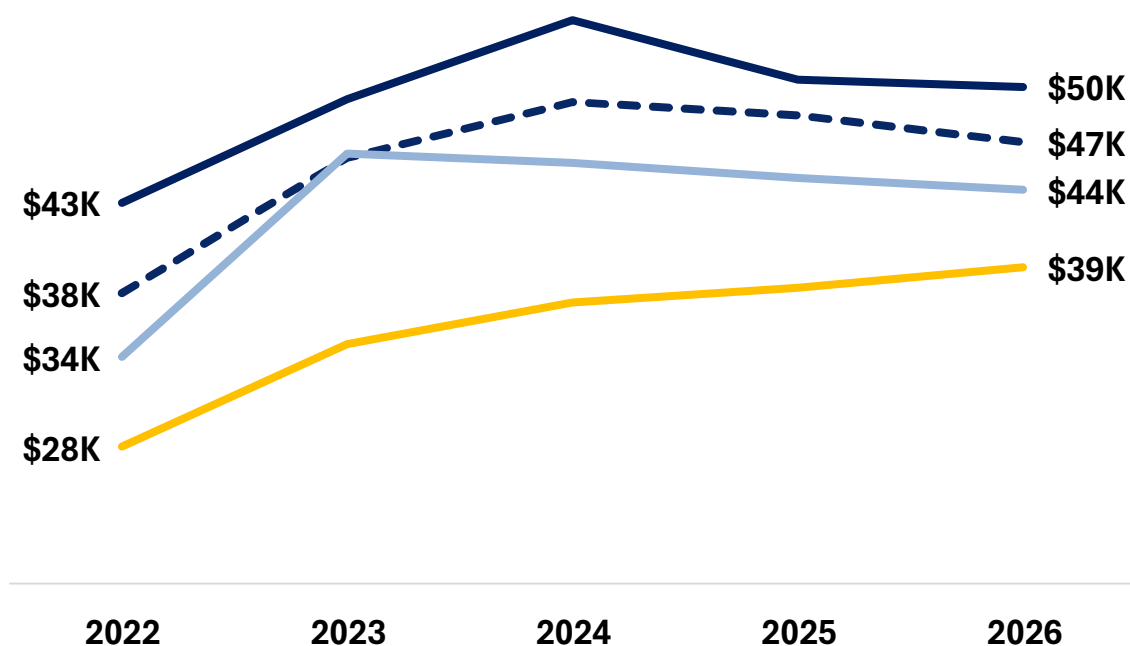
2026 Discovery Grants Results - Overview

Success Rate and Average Grant 2022 – 2026

Success rate



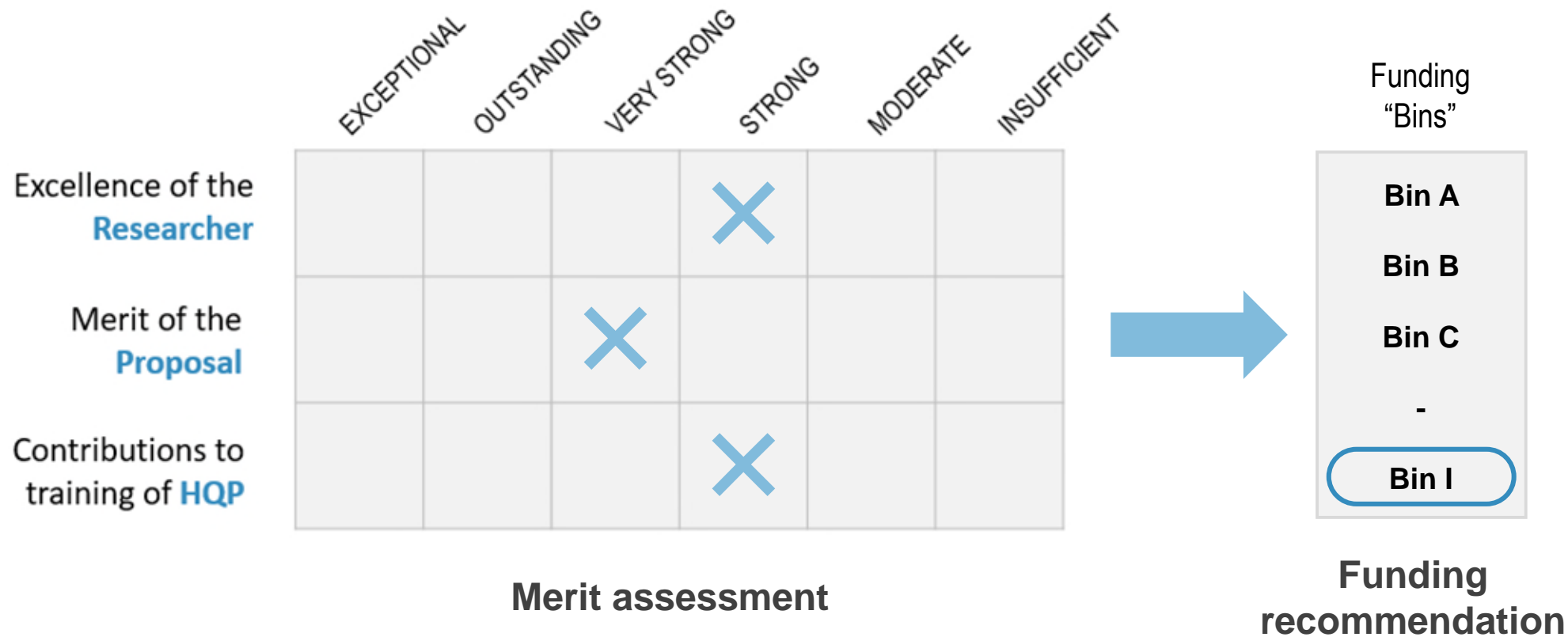
Average Grant



- Established Researcher First Renewal
- Established Researchers Returning (ER-R)
- Early Career Researcher
- Established Researchers Not Holding a Grant (ER-NHG)

2026 Discovery Grants Results - Overview

Two-Step Review Process



2026 Discovery Grants Results - Overview

CY2026: Funding thresholds for Established Researchers

1. Initial scores generated based on the **median** of votes in each merit category (same as in past)
2. Minimum scores for Established Researchers: Any combination of 2 STRONGs and 1 VERY STRONG
3. In instances where not all researchers with a combination of 2 STRONGs and 1 VERY STRONG can be funded, use the **mean** of all votes to rank applications within an Evaluation Group

Assigned values for each score

E	=6
O	=5
VS	=4
S	=3
M	=2
I	=1

Each Merit Criteria

O	VS	S	S	S
O	VS	S	M	M
S	S	S	S	S



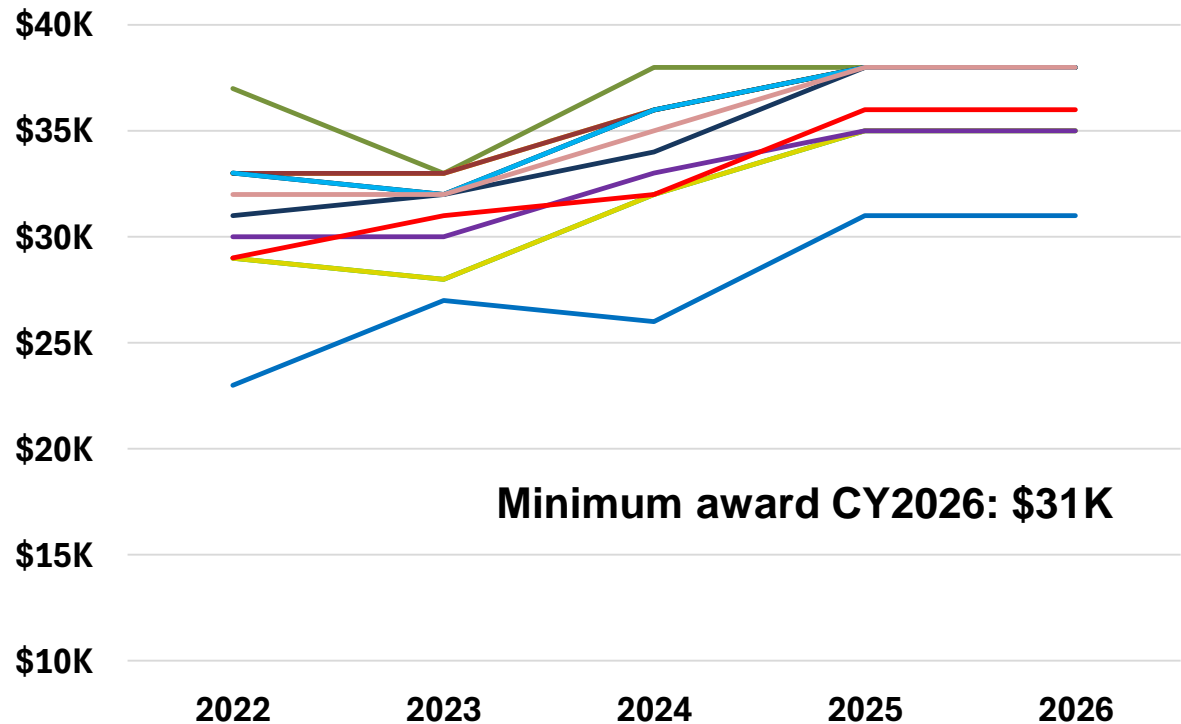
<u>Mean</u>	<u>Rank</u>
3.6	1
3.2	2
3	3



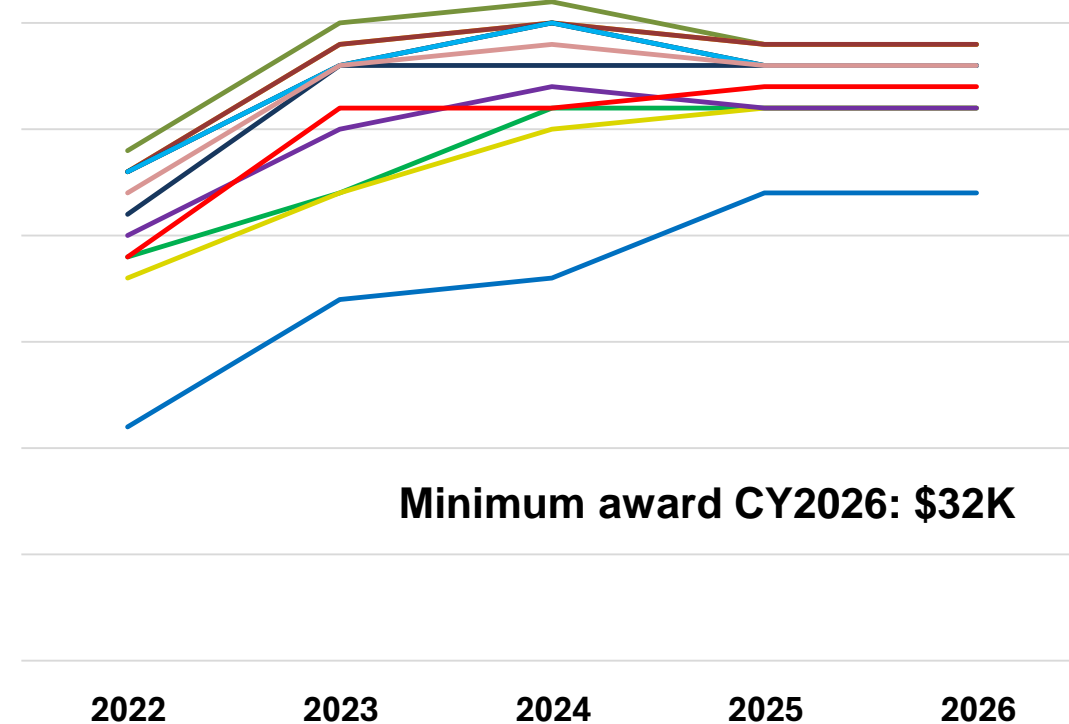
2026 Discovery Grants Results - Overview

Historical minimum fully funded grant level

ECR



ER

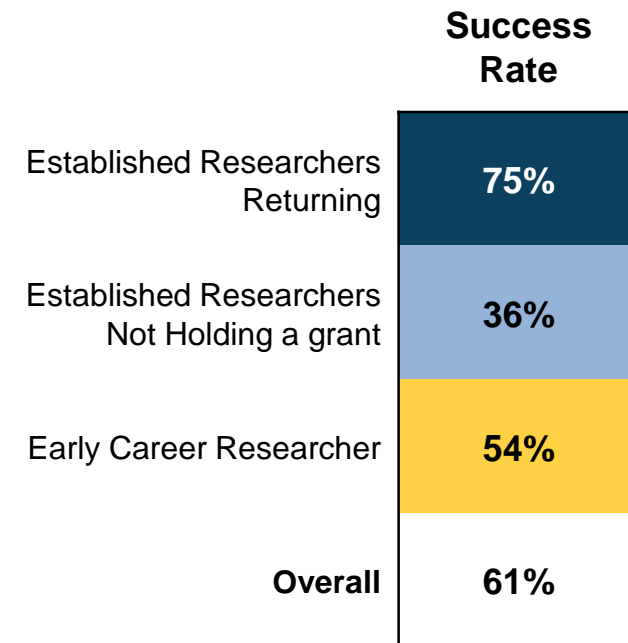
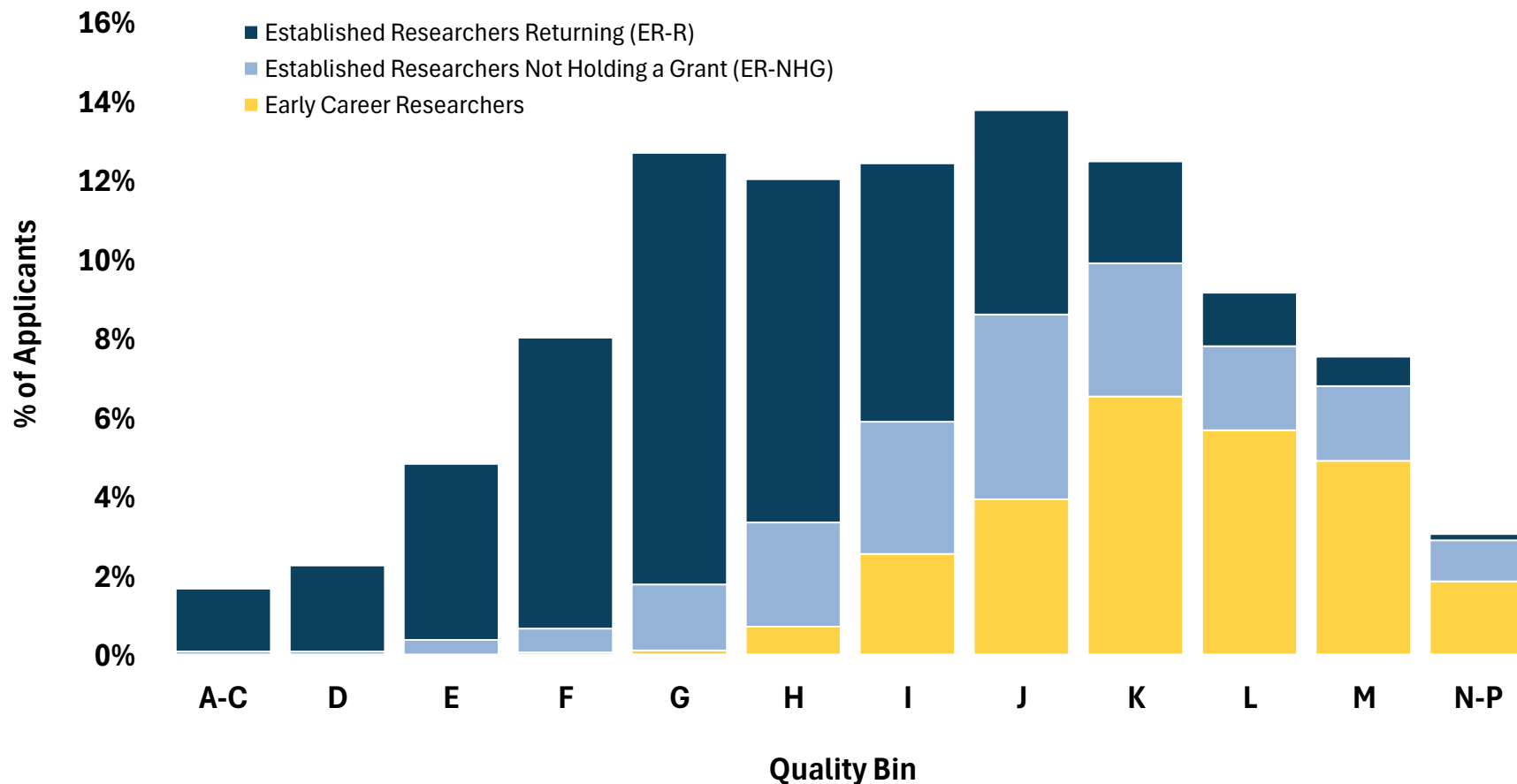


1501 1502 1503 1504 1505 1506 1507 1508 1509 1510 1511 1512

2026 Discovery Grants Results – Overview

Overall DG – Results by Applicant Category

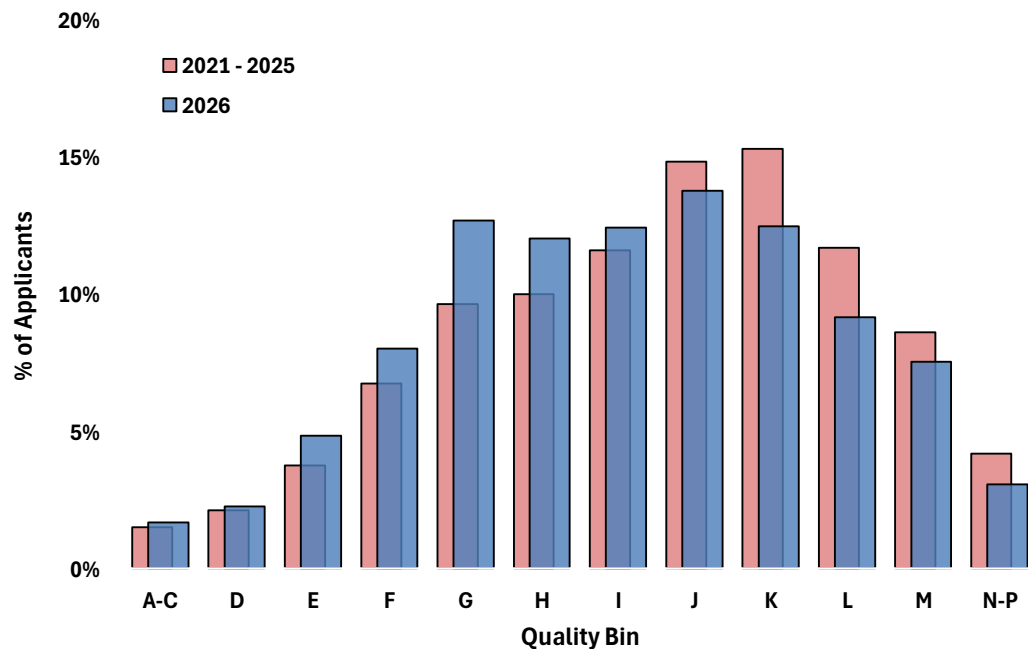
Bin Distribution by Percent of Total (n=3764)



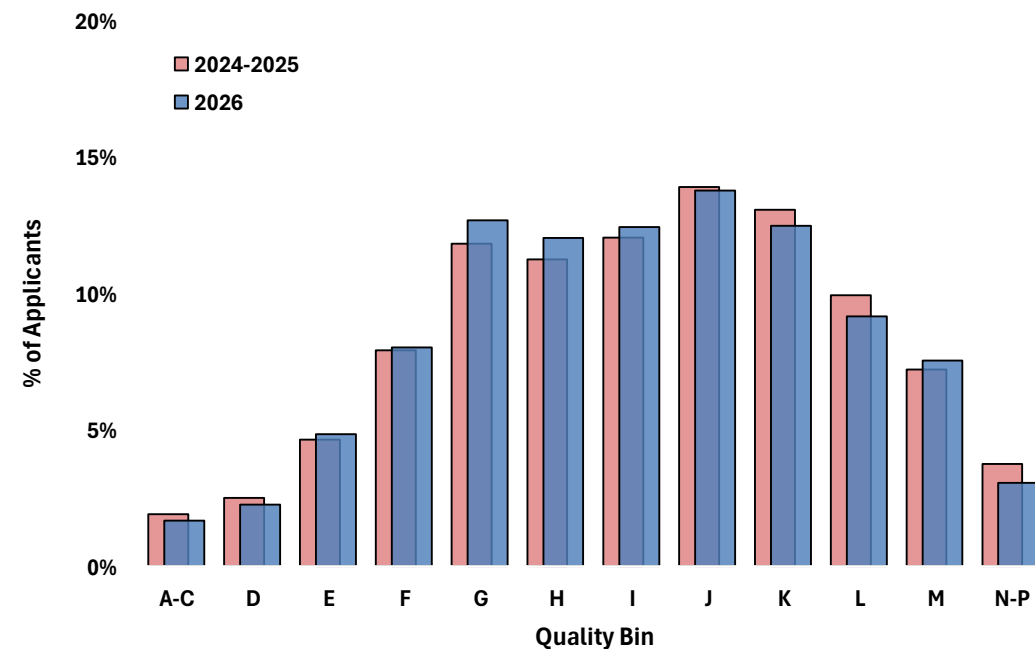
2026 Discovery Grants Results – Overview

Overall DG – CY2026 results compared to historical outcomes

CY2026 bin distributions compared to previous 5 years

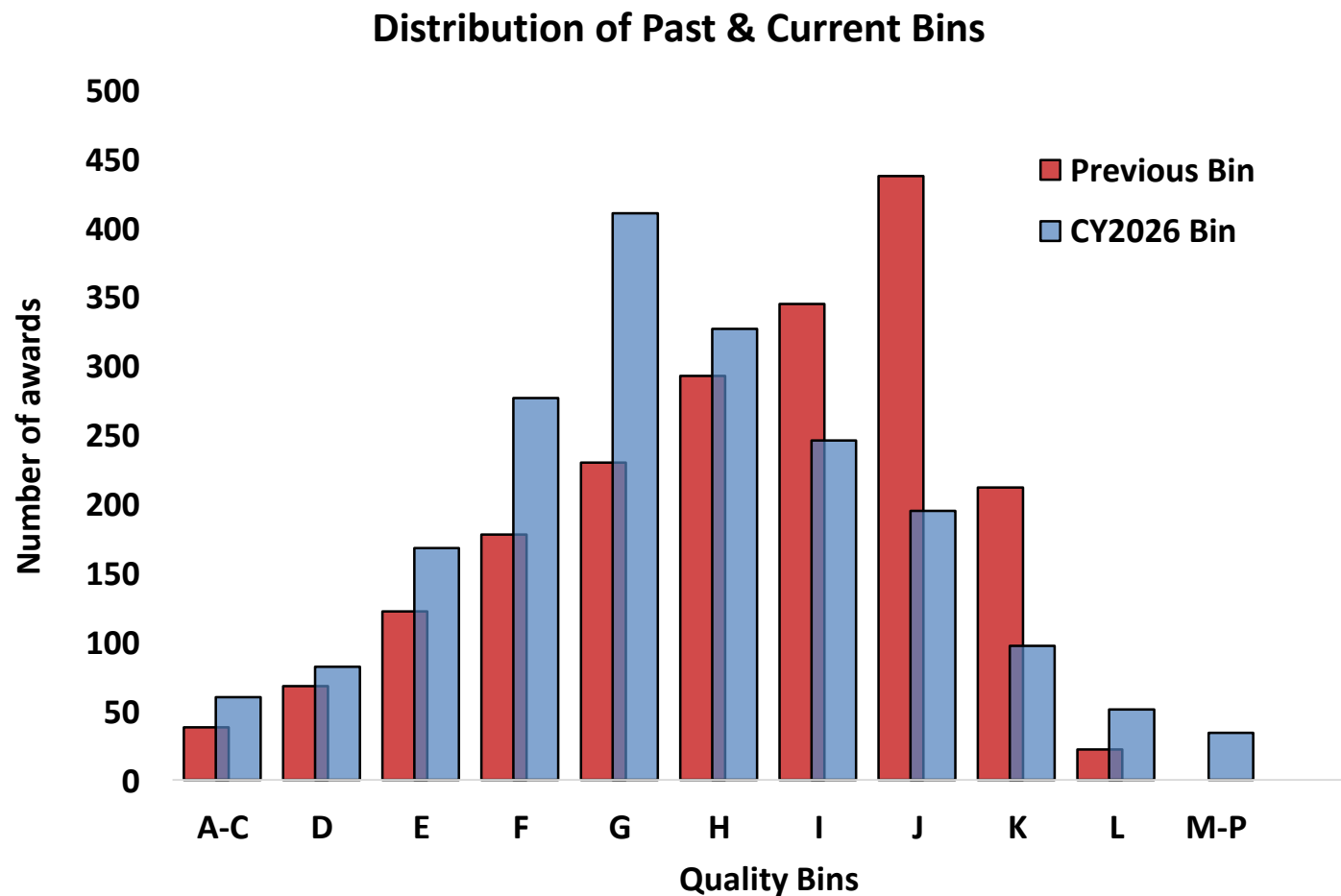


CY2026 bin distributions compared to previous 2 years



2026 Discovery Grants Results – Overview

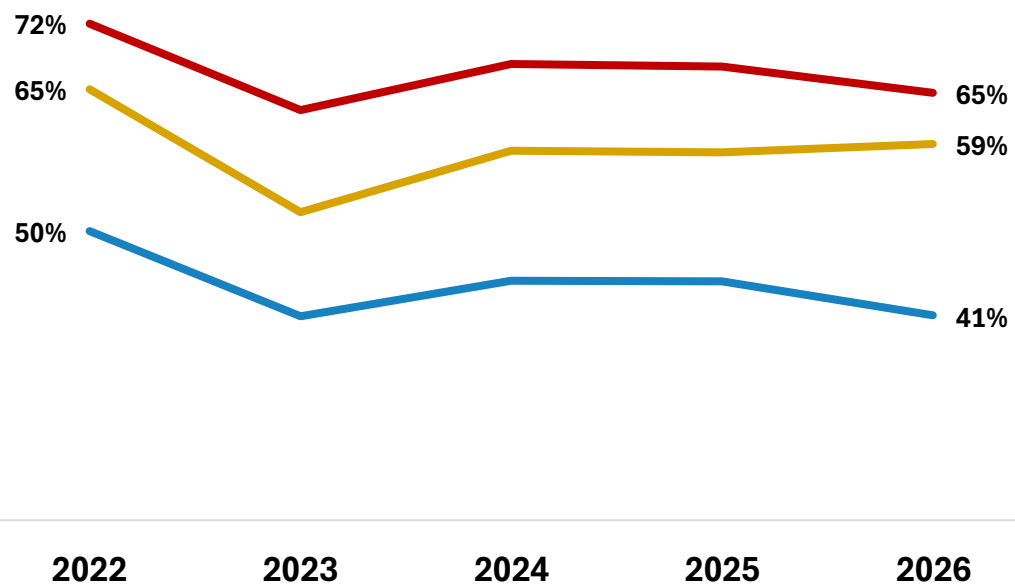
Overall DG – CY2026 results compared to previous applicant outcomes



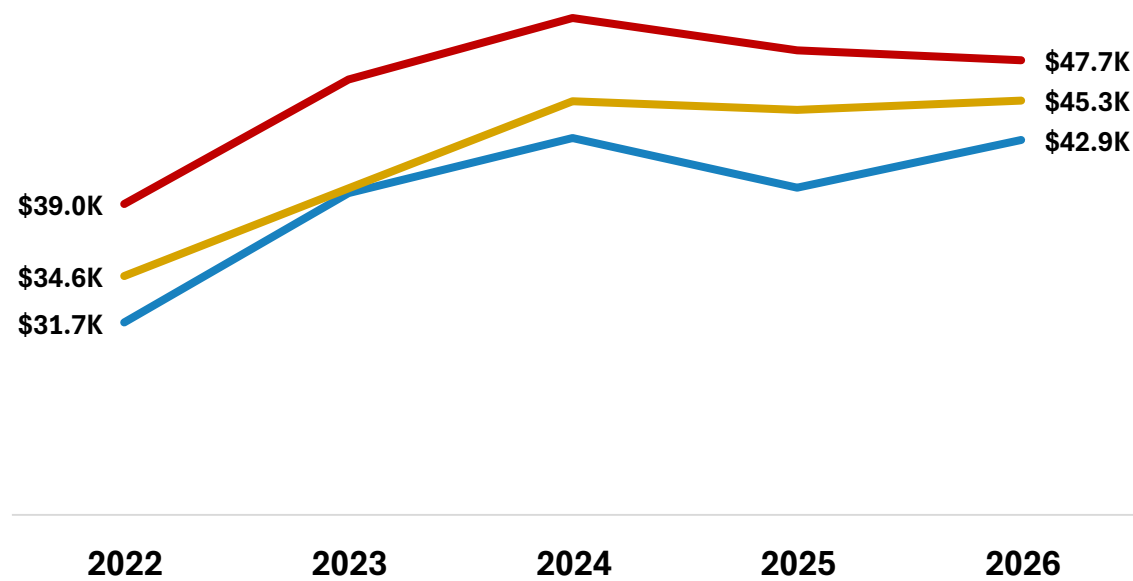
2026 Discovery Grants Results - Overview

Results by Institution Size and Year

Success Rate



Average Grant



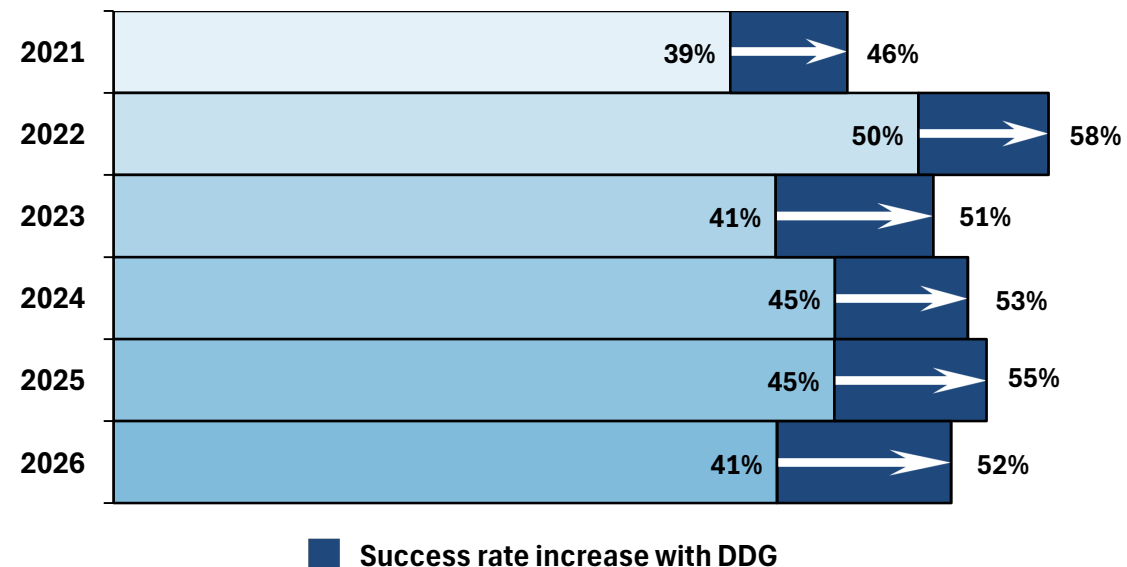
— Small University — Medium University — Large University

2026 Discovery Grants Results - Overview

Supporting research at small institutions

- Discovery Development Grants (DDG) provide resources to researchers from small universities whose Discovery Grant (DG) applications were deemed to be of appropriate quality to merit research support but fell below the funding cut-off.
- 2-year awards valued at \$22k/year plus additional support provided by university.
- University must support grantee through additional measures, such as matching funds, teaching release, purchase of research equipment, scholarship support, travel support, etc.

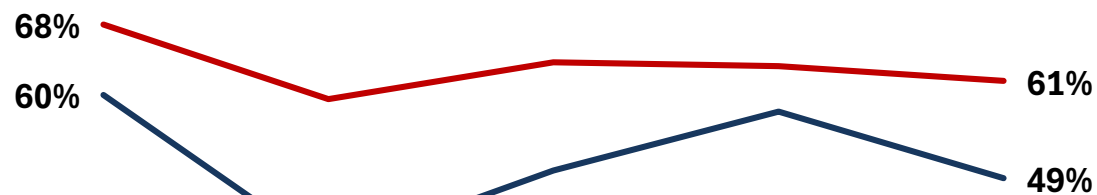
Small University Success Rates Including DDG



2026 Discovery Grants Results - Overview

Results by Language of Application and Year

Success Rate



Average Grant



*Applications submitted in French made up less than 3% of all applications

2022 2023 2024 2025 2026

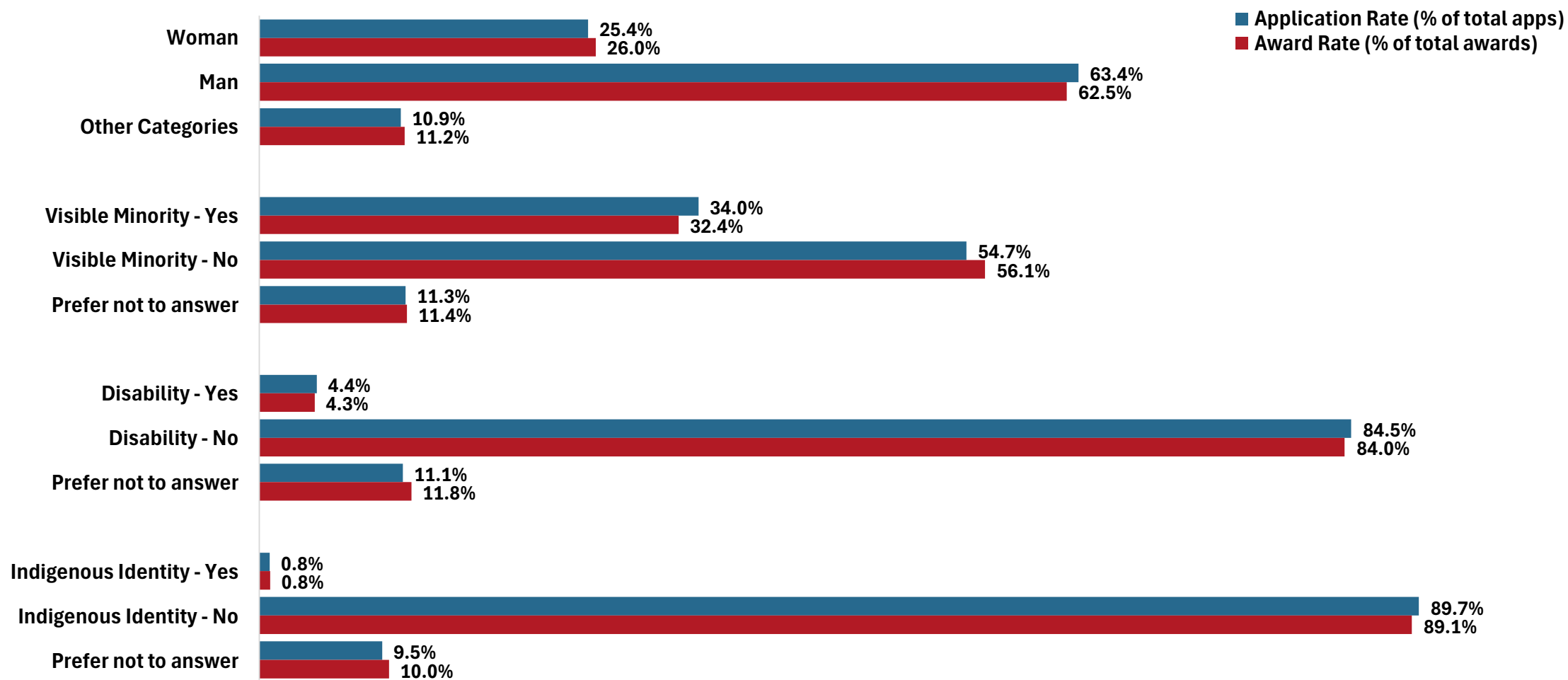
2022 2023 2024 2025 2026

— English

— French

2026 Discovery Grants Results - Overview

Overall DG results by population groups

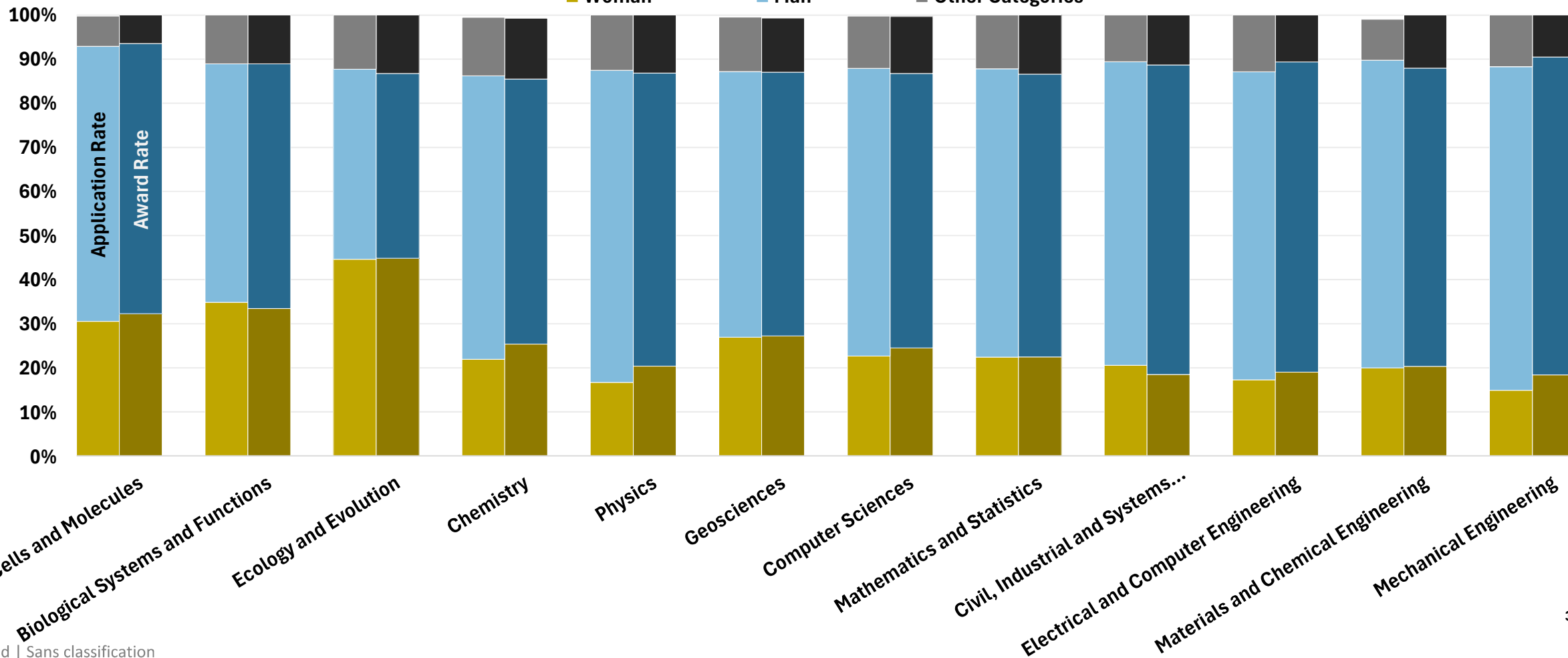


2026 Discovery Grants Results – Overview

Overall DG results - gender ratios by Evaluation Group

Gender ratios by Evaluation Group

■ Woman ■ Man ■ Other Categories



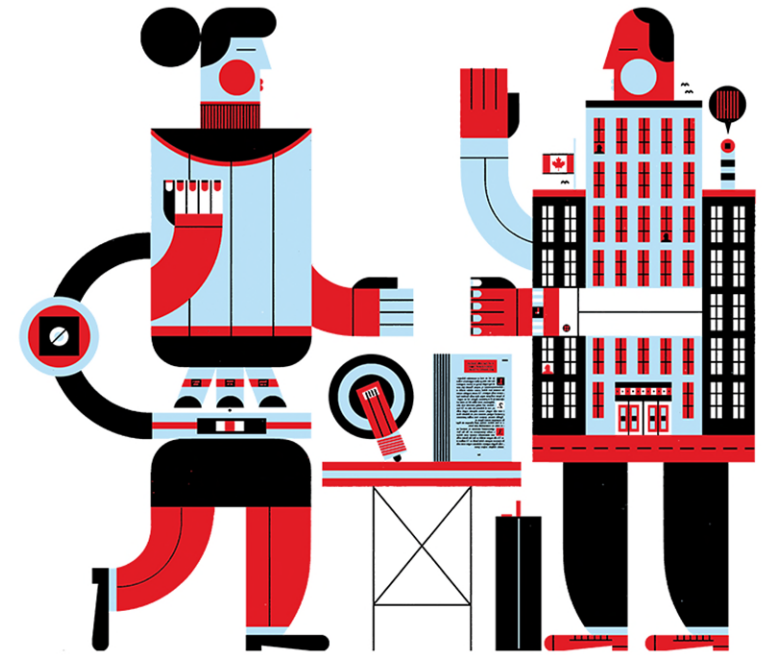
2026 Discovery Grants Results – Overview

Overall DG results by candidate status and gender

		Women	Men	Other Categories*
Early Career Researchers (ECR)	Number of awards	206	305	23
	Success rate	55%	53%	50%
Established Researchers Returning (ER-R)	Number of awards	326	993	208
	Success rate	79%	74%	77%
Established Researchers Not Holding a Grant (ER-NHG)	Number of awards	65	195	33
	Success rate	38%	35%	31%

* Other Categories includes those opting not to choose a gender

2. Other Research Grants Results



Other Research Grants Results

Discovery Horizons (DH)

	2022	2023	2024 ^C	2025	2026
Number of LOIs received	842	410	81	84	75
Number of LOIs invited	64	58	43	50	47
Number of applications	55	50	33	37	36
Number of awards	10	16	15	11	13
Success rate^A	18%	32%	45%	30%	36%
DH budget^B	\$4,757,857	\$6,959,487	\$5,524,730	\$4,178,053	\$4,763,750

A – Success rate from application stage.

B – Total funding for the duration of the grant (3-5years)

C – Eligibility change as of competition 2024, applicants must choose between DH and DG

Other Research Grants Results

Research Tools and Instruments (RTI)

	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Number of applications	713	585	666	715	734
Number of awards	207	204	199	191	188
Success rate	29%	35%	30%	27%	26%
Funding rate	29%	36%	29%	27%	27%
RTI budget	\$25.0M	\$26.0M	\$25.1M	\$25.0M	\$25.1M

Other Research Grants Results

Discovery Development Grants (DDG)

	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Number of applications awarded	28	40	38	47	58
Number of awards accepted	26	38	37	44	56
Number of awards declined	2	2	1	3	2
DDG budget	\$420,000	\$800,000	\$760,000	\$1,034,000	\$1,276,000

Other Research Grants Results

Collaborative Research and Training Experience Program (CREATE)

	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Number of LOIs received	123	123	97	127	179
Number of candidates invited	43	51	41	127	101
Number of applications received	42	49	38	94	93
Number of awards	13	20	17	16	21

3. Discovery Grants Results by Evaluation Group (EG)

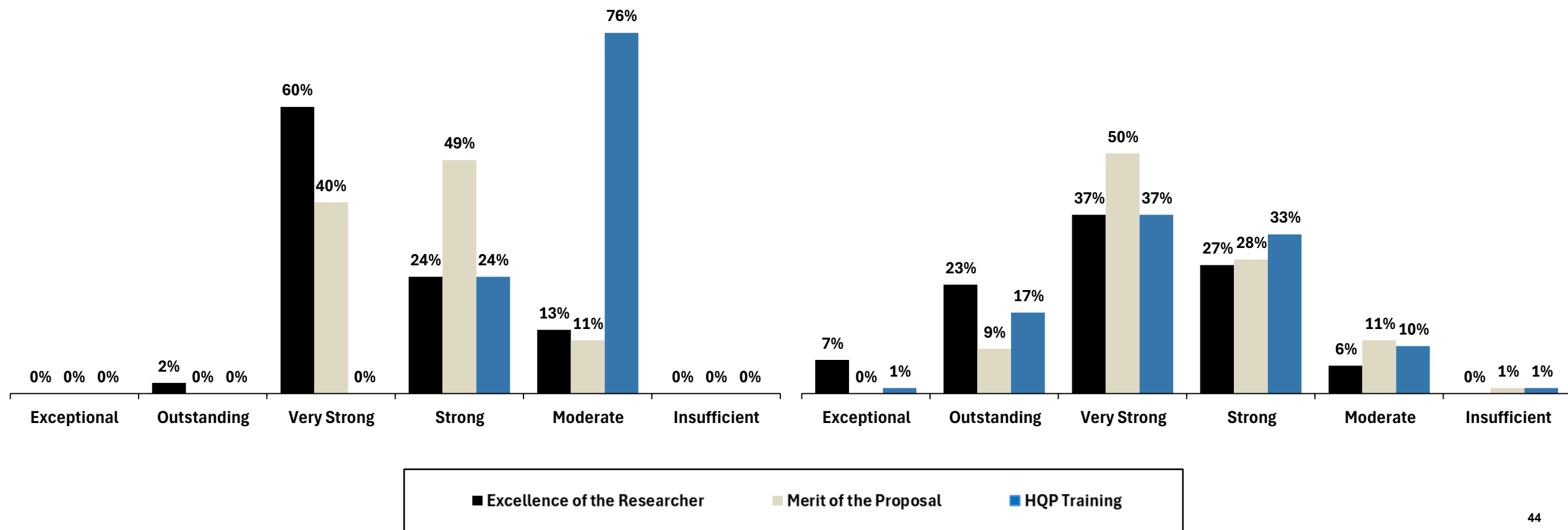


2026 Discovery Grants Results by EG

EG1505 – Physics

ECR

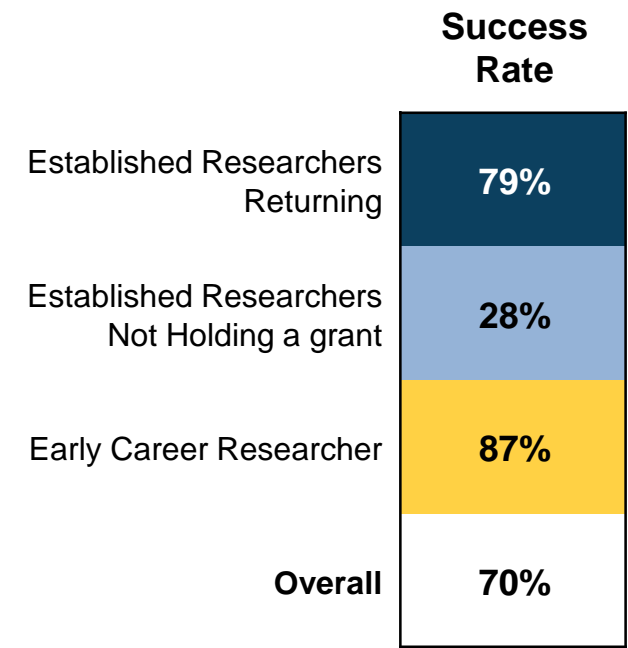
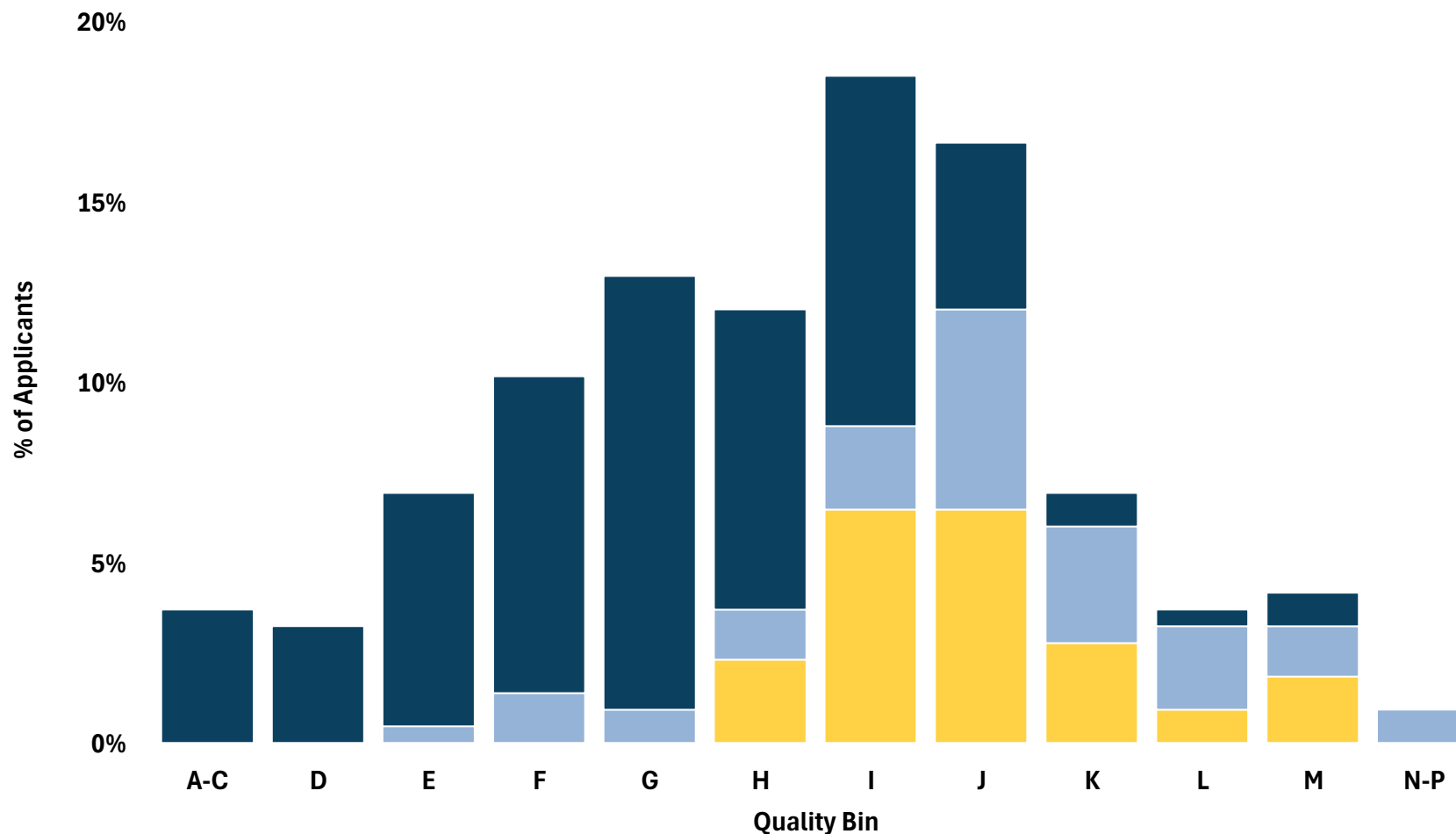
ER



2026 Discovery Grants Results by EG

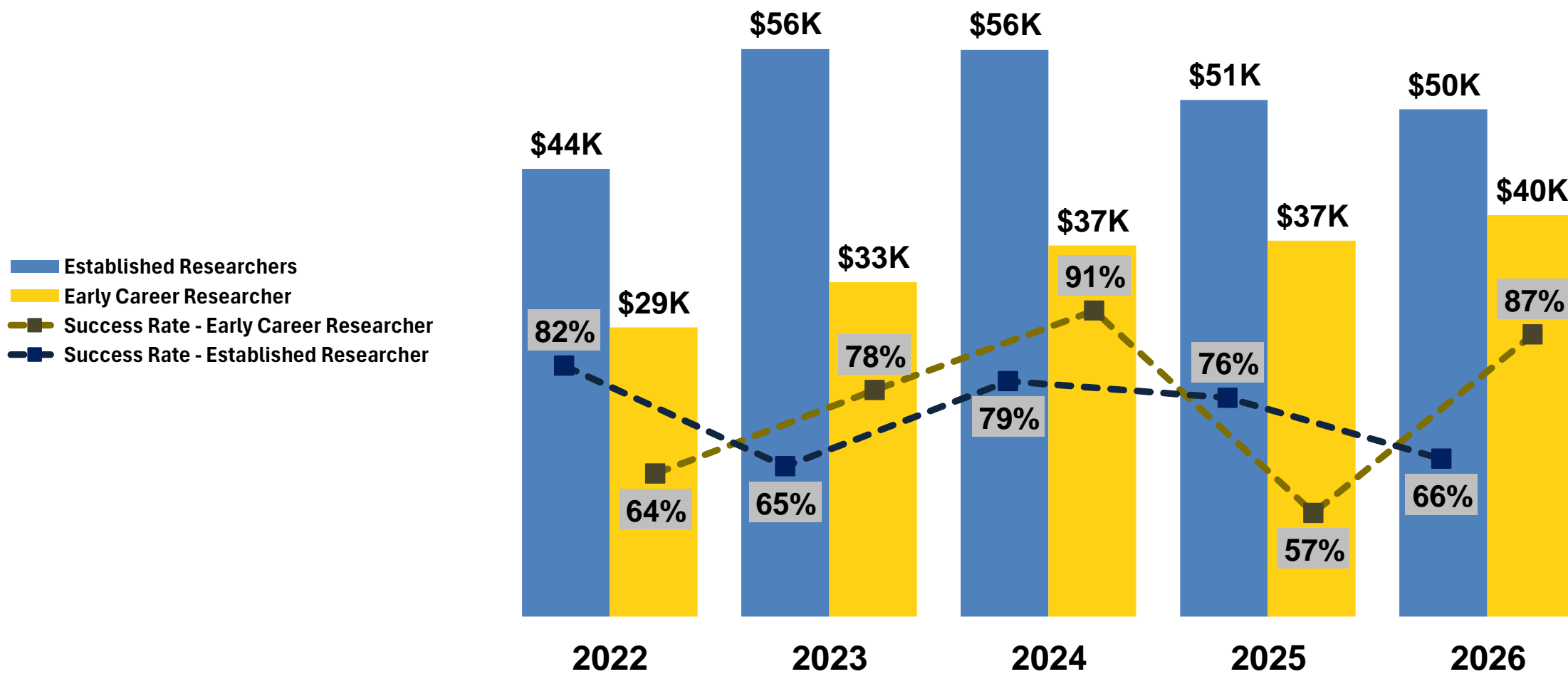
EG1505 – Physics

Bin Distribution by Percent of Total (n=216)



2026 Discovery Grants Results by EG

EG1505 – Physics

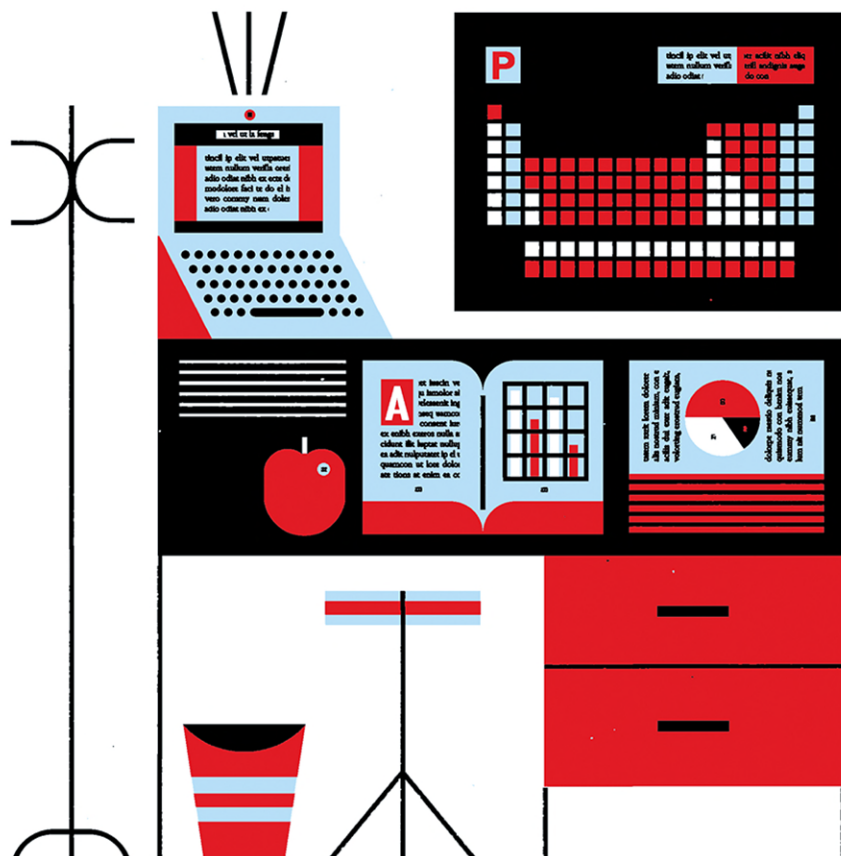


Research Grants and Scholarships

Upcoming Deadlines in 2026

Grant Application Deadlines

- NOI Discovery Grants – **August 4, 2026**
- NOI Subatomic Physics: Project, Individual, MRS, Category 2&3 RTI – **August 4, 2026**
- CREATE grants: September 22, 2026
- Subatomic Physics: Large Projects (> \$500,000/yr), and MRS – **October 1, 2026**
- Research Tools & Instruments (and Subatomic Physics Categories 1, 2 and 3) - **October 26, 2026**
- Full Application Discovery Grants - **November 2, 2026**
- Full Application Subatomic Physics: Individual and Projects (< \$500k/yr) – **November 2, 2026**
- **New!** Geoffrey Hinton Prize: November 5, 2026 (in conjunction with the Discovery application process)



Questions?

Research Grants: resgrant@nserc-crsng.gc.ca

Physics evaluation group: physics@nserc-crsng.gc.ca

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