

Canon Collins Grant Writing Workshop

Phase 1: Initial Scan & Filtering

Presented by Dr. Mutero, I.T.



Phase 1: Initial Scan & Filtering



The Hook: Initial Scan

Quickly browse the call to grasp the general theme and assess initial interest. Ask: "Is this roughly relevant to us?" If not, pass it on immediately.



The Reality Check: Deadline

Immediately check the deadline. Is it feasible? If not, stop here.



Critical Eligibility Gate

Read the eligibility requirements meticulously. Don't waste time on calls where you don't qualify (e.g., institution type, location, career stage, consortium rules). These are usually clearly stated upfront.

Phase 2 : Deep Dive & Team Formation



Intentional Reading & Team Building

Only if fully eligible, read the call with deep focus to understand its *specific* objectives, priorities, and expected outcomes.

Simultaneously, if the call demands multi-disciplinarity, start identifying and approaching potential collaborators *now*.



Problem Definition

With your core team, define the core problem the grant aims to solve. **Anchor this in:** The call's specific wording, background documents, and funder priorities. Begin untangling the "spaghetti" of surrounding issues to focus your response.

Suggested Core-Problems

- Poor mental health care in Africa
- No ethical or regulatory framework for digital mental health for young people in Africa
- No development of (co-designed) ethical principles to guide development of digital mental health in Africa
- Inflexible top-down digital mental health innovations in Africa
- Lack of local digital mental health interventions targeting youths in African communities
- Limited knowledge of mental health problems affecting youths in Africa
- Inadequate understanding of digital mental health ethics among the youths and mental health practitioners.
- Lack of Regulation of Ethics on Mental Health Digital Platforms
- Disregard/non-observance of ethics in (the creation and roll-out of) mental health digital innovations.

Consolidated Core Problem

Poor digital mental health interventions for Youths in Africa





Dr Innocent Tinashe Mutero

Dr Innocent Tinashe Mutero is an interdisciplinary researcher, educator and creative practitioner with a PhD in Ethnomusicology from the University of Pretoria. His work explores how music, cultural expression and participatory arts can drive social innovation, community wellbeing and inclusive development.

He has led and contributed to multi-partner research initiatives focused on youth empowerment, informal education, and indigenous knowledge systems across Southern Africa. Dr Mutero is also an experienced grant writing facilitator, working with universities, NGOs and community groups to design impactful, fundable projects. His approach blends academic rigour with practical strategies for resource mobilisation and social change.