
PROGRAM GUIDE:

Health Innovation Platform Partnerships

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

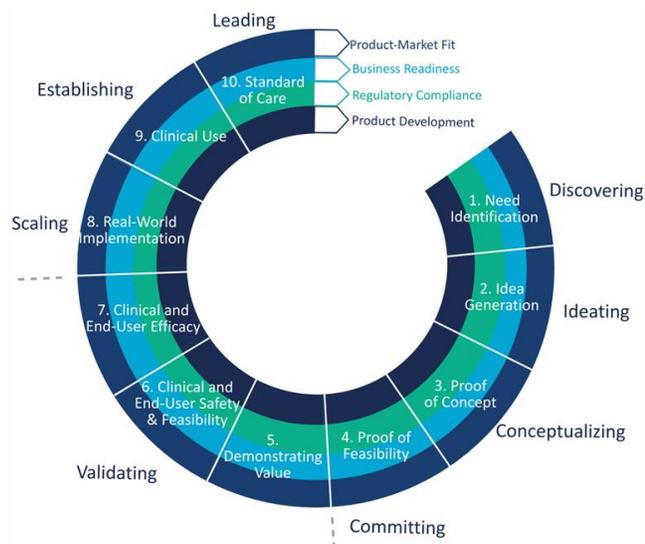
Background

Health care expenditures in Alberta are increasingly unsustainable, with about \$2.4M spent hourly and consuming approximately 40% of the provincial budget. A growing and aging population, a higher prevalence of chronic disease, a higher demand for multidisciplinary care, and the complex and expensive process required to convert health research into new health interventions suggest that the rising trend in healthcare costs will not be slowing down any time soon. However, the advent of emerging methodologies and technologies promises to create products that deliver more effective and patient-centered care. Alberta needs to harness the power of emerging technologies to unlock the full potential of its health innovation capacity and realize the economic and health gains of a globally competitive health innovation ecosystem.

Alberta Innovates is focused on putting innovation into action to create a competitive health innovation ecosystem. A big task for any one organization, but luckily, we are not alone. We see the progress and the promise of other entities in our ecosystem and we want to strengthen your position to benefit the entire health innovation ecosystem through our Health Innovation Platform Partnerships program (the “Program”). Together, we can build a health innovation ecosystem that is robust, coordinated, and a competitive advantage for Alberta innovators in the health industry.

Program Details

Alberta Innovates is seeking to partner with like-minded organizations in Alberta to deliver Platforms (infrastructure, tools, and resources) to accelerate the health innovation client journey for our innovators (see diagram). These Platform Partnerships will help Alberta’s innovators overcome the hurdles associated with developing product-market fit, ensuring business readiness, complying with regulatory requirements, and product development. Platform Partnerships must be of high value to the health innovation ecosystem, readily accessible to Alberta’s health innovators, and integrate and elevate existing programs/services that are currently available in the Alberta ecosystem.



Health Innovation Client Journey

Adapted from the Consortia for Improving Medicine with Innovation & Technology. Click the diagram for a more comprehensive list of activities within each domain.

Alberta Innovates is seeking to contribute up to \$200,000 for 9 months for successful Stage 1 Applicants to develop a proof-of-concept for the Platform Partnership. At 6 months, Applicants will then be required to submit a Stage 2 application to request up to 75% of eligible expenses to support the Partnered Platform for up to three (3) years. No maximum budget has been set per Platform.

*Priority Areas:

Platforms that enable the commercialization of novel digitally enabled and data informed health innovation.	Example 1 <i>Real-world product development, testing, and/or adoption sites where health innovators can advance their technologies.</i>
	Example 2 <i>Digital health Compliance as a Service (CaaS) that supports innovators with understanding and complying with necessary privacy, regulatory and/or security policies and regulations.</i>
Platforms that utilize digitally enabled and data informed technologies to accelerate health innovation.	Example 1 <i>Artificial Intelligence to accelerate drug discovery and development processes for innovators in Alberta.</i>
	Example 2 <i>In silico advanced computing to help innovators predict and design pre-clinical and clinical trials.</i>
*Platforms outside of our priority areas that can demonstrate high value to the health innovation ecosystem will be considered.	

Important Dates:

REGISTRATION	STAGE 1 DUE	STAGE 1 DECISIONS	STAGE 2 FULL APPLICATION DUE	FULL APPLICATION DECISIONS
November 30, 2020	January 15 th , 2021	Early February 2021	August 31 st , 2021	October 2021

The Health Innovation Platform Partnerships program supports the creation of accessible and in-demand infrastructure, tools, and resources that will accelerate the journey of health innovators in Alberta.

HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS

Eligibility

Each Project funded through the Program must be led by an Applicant.

(a) Applicant Eligibility Criteria – To qualify as an Applicant, an entity must be:

- an Alberta-based post-secondary institution; or
- a government entity or health delivery agent or
- a for-profit or not-for-profit organization, that is:
 - incorporated in Alberta, or
 - incorporated in another jurisdiction and extra-provincially registered in Alberta, or
 - a General Partnership, Limited Partnership, or Limited Liability Partnership and registered in Alberta; and
 - have a legal and physical presence in Alberta; and
- be an Alberta-based entity with an Albertan footprint, which is determined by the following: significant physical and corporate operational presence in Alberta, appropriate Alberta ownership, and discernable intent that operational benefits will flow primarily within the province of Alberta; and
- be in good financial standing with Alberta Innovates and its subsidiaries InnoTech Alberta and C-Fer Technologies.

Please note, Alberta Innovates will perform a corporate search and may also seek bankruptcy and litigation searches.

(c) Project Eligibility Criteria

To qualify for funding, all Projects must:

- address at least one clearly defined [health innovation client journey](#) bottleneck that is inhibiting the growth of our health research and innovation ecosystem in Alberta;
- be able to serve Alberta-based clients by making the proposed Platform readily available and accessible;
- be novel or significantly improved over existing services in the ecosystem;
- include key Project milestones based on measurable goals and deliverables, stepped with critical “go / no-go” decision points; and
- submit to other criteria that Alberta Innovates may develop from time to time.

Program Objectives and Performance Measurement

The Health Innovation Platform Partnership program aims to achieve economic and health gains for Alberta. The Program provides an opportunity to partner with Alberta Innovates to create Platforms that are strategically relevant and will support health innovation in Alberta. Specifically, the Program seeks to:

- (i) Cultivate a high performing and globally competitive health research and innovation ecosystem that contributes to building a diversified economy and enhancing the health of Albertans.
- (ii) Drive the generation of discoveries and developments that will positively impact Albertans health.

Over the life of a Project, Alberta Innovates employs an active project management philosophy, regularly monitoring performance and supporting the Applicant to reach their objectives. Funding is tied to outcomes and achievement of results. For this reason, Alberta Innovates funds on a milestone completion basis. This means the Applicant is expected to submit a Progress Report before Alberta Innovates advances the next tranche of funds.

Platforms will undergo a formal evaluation of progress at 6 months, 18 months, 24 months to assess performance and identify/mitigate risks against mutually identified metrics. These evaluations will be used to determine funding releases and to reclassify use-of-funds as necessary.

Once Projects are completed, Alberta Innovates continues to monitor performance for five (5) years to accurately evaluate the economic, social and environmental benefits realized for the province.

All Investment Agreements outline performance indicators tracked over the course of the Project and the responsibilities of the Applicant to report on outcomes subsequent to completion of the Project.

Alberta Innovates has a common set of performance metrics it monitors, both at the individual Project level and for the aggregate Program. These metrics are highlighted in the next section.

Objectives and Performance Metrics



OBJECTIVES

- Cultivate a world-class research and innovation system that meets the needs of health innovators in Alberta.
- Drive the generation of discoveries and developments that will positively impact Albertans health.



PROJECT PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

- # of projects leveraging digital technologies to accelerate health research innovation
- % Innovations supported that demonstrate progression towards commercialization.
- # of clients accessing the platform
- % of clients with a positive client experience

SHORT TERM



ALBERTA IMPACTS

Build and leverage a digitally enabled and data-informed health innovation ecosystem.

Support an entrepreneurial culture that will diversify and strengthen our economy.

Foster relationships between post-secondary institutes and industry to deliver high-value infrastructure, tools, and resources to support health innovators.

PROGRAM PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

- # of peer reviewed publications by clients resulting from platform interactions.
- # of patents produced by clients using the platform.
- Attributable advancement of innovations across the commercialization continuum.
- Company growth in Alberta (jobs & revenues)
- Investment attraction to Alberta.

LONG TERM

How Funding Works

(a) Project Funding

Successful Applicants at Stage 1 will be eligible for up to \$200,000 of funds to assist in proving out the Platform Partnership and to prepare for Stage 2 Full Application. There is no requirement by the Applicant to match this contribution.

Successful Applicants at Stage 2 will be eligible for up to 75% of the required funds to implement the Platform for up to 36 months. A minimum of 25% of total Project Costs must be provided by the Applicant as cash or in-kind contributions.

All funds are provided to cover Eligible Expenses only. Disbursement of Alberta Innovates' Investment is determined on a case by case basis depending on the risks and needs of each successful Project, but funds will only be disbursed upon approval of required Progress and Final Reports.

(b) Eligible and ineligible expenses

Alberta Innovates only funds reasonable costs incurred. Any costs incurred prior to the Effective Date in the Investment Agreement, or costs greater than market prices are deemed ineligible. Please refer to our standard form Investment Agreement found on our [website](#) to get an in-depth understanding of eligible and ineligible costs.

HOW TO APPLY



STEP 1

Registration

Deadline: November 30, 2020, at 4:00 PM MST

All interested Applicants **must register their intent to apply**. This information is critical so that Alberta Innovates can manage and allocate resources as needed.

To register, access the Stage 1 application form on the [Online application portal](#) and **complete the Non-Confidential Summary** section and simply **save a draft** by November 30th.

Any drafts without a completed Non-confidential summary section by the Registration deadline will be removed and unable to apply.



STEP 2

Expression of Interest (Stage 1)

Deadline: January 15th, 2021, at 4:00 PM MST

Submitted Stage 1 Applications will be reviewed, and successful Applicants will be notified. Alberta Innovates may at this time encourage similar Platforms to work together.

Stage 1 Funding:

Successful Stage 1 Applicants will be eligible for up to \$200,000 in funding to support the development of a Proof-of-Concept Platform Partnership.

Funding Announcements expected by February 2021.



STEP 3

Full Platform Proposal (Stage 2)

Deadline: August 31, 2021 at 4:00 PM MST

Full proposals must have consistent scope within approved Stage 1 applications and will be reviewed by a panel. Applicants may be required to provide additional information, appear in front of the panel, and/or host the panel at a site visit to support decision making.

Stage 2 Funding:

Successful Stage 2 Applicants will be eligible for up to 75% of the required funds to implement the Platform for up to 36 months.

Funding announcements and Partnership Agreements expected by October 2021.

EVALUATION PROCESS

During the different phases of the program, Alberta Innovates leverages internal staff, and external expert reviewers to evaluate applications submitted. Alberta Innovates evaluates promising projects based on criteria related to relevance to the program and associated priority areas, client demand and market need being addressed, ecosystem leveraging and integration, viability of the operating plan and management, and potential impacts and return on investment to Alberta. Detailed evaluation criteria are outlined in the online Application form.

Alberta Innovates retains the sole right to determine the evaluation process and does not disclose the names of its external reviewers to ensure their objectivity and impartiality. All external parties are subject to both confidentiality and conflict of interest policies set by Alberta Innovates.

The assessment criteria for the Program and all investment decisions are at the sole discretion of Alberta Innovates.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

This Program Guide is intended as a high-level overview of the Program. It provides interested applicants with a roadmap of what to expect over the lifecycle of a Project, from the announcement of the Program, through the Application stage, during the Project and post-completion. Should you have any questions about this guide or what is expected, please contact Alberta Innovates. Please be aware Alberta Innovates may modify this guide from time to time in keeping with any changes to the program.

Alberta Innovates will only correspond in writing and provide copies of the Application to the persons named in the application form as the one authorized to speak for the Applicant.

Once we have evaluated and approved an Application for funding, Alberta Innovates will require the Applicant to sign our standard form Investment Agreement which can be found on our website. The Investment Agreement sets out in detail the roles, responsibilities and obligations of the various Parties to ensure a successful Project. Alberta Innovates will not provide any funding until the Investment Agreement has been signed by all Parties.

Alberta Innovates will only fund Applicants who have satisfied all eligibility criteria. Meeting the eligibility criteria does not guarantee access to funding, and all funding decisions will be made by Alberta Innovates at its sole discretion.

EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION (EDI)

Alberta Innovates believes the Research and Innovation ecosystem is stronger and more sustainable when it is broadly reflective of the overall diversity of our community and therefore embraces the principles of Equity, Diversity and Inclusivity.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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