

LevMax – Health Program

October 25, 2022

About Alberta Innovates

Innovation is the catalyst for sustainable jobs, economic and community strength, improved health, and environmental benefits. [Alberta Innovates](#) leads and accelerates innovation from discovery to use across all sectors in all parts of the province. As Alberta’s largest research and innovation agency, we are uniquely positioned to propel great ideas forward to improve the lives of Albertans today and for generations to come.

Alberta Innovates believes the research and innovation (R&I) ecosystem is stronger and more sustainable when it is broadly representative of the overall diversity of our community. We strive to ensure that all interested and qualified parties have an equitable opportunity to participate and contribute to the ecosystem and that our processes are inclusive.

The projects that our programs invest in are critical to how Alberta Innovates achieves positive impact for Albertans in alignment with the Government of Alberta’s R&I priorities, as expressed in our corporate Business Plan. (See the most recent Business Plan on our [Publications](#) page on our website.) Accordingly, it is essential for project outcomes to align with those of the program.

The **LevMax-Health Program** is managed through the Health Innovation and Platforms business unit within Alberta Innovates. The Health Innovation and Platforms business unit works closely with health service delivery partners, clinicians, entrepreneurs, researchers, and patients to:

1. Stimulate Digital Health innovation in the Alberta Life Sciences and Healthcare sectors.
2. Accelerate research and development into real-world use.
3. Build partnerships and collaborations that will support a Digital Health Ecosystem.
4. Enhance Stakeholder relations to support Digital Health.

Program Overview

The LevMax-Health program specifically leverages high-quality, Alberta-based applications from Tri-agency competitions with strong potential to advance Digital Health research and innovation in Alberta.

Tri-agency includes [Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council \(NSERC\)](#), [Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council \(SSHRC\)](#), and [Canadian Institutes of Health Research \(CIHR\)](#) as well as [CIHR Institutes](#).

Digital Health is an opportunity to accelerate research, transform care models, and reimagine sociological behaviours and processes to create an inclusive, patient-centred future. Digital Health is realized when advanced technologies such as cloud computing, 3D printing, artificial intelligence, robotics, additive manufacturing, machine learning, extended reality (xR), and other tools merge our physical and digital worlds in the Life Sciences and Healthcare sectors. Alberta Innovates believes that Digital Health presents valuable opportunities to strengthen the well-established correlation between a healthy population and economic prosperity.

LevMax Program objectives are to:

1. Support research and innovation clients in Alberta to advance Digital Health.
2. Leverage partner relationships to advance Digital Health innovation in Alberta.
3. Increase the number of projects using real-world data to develop Digital Health technologies.

Thematic Areas

Alberta Innovates is targeting the following thematic areas related to digital health to support through the program. These areas provide unique opportunities for applicants to advance digital health across multiple portfolios and promote impact.

Talent: Projects that address a well-defined research and innovation talent gap or opportunity. Priorities include enhancing the recruitment, development, and/or retention of talent that can leverage digital and data-enabled technologies, advance discoveries towards commercialization, or advance the adoption, integration, and scale of digital health solutions across the continuum of care in Alberta.

Research: Projects that advance or pilot digital or data-enabled methods, tools, or technologies in health research including care settings. Other areas of interest include, evaluating implementation

science approaches, patient-reported measures, patient engagement frameworks, or the identification of barriers to improve the adoption of digital or data-enabled solutions.

Commercialization: Projects that develop and commercialize an emerging technology, preferably digital or data-enabled, with the potential to generate commercial economic returns (jobs, revenue, investment) for Alberta and cost-effective, beneficial health outcomes.

Health System Transformation: Projects that develop programs, partnerships, and initiatives focused on the adoption, integration, and scale of digital health solutions across the continuum of care in Alberta. Areas of interest include, but are not limited to, research and development, implementation science, and policy.

Funding

The LevMax-Health program will contribute to the project's original Tri-agency application budget, up to \$1,000,000 CAD, or whichever is less, for a maximum term of 36 months.

Funds are provided to cover Eligible Expenses only. Funded projects may be required to provide a graphical abstract, if requested by Alberta Innovates.

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.

Alberta Innovates only funds reasonable costs incurred after an Investment Agreement is signed by Alberta Innovates and the Applicant. Any costs incurred prior to the signing of the Investment Agreement, and costs greater than market prices, are ineligible. Costs must be incurred between arm's-length entities.

Key Dates

The program has multiple submission dates throughout the year. The submission deadlines are posted on the [Program website](#). See the How to Apply section below for more details.

Eligibility

Applicant Eligibility

The LevMax-Health Program is open to:

- Alberta-based post-secondary institutions

In addition, to qualify for funding, the **Applicant** must:

- Be authorized to undertake the proposed project, and execute a grant with Alberta Innovates on our standard terms; and
- Not otherwise be prohibited from receiving Alberta Innovates funding, for instance due to a past bad debt or otherwise not be in good financial standing with Alberta Innovates or its subsidiaries, InnoTech Alberta and C-FER Technologies.

Project Eligibility

To qualify for funding, all Projects must:

- Align with the objectives of the LevMax-Health Program.
- Have received results from a Tri-agency competition within a specified date ([view on website](#)), and met eligibility, but have been deemed unsuccessful.
 - An application must have competition scores and peer review comments.
 - Top-ups or supplemental prizes are not eligible for funding.
- Align with one of the thematic areas:
 - Talent
 - Research
 - Commercialization
 - Health System Transformation
- Include key measurable milestones with deliverables, stepped with critical “go / no-go” decision points
- Submit to other criteria that Alberta Innovates may develop over time

How to Apply

Full Proposal

- Access the Application form on the online [grants portal](#)
- Complete the Alberta Innovates' Relevance Form [online](#)
- Upload supporting documents from the Tri-agency funding program, including:
 - Original application
 - Reviewer comments
 - Reviewer scores
 - Letter of decision from tri-agency organization



Evaluation Process

All applications are reviewed and evaluated to determine fit with the LevMax-Health program objectives and intended outcomes. Alberta Innovates staff and external expert reviewers are engaged to evaluate Applications.

Alberta Innovates evaluates submitted Applications to the LevMax-Health program based on the degree of alignment and relevance to the specified thematic area and potential impact to Alberta. Alberta Innovates retains the sole right to determine the evaluation process and assessment criteria and does not disclose the names of its reviewers to ensure their objectivity and impartiality. Internal and external parties involved in the evaluation are subject to confidentiality and conflict-of-interest policies set by Alberta Innovates.

All investment decisions are at the sole discretion of Alberta Innovates.

Performance Measurement

Alberta Innovates invests in research and innovation activities on behalf of Albertans to help build a healthier, more sustainable, and prosperous future for the province.

To maximize the impact of these investments, our funding is tied to achievement of results and outcomes. For this reason, Alberta Innovates funds on a milestone completion basis. This means the Applicant must submit a Progress or Final Report and demonstrate sufficient progress before Alberta Innovates advances the next milestone payment.

The Investment Agreement outlines the responsibilities the Applicant has in reporting Project outcomes to Alberta Innovates over the course of the Project and following completion of the Project. Outcomes of the Project may be monitored for up to five years after Project completion, so Alberta Innovates can evaluate the economic, social, health and/or environmental benefits to Alberta resulting from our investments.

Alberta Innovates has a common set of performance metrics it monitors, both at the individual Project level and for the aggregate Program. These metrics may evolve over time.

Terms and Conditions

Once we have evaluated and approved an application for funding, Alberta Innovates will require the Applicant to sign our standard-form Investment Agreement. A copy of the Investment Agreement is available on the Alberta Innovates website for your reference.

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.

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

Should you have any questions about this guide or what is expected, please contact Alberta Innovates (see contact information below). Please note that Alberta Innovates may modify this guide from time to time in keeping with any changes to the program.

Contact Information

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