

Key Messages: PRIHS-4 2018/19, Enhancing Care in the Community

This is an information session for prospective applicants of the PRIHS-4: Enhancing Care in the Community funding competition. Please refer to the Program Guide and Application Instructions on our website for additional details.

AHS developed the Strategic Clinical Networks to create improvements within focused areas of health.

The PRIHS program was designed to help support SCNs to find new and innovative ways of delivering care that will provide better quality, better health outcomes and better value for every Albertan.

PRIHS was also designed to build health research capacity in the province by encouraging collaboration and partnerships between Alberta's academic institutions, health and clinician researchers, patients, and AHS operations to achieve measurable and sustainable impacts in the health system.

The PRIHS program has evolved since its inception in 2013 where funding supported individual SCNs and projects were typically lead by the Scientific Director with the goal of applying research to implement change within a focused area of health. As the number of SCNs grew PRIHS provided financial support to emerging SCNs and encouraged cross-cutting initiatives to strengthen the integration of activities across SCNs.

The number of SCNs continue to grow with 15 SCNs currently active.

The goal of the 2018/19 PRIHS: Enhancing Care in the Community is to identify performance gaps in the health system that contribute to or prevent optimal care and access to health services. With a limited pool of funds for this competition and a large number of SCNs, we are encouraging applicants to work across SCNs and with community and primary health care providers to develop solutions that lead to better integration of acute and specialty care with primary health care, community and social services. Consider mechanisms to address complex problems which have a broad reach and are not limited to disease or condition.

Details related to the Focus areas can be found in this presentation and in the program guide. Focus areas were established in consultation with the Primary Care Alliance and the Patient Engagement Research Group (PERG); patient and family advisors and PaCERS; clinicians from across the zones in home care, transition services, palliative care and supportive care; as well as the Integrated Continuing Care Steering Committee (ICCSC); operations teams, including the ED of home care in the five zones and Clinical Operations Leadership; and the leadership teams of the SCNs.

Staged Competition

This competition will advance over 3 stages and is designed to build successful and sustainable solutions with the potential to scale provincially. To achieve this, support will be required from: operations in primary health care, community care and AHS, to ensure solutions are feasible; researchers to build robust and methodologically sound approaches to implementing and testing solutions; and patients, healthcare providers, knowledge users and end users to ensure solutions are relevant.

Stage 1

The primary focus at the **Stage 1: Expression of Interest** is identifying problems (i.e. performance gaps) that fit within the focus areas established for the 2018/19 PRIHS. We are primarily interested in why the problem is relevant in Alberta. The problem should be substantiated using quantitative measures based on Alberta data. The relevance of the problem will consider not only the size of the population affected but also the impact that improving care for that population may have on the system. EOIs will propose a solution to close the performance gap, describing how the solution will address improvements in the health care needs of Albertans.

This is an open competition and all submissions will be evaluated using a standardized tool. Two review panels, either a primary health care focused panel or a non-primary health care focused panel, will review each EOI. Those EOIs which identify a problem which specifically impacts primary health care will be reviewed by the PHC panel and are required to identify a primary health care provider as either a lead or co-lead on the application. All EOIs following submission to Alberta Innovates will be reviewed by the Chief Program Officer of the SCN and the PRIHS development team to ensure submissions are reviewed by the appropriate panel.

Stage 2

Up to 20 EOIs will advance to Stage 2 where the focus will be on forming a team of experts to develop solutions around the identified performance gap which address the needs of those most closely impacted by the problem. We envision this stage as an opportunity to align experts, peers and health leaders to explore multiple angles and develop practical and sustainable solutions to address the identified performance gap. Additional details will be provided for those who advance to Stage 2.

Stage 3

Stage 3 is the final stage where applicants will develop a comprehensive plan and proposal to action the solution. The full proposal will be evaluated based on scientific merit and rigour, feasibility of implementing the solution being tested and feasibility of operationalizing the solution in a way that can be adopted provincially.

Supports for Prospective Applicants

The Alberta SPOR Support Unit (AbSPORU) provides support to both researchers, patients and public who are ready to engage at any stage of research.

AbSPORU offers training opportunities and services through seven Platforms to support patient-oriented research from initial concepts through to analysis of a study. We encourage you to access these services.

Please note that for Stage 1 EOIs, applicants contacting AbSPORU should do so through the general inquiry portal under 'Contact Us'.

We will be providing a live Q&A session, accessible by teleconference, on Friday April 13th at 9:00 am.

Please continue to address your questions directly to me, at Alberta Innovates, or for SCN related questions you may contact Tracy Wasylak, SCN Chief Program Officer.