



PROGRAM GUIDE: ACCELERATING INNOVATIONS INTO CARE FOR AGING AND BRAIN HEALTH (AICE-ABH)

Funding and Support Guidelines

Application deadline: March 5, 2019 3:00pm (MST)

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Background

[Alberta Innovates](#) and [The Centre for Aging + Brain Health Innovation \(CABHI\)](#) have collaborated to offer the AICE-ABH program funding call to accelerate the evaluation and adoption of innovative products and services that address the needs of aging adults and the challenges presented by an aging population.

The program provides support to health care providers and researchers (“Trial Leads”) in Alberta to evaluate innovative solutions built by small-medium sized enterprises (SMEs). Projects should generate the evidence required to support and accelerate the adoption of implementation ready innovative solutions that address challenges associated with aging and brain health, including dementia and other neurodegenerative diseases. Projects must focus on evaluating the impact of the innovative solution in seniors’ care settings, have a clearly articulated plan for commercialization and market entry and an intent and line of sight to spread and scale across the health system.

Program Objectives

- Foster collaborative relationships between the Alberta health care providers and SMEs to address challenges associated with aging and brain health aligned to the Innovation Theme priority areas (see below section);
- Accelerate the evaluation of innovations in a real world clinical setting to generate evidence to inform decision making with a view towards broader health system adoption;
- Build capacity within the Alberta health system to develop and implement industry-related projects that lead to health, social and economic gains for Albertans; and
- Create real world evidence packages for SME innovators to promote the entry of competitive health technologies into the Alberta and global market.

Innovation Themes

Innovations must align with the following **Innovation Theme areas** and have the potential to promote overall brain health or benefit the health of people living with dementia in Alberta and across the world. Projects could include solution evaluation with indigenous populations and individuals in rural and remote areas. Solutions must be of sufficient readiness that they can be evaluated in a real world clinical setting and the impact on a senior’s care pathway can be appropriately assessed.

*In 2018, Alberta Innovates and CABHI are focusing on the following priority **Innovation Theme areas**:*

- **Aging in place:** solutions that enable older adults with dementia to maximize their choice, independence and quality of life to enable aging in the most appropriate setting.
- **Caregiver support:** solutions that support caregivers (formal and informal) providing care to older adults with dementia.
- **Care coordination and navigation:** solutions that help older adults, caregivers and healthcare providers coordinate care and transitions for older adults with dementia.
- **Cognitive health:** solutions that focus on promoting brain health, the prevention of brain disease, early diagnostics, and slowing the progression of cognitive impairment for older adults.

HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS



How Funding Works

A maximum of 50% towards **Eligible Project costs** up to \$250,000 CAD is available per project (\$125,000 each from Alberta Innovates and CABHI). Funding will flow directly to the Trial Lead to conduct the evaluation.

Alberta Innovates and CABHI funding must be matched equally by the Trial Lead, SME Innovative Solution Provider and other project partners **1:1 in cash or in-kind**:

- **A minimum of 25% of total eligible project costs must be made by SME Innovative Solution Provider (cash or in-kind).** This 25% **cannot include the value of the product, device or equipment** being directly tested within the scope of the project.
- The remaining 25% can come from other sources and/or include in-kind costs of providing the technology being tested.

In-kind resources will only be recognized as an eligible contribution where the costs incurred are directly attributable to the project and easily auditable. See in-kind eligibility criteria in Appendix A for more information.

For example, if the total budget to execute the project is \$500,000 (CAD), Alberta Innovates and CABHI each would provide up to \$125,000 (CAD) in cash. Matching contributions in cash and in-kind must equal \$250,000 (CAD), a minimum of \$125,000 of which must be provided by the SME Innovative Solution Provider.

A total envelope of \$500,000 CAD is available for the competition (\$250,000 each from Alberta Innovates and CABHI). If more projects are successful than the funding envelope allows, projects may be eligible to receive funding from Alberta Innovates' standard AICE program.

Eligibility

(a) Applicant Eligibility Criteria - To qualify for the program, projects require:

- A project lead that has a position with an Alberta post-secondary institution or an organization that provides health care services in Alberta ("Trial Lead").
- A SME¹ partner who is providing the innovation or technology ("SME Innovative Solution Provider").
 - The relationship between the applicants and SME must be at arm's length (i.e. there can be no legal relationship between any members of the project team conducting the project and the SME);
 - Involvement of Alberta-based SMEs is strongly encouraged.
- The team should include clinical leadership expertise, research/evaluation expertise and broader health system partners participating beyond the trial site.

¹ For the purposes of AICE-ABH, a SME is defined as a private company with fewer than 500 full-time employees and less than \$50,000,000 annual gross revenues.

(b) Project Eligibility Criteria

The AICE-ABH program will support activities that:

- Align to the above Innovation Theme priority areas;
- Include innovative technologies that address a health need in Alberta and have a clearly articulated plan for commercialization and market entry (eg. one time fee-for-service transactions are not eligible);
 - Solution must be innovative in that it displaces existing solutions, significantly enhances the effectiveness of existing solutions or involves revolutionary technology that substantially alters care delivery
 - The technology must be of sufficient readiness that it can be tested in a real world clinical setting and its impact on the health system can be appropriately assessed;
- Evaluate, through a robust study design, the impacts of the technology on patient outcomes, disease care pathways, costs, resource allocations, and workflow in a ‘real world’ clinical setting;
- Are positioned to generate evidence to inform health system adoption beyond the test site(s) and involve team members and stakeholders capable of championing the evidence generated from the project to decision makers within the broader health system.
 - Note: Local programs or projects in one zone or one hospital that are not generalizable to other zones, hospitals, clinics or sectors **will NOT** be considered eligible.
- Project activities cannot involve basic research, primarily academic goals, capital investment in a portfolio of intellectual property, pharmaceutical clinical trials or incubators for start-ups.

How To Apply

Applications must be submitted through our [online health grants portal](#) by **March 5, 2019, 15:00 MDT**.

APPLICATION REVIEW PROCESS

Applications will be reviewed by a minimum of 3 independent professionals with expertise in health care technology implementation, including industry experts, healthcare professionals and administrators, clinicians and/or other subject matter experts. The reviewer(s) will evaluate and make recommendations for funding to Alberta Innovates based on the assessment criteria outlined below:

- **Strategic Alignment to Innovation Themes:** The solution being evaluated must be innovative and demonstrate a strong alignment to one or more Innovation Themes.
- **Alberta Health System Pull and Impact:** The technology being utilized in the project proposal must provide a solution to a significant, existing health-related problem in Alberta. The Trial Lead must demonstrate that there is considerable pull to address the problem in Alberta. The project proposal should demonstrate how the technology is anticipated to improve disease pathways or workflow in

comparison to existing standards of care. The proposal should provide a summary of the evidence surrounding existing practices and identify the technology's expected impact on patient outcomes, quality of care, operations, and budget implications, including other technology that could be displaced.

- **Methodology & Deliverables:** The project proposal must include a detailed description of how the technology will be tested and evaluated in terms of its expected impact and value proposition to the health system and demonstrate clear, measurable metrics and deliverables. The deliverables should address the key metrics required by operational leaders and decision makers to support scaling/adoption of the technology. This should include what the improvements in health and quality of care are in comparison to the standard of care or comparator product, as well as the anticipated operational impact within the health system of the product or technology. Applicants should engage with relevant operational decision makers to ensure the deliverables will provide the required evidence needed for technology scale and spread decision making.
- **Adoption Feasibility:** The applicants must have appropriate resources and capabilities, including any required operational approvals, to conduct the project testing in a relevant operational environment. It must be clear that all relevant operational leaders and decision makers have been consulted and that the applicants are adequately positioned to champion the results broadly across the health system. The SME(s) involved must have capabilities related to financing, governance, manufacturing, and providing the technology tested, and provide a high level business plan overview. The proposal must demonstrate ability to obtain the required matching funding and have a robust plan for subsequent steps of the technology development and health system adoption process.

Please see [Appendix B](#) for a list of Guiding Questions to support applicants in understanding the criteria above.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Successful Trial Leads and SME Innovative Solution Providers will need to sign a Funding Agreement with Alberta Innovates and CABHI before projects can commence that outlines in detail the roles, responsibilities and obligations of the various parties to ensure a successful project.

Funding will be released to the Trial Lead from Alberta Innovates and CABHI in installments based upon successful achievement of agreed upon milestones and deliverables. A holdback of 10% of the project budget will be released upon project completion when all project milestones and deliverables have been met and upon receipt of the final progress report, financial report, and attestation regarding the use of funds from the Trial Site.

- **Note: CABHI's funding must be used in the first year of the project, and expenses applied no later than March 2020 for CABHI's portion of the project funding.**

Funding may be cancelled if used for ineligible expenses, matching funding is not applied appropriately, progress is delayed, inadequate and/or reporting requirements are incomplete. All costs incurred must be critical to the performance of the project, as outlined in the application. For a high-level summary of eligible and ineligible expenses please refer to the chart in [Appendix A](#).

ADDITIONAL RULES AND OBLIGATIONS

1. Alberta Innovates and CABHI will not obtain any ownership rights to the intellectual property associated with the product or service, but will retain the right to disseminate the results of the testing.
2. Alberta Innovates and CABHI reserves the right to select proposals that represent a distribution of projects across the 2018-19 innovation themes
3. Alberta Innovates and CABHI may terminate negotiations or invite an alternate applicant to engage in negotiations if a contract is not signed in a reasonable amount of time (determined exclusively by Alberta Innovates and CABHI).
4. Alberta Innovates and CABHI reserves the right to decline any application and to modify or annul this Call for Innovations at any time, without incurring any liability. *All investment decisions are at the sole discretion of Alberta Innovates and CABHI.*

OUTCOMES AND PROGRAM EVALUATION

A results-focused organization, Alberta Innovates uses a performance management framework to monitor and evaluate the outcomes and impacts of its investments. The Applicant is responsible for annually reporting on all required indicators to Alberta Innovates.

The AICE program as a whole will be monitored and evaluated by Alberta Innovates and CABHI to determine impact of the program. Alberta Innovates' uses a [Performance Management and Evaluation Framework](#) that includes a program evaluation strategy, logic model and related performance indicators. Reports submitted by the awardees will be used to determine the overall return on investment including, but not limited to, compliance with the Terms and Conditions document, program performance, evaluating value for money, potential for future programs, and awareness among relevant stakeholders and the general public in Alberta.

Pathway to Outcomes



OBJECTIVES

- **Foster collaborative relationships** between the Alberta health care providers and SME innovative solution providers to address challenges associated with aging and brain health aligned to the 2018-19 Innovation Theme priority areas;
- Accelerate the evaluation of innovations in a real world clinical setting **to generate evidence to inform decision making** with a view towards broader health system adoption; and
- **Build capacity** within the Alberta health ecosystem **to develop and implement industry-related projects** that lead to health, social and economic gains for Albertans.



OUTPUTS

- **Real world evidence data** on technology performance and value to inform health provider adoption decisions such as:
 - **Patient/provider experience**
 - **Comparative effectiveness to competitor or standard of care**
 - **Change management protocols to integrate into care pathway**
 - **Costs and resource implications**



ALBERTA STRATEGIC OUTCOMES

ARIF 2030 Health Targets:

- Accelerate Health and Wellness Innovation
- Reduce Burden of Disease,
- Improve Quality of Care,



SHORT/MID TERM OUTCOMES

- Increased collaboration between SMEs and health care providers in Alberta
- Increased capacity in the province for real world innovative technology evaluation.
- SME growth through increased investment and/or high value innovative product sales

LONG TERM PROGRAM OUTCOMES

- Increased brain health and health outcomes for people living with dementia
- Alberta recognized leader in rigorous evidence generation for health innovations to support and accelerate adoption into local and international markets
- Economic benefits through multiple market sales.



CONTACT INFORMATION

For further information on the AICE-ABH program, please contact health.grants@albertainnovates.ca.

Application Form and instructions on how to apply can be found at the [AICE-ABH website](#).

APPENDIX A

Summary of Eligible and Ineligible Expenses

Category	Eligible Expenses	Ineligible Expenses
Salaries and Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ *Salary and benefits for individuals who are specifically working on the project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ *Salary support for the Lead/Co-Leads, physicians, academic faculty members or company executives/senior management involved ✗ Payments to project lead, co-applicants, and/or collaborators as consulting fees or honoraria above normal salary ✗ Salary and costs of administrative and/or indirect support staff ✗ Salary and costs associated with proposal development
Professional and Technical Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Consulting fees and/or technical expertise directly related to the funded project (e.g., professionals, lawyers, accountants). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Fees not directly associated with meeting the deliverables and milestones set out in this project. ✗ Fees associated with intellectual property protection, proposal development and contract(s) review.
Travel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Project specific out-of-pocket travel expenses for work at the seniors care partner(s) test-site that is directly associated with the project ✓ Conference costs and registration fees related to the funded project, only if the conference focuses on issues or topics related to the project ✓ Other reasonable out of pocket expenses for field work and dissemination activities <p>Note: All travel and subsistence costs are subject to review and approval by CABHI prior to being incurred.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Costs to cover conference fees, travel, hotels and food to attend events or meetings unrelated to project ✗ Entertainment expenses, gifts, awards and alcoholic beverages ✗ Reimbursement for airfare purchased with personal frequent flyer point programs ✗ Commuting costs between residence and place of employment
Equipment, materials and supplies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Cost of equipment, materials and supplies needed to support project if 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Cost or rental equivalents exceeding accepted values had the equipment been donated or sold

	they are not already provided by the project team and partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Development costs incurred prior to the start of the project ✗ Depreciation costs associated with equipment donated to the project
Software, new technologies and databases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Costs of purchasing licenses needed for the project, if not already provided by the Trial Site ✓ Costs of collecting, de-identifying and archiving data (if the data is critical to success of project; there is commitment to archive data; and the database remains in the public domain) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Cost of new software and technologies that go outside the scope and/or duration of the project ✗ Development cost of new technologies related to the project
Use of facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Donated meeting rooms, space or facilities for which a fee would otherwise be charged ✓ Donated additional office space ✓ Rental costs for specialized equipment needed at events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Indirect or overhead costs associated with facilities (utilities, repair of office furniture, admin fees, insurance, telephones, etc.) that do not contribute directly to the project ✗ Revenues that are forgone by the contributor because of participation in the project and related programs
Other expenditures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Other expenditures which are directly associated with meeting the deliverables and milestones in the project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Other expenditures which are not directly associated with meeting the deliverables and milestones set out in the project ✗ Other expenditures which are incurred well outside the scope and/or duration of the project ✗ Indirect or overhead costs of any kind

In-Kind Contributions & Matching Funds Guideline:

In-kind contributions are defined as the non-cash provision of goods or services to an organization by one of its partners, valued in monetary terms according to rules agreed upon beforehand by the contributor, its seniors care partner(s) and accounted for as part of the contribution to the project budget.

An in-kind contribution can consist either of: 1. the direct provision of a tangible asset to the project; or 2. an expenditure incurred directly by the contributor which directly benefits the project in satisfying its objectives and milestones.

In-kind contributions may include goods, use of services and facilities, professional services or expertise in the form of staff time, provision of or access to equipment, special materials etc. They are regarded as necessary to carry out the tasks and achieve the goals and milestones of the project as commonly agreed to by the partners. These costs would have to be paid for if they were not provided by a partner.

APPENDIX B

Guiding Questions to Support Understanding of Review Process

Guiding questions are listed below to support applicants in formulating an approach. This list is presented as a guide and not all questions below may be relevant since different proposals will emphasize different approaches.

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT TO INNOVATION THEMES

- How well does the project align with the priority Innovation themes? How innovative, unique or 'breakthrough' is the solution proposed?

ALBERTA HEALTH SYSTEM PULL & IMPACT

- What health-related problem in Alberta is the technology potentially able to reduce and what is the extent of the problem burden in Alberta (prevalence, incidence, associated health care costs, etc.)?
- How well does this proposal align with stated priorities of the Alberta health system?
- Is the anticipated impact that the technology will have on disease pathway or workflow been adequately mapped out? Does this solution address key intervention points?
- Does the technology have a clearly defined value proposition relative to the current standard of care? Are there specific current technologies or practices that could be replaced?
- What is the health, economic and social benefits for Albertans as a result of investing in this proposal?

METHODOLOGY & DELIVERABLES

- Does the proposal clearly outline the scope, project plan, timelines and key deliverables that are measurable?
- How will success for the demonstration project be evaluated? What data will be used? How will the data be collected and by whom?
- What evidence is required by decision makers to validate the stated value proposition for the technology? Will validation of the value proposition support system adoption? What additional dissemination/knowledge transfer strategies are required?
- Is the project designed to validate the value proposition by measuring health outcomes and costs relative to the standard of care or comparator technology?
- Is the approach to implementing and testing the technology valid and based on sound scientific reasoning?



FEASIBILITY

- Is the technology at a developmental stage to enable appropriate testing in a real operational health setting in Alberta?
- Is the proposal feasible given the available resources and timelines?
- Is the project translatable and do the applicants have a plan for broader implementation in the health system, including sustainability?
- How well are the decision makers in the health system engaged in the proposal? Have relevant operational stakeholders been included in the proposal development (including, for example, procurement and health technology assessment groups, etc.)?
- Are there additional funds leveraged towards the project and is the requirement of matching funds fulfilled?
- Is the company incorporated and does the company have an appropriate board/management in place?
- Is the company in a financial position to deliver on the project?
- Are there any potential perceived or real conflicts of interest between the SME and the applicants/project team?
- Does the company have a reasonable business plan for the technology tested?