

Accelerating Innovations into CarE – Validate Program (AICE-Validate)



Using meaningful work to improve substance
use disorder (SUD) recovery outcomes

PROJECT FAST FACTS

RECIPIENT: On A Dime Transformations Ltd.

AWARD: \$286,500

AWARD DATE: November 1, 2023

PROJECT DURATION: 24 months

THE PROBLEM

Substance Use Disorder (SUD) in Canada is reaching historic highs with approximately 21 per cent of Canadians projected to face SUD in their lifetime. Recent studies show the overall cost of harms related to substance use are over \$49 Billion in 2020, including \$22.4 Billion in lost productivity, and another \$23 Billion in health and justice systems costs. Canadian research shows that nearly 47 per cent of people in active addiction lack steady employment and nearly 21 per cent of those in recovery are underemployed. Employment preparedness is one major component that can dramatically improve recovery outcomes. Studies from the Recovery Research Institute, a leading nonprofit research and affiliate of Harvard Medical School, has shown that improving employment status leads to better long-term recovery outcomes. A more holistic approach to services includes supporting patients as they adjust to positive change and helping them reintegrate into the workforce.

THE SOLUTION

On A Dime Transformation has created a multi-function digital platform to address gaps in sustained recovery care. Participants are empowered to explore their personal outlooks including strengths, motivations, beliefs and values to envision a brighter future filled with purpose and meaning. Further, leading industry practices like change management, goal setting, project management, and career and resume development help participants in their recovery. Components of this program also include highly interactive workshops, e-learning, 1:1 coaching session, resume writing access to employers in the community and ongoing support. Initial data from pilot and demonstration groups have shown a marked increase in career success with nearly three quarters of participants employed within 30 days and over 85 per cent employed within 60 days.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

This project will support the use of On a Dime's programming in areas with the most impact to validate the digital platform's effectiveness and scalability.

ABOUT THE AICE-VALIDATE PROGRAM

AICE-Validate is an opportunity for Alberta's health-tech innovators to accelerate commercialization of digital and data-enabled health technologies through the early validation phase. If you'd like to learn more, please check out [AICE Validate on the Alberta Innovates website](#).

Learn how

albertainnovates.ca