

LevMax–Health Program

July 10, 2024

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 Business Unit within Alberta Innovates. The Health Innovation Business Unit is on a mission to strengthen economic competitiveness and enhance the well-being of people living in Alberta by cultivating a health innovation ecosystem that excels at converting research and technology into sustainable human-centered care.

To achieve this mission, we are building capacity in Digital Health as a strategic enabler. For us, Digital Health is a transformative approach that integrates digital or data-enabled solutions into life sciences and healthcare industries. Transformative integration requires a holistic view of the solutions, clinical setting, administrative processes, potential policy implications, as well as patient experience. Thus, accelerating research discovery to real-world impacts.

Program Overview

The LevMax-Health program is an enabling mechanism to advance Digital Health in Alberta. The current opportunity seeks high-quality applications from Alberta-based post-secondary academic institutions that have been submitted to Tri-agency¹ competitions and will advance Digital Health in Alberta.

Objectives of LevMax Health are to:

1. Accelerate evidence generation for digital and data-enabled health innovation, develop an innovation workforce, and contribute to positioning Alberta as a leader in Health Innovation.
2. Support research and innovation clients in Alberta.
3. Leverage partnerships towards a healthy economy and population in Alberta.

Key outcomes (i.e., measurable effects) the program will accomplish are:

1. \$ strategically invested in research and innovation
2. # of research and innovation clients in Alberta
3. # of partnership relationships to maximize benefits in Alberta
4. # of trainees supported to enhance the knowledge workforce with a focus on digital skills
5. \$ attracted to Alberta from external sources
6. # of publications

Thematic Areas

Projects aligned to the following thematic areas will be prioritized.

Research: Projects that address health research barriers by advancing digital or data-enabled methods, tools, or technologies conducted at post-secondary institutions.

Examples of health research barriers include: 1) computer modelling or simulation for drug development or accelerating regulatory approval; 2) developing virtual controls to replace animal models in pre-clinical research; 3) overcoming data access, collection, or data infrastructure challenges; 4) approaches to preparing health data for ethical, responsible and safe artificial intelligence applications; 5) developing data standards for health research; 6) overcoming participant/patient recruitment, engagement, or retention challenges; 7) predicting therapeutic outcomes or adverse effects.

¹ **Tri-agency** includes [Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council](#) (NSERC), [Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council](#) (SSHRC), and [Canadian Institutes of Health Research](#) (CIHR).



Health System Transformation: Projects focused on the early-stage implementation of digital and data-enabled care models within a healthcare setting across the continuum of care. These projects should aim to generate early evidence of impact (improved health outcomes, clinical effectiveness, safety, economic benefit, and/or equity), that also identify enablers and barriers that influence advancement within Alberta's health system.

Funding

The LevMax-Health program will contribute to the project's original Tri-agency application budget, **up to a maximum of \$750,000 CAD for a maximum term of 36 months**. Final decisions on budget and term are at the sole discretion of Alberta Innovates. Funds are provided to cover [Eligible Expenses](#) only.

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. Please refer to Schedule C in the [Sample Investment Agreement](#) posted on the [Program website](#) for detailed information, including eligible and ineligible expenses.

Key Dates

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.

Active or previous LevMax-Health investments:

- Applicant Representatives can only hold **one active** LevMax grant at any given time.
- Applicant Representatives that have previously held LevMax investments are strongly encouraged to contact the LevMax Program Lead.

Other active Alberta Innovates investments:

- Applicant Representatives that are currently holding other active Alberta Innovates investments are strongly encouraged to contact the LevMax Program Lead.

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.

The LevMax competition is not open to individual scholarship or fellowship applications submitted by graduate students or postdoctoral fellows.

Project Eligibility

To qualify for funding, all Projects must:

- Align with the objectives of the LevMax-Health Program.
- Align with at least one of the **thematic areas** outlined above.
- Have received results (competition score and peer review comments) from a Tri-agency competition within a specified date ([view on website](#)), but were **not funded**.
- Include key measurable milestones with deliverables, stepped with critical “go / no-go” decision points.
- Submit other criteria or documentation that Alberta Innovates may require.

How to Apply

Full Proposal

- Access and complete the Application form on the online [grants portal](#)
- Upload all 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. Internal and external reviewers (if required) are engaged to evaluate Applications. Funded projects may be required to provide a graphical abstract if requested by Alberta Innovates.

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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