

Digital4Health: Creating the Future of Rehabilitation Care (for Health Service Delivery Partners)

January 20, 2025

The increasing prevalence of health conditions requiring rehabilitation services, and an aging population are significantly driving the demand for rehabilitation services across Alberta. Rehabilitation care is effective in optimizing function and improving physical, mental, and overall well-being. According to the World Health Organization, one in three individuals globally will require rehabilitation care to navigate the complexities of illness or injury, highlighting an urgent need for effective solutions. Each year, approximately 10,000 Albertans travel from rural and remote areas to urban centers seeking specialized rehabilitation services, indicating a critical gap in access to care.

The Glenrose Hospital Foundation and Alberta Innovates have partnered to connect participating **Health Service Delivery Partners (HSDPs)** and their Patients with innovative digital health solutions by high-potential **Technology Solution Providers (TSPs)** to support their rehabilitation care needs.

The **'Creating the Future of Rehabilitation Care'** initiative is a competition-based program open to Alberta-based Health Service Delivery Partners (HSDPs) looking to implement, test, and evaluate novel, technology-enabled care models to address priority rehabilitation care challenges. Selected HSDPs will have the opportunity to co-develop implementation projects with high-potential Technology Solution Providers (TSPs) to pilot their novel technology-enabled care models for up to 24 months that address the growing rehabilitation care needs of Albertans. Care models will be evaluated based on project outcomes with the potential to scale and spread across Alberta's rehabilitation care ecosystem.

Challenge Statements

Challenges are data-informed and provide unique opportunities for HSDPs to leverage digital health solutions to implement and test technology-enabled care models based on health system priority needs.

Challenge Statement #1

How might we enable equitable access to rehabilitation care within rural and remote Alberta?

Challenge Statement #2

How might we improve the transitions from hospital to home and ensure rehabilitation needs are met for people and communities in rural and remote Alberta?

Health Service Delivery Partner (HSDP) Eligibility

The ‘Creating the Future of Rehabilitation Care’ innovation funding program is open to HSDPs. They must:

- be based in Alberta and deliver rehabilitation care services to the people of Alberta.
- experience a data-informed rehabilitation care need in alignment with at least one of the challenge statements articulated in the ‘Creating the Future of Rehabilitation Care’ innovation funding program.
- be willing to address their challenge with a digital health solution provided by a high-potential TSP.
- be able to act as a real-world implementation site to deploy the digital health solution and formulate an implementation study leading to the development and evaluation of an innovative care model.
- Be authorized to undertake the proposed project and execute a grant with Alberta Innovates (AI) on Alberta Innovates’ standard terms.

Project Eligibility

To qualify for funding, all Projects funded must:

- align with the objectives of the Digital4Health Program;
- align to and address a rehabilitation care challenge statement as posted by Alberta Innovates and the Glenrose Hospital Foundation;
- enhance patient and caregiver experiences by overcoming geographical and operational constraints by addressing at least one of the following challenge **priority areas**:
 - Continuity of Care
 - Resource and Service Navigation
 - Workforce Optimization
- have the potential to support the development of novel, technology-enabled care models;
- implement and pilot digital health technology provided by select TSPs that meets at a minimum [Technology Readiness Level](#) (TRL) 7 requirements;
- the ideal digital health solution is supported by early evidence of effectiveness and end-user satisfaction;
- include key measurable milestones with deliverables, stepped with critical “go / no-go” decision points;
- include a clear plan to evaluate project success (Health, economic and feasibility evaluation);
- include a clear and compelling path to sustainable implementation post-project;
- be completed within the maximum 24-month term; and
- submit to other criteria that Alberta Innovates may develop from time-to-time.

How to Apply

- Complete and submit the [Letter of Intent \(LOI\) form](#).
- The LOI will be reviewed to determine innovation funding program eligibility and challenge alignment.
- Select HSDPs will be invited to technology solution pitch presentations offered by high-potential TSPs to select a TSP to partner with.
- Successful HSDP and TSP pairs will be invited to proceed to co-create a Full Proposal.

Key Dates

Letter of Intent - HSDP	Letter of Intent - TSP	Pitch Presentations	Full Proposal	Investment Agreement
Intake Nov. 12 – Dec. 10, 2024 (4:00 PM MST)	Intake Jan. 23 – Feb. 13, 2025 (4 PM MST)	April 2025 (virtual)	May 2025	August 2025
Decision Communicated: January 2025	Decision Communicated: March 2025	Decision Communicated: April 2025	Decision Communicated: August 2025	

Funding

Alberta Innovates will contribute up to **\$200,000** CAD of funding and/or in-kind contributions to support approved Projects up to a maximum term of 24 months.

Evaluation Process

All applications are reviewed and evaluated to determine alignment to the ‘Creating the Future of Rehabilitation Care’ innovation funding program. Alberta Innovates leverages internal staff and external expert reviewers to review all submissions.

ABOUT THE GLENROSE HOSPITAL FOUNDATION

The [Glenrose Hospital Foundation](#) supports rehabilitation research, technology, equipment and services to enhance care at the Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital and help patients recover, relearn life skills, and rediscover their full potential.

ABOUT ALBERTA INNOVATES

Alberta Innovates manages nearly 1,300 projects in a portfolio valued at \$1.33 billion. We work with innovators in all sectors of the economy and all corners of the province to drive entrepreneurship, applied research and industry development. With our impact-based funding programs and services, we are transforming energy systems for a net-zero world, promoting the responsible use of land and water, leveraging provincial strengths in agriculture, and contributing to improved health and well-being by harnessing digital tech and data. We are also advancing emerging technologies and strengthening entrepreneurship for a strong and diversified economy. From funding to commercialization, we are Alberta's innovation engine! See what entrepreneurs say about our coaching and support. Learn how [Alberta Innovates](#).