

Digital4Health: Creating the Future of Rehabilitation Care (Information for Technology Solution Providers)

January 23, 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**' Innovation Funding Program 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.

Health Service Deliver Partners (HSDPs)

Health Service Delivery Partners (HSDPs) are health and care service providers in rehabilitation care in Alberta who may act as a real-world implementation site for novel, technology-enabled care models. The HSDP is the primary applicant for this Innovation Funding Program.

Health Service Deliver Partners - Challenge Statements

Health Service Delivery Partner #1

Challenge Statement
How might we improve intensity and access of stroke rehabilitation services to patients in rural and remote Alberta through Virtual Reality (VR) solution(s)?
Organization
Name: Alberta Health Services Service Type: Stroke Rehabilitation Served Area: Provincial # of clients served annually: ~5000

Health Service Delivery Partner #2

Challenge Statement
How might we leverage a digital platform to enable chronic disease management, collect and manage real-time patient data outside traditional clinical setting for children with scoliosis in rural Alberta?
Organization Description
Organization: Curvy Spine Inc. Service Type: Scoliosis management Served Area: Edmonton urban and rural # of clients served annually: 350+

Health Service Delivery Partner #3

Challenge Statement
How might we enhance access to specialized seating assessments for patients with complex needs in Alberta's North Zone through advanced virtual assessment tools that are portable, have flexible viewpoints, and/or may be wearable?
Organization Description
Name: Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital Service Type: Cerebral Palsy, neurologic injuries and degenerative neurological disorders Served Area: Northern Alberta # of clients served annually: ~18000 across the province, 4000 rural (across all services)

Health Service Delivery Partner #4

Challenge Statement
How might we improve access to care and enhance clinical decision-making for pediatric neuromotor patients by implementing a central digital platform that tracks longitudinal health data to help prioritize in-person appointments for patients who really need them and empower patients to manage their symptoms to ensure rehabilitation needs of patients are understood and met?
Organization Description
Organization: Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital Service Type: Pediatric Physical Medicine Serviced Area: Northern Alberta, NWT, Nunavut, Northern BC # of clients served annually: ~1300

Health Service Delivery Partner # 5

Challenge Statement
How might we improve access to early intervention and consistent therapy for infants with cerebral palsy in rural communities by using telemedicine and Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies to support remote therapy groups that are co-facilitated by local community members?
Organization Description
Organization: Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital Service Type: Pediatric Cerebral Palsy Serviced Area: Provincial # of clients served annually: ~18000 across the province, 4000 rural across all services

Health Service Delivery Partner #6

Challenge Statement
How might we improve decision-making and transitions in care for families of children with complex musculoskeletal and neurodevelopmental concerns by implementing a digital platform to provide accessible, timely, and personalized educational resources to help families better understand surgical options, prepare for procedures, and improve follow-up care?
Organization Description
Organization: Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital Service Type: Pediatric Orthopedic Treatment Clinic Serviced Area: Northern Alberta, NWT, Nunavut, Northern BC # of clients served annually: ~18000 across the province, 4000 rural across all services

Health Service Delivery Partner #7

Challenge Statement
How might we address the lack of accessible, timely, and equitable rehabilitation services for rural Albertans with upper extremity impairments caused by neurological conditions such as stroke and spinal cord injury by leveraging a home-based telerehabilitation technology?
Organization Description
Organization: Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital Service Type: Spinal Cord Injury and Stroke Serviced Area: Provincial # of clients served annually: ~18000 across the province, 4000 rural (across all services)

Health Service Delivery Partner #8

Challenge Statement
How might we leverage virtual care* technologies to deliver vision rehabilitation and ophthalmology services directly to patient’s homes or in their communities to reduce the need of resource-intensive in person services for those living in rural and remote areas? *Virtual care could include platforms, systems, software, Artificial Intelligence and devices
Organization Description
Organization: Vision Loss Rehabilitation Canada (VLRC) Service Type: Low Vision Therapy Serviced Area: Provincial # of clients served annually: 1500+

Health Service Delivery Partner #9

Challenge Statement
How might we leverage remote, single-camera motion capture technology to enable accessible and consistent monitoring of progress for patients requiring specialized athletic and orthopaedic rehabilitation?
Organization Description
Organization: ZerOne Athleticare Service Type: Specialized Athletic and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation Serviced Area: Provincial # of clients served annually: ~9000

Technology Solution Provider (TSP) Eligibility

The **Creating the Future of Rehabilitation Care** Innovation Funding Program is open to collaborating with TSPs with market-ready, high-potential solutions based in Alberta or elsewhere. They must:

- Complete and submit the [Letter of Intent Form](#) for relevant HSDP challenge(s) (see above) during the intake period,
- Exist as a corporate person, with up-to-date corporate filings,
- Be able to demonstrate that the relationship between the HSDP and the TSP does not present a conflict of interest,
- Have the potential to address the challenge statement with their digital health technology,
- The technology meets a minimum [Technology Readiness Level](#) 7 requirements,
- Offer a digital health solution(s) that can be formulated into an implementation study leading to the development and evaluation of an innovative care model,
- the ideal digital health solution is supported by strong evidence of effectiveness and end-user satisfaction,
- Comply with Canadian privacy and security requirements, and
- Submit to other criteria that Alberta Innovates may develop from time-to-time.

Note: TSPs may be able to pitch their solution to multiple HSDPs but can only collaborate with one HSDP to co-create a full proposal. Final selection will be up to the HSDP as the primary applicant for this innovation funding program.

How to Apply

- Complete and submit the [Letter of Intent \(LOI\) form](#) for relevant HSDP challenges listed above.
- The LOI will be reviewed to determine program eligibility and challenge fit.
- High potential TSPs will be invited to pitch their technology solutions to approved Health Service Delivery Partners.
- Successful TSPs will be invited to proceed to co-create a Full Proposal with approved Health Service Delivery Partners.

Key Dates

Letter of Intent (LOI)	Pitch Presentation	Full Proposal	Project Launch
Submissions Deadline Feb 18, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. MT	April 2025 (virtual)	May 2025 Note: TSPs act as a collaborator for the full proposal	August 2025
Decision Communicated: March 2025	Decision Communicated: April 2025	Decision Communicated: August 2025	

Evaluation Process

All LOIs are reviewed and evaluated to determine fit with the Creating the Future of Rehabilitation Care program evaluation criteria. Alberta Innovates and the Glenrose Hospital Foundation may leverage internal staff and external expert reviewers to evaluate LOI submissions.

ABOUT GLENROSE HOSPITAL

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 is the province's most comprehensive research and innovation agency. From funding to commercialization, we are Alberta's innovation engine. We foster and accelerate research and innovation to benefit citizens and drive economic growth. The corporation operates in 11 locations with more than one million sq ft of industrial testing and lab facilities and 600 acres of farmland. Alberta Innovates employs 589 highly skilled scientists, business and technical professionals and has an annual operating budget of \$250 million. Our total managed portfolio impact is \$1.2 billion in value encompassing 1,320 active projects.

This 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 focused on advancing Digital Health in Alberta. For us, Digital Health is a revolutionary approach to health that integrates digital technologies into the life sciences and healthcare sectors.

Learn more about [Alberta Innovates](#)