

The Alberta Lighthouse Initiative

(Program Guide for Health Service Delivery Partners)

June 08, 2026

Chronic disease continues to rise across Alberta, placing increasing pressure on primary care, community health services, and downstream acute care. Cardiometabolic conditions including type 2 diabetes, obesity, cardiovascular disease, chronic kidney disease, and metabolic dysfunction-associated steatohepatitis now account for a significant proportion of long-term health system demand, much of which could be mitigated through earlier intervention, stronger prevention strategies, and more integrated models of care.

In response, the Government of Alberta, Novo Nordisk Canada Inc., and Alberta Innovates have partnered to accelerate community-led innovation to improve health outcomes and reduce pressure on Alberta's healthcare system. This partnership has established the Alberta Lighthouse Initiative.

The Alberta Lighthouse initiative focuses on advancing solutions across key cardiometabolic conditions including type 2 diabetes, obesity, cardiovascular disease, chronic kidney disease, and metabolic dysfunction-associated steatohepatitis. It does so by connecting **Health Service Delivery Partners (HSDPs)** with high-potential **Innovation Solution Providers (ISPs)** to co-develop and implement evidence-informed care models grounded in real-world needs.

The Initiative is a structured, competition-based program that enables Alberta-based HSDPs to define and share their priority needs in alignment with program Innovation Challenges. In response, ISPs will be invited to propose targeted, implementation-ready solutions, advancing through a multi-stage evaluation process that prioritizes alignment with system needs, scalability, and measurable impact.

Selected HSDPs will have the opportunity to collaborate with an ISP to implement and rigorously evaluate novel care models over a period of up to 24 months. These projects are designed not only to improve patient and system outcomes locally, but to generate the evidence, insights, and pathways required to support adoption and broader scale and spread across Alberta's chronic disease care ecosystem.

Definitions

Health Service Delivery Partner (HSDP):

An Alberta-based organization that delivers or enables health services (in the real world) and brings forward a specific, on-the-ground need that fits within the broader Alberta Lighthouse Initiative innovation challenges.

Innovation Solution Provider (ISP):

An organization (often industry, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)/startups, innovators, etc.) that can offer a targeted solution to address the specific need identified by an HSDP.

Innovation Challenges

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

Challenge Statement #1

How might we enable earlier, equitable detection and risk stratification for cardiometabolic conditions including type 2 diabetes, obesity, cardiovascular disease, chronic kidney disease, and metabolic dysfunction-associated steatohepatitis so that Albertans have better health outcomes?

Challenge Statement #2

How might we make it easier for Albertans to access practical, culturally relevant prevention supports that help reduce everyday barriers to cardiometabolic health including type 2 diabetes, obesity, cardiovascular disease, chronic kidney disease, and metabolic dysfunction-associated steatohepatitis?

Eligible Applicant Types

The Alberta Lighthouse Initiative is open to the following Alberta-based Health Service Delivery Partners:

- Academic Institutions
- Governments and Regional/Municipal Bodies
- Not-for-profit and charitable organizations
- For-profit organizations (as long as the work is non-commercial and supports health-system innovation)
- Associations, Consortia, and Societies
- Indigenous governments, communities, and Indigenous-led organizations
- Health service providers, including primary care networks, community clinics, and allied health groups
- Industry partners, technology vendors, and SMEs may participate as collaborators, but may not act as the Lead Applicant when the primary intent is commercial product development.

Applicant Eligibility

The *Alberta Lighthouse Initiative* is open to eligible **Health Service Delivery Partners (HSDPs)** that meet the following criteria:

- Be based in Alberta and deliver chronic disease care services to Albertans.
- Demonstrate a data-informed care need aligned with at least one of the Alberta Lighthouse Initiative challenge statements.
- Be willing to address the identified challenge through the implementation of a health

- o solution provided by a high-potential **Innovation Solution Provider (ISP)**.
- o Have the capacity to serve as a real-world implementation site, including deploying the proposed solution and leading an implementation to adoption study to support the development and evaluation of an innovative care model.
- o Demonstrate organizational readiness, including appropriate leadership support, clinical engagement, and operational capacity to execute the proposed project.
- o Be authorized to undertake the proposed project and enter into a grant agreement with Alberta Innovates under standard terms and conditions.

How to Apply

- o Complete and submit the [Expression of Interest \(EOI\) Form](#).
- o The EOI will be reviewed to determine *Alberta Lighthouse Initiative* program eligibility and challenge alignment.
- o Select HSDPs will be invited to pitch presentations offered by high-potential ISPs to select an ISP to collaborate with.
- o Successful HSDP and ISP pairs will be invited to proceed to co-create a Full Proposal.

Please note: Applicants may submit multiple Expressions of Interest (EOIs). However, if an applicant is invited to submit more than one full proposal, only one proposal per applicant will be considered for funding.

Project Eligibility (at full proposal stage):

To qualify for funding, all proposed projects presented at the full proposal stage must:

- o Align with and address one of the program's Innovation Challenge Statements issued by the Government of Alberta, Novo Nordisk Canada Inc., and Alberta Innovates.
- o Demonstrate the potential to support the development and implementation of innovative care models.
- o Implement a health innovation with a clear path to adoption provided by a selected **Innovation Solution Provider (ISP)**; where applicable, technologies must meet a minimum of [Technology Readiness Level \(TRL\) 7](#).
- o Be supported by early evidence of effectiveness and end-user acceptability.
- o Include clearly defined, measurable milestones and deliverables, with staged "go / no-go" decision points.
- o Include a robust evaluation plan that assesses health outcomes, economic impact and implementation feasibility.
- o Demonstrate the ability to access, collect and share relevant data required to support project evaluation in alignment with applicable privacy and data governance requirements.
- o Commit to program evaluation activities, including performance measurement, reporting, and knowledge mobilization.
- o Demonstrate a clear path to adoption with potential to scale and spread beyond the initial implementation site/s.
- o Be completed within a maximum term of 24 months.
- o Comply with any additional criteria established by Alberta Innovates from time-to-time.

Key Dates

EOI - HSDP	EOI - ISP	Pitch Presentations	Full Proposal	Investment Agreement
Intake [Jun 08 – Jun 29, 2026]	Intake [Sep 02– Sep 16, 2026]	November 2026 <i>virtual</i>	December 2026	March 2027
Decision Communicated: August 2026	Decision Communicated: October 2026	Decision Communicated: December 2026	Decision Communicated: February 2027	

Funding

Alberta Innovates will contribute up to **\$500,000** CAD of funding 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 *Alberta Lighthouse Initiative* funding program. Alberta Innovates leverages internal staff and external expert reviewers to review all submissions.

ABOUT GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA, MINISTRY OF PRIMARY AND PREVENTATIVE HEALTH SERVICES

The Ministry of Primary and Preventative Health Services (PPHS) supports the health and well-being of Albertans throughout their lives by focusing on population health and promoting wellness; coordinating safe, person-centred, quality primary care health services; delivering public health inspection and prevention services; strengthening the health workforce through improving local decision-making capabilities; enabling innovative health information technologies; and funding the primary care health services sector.

ABOUT NOVO NORDISK CANADA INC.

Novo Nordisk is a leading global healthcare company founded in 1923 and headquartered in Denmark. Our purpose is to drive change to defeat serious chronic diseases, built upon our heritage in diabetes. We do so by pioneering scientific breakthroughs, expanding access to our medicines, and working to prevent and ultimately cure disease. Novo Nordisk employs about 68,800 people in 80 countries and markets its products in around 170 countries. For more information, visit novonordisk.ca, [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [X](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [YouTube](#).

ABOUT ALBERTA INNOVATES

Alberta Innovates is the province's most comprehensive research and innovation agency. From funding to commercialization, it is Alberta's innovation engine. Alberta Innovates fosters and accelerates research and innovation to benefit citizens and drive economic growth. Alberta Innovates works across sectors to fund, partner and enable entrepreneurship throughout the province. The corporation operates in 11 locations with more than one million square feet of industrial testing and lab facilities and 600 acres of farmland. Learn more at albertainnovates.ca.