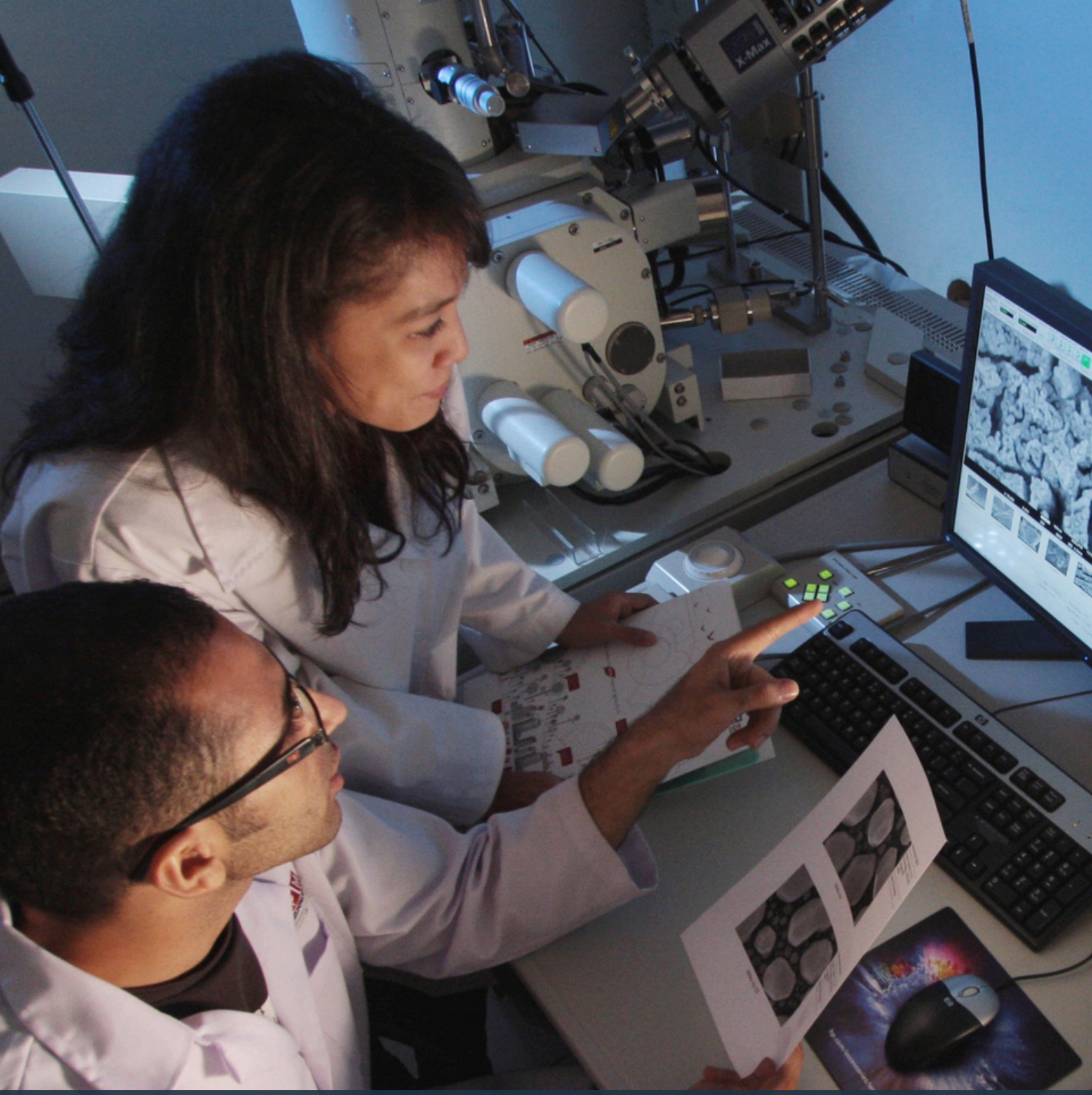


CABHI Ignite Program: 2026-27 Information Package

Vision: A world where every older person lives a life with purpose, fulfilment, and dignity.

Mission: To drive the development and adoption of transformative aging and brain health innovations.

Ignite

CENTRE FOR AGING + BRAIN HEALTH INNOVATION
Powered by Baycrest

Ignite at a Glance

- **Funding:** $50,000 to $150,000 CAD in non-dilutive funding.
- **Who can apply:** Eligible early-stage companies and healthcare/research organizations in building innovative solutions to improve healthspan, healthy aging, brain health, and dementia care.
- **Geography:** Open to Canadian-incorporated companies and Canadian or international teams affiliated with an accredited Canadian academic institution or recognized research or healthcare organization.
- **Match requirement:** Applicants must provide a 1:1 matching contribution through cash, in-kind support, or a combination of both.
- **Program focus:** Early-stage R&D, validation, and commercialization-readiness activities.
- **Project term:** March 1, 2027 to February 29, 2028.

1. Program Overview

CABHI invites eligible innovators, including healthcare/research organizations (HCROs) and early-stage companies, to apply to the 2026 Ignite program.



Successful applicants gain access to **$50,000** to **$150,000 CAD,** along with CABHI support services.

The program supports the development, validation, and commercialization readiness of promising early-stage aging and brain health innovations, helping advance solutions toward real-world adoption and impact.

Funding can be applied towards a range of eligible research, development (R&D), and commercialization-readiness activities, including:


Prototype development


Proof-of-concept testing


Usability studies


Early solution validation


Intellectual property (IP) generation (patents, disclosures)



In addition to funding, successful applicants will gain access to CABHI's services, including access to the Ignite Learning Series, which features subject matter experts from various industries. At the conclusion of the program, Ignite innovators will be invited to apply for continued funding through CABHI's Fuel Program.

2. Important Dates

Application Dates	
Applications Open	November 2, 2026
Applications Close	November 30, 2026
Finalist Announcement	December 22, 2026
Finalist Due Diligence Interviews	January 5 to January 15, 2027
Selected Applicant Notification	January 19, 2027
Program Dates	
Project Start	March 1, 2027
Project Orientation Session	March 8, 2027
Project End	February 29, 2028
Final Report Due	March 30, 2028

3. CABHI Funding

Each applicant can apply for $50,000 to $150,000 CAD in non-dilutive funding. If selected, the funding will be administered throughout the project in alignment with the completion of mutually agreed-upon milestones.

Apply to **Ignite** and join the **90+ companies** that have taken their innovations to the next level with CABHI.



$26M+ distributed through CABHI investment programs



$1.5B+ portfolio enterprise value



$1B+ in follow-on investment

CABHI has genuinely been one of the best programs we've been part of. The funding allowed us to move quickly and strengthen our team, but what really stands out is everything that came with it: the mentorship, the resources, the support from the CABHI team, and access to the aging and senior care ecosystem in Toronto.

– Tony Aubé, Co-founder of Amical and Ignite recipient

Ignite accelerated the development and internal testing of 2 digital platforms, and without this support, we would not be in a position to bring IncluzIT HOME to market in May 2026. I can honestly say this program is why IncluzIT HOME will be commercialized with the success we anticipate it to have.

– Marnie Courage, Founder and CEO of Incluzia and Ignite recipient



CABHI's support for the biosensor technology development and validation goes far and beyond the direct funding contributions. CABHI team offered peer mentorship through direct meetings with advisors and monthly webinars from experts through the Ignite Learning Series; they offered community engagement through their Leap end-user engagement service, which is invaluable for creating market-disrupting new technologies; and they offered timely guidance on the commercial pathway and future product implementations.

– Dr. Ravi Prakash, an electrical and biomedical engineer and lead researcher in Carleton University's Organic Sensors and Devices Lab and Ignite recipient

4. Innovation Themes

CABHI supports innovations that address challenges associated with older persons and their care partners, with a particular focus on dementia. Examples of challenges that CABHI seeks to solve include the following themes:

- Aging at Home
- Caregiver Support
- Care Coordination + Navigation
- Cognitive + Mental Health
- Financial Health + Wellness
- Women's Brain Health + FemTech

Learn more information about CABHI's Innovation Themes on our website.

5. Selection Process

1. Online Application:
Applicants submit through the online application portal. Applications are reviewed and scored by CABHI's review panel, and selected applicants are invited to due diligence interviews and final review.

2. Shortlist Interviews:
Shortlisted applicants participate in an interview to confirm eligibility and allow the review team to further assess application quality as part of the competitive selection process.

3. Selection and Contracting:
CABHI notifies selected and non-selected applicants and proceeds with contracting for successful applicants.

6. Program Eligibility

Applicant Eligibility:

- **Companies:**
  - The company must be incorporated in Canada, either federally or provincially.
  - The company/venture cannot be owned (in part or in whole) by a parent company.
  - The lead applicant must have signing authority for the company/venture (generally the founder and/or CEO).
  - The applicant must have a minimum of 1.0 full-time equivalent (FTE) personnel who have been working on this project within the past 6 months.
  - The applicant must have a minimum of 1.0 full-time equivalent (FTE) personnel dedicated to the project for its duration.
  - The company must meet the following maturity criteria:
    - Funding Raised (Private + Public): Less than $2M CAD
    - Annual Revenue Generated: Less than $250k CAD
    - Company Valuation*: Does not exceed $6M CAD
      - *Valuation represents the projected financial value of your company, determined by investors or financial institutions using funding mechanisms such as convertible notes, SAFEs (Simple Agreements for Future Equity), or priced equity rounds. If you have not received a formal valuation through these mechanisms, your company is "Pre-Valuation" and therefore eligible for this criterion.*

- **Healthcare/research organizations:**
  - The applicant must be affiliated with an accredited Canadian academic institution (e.g., university, college) or a recognized research or healthcare organization (e.g., hospital, research institute).
  - The applicant must hold a position as a faculty member, postdoctoral fellow, point-of-care worker (e.g., physician, nurse, PSW, clinical manager), or research scientist at the affiliated institution or organization.
  - Must control Intellectual Property (IP) and have filed (or intends to file) for Intellectual Property protection.
  - The applicant must have a minimum of 1.0 full-time equivalent (FTE) personnel who have been working on this project within the past 6 months.
  - The applicant must have a minimum of 1.0 full-time equivalent (FTE) personnel dedicated to the project for its duration.
  - The project team must also meet the following maturity criteria:
    - Funding Received towards specific IP: Less than $2M CAD
    - Technology Readiness Level (TRL): 2-6

2

Project Eligibility:

- The innovative solution must clearly address at least one of the six CABHI Innovation themes.
- Applicants must provide a 1:1 matching contribution to CABHI's funding in the form of cash, in-kind contributions, or a combination of both.
- The project and associated budget must focus on the completion of eligible milestones.
- The project must be a full-time endeavour for the lead applicant and/or a member of their team.
- The applicant organization may not be concurrently participating in another active CABHI-funded program (e.g., Fuel, Amplify, NextGen, CSC).
- Previous awardees to CABHI programs (e.g., Ignite, Fuel, Amplify) are ineligible, with the exception of NextGen and the CABHI Science Collaborative (CSC).

7. Evaluation Criteria

Solution (40%)
Strength and novelty of the proposed solution; how clearly it addresses a key problem in aging and brain health and the potential impact of its effectiveness.

Market (20%)
Understanding of the target users and their lived experience, market need, and potential for adoption, scalability, and sustainability.

Team (20%)
Expertise, commitment, and capacity of the team to successfully deliver on the project and achieve impact. This category also considers early indicators of team success such as progress and achievements based on the amount of time working on this solution.

Project (20%)
Clarity, feasibility, leveraged resources, and alignment of the proposed project plan, milestones, and use of funds with CABHI's objectives.

8. Additional Rules and Obligations

- CABHI will not obtain any ownership rights to the intellectual property associated with the completion of your business or validation milestones, but CABHI will have the right to disseminate the results of your business or validation milestones.
- CABHI reserves the right to select applications in order to maintain a balanced portfolio, which includes but is not limited to the number of funded projects in the various applicant streams, distribution of companies across Innovation Themes, regional representation, and alignment with our commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) practices.
- CABHI may terminate negotiations or invite an alternate applicant to engage in negotiations if a contract is not signed in a reasonable amount of time (to be determined exclusively by CABHI).
- CABHI reserves the right to decline any application and to modify or annul this Call for Innovation at any time without incurring any liability.

9. Resources

The following application resources are also available on CABHI's website as downloadable PDFs:

- CABHI Eligible Expenses Guidelines
- CABHI Matching Funds Guidelines

For additional questions, please contact us at programs@cabhi.com.

10. Funders' Acknowledgement

CABHI gratefully acknowledges support from Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada's Strategic Science Fund and the Ministry of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security.

APPLY NOW