Program Overview

Every day, point-of-care staff improvise and problem-solve to meet the growing demands of an aging demographic. Clinical staff, managers, researchers and caregivers hold key insights into what can be improved or transformed in seniors care delivery but are seldom empowered to take that first step. CABHI's Spark program exists to translate point-of-care insights into innovative and scalable solutions that can improve the lives of older adults, persons living with dementia and their care partners in Canada and across the world.

Apply to the Spark program to receive up to $50,000 over 12 months that can be used to develop, refine, and implement innovative solutions. Please see below for further details on who can apply and the types of solutions that will be considered for funding.

The deadline to submit the application form online is 5 pm EDT on Friday December 2, 2022.

Important Dates

Application Window Opens	Monday Oct. 17, 2022
Application Deadline	Friday Dec. 2, 2022
CABHI notifies Awardees	Early February 2023
Program Agreements returned to CABHI	Friday Feb 25, 2023
All Projects Begin	March 1, 2023

Acceleration Services

You're not in this alone! Along with funding, successful applicants will gain access to [CABHI's Acceleration Services](#) which include professional coaching, mentorship, the Spark Learning Series, and access to Leap, CABHI's diverse community for end-user validation. Successful applicants will also have an opportunity to learn about other innovative solutions in their Spark cohort and share learnings with their peers. These services are available for use on a voluntary basis (non-mandatory), but we do encourage projects to take advantage of them to ensure they are set up for success and sustainability post project.

Whether the applicant plans to commercialize their innovation, disseminate it free of charge, or something in between, these support services exist to give your innovative solution the best possible chance at making transformative impact on the lives of older adults in Canada and around the world.

Innovation Themes

To be considered for approval, your proposed solution must address one or more of the following challenge sets:

Caregiver Support:	Solutions that support caregivers (formal and informal) in their care for older adults living with dementia
Aging in Place:	Solutions that enable older adults with dementia to maximize their independence so that they can age in their desired setting. (e.g., by reducing falls, addressing social isolation, etc.). Included in this category are solutions that help older adults thrive and live their best lives as they age.
Care Coordination & Navigation:	Solutions that help older adults, caregivers and healthcare providers to better coordinate and navigate care for older adults with dementia Included in this category are solutions that re-imagine care in congregate care environments and challenge the way we traditionally coordinate/navigate care and enable quality of life in congregate care environments
Cognitive & Mental Health:	Solutions that improve brain/cognitive health or mental health for aging adults and/or support the identification and assessment of adults at risk for dementia/cognitive impairment or at risk for mental health illnesses
Financial Health and Wellness	Helping older adults remain financially independent, stay safe in the workforce longer, seek later-life employment, prepare for retirement, plan for financing care, and prevent financial exploitation.

In its review process, CABHI also considers a project's impact on Indigenous populations and other marginalized groups, as well as the themes of socio-economic and racial inequality.

Cross-Cutting Themes:

- **Diversity, Accessibility, and Health Equity.** Ensuring aging and brain health needs are addressed, and solutions are accessible, for Indigenous, Black, or racially and culturally diverse communities; women; people living with disabilities; members of the LGBTQ2+

community; rural or Northern communities; or other vulnerable populations; and including issues of intersectionality.

- **Promoting Social Inclusion and Preventing Stigma and Elder Abuse.** Creating opportunities and programs for enhanced engagement and social connection for older adults, including intergenerational programs, to combat ageism and stigma and support strong cognitive and mental health in older adults. Protecting older adults, particularly those living with cognitive decline and dementia, against elder abuse and other unsafe relationships.

Process & Timeline

Step 1: Applicants will submit an online application form on the CABHI website by 5 pm EDT on Dec. 2, 2022. All applications cannot contain any material that is confidential or proprietary.

Step 2: CABHI will review and evaluate the submitted applications, including project scope, timeline, deliverables and expected outcomes, against the selection criteria and select finalists.

Step 3: Selected applicants will be notified via email by Feb. 1, 2022.

Step 4: A host organization must sign the funding agreement with CABHI by March 1, 2022. If agreements are not signed by this deadline, CABHI reserves the right to cancel offered funding and divert funds to the next Finalist.

Funding Available

The maximum funding available for projects selected in this call for innovations is $50,000 (CAD)**.** The Spark program will be funding projects that are scheduled to run for 12 months, starting in March 2022. There is a funding envelope of $3.0M available across all projects.

Funding will flow to the applicant's host organization. The host organization will be accountable for ethics and regulatory requirements, administering funds at appropriate rates, and for the applicant's completion of project milestones, deliverables, and performance reporting. CABHI releases an initial payment of 90 percent of its funding at the start of the project. A holdback of 10 percent will be released upon project completion and approval of the final and financial reports, and attestation from the host organization regarding the use of funds.

Projects that apply through Host Organizations located in the Provinces of **New Brunswick** or **Saskatchewan** will be considered for co-funding by the New Brunswick Health Research Foundation (NBHRF) and the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation (SHRF).

Eligibility Criteria

CABHI will review all submitted applications to determine if projects meet the following criteria:

The Applicant:

- Must be one of the following:
    1. Point-of-care worker
        - Clinical or other staff actively working at the point of care
    2. Point-of -care manager
        - Person who actively manages clinical care delivery
    3. Point-of-care researcher, or
        - Researcher of applied or translational research in a care setting
    4. Informal caregiver
        - A friend or family member who is or has experience as the primary caregiver for an older adult or person living with dementia
        - Informal caregivers **must provide a letter of support** from an eligible host organization who will receive and oversee the distribution of funds
- Must be employed at a Canadian healthcare delivery organization

The Solution:

- Must clearly address at least one of CABHI's innovation themes
- Must be pre-commercial and not be owned by a third-party company **unless two criteria are met:**
    1. The vendor/owner of the solution is not involved in the project in any way
    2. The solution is being used in a novel way and/or being adapted to an older adult population. For example:
        - A project using a commercially available virtual reality headset to facilitate a novel "VR Club for Seniors" is **eligible**
        - A project that uses a commercially available Virtual Reality software that is already designed for seniors, is **not eligible**

The Project:

- Cannot involve basic research, primarily academic goals, capital investment in a portfolio of intellectual property, pharmaceutical trials or incubators for startups
- Focuses on the development/testing of an innovative solution with a real-world population
- Must include a commitment of matching funds (either cash or in-kind) from the host organization and/or other partners (if applicable)
- Projects must commit a minimum of 20% of CABHI's contribution in matched funds
- Appears reasonable to complete in a 12-month period with $50,000 (plus any additional funds committed from other sources)

Selection Criteria

All applications will be evaluated based on the following selection criteria:

1. The Solution (25%)
   - How significant is the problem being addressed?
   - How does this solution address the problem better than others?
2. Strategic Alignment (25%)
   - How well aligned is the solution to CABHI's Call for Innovation themes?
   - How effectively does the solution address the identified problem?
3. Project Overview (25%)
   - Does the project have clearly defined goals and objectives?
   - Is the intended use of funds clearly linked to project goals and objectives?
4. Project Team (25%)
   - Why will the team succeed?
   - How does this project provide an opportunity for the applicant team and/or broader organization to build skills and experience working in seniors care?

Applications will be reviewed internally for eligibility (by CABHI) and subsequently scored by an external project evaluation panel that consists of reviewers having expertise in the clinical, applied research, business, and technical fields. CABHI reserves the right to select proposals to achieve a broad distribution of projects across its innovation themes and geographic spread across healthcare provider organization sites located across Canada.

CABHI reserves the right to decline any application and to annul this Call for Innovations at any time, without incurring any liability. Additionally, CABHI reserves the right to modify the scope of this Call for Innovations at any time.

Responsibilities of the host organization:

- Provide a **Letter of Support** for the applicant as part of the application
- Receive funding from CABHI and redirect received funding to support project's approved costs
- Provide infrastructure and facilities support to applicant, for example office or lab space, office equipment and supplies etc.
- Permit applicant to access organization's client population to facilitate testing
- Ensure that the applicant completes project milestones and deliverables as well as performance reporting according to the project schedule

- Oversee any regulatory requirements for the project and ensure that the project is approved or cleared by an accredited Research Ethics Board or Institutional Review Board
- Attest and submit financial reports to CABHI, regarding the use of approved project funds
- Ensure submission of final report by the applicant within 30 days of project completion
- Maintain project data to comply with requirements imposed by the Research Ethics Board
- Cooperate with CABHI in the collection of performance metrics relevant to the Project and provide CABHI with reasonably necessary documents and participate in CABHI's publicizing the results from the Project
- Sign the CABHI Program Agreement related to the project

Webinars

Register for one of our upcoming webinars to learn more about how to submit a successful application to the CABHI Spark Program. Topics will include keys to a successful application, how to submit an application through our online portal, funding allocation, responsibility for reporting, and more.

WEBINAR SIGNUP: DATE TBD

Resources

1. [Eligible Expenses Guideline](#)
2. [Letter of Support Template](#)
3. [Funding Agreement](#)

View the Spark Program 2022 Call for Innovations in French.

Funding for this program is provided by the Government of Canada through the Public Health Agency of Canada as well as the New Brunswick Health Research Foundation and the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation.

Contact us at info@cabhi.com with questions about the program or anything else related to CABHI!

Apply Now! (English)

FRENCH APPLICATION LINK