



Ministry of Health Innovation Pathway: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. Where can I find the application?

You can find the Program Guide, which contains the application (intake form) on ideasforward.ca or phcmedstaff.ca

2. What are the primary differences in the application process between the 2023/24 intakes and the 2024/25 intakes?

The primary differences are as follows:

- Applications must be sent directly to the innovation lead. Any submissions sent directly to the Ministry will be immediately redirected to the appropriate health authority/ organization.
- As the applications need to be sent directly to the innovation lead, the time to submit for each intake has been moved forward as follows:

Intake Form to HA Innovation Lead	Intake Form Submission to MoH	Approval Signatures on LOU	Funding Transferred to HA
January 19, 2024	February 5, 2024	March 8, 2024	April 15, 2024
June 28, 2024	July 15, 2024	August 30, 2024	September 27, 2024

Regardless of intake, the money needs to be spent by March 31, 2025

- The funding for the two intakes increased from \$750,000 to \$1,000,000.
- There is no maximum amount of funding that can be requested per project; each intake will have approximately \$500,000 in total funds, spread across all health authorities/ organizations.

- Each health authority/organization completes an internal prioritization and submits up to 5 projects that they endorse for consideration by the Ministry.
3. On the application form, it says the project needs to have a clinical lead. Who can be the clinical lead?
- The intake form specifies “clinical champion”. This person can be anyone who supports and believes in the innovation – common examples include those who will be completing the work, a medical director, physician program director, division or department head, manager, director. More than one person can be listed.
4. What should be included in the budget? Is there a budget template that can be shared?
- The budget can include any of the following line items:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Research Assistant ○ Data Access and/or Management ○ Data Analyst ○ Statistician ○ Research Ethics Board ○ Educational Rounds (e.g. materials, refreshments) ○ Physician Remuneration (e.g. Investigative Lead stipend, On Call stipend) ○ Staff Remuneration (e.g. Clinical Research Nurse, Personnel to administer survey) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Transcriptionist ○ Honoraria (e.g. Patient/Family partner, Indigenous Knowledge Keeper) ○ Software License(s) ○ Design and/or Printing ○ Device ○ Health Canada Approval ○ Equipment ○ Supplies ○ Knowledge Translation ○ Other (specify)
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 - An [excel budget template](#) has been created and can be found on ideasforward.ca
5. Should the application address sustainment once the funding is finished?
- Yes! It would be helpful to specify how the innovation idea or project will be sustained after the funding period runs out. In particular, focus on sustainment from an operations perspective (e.g. transitioning from pilot to sustainment, space, personnel, etc.). It would also be helpful for the applicant to confirm support for sustainment from the organization (e.g. operations, executive sponsorship, etc.).
6. What types of innovation is the Ministry of Health interested in?

- The Ministry is most interested in innovation ideas and projects that are in alignment with their current priorities, which include: Access to primary care, Seniors care, Mental health and addictions care, cancer care, ambulance services, surgical and diagnostic services, hospital services, health sector workforce and digital health care services. Review the [2023/24 – 2025/26 Service Plan](#) to see the stated goals and objectives (starting on page 8).
 - Further, the Ministry wants to support ideas and projects that can be scaled up and spread to other health authorities across BC.
 - The innovation ideas and projects should address an existing gap or problem, benefit the system, have scientific merit, align to system priorities and have potential for broad system impact.
7. For an innovation project involving a device:
- a. Does the device need Health Canada approval?
 - Review the [manufacturer submission process](#) to bring a medical device to market in Canada
 - Special permission for [medical devices](#) might be granted for research purposes; refer to the [Application for New Investigational Testing Authorization \(ITA\)](#)
 - b. Will FDA approval suffice?
 - FDA approval likely helps; the above Health Canada considerations still need to be in place
8. Can the innovation idea or project include products that are already on the market?
- Yes! The innovation idea or project should then focus on testing the product (e.g. a medication or a device) in a new space, such as with a new patient population that is unique to Providence Health Care.
9. What about an applicant connected with a university? Is there anything specific to be aware of?
- Consider the relationship with the university. For projects that are successful in receiving funding from the Ministry, note that funds are transferred to the health authority / organization and cannot be directly transferred to a university. Funds can potentially be transferred from the health authority / organization.

- For projects involving intellectual property (IP), consider who will own the IP at the conclusion of the project.
 - Review the [University-Industry Liaison Office](#) site for more information for relationships involving UBC.
10. Can we work with, or be financially supported by, other organizations such as another foundation? Will there be benefit if the project is supported by a reputable non-profit or foundation?
- Yes! The Ministry recognizes that innovation ideas and projects usually require a great deal of support, including financial support, to get them up and running. If a portion of the idea or project has already been funded through another channel, then that's great! This showcases support internal/external and, if funded by the Ministry, then will allow for any Ministry-designated funds to be applied to a specific phase of the project.