

2015 Innovation Fund – Request for Applications

Championing innovation and change for Alberta's seniors

Background

The Covenant Health **Network of Excellence in Seniors' Health and Wellness** was established in 2013 to partner with provincial and community service providers in building a province where every Albertan has the support they need to age well. The purpose is to *champion a future where Albertans live to the fullness of their capacity as they age, as valued, independent, active and connected members of their communities*. The Network focuses on supporting innovation and transformative thinking to support seniors.

Opportunity

The **Innovation Fund** provides seed-funding to pioneering initiatives focused on the strategic priorities of: fostering long term sustainability; integrating delivery of seniors' care and services; reducing reliance on institutional care; and maintaining and enhancing seniors' health and wellness. Funded initiatives must address at least one of the Network's strategic priority areas, and test, pilot and assess their theories within the seniors' care and support environment. Collaborations and partnerships in Covenant Health and Covenant Care sites across the province of Alberta (see Appendix A) are encouraged.



In November 2014, the Network of Excellence in Seniors' Health and Wellness held a Forum to discuss the supports, programs and policies needed to enable older adults to age in their communities with access to the necessary resources. Input received at this forum was factored into the focus for the 2015 Innovation Fund call.

2015 Innovation Fund Focus Areas

Proposals or pilot projects on:

- Innovative models/partnerships for provision of care to seniors in the community.
- Bridging/collaborations related to transitions of care.
- Community based support to family caregivers of seniors to empower them and improve their outcomes.

Impact

We anticipate that funded initiatives will impact Alberta's seniors' health and wellness systems by moving innovative practices into care and service delivery in a shortened timeframe. Reviewers will be looking for planned and deliberate dissemination of findings and project results.

Amount of Award

- The award from the Network of Excellence Innovation Fund is up to \$200,000 per project.
- Project term is two years from start date of funding.
- For 2015/16, up to \$1 M has been reserved for allocation by the Network of Excellence Innovation Fund.

Proposals will be assessed on the following criteria:

- The expected benefits to seniors are significant and advance a creative way of addressing seniors aging in the community.
- Expertise of the project team.
- Evidence of collaboration/ partnerships/ stakeholder involvement.
- Evidence that you have considered potential knowledge translation activities, and also how the project will carry forward beyond funding (sustainability).
- Engagement of seniors in the design and development of person-centered/patient-driven care and support.

Review Process

The Innovation Fund Review Committee will review all proposals using a peer-review process. Covenant Health's Senior Leadership team will approve the final allocations recommended by the Innovation Fund Review Committee.

Timeline

- Proposals due: September 8, 2015
- Funding decisions expected by: December 1, 2015
- Earliest possible start date: December 8, 2015

Application

The development of your application may require an iterative process of alignment, feedback and revisions. The Network is happy to provide timely assessment of your project's alignment with the Network's strategic goals, prior to the submission date, if requested.

It is advised that you seek grant writing advice from your institution or from knowledgeable external resources to strengthen your proposal and potential for success.

Application forms: <http://www.covenanthealth.ca/innovations/seniors-network-of-excellence>

Questions or concerns: Please contact: Melissa.s.johnson@covenanthealth.ca or call Melissa Johnson at 780-735-9660.

Appendix A

Covenant Health Sites with Acute Care Services

- Grey Nuns Community Hospital (Edmonton)
- Misericordia Hospital (Edmonton)
- Villa Caritas (Edmonton)
- St. Joseph's General Hospital (Vegreville)
- Bonnyville Health Centre (Bonnyville)
- Killam Health Centre (Killam)
- Our Lady of the Rosary Hospital (Castor)
- St. Mary's Hospital (Camrose)
- Banff Mineral Springs Hospital (Banff)

Covenant Health Sites with Long Term Care and/or Supportive Living

- Youville Home (Edmonton)
- Edmonton General Continuing Care (Edmonton)
- St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital (Edmonton)
- Banff Mineral Springs Hospital (Banff)
- Bonnyville Health Centre (Bonnyville)
- Killam Health Centre (Killam)
- Mary Immaculate Hospital (Mundare)
- St. Mary's Health Centre (Trochu)
- St. Michael's Health Centre (Lethbridge)
- St. Therese Villa (Lethbridge)
- St. Joseph's Home (Medicine Hat)
- Our Lady of the Rosary Hospital (Castor)

Covenant Care Centres

- Saint Thomas Health Centre (Edmonton)
- Beaumont Supportive Living (Beaumont)
- Villa Marie (Red Deer)
- Holy Cross Manor (Calgary)
- St. Marguerite Manor (Calgary)