

Department of Pediatrics Innovation Competition

Competition overview

The Department of Pediatrics is thrilled to announce the return of the Innovation Award funding program. For 2023, individuals or teams will “pitch” project ideas that can be completed for up to \$10,000. All members of the Department and project stakeholders are encouraged to attend the live presentations. Project leads will present their ideas to a review panel comprised of members of the Department of Pediatrics leadership and faculty/physician members of the Department.

The intent of the award is to provide funds to support groups engaged in small, impactful, innovative projects related to the provision of clinical care, education or research within the Department of Pediatrics. The Department has identified a number of key themes with which projects should align, but would like to emphasize the openness of this program and encourage project teams from all disciplines and project types to consider applying.

Eligibility

The Project Lead must be a primary member of the academic (UCalgary) and/or clinical (AHS) Department of Pediatrics. Other project team members may be from the Department of Pediatrics or other academic or clinical units in Calgary or elsewhere. The Department strongly encourages collaboration between sections/units and with other child health and wellness leaders outside Pediatrics.

Project Leads who currently have funding through the Innovation Award program for projects that have yet to be completed are not eligible to be Project Leads in the 2023 competition. However, they may be project team members. Individuals can only be the Project Lead or Co-Lead on a single project, although they may be a team member on more than one. Trainees (e.g., residents, fellows, undergraduate students, graduate students) may be project team members but not Project Leads or Co-Leads. The Innovation Competition is not a training award, and the project itself should not be a trainee-led initiative (e.g., MSc or PhD thesis project) that would be eligible for trainee specific funding opportunities.

Key themes

- Wellness – projects to promote department member wellness at work
- Clinical improvements – projects that propose a solution to existing issues in the clinical setting
- Education- projects that address emerging needs of the next generation of medical learners and continuous faculty development
- Research – pilot projects or early-stage innovative ideas to kick-start research projects/programs
- Indigenous health advocacy – projects that will inspire us to think about how we work with Indigenous communities

The pitch process

Project Leads and their teams will submit a written project proposal using the Project Template. The projects will undergo a screening process to determine if they are invited to the next step. The screening process is primarily administrative and to assess alignment with identified key themes.

Once invited to pitch the project, teams will have 4-6 weeks to prepare a presentation. Teams will have 5-10 minutes to present their idea with 2 minutes for questions from the review panel. The presentation format is open; teams are encouraged to get creative about their approach. “Dragon’s Den” style presentations with props or other presentation materials are welcome. The Project Lead will be asked to provide details on presentation requirements prior to the event.

The presentations will take place during Pediatric Grand rounds. As such, at least one project team member must be available to present on November 29 and December 6 (must be available both dates for scheduling purposes). The presentations will also be streamed for those who are unable to attend in person. All members of the Department and project stakeholders are encouraged to attend the presentations.

A review panel will score the presentations and successful teams will be notified after the event. Support will be provided to set-up project accounts and get projects off the ground. Additional in-kind support for services such as analytics, data source navigation and other services are also available to successful teams.

Evaluation criteria

Screening criteria

- Is the application complete? (i.e., no missing information)
- Does the project align with the key themes?
- Is the project exciting/innovative?
- Is the budget justified? Does it include any non-allowable expenses?

Review criteria (Scale 1-5: 1=Poor, 2=Fair, 3=Good, 4=Very good, 5=Excellent)

- Project strength
- Innovation score
- Presentation score
- Project feasibility (e.g., team composition, scope, timeline)

Timing

Competition launch	Fall 2023
Intent to apply due	October 10, 2023
Notice of presentation	Week of October 16, 2023
Live presentations	November 29 and December 6, 2023*
Results announced	Week of December 11, 2023

*A member from your team must be available to present on both days

Budget

The maximum budget per application is \$10,000. A budget is required for all submissions. Travel will not be considered unless it is related to data gathering for the project. Computers, software and other equipment readily available elsewhere will not be considered. Funding from the competition may not be

used to replace alternative sources for trainee stipend support (i.e., scholarships). Physician payments from the award are not permitted.

How to compete

1. Submit a project idea using the [Project Template](#). Submissions that fail to use the template will not be accepted. Submissions will only be accepted electronically via the [Department of Pediatrics website](#).
2. Wait to hear if you are invited to stage 2
3. Prepare a short (7-10 min) presentation. Get creative!

Terms of funding:

- The term of funding is 2 years. You will receive the full sum of the award upon opening a project account with the University. Instructions on how to do this are attached to the notification email.
- You are required to open a project account within 2 months of this notice of award.
- At the end of the project, you are required to submit a comprehensive report on your project activities, impact on child health outcomes and a financial report from Research Accounting.
- We encourage you to spend the full amount of your award before the end of the 2-year funding period. A one time, 12-month extension may be granted subject to approval by the Department. If you require a project extension, please request this at least 3 months prior to the project end date.
- Funding for the competition is provided by the Department of Pediatrics Innovation Award Endowment supported by the Alberta Children's Hospital Foundation through community donors. You may be asked to present to ACHF donors and other stakeholders to tell them about your project.
- Upon completion of the project, you will be asked to share a project summary for internal communication (e.g., Department Bulletin) and you may be asked to present the project at Department events (e.g., Grand Rounds).
- If your project is suitable for data sharing, the Department encourages you to deposit your data into a repository to facilitate secondary use (subject to appropriate arrangements for collaboration, recognition of the authorship, intellectual property, ethics etc.). This will allow you to maximize your scientific output and to extract the greatest benefit from this investment. This also aligns with international calls for full and open access to scientific data. PolicyWise for Children & Families provides a data repository through SAGE (Secondary Analysis for Generation of Evidence ([PolicyWise](#)) that is supported by the Alberta Children's Hospital Research Institute and Alberta Health Services Maternal, Newborn, Child and Youth Strategic Clinical Network.
- You must recognize and acknowledge the **Department of Pediatrics, the Alberta Children's Hospital Foundation, and the Innovation Award** in all resulting publications, research reports, policy briefs, promotional materials, public events and news releases.

Project Template

The following information will be collected via webform:

Project Title:

Key Theme (pick primary and secondary – if applicable):

- Wellness
- Clinical improvements
- Equity, diversity, inclusion
- Education
- Research

Applicants: List all applicants, include their name, affiliation and role (Project lead, co-Lead, project team member, specify if they are a trainee).

Example: Melissa Jones, Department of Pediatrics, Project lead

The following information must be included in the 1-page project description

Format: Maximum of ONE page, margins 0.75 inches on all sides, line spacing minimum 1.0, font size minimum 10 point. All **bolded** section headings below must be included.

Project summary - 200 words or less. Explain your idea using plain language.

Why this is important – Why is this an innovative or novel idea? What knowledge will be obtained, what improvements to health will result? Who will be impacted?

How you are going to do it - Description of how you will get it done and who will do the work. Include a timeline, which should be 1-2 years maximum. Outline how this will get done on top of the team members existing responsibilities/commitments.

What will this lead to – Is this the start of something bigger? What is the potential impact of the project?

Budget - Include sufficient detail to justify all costs, maximum funding \$10,000. List any other sources of funds contributing to this project.