



# CABHI Ignite Program Package: 2024-2025



**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.




CENTRE FOR AGING  
+ BRAIN HEALTH  
INNOVATION  
Powered by Baycrest

# 1. Program Overview





The Centre for Aging + Brain Health Innovation (CABHI), powered by Baycrest, understands the critical hurdles early-stage Canadian innovators (including researchers, point-of-care staff, and companies) face when designing solutions for older persons.

Early-stage innovators have limited access to funding, face high development costs, and encounter challenges with validating their solutions in real-world settings. These challenges can stall innovation progress and prevent promising ideas from achieving real-world impact.

The Ignite program is designed to target these challenges by offering early-stage Canadian innovators:

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|  <p>Access to non-dilutive funding in the range of <b>\$50,000</b> to <b>\$150,000 CAD</b></p> | <p>If selected, the funding will be administered throughout the project in alignment with the completion of mutually agreed-upon milestones.</p> |
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Funds can be applied towards a variety of activities, such as:

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|  <p>Technological research and development activities</p> |  <p>Concept and prototype development</p> |  <p>Testing and simulation activities</p> |  <p>Validation trials</p> |
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|  <p><b>Acceleration Services</b> to help develop, test, and validate their solutions</p> | <p>In addition to funding, successful applicants will gain access to supports, learning, and networking opportunities through <u>CABHI's Acceleration Services</u>, including access to the Ignite Learning Series, which features subject matter experts from various industries.</p> |
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At the end of the program, select participants will have the unique opportunity to showcase their solution during a 'Final Pitch' at CABHI's Innovation Showcase, an event that brings together key leaders in the innovation ecosystem. Participants will pitch their solution to a panel of judges and the winner(s) will be given the opportunity for continued funding through a subsequent CABHI program.



## 2. Important Dates

### Application Dates

Applications Open

October 22, 2024

Applications Close

December 2, 2024

Finalist Notification

December 23, 2024

Finalist Due Diligence Interviews

January 6 to January 16, 2025

Announcement of Results

January 27, 2025

### Program Dates

Project Start

March 3, 2025

Project Orientation Session

March 6, 2025

Project End

February 27, 2026

Final Report Due

March 27, 2026



# 3. Innovation Themes

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

- Aging at Home
- Caregiver Support
- Care Coordination and Navigation
- Cognitive and Mental Health
- Financial Health and Wellness

[View more information about CABHI's Innovation Themes here.](#)

# 4. Selection Process

## 1. Online Application:

Applications are submitted online and then reviewed and scored by CABHI's expert review panel based on evaluation criteria. Shortlisted applicants are invited to participate in due diligence interviews and a final review process.

## 2. Finalist Due Diligence Interviews:

Shortlisted applicants selected from the online application process will participate in a meeting where the review team can confirm their eligibility for funding and further assess the quality of their application as part of the competitive selection process. Applicants will be asked to present budget justification during due diligence interviews.

## 3. Selection and Contracting:

CABHI will inform all selected (and not selected) applicants and proceed with contracting.



# 5. Eligibility Criteria

## Applicant Eligibility:

- For Companies/Ventures:
  - The company/venture must be incorporated in Canada, either federally or provincially.
  - The company/venture must have a valuation and/or valuation cap of less than \$4 million CAD at the time of application.
  - The lead applicant must have signing authority for the company/venture (generally the founder and/or CEO).
- For 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.
  - The project/organization's solution must be at Technology Readiness Level (TRL) 6 or below.

## Project Eligibility:

- The innovative solution must clearly address at least one of the five CABHI Innovation themes.
- The company/organization must provide a 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 development and validation milestones.
- The project application and budget must adhere to the Eligible Expense Guideline (below).

## Application Eligibility:

- The application must be written and submitted by the applicant or a designated team member. The use of generative AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT, automated writing software) for responses is not permitted.
- Only one application per company and/or project team may be submitted for the Ignite program.
- Applicants who have received funding through the Mentorship, Capital, and Continuation program are not eligible to receive funding through the Ignite program.



# 6. Evaluation Criteria

## **Solution Impact (35%)**

The degree to which the innovative solution addresses a critical need in aging or brain health, with a focus on dementia. Solutions that demonstrate the potential for transformative impact on older persons or caregivers will score higher.

## **Team Qualifications (30%)**

The experience, expertise, and capabilities of the team members involved in the project. Teams with strong, diverse backgrounds in relevant fields and those that have engaged, or have plans to engage, older persons and/or end users will score higher.

## **Market Opportunity (25%)**

The size, growth potential, and accessibility of the target market. Projects with a well-defined market, backed by data or validation, will be scored higher.

## **Project Plan (10%)**

The feasibility, clarity, and detail of the proposed project plan, including clear milestones linked to the use of funding. Higher scores will be given to applications that outline the specific types of support sought from CABHI and its network, beyond just financial support.

# 7. 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 Innovations at any time without incurring any liability.
- CABHI reserves the right to change, modify, or cancel any of the terms and conditions of this program at any time, without incurring any liability. CABHI reserves the right to decline any application to its programs. The final determination of eligibility rests solely with CABHI based on available funding.
- As part of CABHI's commitment to fostering collaboration and maximizing the impact of our funding, we may encourage certain applicants who are conducting similar activities or are at a similar stage of development to consider combining their efforts.

# 8. Links to Support the Application Process

The following links are also available on the CABHI's website as downloadable PDFs:

- [Eligible Expenses Guideline](#)
- [French-language version of this program package](#)
- [Matching Funds Guideline](#)

For additional questions, please contact Tyler Redublo at [ignite@cabhi.com](mailto:ignite@cabhi.com).

**SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION NOW!**

