Health Innovation Implementation and Spread (HIIS) Fund

A partnership between Alberta Health and Alberta Health Services (AHS) that supports implementation and provincial spread and scale, helping bring evidence into care

As a learning health system, AHS seeks to continuously improve performance, patient outcomes and the experience of patients and providers. To achieve this, we must rigorously evaluate new treatments, practices, strategies and tools, advance good ideas and ensure their safety and feasibility in local settings. The AHS Innovation Pipeline outlines key steps and evidence requirements to guide this process.

The HIIS Fund supports **provincial implementation, spread and scale** of practice changes, strategies, technologies, and tools that address priority challenges for Alberta's health system and have met the evidence requirements to advance to **Step 4** of the Innovation Pipeline.

To be eligible for HIIS funding, there must be compelling evidence a health innovation or solution will improve health outcomes, quality and value, close care gaps, or improve performance by fostering more efficient or effective use of health care resources. HIIS helps bridge the gap between evidence and clinical practice, and provides the funding needed to accelerate the spread and scale of proven innovations to all parts of Alberta.
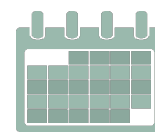
Targeted and aligned to address priority needs

Evidence based Requires strong body of evidence & proof of feasibility

Value & outcome driven Gains must be significant to warrant full implementation

Competitive Funds are directed to solutions that provide greatest value

Fixed term 2 years to achieve full scope

Reporting Outcomes, impact & ongoing requirements to sustain gains

Initiatives, major outcomes, and impact to date

Fund established
2019/20

2 rounds of funding

9 initiatives funded

Focus areas to date:

→ Access to specialist and surgical care

→ Variation in care

→ Maximizing value appropriateness

Learn more:
www.ahs.ca

HIIS 1 – Reporting phase; expected completion August 2023

Area of health	Project	Major outcomes	Impact
Cancer	Provincial colorectal cancer & lymphoma diagnosis pathways	Reduced wait times for imaging, biopsy, diagnosis Reduced hospitalization and LOS	High-risk patients able to access treatment faster (in community), generally improving outcomes
Indigenous health	ECHO+	Increased access to HCV (Hep C) care for 74,000 Indigenous people in 49 Alberta communities	165 individuals with complex HCV cases treated by community providers, improving health outcomes; est. savings $10.7M
Medicine	Primary care supports – GI	Reduced wait times (from referral to specialist consultation; for endoscopy)	More appropriate specialty referrals; cost avoidance >$2.4M
Maternal & newborn	Alberta FICare	Decreased LOS in the NICU Reduced ED visits and readmissions	Improved outcomes for preterm infants Improved experience for parents & providers
Pediatric mental health	CanREACH	Reduced ED visits & inpatient admissions Trained 428 clinicians (108 rural)	More appropriate and efficient mental health screening, diagnosis and treatment in primary care settings

HIIS 2 – Implementation phase; expected completion August 2024

Area of health	Project	Expected outcomes	Expected impact
Critical care	Venting Wisely	Reduced LOS in the ICU Reduced mortality	Improved outcomes through improved recognition of hypoxemic respiratory failure & acute respiratory distress syndrome
Cardiovascular health & stroke	Enhanced Lipid Reporting	Improved CVD risk identification Reduced wait times for consultation	More appropriate specialist referrals Myocardial infarction averted (long term)
Seniors health	Elder Friendly Care	Decreased LOS in hospital	Improved quality, outcomes & experience Potential cost avoidance >$9.0M
Surgery	Central access & triage for surgical consultation	Reduced wait times for surgical consultation	More appropriate specialist referrals (reduced low-value referrals); potential net monetary benefit: >$53.5M

Alberta Health Services