



Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Health System (PRIHS)

Frequently Asked Questions 2015/2016

Eligibility Criteria

- 1. What is meant by "each proposal must involve at least two Strategic Clinical Networks (SCNs) in the development and implementation of the evidence informed solution?"**

To be eligible, the proposal must involve at least two SCNs in its development and list the key individuals from each SCN on page 6 of the Letter of Intent (LOI) form. They may also be listed under collaborators on page 3 of the LOI form. The signature from Tracy Wasylak, Senior Program Officer, SCNs is required to confirm that the LOI is submitted on behalf of the SCNs involved in its development. The full application must be endorsed by the leadership of each of the SCNs involved.

- 2. I am not a member of the SCN but I have a potential solution to a healthcare problem. What process do I follow to introduce my solution to the relevant SCN and subsequently apply for PRIHS?**

We would encourage you to contact the relevant SCN through the following website: www.albertahealthservices.ca/scn.asp. SCNs can help connect applicants across SCNs, where common themes and opportunities are being considered. Early dialogue with SCNs will facilitate this connectivity.

- 3. Are Scientific Directors (SDs) who did not secure funding in previous PRIHS competitions eligible to be a Lead or Co-Lead in the 2015/2016 competition?**

Yes, all SDs (established and emerging SCNs) are eligible to be a Lead or Co-Lead on PRIHS applications in the 2015/2016 competition. There is no restriction on a role for an SD on a PRIHS application.

- 4. Can a SCN member who is the Principal Applicant on a current PRIHS award be eligible to lead a PRIHS LOI in the 2015/2016 competition?**

Yes, however they must have their primary appointment with an Alberta-based institution and must identify affiliated SCNs.



Phase I Process

1. Is there a limit to the number of Full Applications that will go to AIHS from Phase I?

Yes, up to eight LOIs will be selected and invited to develop and submit a Full Application to AIHS for the March 31, 2016 competition deadline.

2. Is there a limit to the number of LOIs that the SCNs can submit?

No, there is no limit to the number of LOIs that the SCNs can submit.

3. What is involved in the Phase I review process?

The review of LOIs during Phase 1 will be led by the Innovation and Research Operations team in the Research, Innovation and Analytics (RIA) portfolio in AHS. The team will establish a review panel composed of individuals representing knowledge and expertise across Alberta's healthcare delivery settings. The panel will evaluate and short-list the LOIs based on their relevance to Alberta's health system and the feasibility to improve quality while reducing health system spending in as short a timeframe as possible. Following this process, members of the Senior Leadership Team at AHS will evaluate the short-list and select up to eight LOIs for development into Full Applications. Please refer to page 4 of the [PRIHS 2015/2016 Program Guide](#).

4. Will SCNs be involved in the Phase I review process?

Members of the SCNs will not be involved in review process once the LOIs are submitted on September 24, 2015. The review panel that will be reviewing the submitted LOIs will have individuals selected from across AHS. The SCNs are considering how they will coordinate their efforts prior to submitting the LOIs on September 24, 2015.

Letter of Intent (LOI)

1. What are the criteria that will be used to evaluate the LOIs?

The criteria will be based on quality (relevance), commitment to change (implementation feasibility) and cost impact. Please refer to the [PRIHS 2015/2016 Program Guide](#) for more details.



2. Why is a project budget not required for the LOI?

The LOIs will focus on the merits of the potential solution and its application to the needs of Albertans. Detailed project budgets will be required for the Full Application.

3. In Section 5: Commitment to Change (Feasibility and Relevance), what is required for sustainability of change?

There needs to be a commitment by operational leader(s) for change, adoption and implementation. This section must be developed by the applicants, in collaboration with operational leaders and groups impacted by change, to describe how the proposed solution will be implemented, scaled, and spread.

4. In Section 6: Cost Impacts, what is meant by minimal level of adoption?

Minimal level of adoption will depend on the project and is related to level required to achieve the proposed improvements. It could reflect percentage of staff whose behaviour complies with the proposed change or the number of sites that have modified their practices to achieve the improvement.

5. Do the LOIs require letters of support and/or biographical sketches?

The LOIs do not require letters of support or biographical sketches. This may be a requirement at the full application stage.

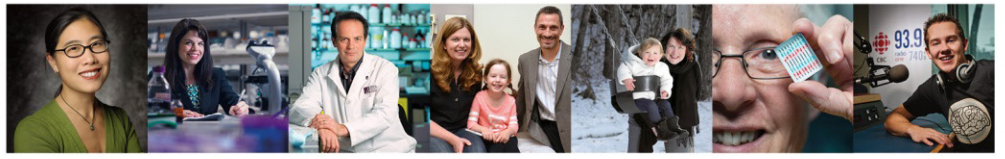
6. What is the process for acquiring the signature from Tracy Wasylak, Senior Program Officer, Strategic Clinical Networks for Section 2 of the LOI?

Each SCN Senior Provincial Director will **email the list of all LOIs** that their respective SCNs are endorsing/supporting for submission to Tracy Wasylak (Tracy.Wasylak@albertahealthservices.ca) by September 15, 2015.

Applicants must submit the completed LOIs (which can be unsigned by the Lead, Co-Lead(s) and Collaborators) to Tracy's office for review and signature by 12:00pm MST on September 15, 2015. Electronic copies are acceptable and can be sent to Tracy.Wasylak@albertahealthservices.ca and copied to Kelly.VanCamp@albertahealthservices.ca. Hard copies can be sent to:

10101 Southport Road SW
Calgary, AB T2W 3N2

Tracy's office will return the signed LOIs back to the applicants by 4:00pm MST on September 22, 2015.



7. Where do I send the completed LOIs to?

Hard copies of the completed LOIs are to be sent to Alberta Innovates – Health Solutions (AIHS) by 4:00pm on September 24, 2015. LOIs will be accepted if they are sent by overnight courier by 4:00pm on the day of the deadline. The mailing address for AIHS is:

Alberta Innovates – Health Solutions
1500, 10104 103 Avenue NW
Edmonton, AB T5J 4A7

Full Application

1. What is required in the Full Application?

The Full Application form is currently being developed. Please refer to the [PRIHS 2015/2016 Program Guide](#) for more details. The Full Application form will be sent to the successful LOI applicants from Phase I. Up to eight LOIs will be selected for development into Full Applications, successful LOI applicants will be notified in December 2015.