

Health Technologies Fund: Round 3

Seeking Expressions of Interest from Health Innovation Teams for the following theme:

Better Care Closer to Home

Description

The use of technology can improve the client and caregiver experience in home and community care by improving how clients and caregivers communicate with their care team, how they access services – including by making appointments and scheduling – and enabling access to information such as care plans and assessment results.

In home and community care, clients, caregivers, service providers and the LHINs work together to plan for and provide services. Clients and caregivers would like more continuity in their care teams and improved matches between their needs and the skills and competencies of their care providers.

Ontarians have embraced digital health and its capabilities. A growing number of clients and caregivers have indicated a desire to use technology to improve their experience in home and community health care services. Digital health tools can improve the ability of individuals to be more active and informed in their care.

To this end, and under the theme of ‘Better Care Closer to Home’, MOHLTC has identified the following health priority areas:

- **Client & Care Team Communication** – Develop or adopt solutions that change how clients and caregivers communicate with their care team. The solution should have capabilities including, but not limited to: secure communication; viewing and scheduling appointments; and, enabling access to information such as care plans and assessment results.
- **Continuity of Care Provider** - Develop or adopt an existing logistics and routing tool that allows home and community care providers to better match staff skills, competencies and availability with client needs. The solution should enable improved continuity of providers on a client’s care team. The tool could include functions that support transportation and other services for clients in the community.
- **Supporting Clients to Live Independently** – Support the development and adoption of solutions that enable older adults and home care clients to age in place and live independently. This can include devices and/or solutions that assist with activities of daily living, such as personal hygiene, locomotion, eating, and toileting.

HTF applications to Pre-market Evaluation or Early Adoption project types **must** align with at least one of the Health Priority Areas described above. In their application, Health Innovation Teams (HITs) should demonstrate how they are engaging, consulting, and involving any local LHIN(s) to ensure alignment with both the home and community care sector and local LHIN.

Background and Rationale

- Bringing care closer to home by enabling clients to stay in their homes longer is a key expectation of Ontarians. Ontarians expect their health care system to be integrated with the ability to share information with them and providers in their circle of care to better meet their needs.
- Digital solutions and tools are a key enabler to achieving the type of health system integration Ontarians want. Building on previous initiatives, digital health in home and community care will look to meet client and caregiver needs improving the transition between home and community care and other parts of the health system.
- This theme aligns and supports MOHLTC's *Patients First: A Roadmap to Strengthen Home and Community Care*, which strengthens Ontario's commitment to put people and patients first by improving their health care experience. The Roadmap identified five objectives, including:
 - **Put Clients and Caregivers First:** The planning and delivery of home and community care is client and caregiver-centred. Everyone who has needs that can be reasonably met in the home or community will receive support to do so.
 - **Improve Client and Caregiver Experience:** Clients and caregivers understand the support they can expect and they experience a timely, responsive system. Service delivery information is publicly available and easily accessible.
 - **Drive Greater Quality, Consistency and Transparency:** Clients receive consistent, high quality care throughout the province. Care is informed by experts and evidence. Home and community care programs use standardized tools and supports to strengthen the quality of services and programs delivered.
 - **Plan for and Expand Capacity:** Investments focus on increasing capacity and improving performance in the home and community care system.
 - **Modernize Delivery:** Updated funding models, consistent assessment approaches, flexible contracting, workforce stabilization and improved technology are used throughout the sector.

Other Background Information

- Patients First Action Plan, 2015
 - http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/ms/ecfa/healthy_change/docs/rep_patientsfirst.pdf
- Patients First: A Roadmap to Strengthen Home and Community Care, 2015
 - <http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/public/programs/lhin/roadmap.pdf>
- Patients First Action Plan, Year One Results, 2016
 - http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/ms/ecfa/healthy_change/docs/year_one_results_action_plan_en.pdf
- Patients First Action Plan, Year Two Results, 2017
 - http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/ms/ecfa/healthy_change/report_year_two.aspx
- Bringing Care Home: Report of the Expert Group on Home and Community Care
 - http://health.gov.on.ca/en/public/programs/lhin/docs/hcc_report.pdf
- Home and Community Care Statement of Values, 2017
 - <http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/public/programs/lhin/>