



CABHI Ignite Program: 2025-26 Information Package



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

Healthcare/research organizations and early-stage companies are invited to apply to the 2025 Ignite program Call for Innovation by the [Centre for Aging + Brain Health Innovation's \(CABHI\)](#), powered by Baycrest.

Ignite provides successful applicants with up to \$150,000 CAD in non-dilutive funding and access to CABHI's Acceleration Services. The program is designed to help healthcare/research organizations and early-stage companies overcome early innovation challenges that often stall progress and prevent promising solutions from achieving impact.



Access to non-dilutive funding
in the range of **\$50,000 to
\$150,000 CAD**

If selected, the funding will be administered throughout the project in alignment with the completion of mutually agreed-upon milestones.

Funding can be applied towards a range of eligible research and development (R&D) activities, including:



Prototype development



Proof-of-concept testing



Usability studies



Early solution validation



Intellectual property (IP) generation (patents, disclosures)



Acceleration Services to help
develop, test, and validate their
solutions

In addition to funding, successful applicants will gain access to [CABHI's Acceleration Services](#), including access to the Ignite Learning Series, which features subject matter experts from various industries.

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 CABHI's Fuel program. More information about the selection process will be available during the program term.

2. Important Dates

Application Dates

Applications Open

October 30, 2025

Applications Close

December 5, 2025

Finalist Announcement

December 22, 2025

Finalist Due Diligence Interviews

January 5 to January 13, 2026

Selected Applicant Notification

January 19, 2026

Program Dates

Project Start

March 2, 2026

Project Orientation Session

March 6, 2026

Project End

February 28, 2027

Final Report Due

March 30, 2027

3. CABHI Funding

Each applicant can apply for \$50,000 to \$150,000 CAD in non-dilutive funding. If selected, the funding will be administered throughout the project in alignment with the completion of mutually agreed-upon milestones.



4. Innovation Themes

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

- Aging at Home
- Caregiver Support
- Care Coordination + Navigation
- Cognitive + Mental Health
- Financial Health + Wellness
- Women's Brain Health + FemTech

[Learn more information about CABHI's Innovation Themes on our website.](#)

5. Selection Process

1. Online Application:

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

2. Finalist Interviews and Due Diligence:

Shortlisted applicants selected from the online application process will participate in a meeting, enabling the review team to confirm eligibility and further assess the application quality as part of the competitive selection process.

3. Selection and Contracting:

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



6. Program Eligibility

Applicant Eligibility:

- Companies:
 - The company must be incorporated in Canada, either federally or provincially.
 - The company cannot be owned (in part or in whole) by a parent company.
 - The lead applicant must have signing authority for the company (generally the founder and/or CEO).
 - The company must meet the following maturity criteria:
 - Funding Raised (Private + Public): Less than \$1M CAD
 - Annual Revenue Generated: Less than \$250k CAD
 - Company Valuation*: does not exceed \$6M CAD
 - *Valuation represents the projected financial value of your company, determined by investors or financial institutions using funding mechanisms like convertible notes, SAFEs (Simple Agreements for Future Equity), or priced equity rounds. If you have not received a formal valuation via these mechanisms, your company is “Pre-Valuation” and therefore eligible for this criterion.
- 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.
 - Must control Intellectual Property (IP) and have filed (or intends to file) for Intellectual Property protection.
 - The project team must also meet the following maturity criteria:
 - Funding Received towards specific IP: Less than \$2M CAD
 - Technology Readiness Level (TRL): 2-6

Project Eligibility:

- The innovative solution must clearly address at least one of the six CABHI Innovation themes.
- The company/organization must provide a 1:1 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 milestones.
- The project must be a full-time endeavour for the lead applicant and/or a member of their team.
- Innovators who have received CABHI funding through Ignite, Fuel, or MC ² in the past are ineligible for this call.



7. Evaluation Criteria

Solution (40%)

Strength and novelty of the proposed solution; how clearly it addresses a key problem in aging and brain health and the potential impact of its effectiveness.

Market (20%)

Understanding of the target users and their lived experience, market need, and potential for adoption, scalability, and sustainability.

Team (20%)

Expertise, commitment, and capacity of the team to successfully deliver on the project and achieve impact. This category also considers early indicators of team success such as progress and achievements based on the amount of time working on this solution.

Project (20%)

Clarity, feasibility, leveraged resources, and alignment of the proposed project plan, milestones, and use of funds with CABHI's objectives.



8. Additional 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 Innovation at any time without incurring any liability.

9. Resources

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

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

For additional questions, please contact us at ignite@cabhi.com.

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.

10. Funders' Acknowledgement

CABHI gratefully acknowledges the support from the Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada's Strategic Science Fund and the Ministry of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security.



11. Apply Online

ENGLISH APPLICATION

FRENCH APPLICATION

