Ontario AHSC AFP Innovation Fund

The Innovation Fund was created by the Alternate Funding Plan agreement between the Ontario Medical Association (OMA) and the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC). Over $10 million annually is made available to Academic Physicians to support the development of new and innovative approaches to health care delivery and to provide leadership in the dissemination of new knowledge across the healthcare system.

All participating academic physicians are eligible to apply and a competitive peer review process selects the most deserving projects proposed at each AHSC.

The Innovation Fund provides short-term (one or two year) seed funding to support innovative projects and to enable academic physicians to develop programs sufficiently to qualify for additional support and evaluate novel strategies to transform health care delivery in Ontario.

Projects would be particularly “innovative” if they:

- Have definite potential to impact health care delivery
- Are implementable (realistic project goals)
- Have clear measurable metrics for success
- Offer opportunities to translate new knowledge into medical practice
- Are transferable to other institutions or regions of the province
- Support multi-sited projects: multiple groups across the province

Scope of Projects Eligible for Funding

Innovative, promising and deserving projects are eligible to receive funding through the Innovation Fund across a wide scope of areas of focus including but not limited to:
- Patient education and enablement
- Continuity of care
- Process improvement models to improve efficiencies, patient safety and quality of care
- Support/collaboration from AHSCs to community hospitals, LHINs and other services in their region
- Remote access to care
- Knowledge transfer across AHSCs and the broader health care system

In order to facilitate IFPOC’s ability to provide “leadership in the dissemination of new knowledge”, the Innovation Fund particularly encourages projects that address health system priorities such as: patient safety, effectiveness of health care delivery and cost-benefit comparisons.

For 2013 - 2014, based on experience in the first five years of this Fund, the following are examples of projects that were judged to be relatively less innovative:
- Stand-alone databases
- Drug or other industry related projects
- Projects designed to evaluate a new device / drug in which there is significant industry sponsorship