



# Hamilton Ecosystem to Accelerate and Leverage Trials of Health Innovation (HEALTHI)

## Program Guide

## HEALTHI Program Guide

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## 1. Program Overview

In partnership with the National Research Council of Canada Industrial Research Assistance Program (NRC-IRAP), Innovation Factory and the Synapse Consortium established the ***Hamilton Ecosystem to Accelerate and Leverage Trials of Health Innovation (HEALTHI)*** program. Its mission is to connect Canadian-based life science firms with world-class research administration groups at Hamilton Health Sciences (HHS) and The Research Institute at St. Joseph’s Hospital to draft, review and approve the protocols and documents required to undertake a commercialization project or clinical trial.

Through **HEALTHI**, Canadian-based life science firms can leverage up to \$15,000 in funding to work with the research administration groups at HHS or St. Joseph’s Hospital to prepare the documents required to undertake a collaborative project. Life science firms will need to provide a minimum \$2,500 cash contribution towards project costs.

Successful partnerships will accelerate commercialization efforts, enabling life science firms to further develop intellectual property, obtain critical clinical data or undertake key product testing and evaluation.

HEALTHI applicants must meet the following criteria to be eligible:

- Be a Canadian, incorporated, life science firm.
- Be developing an innovative technology at TRL-6 level or above.
- Demonstrated commitment to commercializing innovation with a clear clinical application.
- Interest in undertaking a commercialization project or clinical trial with a Hamilton-based research hospital.

The **HEALTHI** program operates under a rolling application intake process. Companies are invited to apply by filling out an application at: [www.innovationfactory.ca/funding-HEALTHI](http://www.innovationfactory.ca/funding-HEALTHI)). Applications will be accepted until March 31, 2022 or until program funds have been fully committed.

## 2. Introduction – Innovation Factory & Synapse Life Science Consortium

### Innovation Factory

Innovation Factory (iF) is a non-profit business accelerator, providing entrepreneurs with business services, training, mentorship, and strategic connections to help bring your disruptive technologies to market, increase revenues, attract investment, and create jobs.

Serving as the catalyst for tech innovation in the greater Hamilton area since 2011, we are driven to help:

- Entrepreneurs bring new ideas to life and to market;
- Small/Medium Enterprises (SMEs) get to the next level; and
- Hamilton ecosystem build a dynamic culture and a community of innovation

Innovation can happen anywhere. Our goal is to make it work everywhere. We work to elevate key industry sectors including: life sciences & healthcare, advanced manufacturing, clean tech, information technology, integrated mobility and social innovations.

Innovation Factory is a member of the Synapse Life Science Consortium.

### Synapse Life Science Consortium

Synapse is the formal regional cluster organization for the life sciences ecosystem in the greater Hamilton region, representing more than 25,000 employees. Synapse is focused on supporting initiatives and projects that magnify the impact of collective action across the cluster ecosystem and accelerate the commercialization of life science innovation.

Synapse seeks to support all companies and institutions that make up the Hamilton life science cluster, celebrating the strengths and successes of industry leaders and new start-ups, as well as promoting the region as an attractive place to live, work and invest.

Founded in 2016, the Synapse Consortium initiative brought together leaders from anchor institutions across the Hamilton region, including both private and public sector organizations who saw significant opportunity for greater collaboration and coordination across the cluster.

### 3. HEALTHI Program Parameters

#### 3.1 – What are the HEALTHI program objectives?

A critical missing component to enable the scaling of activities is access to clinical and research expertise, data, and resources, allowing firms to secure sizable follow-on investments and attract the management expertise needed to scale their business.

By facilitating the **HEALTHI** program, our goal is to connect life science firms with clinical administrative resources which will guide the development of protocols that will lead to commercialization processes or clinical trials. Making that possible are two world-class research hospitals located in Hamilton: Hamilton Health Sciences (Canada’s 2<sup>nd</sup> largest hospital network) and St. Joseph’s Healthcare Hamilton (part of the regional St. Joseph’s Healthcare hospital network). Along with McMaster University and Mohawk College, Hamilton possesses a strong research environment and deep clinical expertise required for life science firms to grow and prosper.

While research hospitals and universities can support a strong pipeline of world-class scale-ups, a lack of funding often prevents start-up and scaling firms from developing relationships required to scale. To address this gap, Innovation Factory, the Synapse Consortium, and its clinical partners have joined with the NRC-IRAP to deploy the *Hamilton Ecosystem to Accelerate and Leverage Trials of Health and Innovation* program (**HEALTHI**). Through support to globally competitive companies, we hope to reverse the outflow of intellectual property (IP) and talent to the US and other markets, helping retain the economic and scientific value generated by innovative Canadian firms.

To that end, the **HEALTHI** program invites life science firms with innovative technologies that are at or beyond the Technology Readiness Level<sup>1</sup> (TRL) 6 to collaborate with a clinical partner to develop all pre-trial or commercialization logistics and documents.

#### 3.2 What funding is available?

The Government of Canada, through the NRC-IRAP, will provide up to \$15,000 through the **HEALTHI** program, which aims to support Canadian-based, life science firms from April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 – March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022.

- Firms can access up to a maximum of \$15,000 in non-dilutive NRC-IRAP grant funding.
- A clinical champion must be matched with the applying life science firm from one of the partner institutions (i.e., Hamilton Health Sciences, St. Joseph’s Hospital).
  - The **HEALTHI** program team will attempt to match high-potential applicants to a clinical champion.

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<sup>1</sup> For more information about technology readiness levels, visit: [www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/080.nsf/eng/00002.html](http://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/080.nsf/eng/00002.html)

- Firms must provide a \$2,500 cash contribution.

### Special Considerations

- Stacking federal government funding is not allowed.
- Stacking provincial and municipal funding is subject to review and approval.

### 3.3 – Who can apply?

- A privately incorporated Canadian life science firm<sup>2</sup>.
- Working towards commercializing an innovative technology at Technology Readiness Level Six (TRL-6) or above.
- Demonstrated commitment to commercializing innovation with a clear clinical application.
- Eligible firms must be a client of Innovation Factory. Firms can sign-up for free with Innovation Factory [here](#).

### 3.4 – What costs are eligible?

Innovation Factory will reimburse the clinical partner (i.e., Hamilton Health Sciences or St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton) up to \$15,000 at the completion of the work once an attestation of work has been reviewed and approved by both Innovation Factory and NRC-IRAP. Costs associated with the project include portions of salary for clinical coordinators and research administrators who provide assistance on drafting all project protocols and supporting documentation in preparation for a commercialization project or clinical trial.

Project costs are subject to approval by the Synapse Life Science Consortium and must be auditable including a paper trail. If you have questions about eligible costs, please reach out to the Synapse staff for more information.

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<sup>2</sup> Life science firms include for-profit companies operating in the fields of pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, medical devices, digital health, biomedical technologies, nutraceuticals, cosmeceuticals, and others that dedicate their efforts to creating products to improve the lives of organisms.

## 4. HEALTHI Program Application Process

### 4.1 – How to prepare an application

Step 1: Complete a **HEALTHI** application form: <https://www.innovationfactory.ca/funding-HEALTHI/>

Step 2: The **HEALTHI** program team will review your application within 1-2 weeks before scheduling an introduction meeting to explore project suitability and alignment with HEALTHI program goals.

Step 3: The **HEALTHI** program team will work with hospital partners to determine capacity and capabilities to help initiate a **HEALTHI** project.

Step 4: The applicant and **HEALTHI** program team will meet with NRC-IRAP program sponsor, to review proposed project and identify opportunities to leverage additional NRC programmatic support.

Step 5: Applicant will work with hospital partner to draft **HEALTHI** contract to define the scope of work and project deliverables.

Step 6: Submit the drafted contract for review by the **HEALTHI** program team. Upon approval, fully execute the signed contract.

Step 7: Execute **HEALTHI** project with hospital partner. Submit attestation of work completion to HEALTHI program team stating that all project deliverables and milestones have successfully completed.

If you have any questions during your application process, please feel free to reach out to the HEALTHI program team by emailing the Program Manager at [alek.tirpan@innovationfactory.ca](mailto:alek.tirpan@innovationfactory.ca)

### 4.2 - Deadlines and timelines

Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis. Project grants for this program will be approved until March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022 or until all funds have been committed.

## 5. Program Administration

### 5.1 – Program timeline

- Funding for the **HEALTHI** program is available from April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 – March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021.
- Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis.
- Initial review of applications by the **HEALTHI** team will take place within 2 weeks of application receipt.
- Drafting and execution of the project contracts will be dependent on your hospital and their partner institution.
- There is no required project length.
- Funding will be released on a reimbursement basis after the attestation of work completed has been submitted by the hospital partner.

### 5.2 – Project contracts

A project contract template has been developed in consultation with Hamilton Health Sciences and St. Joseph’s Healthcare Hamilton. This template will be used to help expedite the contracting process. Please contact your hospital partner to discuss the information required to draft your project contract.

### 5.3 – Reporting requirements

**HEALTHI** grant recipients will meet with the **HEALTHI** program team on an *ad hoc* basis to provide an update on the project progress. A final report detailing the successful completion of the project deliverables, attestation of the work completed, and submission of all claims will be due at the end of the project. A final report template will be provided to the life science firm and hospital partner to complete.

The life science firm will also agree to report back to the **HEALTHI** program team one year and two years following the completion of the project. The **HEALTHI** team will request basic company data required to measure the success of the program.

### 5.4 – Protection of intellectual property

Applicants should clearly mark as “proprietary” any information within their application or within the drafted protocol documents that they deem to be a trade secret or proprietary information. Proprietary information can include details regarding the applicant(s), their financial information, and their project. This information is to be maintained as confidential and will not be shared on public sites.

Proprietary information found within applications will be used or disclosed only for the purposes of project evaluation and review. Projects who are successfully funded under the **HEALTHI** program are subject to the federal [Access to Information Act](#) and [Privacy Act](#).





All **HEALTHI** team members participating in the review of **HEALTHI** applications have signed non-disclosure agreements requiring them to uphold the confidentiality of all privileged information, including trade secrets and proprietary information.

Coverage and treatment of intellectual property generated through the execution of a **HEALTHI** project will be aligned with the Innovation Factory IP Policies.

## 6. Supplementary Information

### 6.1 – Access to Information Act and the Privacy Act

The **HEALTHI** program is subject to the federal [Access to Information Act](#) and [Privacy Act](#).

### 6.2 – Underrepresentation balance (EDI)

Synapse and Innovation Factory encourage the participation and engagement of life science firms from underrepresented groups to encourage diversity among **HEALTHI** program grant recipients.

### 6.3 – Public website

Information about the **HEALTHI** program and how to apply can be found [here](#).

### 6.4 – Contact information

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