

Guidelines and Eligibility Criteria

About the Novartis Health Equity Initiative

Health disparities in Canada go beyond individual health issues - they underscore deeper societal injustices that undermine our social fabric. These inequities highlight the existence of systemic barriers and inequalities that weaken our overall health and well-being as a society. Addressing health equity requires strategies that reduce socioeconomic disparities, promote culturally sensitive care, enhance access to services, and address the specific needs of marginalized populations.

At Novartis Canada, we are committed to addressing the deep-rooted disparities in our health system including access, delivery, and outcomes. By working with community partners, we can amplify our efforts and improve health outcomes for Canadians while also creating a more equitable health system.

The initiative focuses on projects by eligible organizations aimed at improving health equity and addressing the unique healthcare challenges faced by underserved and marginalized populations.

Application Guidelines

Who Can Apply

- **Eligible Applicants:** Duly registered charitable/non-profit organizations within Canada with clear and transparent objectives focused on tackling health inequities in the communities in which they operate.
- **Ineligible Applicants:** Individuals and organizations outside Canada

Strong applications will focus on systemic inequities that address the fundamental causes of unequal health outcomes within Canada.

Priority Areas: Women and Gender-Diverse People's Health Equity

This year, our theme is Women and Gender-Diverse People's Health Equity, with an emphasis on practical, measurable solutions that reduce inequities in access to care.

Areas of Focus:

1) Social determinants of health (SDOH) solutions

We are seeking projects that improve women and gender diverse people's health equity by addressing barriers shaped by the social determinants of health. This includes practical solutions linked to lived realities such as income, caregiving responsibilities, transportation, housing instability, food insecurity, rural or remote location, language barriers, functional limitations, mental health burden, and lack of consistent access to primary care.

2) Timely access, earlier diagnosis, and respectful care (reducing biases)

We are seeking projects that strengthen respectful, timely, and equitable care by reducing bias and improving how women and gender diverse people's health concerns are heard, assessed, and addressed. This can include approaches that build trust, improve care experiences, support shared decision making, or reduce dismissals and misdiagnosis through community informed solutions or approaches that help people get the right care sooner.

Project Requirements:

- Project and team overview
- The project should clearly demonstrate how it aligns with the overarching goals and objectives of promoting health equity.
- Active involvement of impacted communities and individuals with living/lived experiences.

- Strong rationale and justification for equitable use of funds.
- Transparent and sustainable budget
- Measurable outcomes with a sound evaluation plan
- Reporting and feedback on project milestones

Evaluation Criteria

- Level of community engagement and involvement
- Degree to which people with lived experiences have been included and are influencing the project design and implementation.
- Equity potential
 - Potential to advance health equity while minimizing harms compared to the current state of the community, in the short, medium and long-term
- Project feasibility
 - Ability to implement, measure outcomes, and project sustainability beyond the Novartis Health Equity Initiative.

Funding Information

- **Total Available Funding:** \$250,000*
- **Application Process:**
 - Opened May 14, 2026
 - Closed June 19, 2026
- **Funding Decisions:** By October 2026
- **Funding Distribution:** By December 2026
- **Funding Period:** One time funding for initiatives with implementation in 2026-2027

**A total of \$250,000 in funding is available and will be shared among the selected projects. This represents a combined funding pool, not fixed per project funding. Novartis may contact shortlisted organizations to assess alignment between funding requested and anticipated impact. Final awarded amounts may differ from initial requests.*

Remember:

- Deadlines are strict. Please consider submitting your applications before the due date.
- Demonstrate how your project has a clear, measurable impact on advancing health equity.
- Highlight community engagement and involvement throughout your project.

Additional Resources

- Contact health.equity1@novartis.com for application assistance and a response will be provided within 5 business days.

We are committed to making the application process accessible to all. If you require additional support, application adjustment or have questions about our methodology, please contact health.equity1@novartis.com for additional clarity and/or support.

Additional Eligibility Information

Funding will only be given to legitimate charitable/non-profit organizations (duly registered in Canada) and must have clear and transparent objectives. Individuals are not eligible to apply.

The Novartis Health Equity Initiative funds must not be used for the following activities:

- Activities that have already been performed or events that have passed

- Activities that result in Novartis receiving ownership of intellectual property rights
- Directly involve the use of Novartis or other pharmaceutical companies' products
- Promotion of any Novartis product or attempts to influence decisions related to formularies
- Accredited Independent Medical Education
- From or to institutions, associations, or organizations outside Canada
- Entertainment, gifts and promotional items
- Activities held in lavish venues/resorts
- Training of staff organized and performed by the same organization
- Equipment, textbooks, infrastructure or operating expenses and/or “bricks & mortar”
- Support for legal or litigation costs
- Sponsorship or travel to attend congresses/meetings held in Canada and abroad
- Subscription to publications
- Development of clinical practice guidelines, which refer to statements providing recommendations to guide healthcare practitioners in making appropriate decisions for specific clinical situations
- Religious purposes
- Activities not aligned with the stated goals and objectives of the funding organization or program
- Activities for which funds are misused for personal gain or diverted from their intended purpose

The Novartis Health Equity Initiative will not support activities that are unethical, illegal, or pose significant risks to individuals or society. Activities must not promote discrimination, harm, or violate human rights are unethical, illegal, or pose significant risks to individuals or society.

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