

Faculty Health Innovation Challenge — FAQs

1. What is the Faculty Health Innovation Challenge?

The Faculty Health Innovation Challenge is an interdisciplinary event that brings faculty together to develop innovative, practical solutions to a real-world health and wellness challenge facing rural communities.

2. What is this year's challenge?

This year's challenge will focus on **Healthy @ Home: Innovating Care for Rural Nova Scotia**. Participants will explore the question: **How can we help Nova Scotians stay healthy at home and access the care they need, wherever they live?**

3. Who can participate?

Faculty from across Acadia and Universite Sainte Anne are encouraged to participate. **No specific disciplinary background is required.** The challenge is intentionally interdisciplinary, and we welcome perspectives from health, science, social sciences, business, education, arts, technology and other areas.

4. Do I need to participate as part of a team?

Yes. Teams must include a minimum of two and maximum of six faculty members representing at least two different departments.

5. How can I form a team?

Teams can be formed at any time, either prior to the Kick-off event or during/after the event up to a deadline of end-of-day October 26. You can find the registration form [here](#). If you need assistance forming a team please contact Adrienne Sutton, HWI Coordinator at Adrienne.sutton@acadiau.ca.

Collaborations between Acadia University and Universite Sainte Anne are encouraged.

6. What are the dates?

The Kick-off event will be held on **Tuesday October 20** in K.C. Irving Environmental Science Centre Auditorium from 4:15-5:45pm, where organizers will issue the Challenge, and support the formation of teams, mentors and networking. **At least one team member must attend the Kick-off event.**

Following the Kick-off event, teams will have 30 days to develop their proposed solutions which they will pitch on **Thursday November 19**, to a panel of health care experts and community partners.

7. Do I need to have an idea before the Kick-off event on October 20?

No. You don't need to arrive with a fully developed solution. The challenge is designed to help participants identify opportunities, collaborate with others, develop ideas and turn them into an initial concept.

8. How does the Challenge actually work?

Over the course of the 30 days (from Kick-off event to Challenge pitches), participants will have an opportunity to work on a proposed solution to the Challenge statement, compile evidence to support the solution, connect with mentors, consult with community partners and receive pitch training.

On November 19, teams are expected to present a well prepared, creative, concise, 5-minute pitch to a panel of judges, who will then select 3 solutions that will receive research seed funding support. We anticipate that proposed solutions will range from technical, to care-models, to social and human-centred solutions.

9. What kind of ideas are you looking for?

We are looking for **creative but practical solutions** that could make a meaningful difference in rural health and wellness.

Ideas could include but are not limited to::

- Technology or digital solutions
- Community-based programs
- New approaches to delivering care
- Prevention and health promotion
- Supporting aging in place
- Supporting critical care at home
- Transportation and access
- Mental wellness
- Health education
- Partnerships between organizations
- Workforce or service delivery innovations
- Addressing social, language, cultural or environmental barriers to health

Purposed solutions don't need to solve the entire healthcare system. A focused solution to a meaningful problem can have significant impact.

10. Does my idea have to be something completely new?

No. Innovation doesn't necessarily mean inventing something that has never existed. Innovation can mean adapting an existing idea, bringing approaches together in a new way, or applying a successful solution in a rural context.

11. Will I need to conduct research before the Kick-off event?

No. Participants will not be expected to conduct extensive research beforehand. However, teams should consider evidence, community needs and the perspectives of people who would be affected by their proposed solution.

12. What happens to proposed solutions after the Challenge?

The goal is for the Challenge to be more than a one-day event. Promising ideas may be supported for further development, mentorship, partnership, research, funding or pilot testing through the Health & Wellness Institute and its partners.

13. What if my solution isn't selected?

The Challenge is about learning, collaboration and generating new possibilities. Every team will have an opportunity to develop an idea, receive feedback and potentially identify opportunities for further development.

14. Can I participate if I don't have a health research background?

Absolutely. In fact, interdisciplinary perspectives are one of the strengths of the Challenge. Some of the most valuable contributions may come from people who approach a health challenge from a different discipline or perspective.

15. What do I get out of participating?

Participation provides an opportunity to:

- Work with colleagues outside your discipline
- Explore a real-world health challenge
- Develop and test an innovative idea
- Connect with community and healthcare partners
- Identify potential research and funding opportunities

16. How do I register?

You can register for the Faculty Health Innovation Challenge [here](#).

17. How does the Challenge connect to the Health & Wellness Institute?

The Faculty Health Innovation Challenge is an opportunity to celebrate the Institute's launch and mandate by connecting interdisciplinary faculty expertise with community needs and real-world health and wellness challenges. It is intended to foster collaboration, generate innovative ideas and create opportunities for future research, community engagement, partnerships and funding.