IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

ADDITIONAL DETAILS

Call for Mental Health Innovation

Apply Now

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Overview

Turn promising health technology ideas into investment-ready ventures

The Call for Innovation is a founder's first step into Core Innovation's venture-building pathway.

Health technology founders face unique set of hurdles. From proving market need and navigating healthcare systems to preparing for adoption, investment, and growth. The Call for Innovation exists to support early-stage ventures as they tackle these challenges with more confidence and less guesswork.

Selected founders join a structured program designed to identify opportunities, test assumptions, sharpen their strategy, and prepare for whatever's coming next, be it a pilot, a raise, or a first paying customer.

The Pathway

Program Structure: A two-stage pathway

The program is designed to meet founders where they are, with a pathway to deeper support for ventures that are moving quickly

01

The Bootcamp

4 weeks

A high-impact, fast-paced introduction focused on getting the fundamentals of your venture right.

Over four weeks, founders work on:

- Refining their business model
- Clearly communicating the unique value proposition
- Identifying their highest-risk assumptions
- Applying tailored 1:1 feedback

The program consists of four live sessions, complemented by venture-building exercises and 1:1 office hours with a member of the Core Innovation team.

02

Additional Support

4-6 months • by invitation

A deeper venture-building program for companies that demonstrate strong momentum through the Bootcamp and alignment with Core Innovation.

Following the Bootcamp, companies will have the opportunity to apply for more intensive support through a competitive selection process.

2026 Cohort

Focus Area: Mental Health Innovation

This cohort, Core Innovation is prioritizing solutions that address **mental health** challenges across the healthcare system, with a special interest in solutions designed for children, youth, and their families.

Founders working on solutions that promote mental well-being, prevent or identify mental health challenges, improve access to mental health support, or strengthen mental health care are all a good fit for this area of interest.

Program Partner

PCYMH
PRECISION CHILD & YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH

This year's call for innovation is launched in partnership with the Precision Child and Youth Mental Health Collaboratory (PCYMH).

PCYMH uses comprehensive information about individual patients to more precisely identify and treat children and youth with mental health problems. **Click here to learn more about PCYMH.**

Eligbility

Who tends to be a good fit

Core Innovation looks for ambitious founders building early-stage health technology ventures with the potential to improve healthcare delivery and patient outcomes.

Ideal Applicants	Not Eligible
• Digital health and MedTech companies • Class I or II medical devices • Solutions at Technology Readiness Level (TRL) 2-8 • Full-time founders or clinician founders building ventures alongside clinical practice • Second-time or repeat founders	• Pharmaceutical companies • Class III medical devices • Ventures that do not align with Core Innovation's mission

Montfort

Program Partner

Core Innovation is partnering with Hôpital Montfort to support French-speaking and bilingual founders through the program.

What to Expect

What you'll leave with

By the end of the program, founders can expect to have made real progress on the foundation underpinning their business model. Expect to have:

Customer Clarity
A clear understanding of your customers and their needs

Sharper Positioning
A refined unique value proposition and business model

A Path to Market
A clearer commercialization roadmap

Named Risks
Identified technical, regulatory, and market risks

A Next-Step Plan
Prioritized next steps for growth, partnerships, and fundraising

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Support

Why work with Core Innovation

Bringing a health innovation to market requires more than a great idea. Success depends on understanding the healthcare landscape, validating real needs, and building a clear path to commercialization.

Core Innovation is uniquely positioned within the health system, giving founders valuable insight into how healthcare innovations are developed, evaluated, adopted, and scaled. Combined with experience supporting health technology ventures, we help innovators navigate the challenges that often slow progress and focus on the activities that create the greatest momentum.

Founders work directly with a team that brings expertise in customer discovery, market validation, healthcare systems, and venture development. Through practical frameworks, tactical exercises, and hands-on guidance, we help innovators make informed decisions, reduce risk, and build solutions positioned for real-world impact.

Details

Key Dates & Program Details

These details apply to the Bootcamp stage of the 2026 Call for Innovation.

2026 Bootcamp

Application Deadline
October 11, 2026

Program Timeline
November 18th - December 16th, 2026

Program Size
Up to 25 companies

Program Fee
$950

Have an idea worth validating? Apply Now

About Core Innovation

Core Innovation Corp. is an independent not-for-profit corporation incorporated under the Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act in March 2026. It grew out of the health-innovation work pioneered at CHEO and across the Eastern Ontario health system, and now operates as its own organization, serving innovators across all populations by connecting them with clinical expertise, patient access and real-world care environments.

The 8-80 Collaborative

Through the 8-80 Collaborative, Core Innovation builds and curates a regional network of partner hospitals across Eastern Ontario, generating deal flow, filtering for clinical readiness and validating innovations in real care settings. A sourcing model, curated by CORE, that de-risks every step of the pathway.