

Clinical Systems Renewal

FY2022-23 Funding Guideline

1. Introduction

The Ministry of Health (MOH) has approved dedicated funding for FY2022-23 for Approved and In Development Ontario Health Teams (OHT) and other health care organizations, to support investments that lead to increased access and sharing of clinical information across sectors through enabling interoperability and/or reducing the fragmentation of clinical systems. Available funding is intended for projects that lay a foundation to further streamline health care systems that result in better integrated care outcomes for Ontarians

Clinical systems are information systems that capture, manage, and provide access to health information and are used as a tool by providers and authorized staff for defined health care organizations for the direct delivery of care. Clinical system solutions lay a foundation for sharing health information and provide a platform to embed clinical best practices and standards based on leading evidence.

Ontario Health (OH) is inviting proposals for high impact projects demonstrating alignment to the guidelines and objectives of Clinical Systems Renewal Funding, the priorities of the participating Ontario Health Teams and to OH Regional plans for sharing health information.

New applicants are invited to submit a one-year funding request for project activities up to March 31, 2023, including a detailed plan and budget. Ontario Health will enter into a Transfer Payment Agreement (TPA) with successful applicants.

Sustainment funding applicants that successfully met their FY2021-22 TPA deliverables may be eligible for funding in FY2022-23, following the submission, regional endorsement, and approval of the Proposal Re-Baseline Report as outlined in the FY2021-22 TPA.

OH, welcomes proposals from Indigenous health care organizations, including those serving First Nations, Inuit, Metis, and Urban Indigenous persons.

Interested Ontario Health Teams and Ontario based health care organizations should discuss this funding opportunity with the OH Region who will support the development and identification of initiatives that best meet the funding guidelines and align with the regional priorities.

2. Objectives

The key objectives of this funding are to:

- Enable greater access and sharing of health information between sectors to support the delivery of care through the increased interoperability and reduced fragmentation of clinical systems
- Lay a foundation for broader benefits across Ontario Health Teams (OHTs) and OH Regions resulting in easier sharing of health information to support the delivery of care.

Clinical benefits of this funding include:

- Enable foundations to further streamline health care systems for better integrated care outcomes based on expanded access to health information.
- Increase health information sharing between sectors represented by one or multiple OHTs and OH Regions.
- Improve the patient/consumer experience as they move between providers and organizations, accessing relevant information to provide better integrated care and to improve quality of services.
- Implement, expand the use and integration of clinical systems in alignment with the Ontario Electronic Health Record (EHR) Interoperability Standards for consistent sharing of meaningful health information across health systems.

3. Submission Requirements

To be considered, all successful submissions **must**:

- Be led by one or more Approved OHTs, In Development Teams or other health care organizations that can identify a Sponsoring Organization that agrees to signing a funding agreement with OH that includes performance targets and monthly reporting requirements.
- Indicate how the proposal meets the OHT Guidelines in Section 6.
- Describe the project goals and value-proposition to achieve the Objectives and Clinical Benefits of this funding opportunity and how it aligns to OHT goals and OH Regional planning.
- Describe how the proposal aims to meet the Submission Guidelines in Section 4 below.
- Describe information about all participating organizations, include which will receive funding and demonstration of commitment from the participating organizations.
- Describe the current (baseline) and target number post-implementation of:
 - Number of physicians, nurse practitioners, allied health, and other system users (who will have expanded access to health information)
 - Number of accessible patient/consumer/population records (level of patient impact)
- Describe information about the pre-implementation and post-implementation clinical system(s) in the proposal, include:
 - The vendor, system name and type (e.g., EMR, HIS module etc.)
 - Verify the post-implementation system(s) meets the applicable Technology Criteria (Refer to Section 5)

- Describe the proposed change and how the project implementation will enable greater access to health information.
- Provide the project timeline with key milestones with targets, consider including the following (as applicable):
 - Project Governance
 - Inventory and analysis of existing systems
 - Solution procurement
 - Sustainability
 - Privacy, Security and Legal
 - Marketing and Communications
 - Risk Management
 - Operationalization
 - System and Data Migration
 - User Support and Training
 - Go Live
 - Staged Onboarding (by phase or wave as applicable)
- Include a detailed budget to achieve activities to be achieved up to March 31, 2023, include:
 - Costing of eligible expenses (one time and operational)
 - In-kind support
- Follow the Proposal Submission and Approval Process in Section 8 below.

4. Submission Guidelines

Successful submissions must aim to present a plan that addresses the following:

- Demonstrate collaboration with the OH Region for proposal development (align to regional planning and prioritization and impact), ongoing consultative role of OH, and alignment to provincial activities and for proposal endorsement by the OH Region.
- Demonstrate establishment of data governance, privacy, technology, processes and policies that support desired outcomes.
- Includes a plan for provider/user onboarding, marketing, and communications to support adoption and evaluation.
- Includes an evaluation plan to measure and verify the project is enabling improved provider/user access to health information.
- Demonstrate, if implementing a new system, the procurement process including the evaluation criteria and the existing systems to evaluate standardization and buying power, consideration for reduction of health system costs and inefficiencies.
- Include, if applicable, a plan for spread and scale to achieve equity of access or to expand participation by other OHT members.

5. Technology Criteria

Successful submissions **must** present a plan that meets the following:

- EMR systems must be Certified by OntarioMD. (Refer to Section 7. Digital Health References)
- Clinical systems must use a cloud-based hosting model. Consideration will be given where this requirement is not possible based on the stated use case.
- Clinical systems must be capable of meeting the Ontario Electronic Health Record (EHR) Interoperability Standards, including HIS primary care modules. (Refer to Section 7. Digital Health References)

6. OHT Guidelines

Submissions from Approved OHTs, In Development teams, and multi-OHT submissions should demonstrate that their submissions align with the OHT model. Examples of how applicants can demonstrate alignment with the OHT model include the following:

- The submission was developed by the OHT according to processes outlined in their Collective Decision-Making Arrangement(s) and submitted with the OHT as signatory (e.g., leadership council).
- The submission aligns with OHT priorities and OHT-specific performance indicators.
- The proposed program involves an active collaboration between OHT members that represent more than one sector.
- Funds will be flowed to and managed by a fundholder nominated by the OHT on behalf of all beneficiary OHT members.
- The submission aligns with ministry direction for In Development teams, if applicable, (e.g., to join with other teams).

7. Digital Health References

The following references pertain to current digital health policies and standards in Ontario that should be used to guide proposal development.

- [OntarioMD Certified EMR Offerings](#)
- [Digital Health Playbook – Clinical Systems Policy](#)
- [Digital Health Information Exchange Standard \(DHIEX\)](#)
- [Digital Health Connectivity Requirements for Point of Service \(POS\) Procurements](#)
- [Ontario Electronic Health Record \(EHR\) Interoperability Standards](#)

8. Proposal Submission and Approval Process

Interested OHTs, In Development Teams and other health care organizations should contact their OH Region (contacts below) to plan collaboratively and discuss their questions and the submission process. OH, Regions are responsible for facilitating submission development and determining which should be submitted for funding approval.

Central OH-Central_DigitalVirtual@ontariohealth.ca

East	OH-East_DigitalVirtual@ontariohealth.ca
North	OH-North_DigitalVirtual@ontariohealth.ca
Toronto	OH-Toronto_DigitalVirtual@ontariohealth.ca
West	OH-West_DigitalVirtual@ontariohealth.ca

Ontario Health (OH) Regions are responsible to facilitate proposal development and to determine which proposals to endorse for funding approval. Applicants must use the approved Clinical Systems Renewal Proposal template and sent to their Regional Contact (emails above). Submissions will be submitted to Ontario Health Virtual Care Secretariat for funding review and approval. The Secretariat will oversee the allocation of funding to eligible submissions according to a criteria-driven process.