

Request for Applications (RFA)

Implementing SCI Health Care Solutions in Canada

Summary

What is this funding for?	This funding supports projects that will put an SCI health care solution(s) into practice to improve care delivery and outcomes in a real-world setting in Canada.
How much funding is available?	Applicants may request up to \$25,000 CAD per project
How many projects will be funded?	Praxis expects to fund up to six projects, investing up to \$150,000 CAD in total. <i>Final award numbers and amounts will depend on the applications received and remain at Praxis' sole discretion.</i>
What is the project period?	September 1, 2026 to March 31, 2027
When is the deadline?	July 31, 2026
What might a supported project look like?	Examples include implementing a biomarker-based approach, adapting part of SCI Standard or guideline for use in care, introducing a checklist or pathway, deploying a toolkit, or other validated/evidence-based solution(s).

About Praxis

Praxis Spinal Cord Institute is a Canadian not-for-profit organization that advances collaboration in spinal cord injury (SCI) research, innovation, and care. Praxis works to accelerate the uptake of discoveries and best practices into improved treatments, services, and outcomes for people living with SCI. Its strategic objectives include supporting neurorestorative treatments, evidence-informed care, and innovations identified as priorities by Canadians living with SCI, including traumatic and non-traumatic injuries, people of all ages, and equity-deserving groups. See [Praxis website](#) for more information.

Background

Praxis invests in the development of evidence-informed clinical resources and implementation supports to improve the quality, consistency, and person-centred care for people living with SCI. These supports include practice guidelines, standards, toolkits, algorithms, care pathways, checklists, biomarkers, and related resources. Praxis also supports activities that promote the uptake of these resources and the implementation of best practices across health care settings in Canada to support the delivery of person-centred care for people living with SCI.

Description of the RFA

The objective of this RFA is to fund **implementation-focused projects** that will adapt, introduce, and integrate health care solutions that are ready for use. These projects should **support practice and policy changes** that improve care for SCI.

Projects must:

- Be implemented in real-world settings in Canada
- Clearly define the clinical issue being addressed
- Identify the setting and intended users
- Describe how the solution(s) will be put into practice including what will help organizations and partners successfully adopt and use it
- Include considerations for how the work will support ongoing use and future spread

This RFA supports implementation of existing solutions, including the resources listed below or other tools that support clinical decision-making and best practices in health care settings. Solutions addressing the needs of Indigenous Peoples and equity-deserving groups are encouraged. Development of new tools or resources is not eligible under this RFA; applicants should refer to Praxis' separate RFA on evidence synthesis.

Examples of eligible solutions include, but are not limited to:

- Implementing a validated biomarker test or related decision-support approach in care settings
- Implementing clinical practice guideline(s) [e.g., see [Time is Spine Workshop](#), Canadian SCI Practice Guideline ([Can-SCIP](#))]
- Implementing the [SCI Standard](#)
- Implementing a care checklist, tool or pathway across multiple centres
- Implementing findings from reports on women's health or essential health care services and supplies
- Implementing outcome measures and/or interventions into clinical practice

Praxis may invite selected recipients to participate in optional supplemental activities to demonstrate the economic value and/or impact of funded work. Participation is optional, will be determined case by case, and is subject to Praxis' discretion.

Where applicable, applicants are encouraged to:

- Follow the [Integrated Knowledge Translation \(IKT\) Guiding Principles](#) to support meaningful engagement of partners throughout the project
- Consult local university programs or community organizations to seek input from, or involve people with lived experience of SCI. (e.g., [UBC MEC](#), [UHN PiPER](#))
- For projects collecting data:
 - Utilize relevant data standards such as the [International SCI Data Sets](#) and the NIH National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) SCI Common Data Elements ([CDE](#))
 - Use nationally implemented outcome measures including the Standing and Walking Assessment Tool ([SWAT](#)), Spinal Cord Independence Measure ([SCIM](#)), and the International Standards for Neurological Classification of SCI ([ISNCSCI](#) or "ASIA exam")
 - Share and publish data through Open Data Commons for Spinal Cord Injury ([ODC-SCI](#)) with appropriate upfront consent

Expected Outputs and Deliverables

Projects may produce outputs such as adapted tools, implementation plans, workflow integration supports, training materials, and monitoring approaches. However, the ultimate goal is the successful and sustainable implementation of a solution in real-world care settings.

Award Duration and Amount

Projects must be completed within the anticipated grant term (**September 1, 2026 to March 31, 2027**), with a maximum request of **\$25,000 CAD** per project.

Within this short timeframe, Praxis recognizes that project scope and deliverables may be limited. Applicants are encouraged to focus on making meaningful and demonstrable progress toward implementing evidence-informed solutions, if full implementation within the grant period is not feasible.

Eligibility Criteria

The Principal Applicant must:

- Be affiliated or be partnered with an institution within Canada, eligible to receive Praxis funds (see “Host Institution” below);
- Have an academic, clinical, or research appointment that allows the pursuit of independent projects, including this proposal;
- Engage in independent research activities for the full duration of the funding period;
- As applicable, have completed all previous Praxis grant reporting (both narrative and financial), with no outstanding items;
- Agree to accept Praxis’ [conditions of award](#);
- Disclose all real or perceived conflicts of interest (see [policy & disclosure form](#));
- Identify any matched (cash or in-kind) or leveraged contributions (see [definitions](#)).

The Host Institution must:

- Be a [qualified donee](#) registered with Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) or an eligible non-qualified donee;
- Not be a private, for-profit organization.

Project Team must:

- Include: clinicians, researchers, persons with lived experience (PLEX) and/or SCI community organizations, leads from clinical programs/health authorities, implementation specialists/quality improvement leads (may also include industry or other partners as appropriate);
- Each member must have formal support from their organization to participate in the project.

Award Eligible Expenses

Awards cover direct project expenses only. Praxis funding does not cover indirect costs. Ineligible expenses may include (non-exhaustive and subject to finalization under funder requirements and executed agreements): rent, capital expenses (e.g. computers, office equipment, furniture, fixtures, etc.), indirect expenses (overhead, administrative costs), activities unrelated the project, and costs already funded elsewhere.

Key Dates

Key Dates	Target Date
RFA Opens	June 17, 2026
Deadline to Apply	July 31, 2026
Review Process	August 3–21, 2026
Notice of Decision	September 1, 2026
Anticipated Grant Term	September 1, 2026 – March 31, 2027

Application Instructions

Accessing the online application form [here](#), applicants must complete the following requirements:

- 1. Application Cover**
- 2. Project Short Title, Lay Title and Lay Summary** (max. 100 words)
- 3. Project Team Composition**
- 4. Proposal** (max. 4 -5 pages)
 - a. Background**
 - Describe the importance of the health care issue being addressed, including the implementation gap and why the selected solution is needed in the proposed setting.
 - Explain how the project builds on previous work and why the approach is timely, practical, and likely to improve care.
 - Describe how the intended impact aligns with Praxis’ areas of focus (see About Praxis).
 - b. Objectives**
 - Clearly state the project objectives.
 - Identify the setting and intended users.
 - c. Activities**
 - Describe the implementation approach, including how the solution will be adapted, introduced, and integrated into practice.
 - Explain how person-centred care principles are incorporated into the approach.
 - Outline key supports for implementation, such as consensus, training, workflow, and knowledge translation activities.
 - Describe considerations for how the work will support ongoing use and future spread, including adoption of new technologies if applicable.
 - d. Expected Outcomes**
 - Describe the outputs/deliverables and anticipated implementation outcomes on uptake, feasibility, acceptability, reach, fidelity, workflow change, user experience, and early clinical or system impacts, as appropriate.
 - Identify relevant Key Performance Indicators (KPI) (see [definitions](#)) and provide targets.
 - Number of people with lived experience engaged and integrated
 - Number of highly qualified personnel (HQP), trainees, and emerging professionals supported

- Number of partner organizations actively engaged, spanning the private sector, academia, research institutions, and public sector entities
- Number training and knowledge mobilization events delivered
- Number of researchers, clinicians, postdoctoral fellows, students, and entrepreneurs/innovators trained
- Number of publications, evidence products, and analytical outputs generated
- Demonstrable progress to the next phases of validation, implementation, commercialization, or scale
- Target value in dollars (CAD) of follow-on funding (e.g., value of planned subsequent funding applications catalyzed by this grant funding)
- Other (please specify and link directly to expected outcomes)

e. Operational Readiness

- Describe the team’s qualifications and expertise in implementation experience.
- Demonstrate readiness of the setting, including workflows, data supports, and leadership engagement, and infrastructure needed for successful implementation.
- Capacity to complete proposed activities and expend grant funds within the grant period.

f. Partner Engagement

- Describe how PLEX and other partners are contributing to and shaping the implementation (e.g., health care providers, researchers, community organizations, Indigenous communities, health authorities, innovators, companies, and policy-makers).

g. Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) and Indigenous Engagement

- Describe how [EDI considerations](#) will be reflected in the team and project approach.
- If applicable, outline any [Indigenous engagement](#), including approach and considerations.

5. Milestones and Timelines

- Outline key milestones, deliverables, targets, and timelines in the table.

6. Budget

- Provide a detailed project budget and description for all direct and incremental expenses.
- Identify any matched (cash or in-kind) or leveraged contributions (see [definitions](#)).
- Compensation for PLEX engagement is strongly encouraged.
- Travel & accommodation expenses:
 - Must be necessary for the project and be appropriate, economical, and reasonable, in line with [Modern Travel Practices of the Nation Council Travel Directive](#).
 - Applicants should consider virtual alternatives and justify any travel deemed necessary.
 - Conference travel is not supported under this funding opportunity.

7. Supporting Documents for the Principal Applicant(s)

- **Conflict of Interest Disclosure:** Review the [policy](#) and submit completed [disclosure form](#).
- **Letter of Confirmation:** Required for matched funding from other sources, as applicable.
- **CV:** 2-5 pages highlighting relevant contributions (e.g., CIHR Project-related CV, or other standard format).

Submission

Complete the application [online](#), upload all required supporting documents, and submit by the application deadline. Praxis will acknowledge receipt within two business days.

Please ensure all requirements are met, as incomplete or non-compliant applications may be deemed ineligible.

Review Process

Applications will be assessed by a review committee using the criteria and weightings below and ranked according to the rating scale:

1. Strategic Alignment and Potential Impact

- Alignment with Praxis’ strategic objectives (see About Praxis)
- Clarity and importance of the implementation need
- Potential to change practice and policy to improve care for SCI
- Potential for meaningful impact on SCI care and the SCI community

2. Merit, Feasibility, and Evaluation Approach

- Rigor and appropriateness of methods, timeline, and resources
- Quality and feasibility of the implementation approach
- Appropriateness of evaluation approach on the proposed outcomes, and plans for sustainability
- Integration of person-centred care principles

3. Operational Readiness

- Team composition, expertise and ability to deliver the project
- Evidence of matched funding or in-kind contributions
- Consideration of EDI and Indigenous engagement in both team and approach, as appropriate

4. Engagement and Sharing of Knowledge

- Quality and appropriateness of partner engagement
- Plans for sharing knowledge to support awareness, use, and longer-term impact

Weighting

Criterion	Weighting
Strategic Alignment & Potential Impact	15%
Merit, Feasibility & Evaluation Approach	35%
Operational Readiness	40%
Engagement & Sharing of Knowledge	10%

Rating Scale

Threshold	Range	Outcome
Outstanding	4.5 – 5.0	Recommended for funding
Excellent	4.0 – 4.4	
Verg Good	3.5 – 3.9	May be funded
Fair	3.0 – 3.4	Not recommended for funding
Not Adequate	1.0 – 2.9	

Funding Decision

Final funding decisions are made by the Chief Executive Officer based on review recommendations.

Contact Information

Please contact funding@praxisinstitute.org for questions regarding this application for funding.