

Pathfinders in Practice: Nurse Innovation Award

Empowering Nurse-Led Innovation for Health Systems Transformation

Are you a nursing student at the University of Calgary who is...

- Exploring research that could inform high-impact change in nursing or healthcare?
- Working on or launching a social impact idea, initiative, or early-stage social enterprise?
- Passionate about improving health systems, but unsure if what you are doing “counts” as innovation?

This opportunity is for you!

What is the Nurse Innovation Award?

The *Pathfinders in Practice: Nurse Innovation Award* supports bold, nurse-led ideas that are shaping the future of healthcare. We will award **up to \$5,000 per project** to a nursing student, or a team led by a nursing student, who are advancing a **nurse-led social impact initiative or early-stage social enterprise**.

In addition to financial support, recipient(s) will receive mentorship from experienced nurse researchers and innovators to help strengthen, scale, and share their work.

What Kind of Projects Are We Looking For?

We invite applications from **undergraduate and graduate students** in the Faculty of Nursing at the University of Calgary who are actively working on a **research or social impact project** with strong potential for **health systems transformation**.

Ideal applicants are:

- Mobilizing nursing knowledge for high-impact change
- Focused on empowering nurses and improving care delivery
- Advancing the quality of care for patients, families, and communities

Projects may take place in **any nursing practice setting**, including acute care, community, public health, mental health, long-term care, and beyond.

*We welcome **both innovative research and early-stage ideas** that challenge the boundaries of traditional healthcare. A formal business structure is not required.* Preference will be given to projects grounded in the **Canadian context**, with special attention to **Calgary** and **Alberta-based initiatives**.

Why Apply?

- Up to **\$5,000** in project funding
- **Mentorship** from nurse leaders and researchers
- A platform to **elevate your work and share your impact**
- Access to a **growing network of nursing innovators**
- Opportunities for **collaboration and funding** beyond the University

How to Apply

Complete a short application using [this survey link](#).

Apply today

You will be asked to submit:

- A brief survey-based application
- An executive summary (1-page max)
- Optional supporting documents (up to 7 pages)

Important Dates

Application Deadline	November 15, 2025 at 11:59 p.m.
Notice of Award	January 15, 2026
Award Disbursed	End of January 2026

Questions?

We are especially excited to hear from nurses who are advancing research or knowledge engagement work that holds real potential for social impact. If you are unsure whether your idea or work fits, we encourage you to reach out.

Together, let us reimagine what is possible in nursing, social innovation, and health systems transformation.

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This award is **sponsored by UCalgary's Faculty of Nursing** and brought to you by **The HIVE**.