

**Social Innovation Challenge
Program Information**





Social Innovation Challenge

The International Centre for Community-Driven Research (ICCDR) is a non-profit organisation bringing much needed change to the way we think about community engagement in health and research. Our vision is to facilitate meaningful connection between service providers, research organisations, the non-profit sector, practitioners, industry, government and the communities for which they provide a service or aim to benefit. ICCDR listens to the issues that patients, researchers, and healthcare and industry partners face and develop solutions - through community engagement - to solve those issues. We do this so that research, healthcare programs, policies and products being developed can reach the patients at the bedside sooner, and better address the needs patients and their family.

ICCDR has a particular interest in supporting people and organisations that want to make positive change in the way patients and their families experience the health system. This has led us to a new program called the Social Innovation Challenge. The aim of this program is to support the development of innovative projects to address some of the common challenges identified by patients and their families.

How it works

1. Through our work listening and documenting patient experience and expectations, ICCDR has identified four broad areas that will be the focus of projects to be developed through the Social Innovation Challenge. These include:

- i. Equitable access to affordable therapeutics
- ii. Equitable access to health services, particularly diagnostic tests for early diagnosis
- iii. Supporting people to navigate the health system, including access to clinical trials
- iv. Timely and appropriate access to information and support

2. ICCDR is calling for applications from individuals who have an idea that they would like to develop, and need support in doing so. The cost of the experience is CHF20,000. This amount covers the cost of travel, accommodation, tuition and support for an individual to come to Geneva for 12 weeks to develop their idea into a project that can be implemented. The deliverable is therefore an innovative project, that has been developed under the guidance and support of cross-sector leaders, that addresses both the needs of patients and their families as well as important public health challenges.

3. The deadline for applications is 11 March 2018. There will be a limit of 20 projects for the 2018 program. While the broad areas have been set, individuals may identify specific disease areas that they would like addressed. For example, a they may wish to specify that they would be interested in developing a project that addresses timeline and appropriate access to information and support for lung cancer patients or supporting people to navigate the health system, including access to clinical trials, in neurological conditions.

4. Individual applications will open on 2 February 2018. This will be advertised worldwide through university networks, professional bodies, industry partners and patient organisations. The program will be open to:

- Post graduate students of a health-related course
- Undergraduate students in their final year of a health-related course
- Individuals working in a health-related community organisation or patient organisation
- Healthcare professionals and industry professionals

5. The closing date for applications will be 11 March 2018. This will lead into a review process. ICCDR will conduct an assessment against criteria including alignment with patient needs, level of innovation (i.e. does this already exist?), transferability (does the project have potential to be implemented across disease areas) and whether the project has realistic potential to be implemented.

6. The program itself is a 12 week residential program where successful applicants will come to Geneva to develop their ideas into projects. The program is structured in the following way in collaboration with education and content specialist partners:

Week	Theme
Week 1	Orientation
Week 2	Project development: Identifying the problem and ensuring initiatives are driven by patient need (Evidence required) Projects will be across the key themes of Access to therapeutics; Access to health services and health system navigation; and Access to information and support (Themes identify by community partner organisation)
Week 3	Developing solutions: what initiative could be implemented to address a key issue/s in health including existing evidence to support the approach
Week 4	Stakeholder mapping: Identifying everyone who needs to be involved for success
Week 5	Resources: Identifying the tools, skills and resources are needed to achieve goals
Week 6	Measurement: Developing an appropriate baseline and evaluation matrix
Week 7	Governance: Developing appropriate project governance
Week 8	Advocacy and awareness: Getting your message across
Week 9	Validating your project against the SDG goals in health: Have you thought of everything?
Week 10	Validating your project against the WHO Community Engagement Framework: Have you thought of everyone?
Week 11	Project presentations: Funders invited to participate
Week 12	Participant retreat: How will you take projects through to implementation?

Figure 2: Overview of the 12 week program

Each week, the program will have the following schedule:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lectures	Guest speakers	Project work (Facilitated)	Field trip	Project work (Reflection task)
Lectures will be delivered in relation to the theme of the week. This will provide the methodology and evidence behind approaches to community engagement and public health.	Leaders from various fields of health from international organisations, global health initiatives and patient organisations will be invited to speak with the group to provide examples of real-world experience.	Participants will be supported in the development of their course project. Cultural evenings: Once a week the group will meet for a community dinner to explore the cultures and customs of the people in the group.	Participants will be given the opportunity to visit relevant international organisations, global health initiatives, non-government organisations and diplomatic missions in Geneva.	Participants will be given time to work on their course project and also given a weekly task to reflect on how they can develop their future careers to address patient needs.

Figure 3: Overview of the weekly program schedule

7. In week 11 of the program (26 November 2018), participants will present their projects. Funders are welcome to come to these presentations and engage in discussions of how the projects might be implemented in the real world. In the final week, participants focus on how they can build communities of change to operationalise their project, and how they can continue to place the needs of patients at the centre of their future work.

Our aim is then to run this program annually and over time, build an alumni of leaders in public health, who actively drive a more patient-centric health sector, globally.
