

Scarborough Ontario Health Team and Primary Care Network's Approach to Identifying Applicants for the Interprofessional Primary Care Expansion 2026-2027 Proposals

Context:

In response to the recent call for the Interprofessional Primary Care Expansion funding, on Monday, September 29, 2025, the Scarborough Ontario Health Team's (SOHT) Collaboration Council endorsed to support an Expression of Interest based approach to identify the applications SOHT will move forward to Ontario Health (OH). To support this approach an independent Working Group has been established, representing five-six individuals, details below.

Referring to the application materials ([please find the link here](#)), the Working Group has finalized a decision framework that will guide fair, transparent and strategic evaluations for the incoming proposals from SOHT partners.

Decision Framework:

The decision framework includes twelve criteria. The description and the scoring guide can be found next.

Criteria		Description
1	Primary Care Attachment Plan and Alignment with Primary Care Objective #1: Province-wide	Does the proposal present a clear, scalable, and inclusive plan—developed in partnership with SOHT and local stakeholders—to reduce primary care gaps in Scarborough and contribute to Ontario's goal of attaching 500,000 more people to primary care by March 2027?
2	Partnerships, Collaboration and Alignment with Primary Care Objectives #2: Connected	Does the proposal demonstrate robust mechanisms for care coordination with health and social services, formalized partnerships with community organizations and public health units, and integrated delivery of primary care tailored to local needs?
3	Alignment with Primary Care Objectives #4 - Inclusive	Does the proposal ensure barrier-free access to primary care, address the needs of equity-deserving populations, and provide culturally and linguistically appropriate services, including French-language care where required?
4	Alignment with Primary Care Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • #3 – Convenient, • #5 – Empowered • #6 – Responsive 	Does the proposal outline strategies for timely and convenient access (including after-hours and virtual care), empower patients through digital access to health information, and demonstrate responsiveness to community feedback and changing needs?
5	Readiness to Implement by April 1, 2026	Does the proposal provide a clear plan for operational readiness by April 1, 2026, leveraging existing infrastructure, human resources, and partnerships to meet community needs quickly and effectively?
6	Health Care Connect Waitlist Attachment Strategy	Does the proposal include targeted, measurable strategies to attach patients from the Health Care Connect waitlist, with prioritization of high-need areas and effective use of available tools?
7	Team Composition and Health Human Resources (HHR)	Does the proposal describe a comprehensive interprofessional team structure, affiliation with recognized models (FHT, CHC, IPHCO, NPLC), intentional hiring to maximize patient attachment, and strategies for recruitment, retention, and integration of team members to ensure long-term service delivery?
8	Budget & Start-Up Costs	Does the proposal align with funding guidelines (excluding large-scale capital projects over \$100,000), and are start-up costs realistic and sufficient to support timely implementation?
9	Governance	Does the proposal clearly describe the governance structure, ensure fair representation of partners, clinicians, and community members (including patients), and include mechanisms for transparency, accountability, and alignment with Ontario Health expectations?

Criteria		Description
10	Accountability & Reporting	Does the proposal identify clear leadership for performance monitoring, define tools and processes for tracking progress, and demonstrate capacity to meet Ontario Health's reporting requirements?
11	Risk Management	Does the proposal identify key risks (e.g., targeted recruitment, IT support plans, community engagement), outline tailored mitigation strategies and contingency plans, and assign clear accountability for risk management?
12	Long-Term Planning	Does the proposal provide a phased, data-informed plan to achieve 100% population attachment to primary care within three years, with clear milestones, capacity-building strategies, and mechanisms for ongoing monitoring and adjustment?

Scoring Guide: Each criterion in this framework is scored on a 10-point scale:

- 0: Criterion not addressed or missing
- 1–4: Weak alignment (lacks clarity)
- 5–7: Moderate alignment (some elements present but need refinement)
- 8–10: Strong alignment (comprehensive, clear, and actionable)

Timeline and Key Dates:

1. October 8-20 – Applicants review the materials shared and prepare for their submissions.
2. **DUE: October 20 at 5:00 pm – Interested applicants provide a short summary of the proposal (3-5 sentences) for review by the Working Group to ScarboroughOHT@shn.ca.**
3. October 23 – Working Group provides feedback to applicants that also incorporates insights from Ontario Health.
4. October 23 – November 6 – Applicant(s) continue to work on their proposals.
5. **DUE: November 6 at 5:00 pm – Applicants submit their completed forms – IPCT Expansion Proposal Form and Budget Template – for review by the Working Group to ScarboroughOHT@shn.ca.**
6. November 12 – Working Group decision are shared with each applicant directly via ScarboroughOHT@shn.ca.
7. November 14 at 5:00pm – SOHT submits three proposals to Ontario Health for final decision-making.

Working Group:

- An independent Working Group, representing community members, primary care providers, and key decision-makers, has been struck.
- These individuals will review and independently score the submissions using the decision-framework.
- Their scores will be aggregated and top three applicants identified.

Webinars:

SOHT will host webinars where additional questions that you may have about this approach, timeline, and other considerations can be discussed. Please consider registering for one of these webinars:

1. **Webinar 1:** Friday, October 10, 8:30 AM – 9:00 AM, [Registration Link](#)
2. **Webinar 2:** Friday, October 10, 10:00 AM – 10:30 AM, [Registration Link](#)
3. **Webinar 3:** Tuesday, October 14, 10:00 AM – 10:30 AM, [Registration Link](#)

For a link to the recording from Ontario Health's webinar about this opportunity, please visit: [IPCT Expansion 26/27 Technical Webinar, Sep 26, 2025 - YouTube](#)

For questions and clarifications as well as submissions, please send an email to ScarboroughOHT@shn.ca