



CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Join the IFA in this **call for innovative solutions to address obesity in older adults** in Canada, Australia and the United Kingdom.

** Winners will receive **USD 10,000 in seed funding** and be showcased to a global audience to inspire innovation in advancing obesity care for healthy ageing.*



Innovating for Impact: Advancing Solutions to Obesity in Older Adults to Promote Healthy Ageing

The International Federation on Ageing is launching a call to action on obesity and ageing. Submit your innovative projects and initiatives that will support advancing policy and practice to support obesity care for ageing populations.

Obesity is a significant barrier to healthy ageing, as it drives chronic disease and accelerates functional decline in older adults. It is essential to recognize that obesity is influenced by various societal factors, including access to healthy food, comprehensive healthcare services, opportunities for physical activity, and socioeconomic status. Obesity increases the risk of diabetes, cardiovascular disease, musculoskeletal disorders, and several cancers. Age-related changes in metabolism, muscle mass, physical activity, and hormonal balance make weight management particularly challenging in later life. Moreover, obesity in older adults often coexists with frailty, multimorbidity, and the influence of social determinants of health, amplifying its negative effects on wellbeing and quality of life. Despite its wide-ranging impact on ageing trajectories, obesity remains under-recognised within aged care, preventative health strategies, healthy ageing frameworks, and broader public health policy.

Call for Innovations

To address these gaps, the IFA, in partnership with Novo Nordisk, is launching a call for innovative solutions to address obesity in older adults in Canada, Australia and the United Kingdom.

This Innovation Challenge aims to recognize and elevate creative and novel community-led initiatives that support greater access to, and improved integration of, obesity care within healthy ageing strategies and promotion of good health across the life course, with a focus on older adults and later life.

Prize

Three winners will be selected based on review by a Selection Committee. **Winners will receive 10,000 USD seed funding to support the advancement of their initiatives.** Winners and short-listed candidates will be showcased to a global audience to foster inspiration and innovation in advancing obesity care as a component of healthy ageing.

Eligibility

IFA welcomes community-based patient and professional organizations, older adults' associations or other civil society to apply. While the focus of this Innovation Challenge is on obesity and ageing, we also welcome applications from organizations working in closely related sectors that can bring innovative, cross-cutting solutions to improve health and wellbeing in later life.

To be an eligible applicant, you must meet all the following criteria:

- Based or working in Canada, Australia, or the United Kingdom
- Be a registered civil society organization (CSO), including NGOs, community-based organizations, and networks or coalitions.
 - Health sector entities, including primary care groups, hospitals, and specialized institutions working in relevant thematic areas.
 - Public sector entities, including local and regional government bodies and institutions.
 - Academic and research institutions, including public universities, research centers, and think tanks.
- Targets one or more of the following audiences:
 - Older adults
 - Caregivers or care partners
 - Health professionals
 - Advocates
 - Education professionals
 - Community health agents

Individuals or informal groups without legal registration, private sector for-profit entities, and political parties or partisan organizations are ineligible for the purpose of this Innovation Challenge.

Selection Criteria

The challenge will prioritize projects on appropriate care for obesity and its risk factors and encourage the search for multidisciplinary treatment, as well as raising awareness and training civil society, health professionals and public managers. Projects that emphasize the importance of prevention and public policies are also encouraged.

Submissions will be evaluated based on their ability to address key priorities and demonstrate meaningful impact, with attention to the following criteria:

- Focus on priority action areas: address obesity and its risk factors, with attention to multidisciplinary treatment, prevention, awareness-raising, training, and public policy.
- Evidence of early success: demonstrate initial results or promising outcomes, showing potential for scaling or broader impact.
- Innovation and collaboration: use innovative approaches bring together multiple sectors (health, education, government, civil society).
- Sustainability and policy impact: plan for lasting impact and potential to influence public policy.

Examples of submissions include, but are not limited to:

- Advancing training of healthcare practitioners, or patient associations
- Holding of events, workshops, or knowledge mobilization activities regarding obesity
- Creating resources that promote public awareness, enhance healthcare relations, or address appropriate obesity care for older adults

Selection Committee

The Selection Committee will be comprised of a multisectoral expert review panel with both international, and country-level representation and expertise in ageing, obesity and related NCDs, public health, innovation, and policy. The Selection Committee will be integral in the selection of a shortlist, comprised of three innovations per country. Shortlisted innovations will receive formal recognition and a feature on IFA and partner platforms and will be invited to attend the virtual showcase.

Based on review from the Selection Committee, three awardees will be selected (one per country) to receive a cash prize to be used to support implementation of their proposed initiative. Additionally, awardees will be exposed to multisectoral stakeholders, policy influencers and funders to increase the potential of receiving further support to launch and pilot their initiative.

Timeframe and Selection Process

The Selection Committee will be comprised of a multisectoral expert review panel with both international, and country-level representation and expertise in ageing, obesity and related NCDs, public health, innovation, and policy. The Selection Committee will be integral in the selection of a shortlist, comprised of three innovations per country.

The call for submissions opens on **27/10/2025** and ends on **15/01/2026, at 11:59 p.m. EST**. Please submit your innovations exclusively through the following form: [Advancing Solutions to Obesity in Older Adults to Promote Healthy Ageing](#) .

About Us

[The International Federation on Ageing \(IFA\)](#) is an international non-governmental organization (NGO) aiming to improve the lives of older adults and influence age-related policy. Through members, including government, NGOs, academia, industry, and individuals in nearly 80 countries, General Consultative Status at the United Nations and its agencies, and formal working relations with the World Health Organization, our goal is to be the global point of connection and networks of experts and expertise to advance healthy ageing.