
2026 NSCCI National Competition

Purpose

- To promote innovative, interdisciplinary patient-oriented research related to the broad area of Complex Care in Child Health.

Criteria

Applications must be focused on children with medical complexity (CMC). CMC are defined as those children with:

- One or more complex chronic conditions (often multisystem and severe),
- Significant functional limitation often causing reliance on technology e.g., feeding tubes and tracheostomies,
- High healthcare utilization, requiring specialized care/services from a variety of providers across multiple sectors,
- High healthcare service needs e.g., care provision in the home and care coordination.

Applications that relate to specific patient populations that have a primary underlying diagnosis with firmly established advocacy and support groups and access to other funding sources (e.g., childhood cancer, cystic fibrosis, transplant patients) will not be considered eligible for this competition.

Eligibility

- Physicians, nurses, allied health professionals, researchers and trainees who are affiliated with an academic health science centre or university in Canada.
- New and early career investigators are encouraged to apply.
- Research partnership with patients and families, community groups, and/or family advisors is strongly recommended, and applications should include a patient and family engagement plan (including a budget where appropriate).

Amount of Award

- Approximately \$90,000 total funding is available for the 2026 Norm Saunders Complex Care Initiative competition. The number of awards will depend on the quality of applications received and the budgets proposed. Typically, one to three grants are funded per competition cycle.
- Applicants may request budgets of up to \$50,000 per project. However, to maximize the number of high-quality projects that can be supported, proposals with more modest and efficient budgets will be viewed favorably. Requests approaching the upper funding limit should be clearly justified as essential for successful completion of the proposed work.
- The adjudication committee reserves the right to recommend partial funding where appropriate.

Key dates

Deadline: **September 30, 2026**

Decisions: Award recipients are expected to be notified by approximately mid December 2026

For more details on the grant, application guidelines, and process, please visit the [NSCCI National Competition details](#) section in our page.