

What is the Facility Engagement Initiative?

The Facility Engagement Initiative (also known as the physician engagement initiative) is a province-wide endeavour outlined in the 2014 Memorandum of Understanding between the BC Ministry of Health, Doctors of BC and six health authorities. Designed to provide physicians working in hospitals and acute care facilities input on issues affecting them and their patients, this initiative also creates opportunities for physicians to work collaboratively with their health authority.

What is the Vancouver Physician Staff Association?

The Vancouver Physician Staff Association (VPSA) was established to lead the Facility Engagement Initiative and create an environment where physicians at VGH, UBC Hospital, GF Strong Rehabilitation Centre and affiliated community physicians feel supported, connected to their colleagues and inspired to come to work each day. More information on the VPSA governance structure is available [here](#). The VPSA has also established an [Engagement Working Group](#).

How is the Facilities Engagement Initiative funded?

Annual funding to support activities identified and prioritized by the VPSA and its members comes from the Specialist Services Committee, a partnership of Doctors of BC and the Ministry of Health. This initiative is a Canadian first to support and strengthen relationships between facility-based physicians and health authorities.

How much money is available for my Small Steps, Big Idea?

The VPSA is offering funding for Small Steps, Big Idea projects. Selected projects will receive between \$1,000 and \$5,000 in funding. Proposals should engage physicians and their nursing and allied health colleagues, improve patient care, develop better communication, and/or build relationships across specialties, departments and with community members.

How can I submit a proposal to get funding?

The process is simple. Download and complete the [application form](#) and submit it to vpsa.facilityengagement@gmail.com. Proposals are reviewed as they are received and funding is awarded on an ongoing basis. Expect a response approximately six weeks following submission. Small Steps, Big Idea launched April 11, 2018 and its duration will be determined based on participants' feedback and the initiative's success.

How will decisions be made regarding which projects get funded?

A working group will review and rank proposals. Projects must create or enhance relationships between physician groups (division or department) within or between VGH, UBCH and GF Strong. Projects involving health authority management or nursing and allied health professionals will garner stronger support. Projects must also relate to the VPSA Facility Engagement Initiative's priorities (refer to the [application form](#) for more information).