

Greenhouse FAQ



A quick reference guide for the most frequently asked questions regarding the iNET Greenhouse. .

What is the VHA Innovators Network? VHA

Innovators Network's (iNET) mission is to empower employees to become intrapreneurs; identify frontline challenges and design the solutions to solve them, utilizing human centered design and lean principles.

What is the iNET Greenhouse? The Greenhouse is an opportunity for the healthcare innovation community to collaborate with iNET sites throughout the country to: Conduct end user discovery and ideation

- Share early-stage product designs for end user feedback
- Conduct small-scale product feasibility testing with appropriate end users and collect feedback

Why is the Greenhouse important?

- The idea, that frontline healthcare employees should play a major role in designing and developing the future of healthcare via these same principles, is catching-on externally throughout the healthcare innovation community as well. What the healthcare innovation community lacks however, is a pool of engaged and equipped frontline healthcare professionals and millions of enthusiastic end users.
- The Greenhouse provides the opportunity for employees at iNET sites to practice human centered design theory; to learn by doing. Most importantly, the Greenhouse puts the voice of the Veteran and VA into the innovative products of the future, some of which will inevitably be used within VA someday.



How does the Greenhouse intake process work?

- First a potential collaborator must complete the [Greenhouse Application Link](#).
- Within 10 business days, iNET will respond with either an invitation to meet with iNET Director of Operations to discuss their application, or let the potential collaborator know iNET is unable to move forward regarding their application.
- If the iNET Director of Operations determines there is potential for a collaboration, the applicant will be asked to pitch their innovation to the iNET team of Innovation Specialists. Innovation Specialists will determine their interest based on the applicant's pitch.
- If an Innovation Specialist(s) is interested in a collaboration at their site, the iNET Director of Operations will set-up a kickoff call for all parties and assign an Innovation Specialist lead.

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When should a potential collaborator reach out to apply for Greenhouse consideration?

As soon as possible! iNET focuses on the early stages of innovation and ideation. If your prototype is in production or you want to roll an innovation out within the VA, the Greenhouse is not the right avenue for collaboration.

How long does a Greenhouse collaboration usually last?

Greenhouse project timelines can differ depending on innovation maturation; the collaboration can include one or two working paper prototype design feedback calls with stakeholders, up to a 2-month prototype pilot within an iNET site(s).

Is funding available for potential prototypes?

Yes, funding for prototypes which will be tested within the VA is an option. Small start-up funds will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

What about intellectual property (IP) and/or ownership?

- A Statement of Work (SOW) will be completed by both parties after the initial kickoff call. It will outline the IP/rights, as well as the work to be done on behalf of both parties during the Greenhouse agreement. It also will serve as the basis for proceeding legal agreements, as needed (such as a contract, CRADA, etc.)
- Some stages of collaboration require no legal agreement (i.e., CRADA, etc.), but acknowledgement of the collaboration is appreciated.
- VA will likely not seek rights to a product, but could, for example, make an agreement in regard to products which might be eventually sold or licensed back to the VA.

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