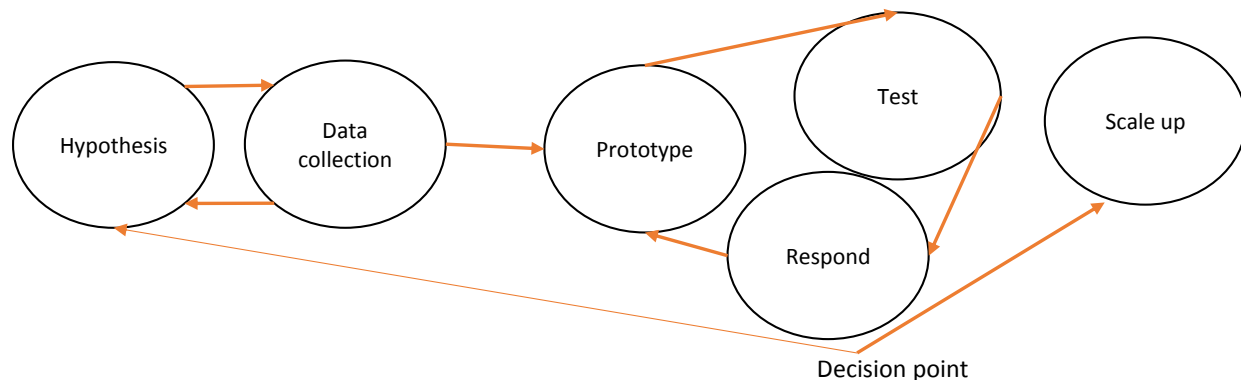


# Community Action on Mental Health and Addiction Collaborative Investors Table Terms of Reference

## Background

Issues related to mental health, addiction and safety are continuing to affect Calgarians and those around them. According to *Valuing Mental Health*<sup>1</sup>, one in five Albertans deals with mental health and addiction issues, or both. Their friends, families, neighbors and colleagues are impacted, either directly or indirectly. There is an unprecedented increase in both awareness and demand for more specialized services, which has created the need for additional resources and the availability of a wide range of programs and services. These include long-term, evidence-based approaches, as well as emerging fast pilot projects that promote innovation and timely response to the complex nexus of issues related to mental illness, addiction and safety.

Fast pilot projects (also referred to as lean or rapid experiments) are innovative, data-driven projects that aim to solve complex, multi-dimensional problems. They use an iterative process to continually test, implement and adjust a proposed solution. They are an efficient way to deliver new solutions, as implementation can start with limited resources, with a view to scale up once there is enough evidence. The process of fast piloting is depicted in the following diagram, which is adapted from the *Stanford Social Innovation Review*<sup>2</sup>.



## Purpose of the Collaborative Investors Table

The Collaborative Investors Table will engage community partners in innovative approaches to invest in fast pilot projects to address issues related to mental health, addictions and public safety, in an accelerated and efficient manner. This approach complements other funding strategies that follow established proposal-based application processes.

<sup>1</sup> Alberta Mental Health Review Committee. (2015). *Valuing Mental Health*. Edmonton, AB: Author.

<sup>2</sup> Murray, P. & Ma, S. (2015). The Promise of Lean Experimentation. *Stanford Social Innovation Review*, Summer 2015.

### **Guiding Principles for the Collaborative Investors Table**

- **Adaptability:** partners use a decision-making process that responds quickly to changes in policy or evidence;
- **Collaboration:** partners work together to achieve a goal that one party cannot achieve on its own;
- **Data-driven process:** decisions are made based on emerging data analysis and interpretation in order to adjust investment practices;
- **Social innovation:** partners look beyond existing solutions and encourage new approaches to service delivery; and
- **Leveraging:** partners will leverage resources for greater impact.

### **Implementation of the Collaborative Investors Table**

Partners of the Collaborative Investors Table will sign a memorandum of understanding, which outlines their contribution level, the collaborative decision-making process and other information, as deemed relevant by the partners.

### **Eligibility for membership on the Collaborative Investors Table**

The Collaborative Investors Table will consist of a maximum of 6 members including The City of Calgary. Partners of the Collaborative Investors Table must demonstrate the following:

- Organizational commitment to respond to the complex intersection of mental health, addiction and safety;
- Alignment to the Community Action on Mental Health and Addiction Strategic Framework;
- Contribution to the funding pool for investment in fast pilot projects; and
- Time commitment to adjudicate project ideas and monitor their impact.

### **Funding Recommendations and Decision**

Fast pilot ideas will be presented to a panel comprised of members of the Collaborative Investors Table.

The Collaborative Investors Table will assess pilot projects and use a voting process to determine which pilots will receive funding. The Community Action on Mental Health and Addiction Leaders Forum and Calgary City Council will be informed of successful pilots.