WOMEN'S HEALTH INNOVATION PROGRAM

2027 Cohort Application

Upstart Impacts' Women's Health Innovation Program is a no-cost, equity-free accelerator for early-stage life sciences and MedTech companies ready to strengthen their path toward market and patients.

We define women's health broadly. The program includes companies focused specifically on women's health as well as companies in cardiovascular disease, oncology, neurology, autoimmune disease, diagnostics, medical devices, and other areas where biological sex, women's life stages, clinical experience, or healthcare needs may affect disease, diagnosis, treatment, or outcomes.

Why participate?

Selected companies will have access to experienced mentors, clinicians, investors, and industry experts who can help tackle the challenges that matter most to their business: from clinical and regulatory strategy to IP, reimbursement, fundraising, and market access. Support will be tailored to each company, with targeted guidance, connections, and access to the region's healthcare and life sciences ecosystem.

And this program will ask companies to do something different: *look at their existing technology through the lens of a woman's body and ask, "What might we be missing?"*

That could uncover an overlooked patient population, clinical application, evidence gap, product opportunity, market, or even an opportunity for new intellectual property.

A proven model

The program builds on our 2025 Pilot program for regional early-stage life sciences and medtech startups, where 8 of 10 companies secured funding, and the cohort has since raised $7.4 million. Our model draws on a network of 50+ mentors and experts while tailoring support to each company.
Founding partners include Ben Franklin Technology Partners and Life Sciences Greenhouse Investments, with Temple Health serving as a clinical partner.
We are now bringing this proven model to women's health, helping companies move toward their next milestones while exploring opportunities they may not yet have considered.

Who should apply?

You do not need to currently identify as a women's-health company to apply. We welcome strong life sciences and MedTech companies whose technologies may have important implications for women's health, even if those opportunities have not yet been explored. The 2027 cohort will include 10 Pennsylvania-based early-stage life sciences and MedTech companies. Selected companies can participate at no cost. The program includes intensive programming from February through June, a summer implementation period, and a September investor showcase.

Please keep responses concise and observe the word limits. The application is designed to help us identify companies for interviews; your pitch deck will provide additional detail.

1. Applicant & Company Information

Applicant first name

Response type: Short answer.

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Applicant last name

Response type: Short answer.

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Title / role

Response type: Short answer.

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Email address

Response type: Short answer.

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Preferred contact number

Response type: Short answer.

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Company name

Response type: Short answer.

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Company website (if applicable)

Response type: Short answer.

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Company headquarters – City / State

Response type: Short answer.

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Does your company currently have operations in the mid-Atlantic region?

Response type: Multiple choice — select one.

☐ Yes ☐ No

Year founded

Response type: Short answer.

_____

Number of full-time employees

Response type: Short answer.

_____

Company LinkedIn or other company profile

Response type: Short answer.

_____

How did you hear about the Women's Health Innovation Program?

Response type: Short answer.

_____

Pitch deck

Please provide your most recent pitch deck via email.

2. Company & Technology

Describe your company and the problem you are solving and what makes it different from existing approaches.

Response type: Long answer. Maximum 150 words.

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Primary company / product category

Response type: Select all that apply.

☐ Therapeutics ☐ Medical Device ☐ Diagnostic ☐ Digital Health ☐ Research Tool or Platform ☐ Other

Primary therapeutic / clinical area

Response type: Select all that apply.

☐ Cardiovascular ☐ Oncology ☐ Neurology ☐ Autoimmune ☐ Reproductive & Maternal Health ☐ Endocrine & Metabolic ☐ Mental Health ☐ Musculoskeletal ☐ Other

Development stage of lead product / asset

Response type: Select all that apply.

☐ Discovery ☐ Preclinical ☐ IND/IDE-enabling ☐ Clinical ☐ FDA-cleared/approved ☐ Early commercialization ☐ Other

What evidence currently supports your technology?

Response type: Long answer. Maximum 150 words. Examples: preclinical data, clinical data, validation studies, publications, prototypes, customer discovery, pilots, or other evidence.

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3. Company Readiness

Current funding stage

Response type: Multiple choice — select one.

☐ Pre-seed ☐ Seed ☐ Series A ☐ Other

Total funding raised to date

Response type: Short answer. Please include both dilutive and non-dilutive funding.

_____

Please distinguish funding raised to date between dilutive investment and grants / other non-dilutive funding.

Response type: Short answer.

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If currently raising or preparing to raise, how much are you seeking?

Response type: Short answer.

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Briefly describe your intellectual property strategy and current IP status.

Response type: Long answer. Maximum 100 words.

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Briefly describe your regulatory status and expected pathway, if applicable.

Response type: Long answer. Maximum 100 words.

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List significant current collaborations with universities, hospitals, companies, or other organizations.

Response type: Long answer. Maximum 100 words.

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List key team members and their roles, highlighting relevant scientific, clinical, commercialization, or operational expertise.

Response type: Long answer. Maximum 150 words.

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What is the most important milestone your company needs to achieve in the next 12 months?

Response type: Long answer. Maximum 100 words.

4. Women's Health Opportunity

Does your company currently consider itself a women's-health company?

Response type: Multiple choice — select one.

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Partially ☐ Not sure

How is your technology currently relevant to women's health?

Response type: Long answer. Maximum 150 words. If your company is not currently focused on women's health, describe where you believe there may be an opportunity to explore differences in biology, disease presentation, diagnosis, treatment response, clinical evidence, product design, care delivery, or patient experience.

What might you be missing?

Response type: Long answer. Maximum 150 words. When you look at your technology specifically through the lens of a woman's body and healthcare experience, what question or assumption would you most like to investigate during this program?

To date, have you examined your data or evidence for differences by sex or gender?

Response type: Multiple choice — select one.

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not applicable ☐ Not yet, but we would like to

Could examining your technology through a women's-health lens potentially change or expand any of the following?

Response type: Select all that apply.

☐ Target patient population ☐ Indication or use case ☐ Product design ☐ Dosing or treatment protocol

☐ Diagnostic criteria/threshold ☐ Clinical trial design or endpoints ☐ Regulatory strategy

☐ IP / patent strategy ☐ Reimbursement or market-access strategy ☐ Patient engagement/adoption

☐ We don't know yet ☐ Other

5. Program Fit & Ability to Benefit

What are the two biggest obstacles preventing your company from reaching its next major milestone?

Response type: Long answer. Maximum 150 words.

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Where could outside expertise or connections make the greatest difference to your company over the next six months?

Response type: Select up to three.

☐ Regulatory ☐ Clinical development ☐ Women's-health clinical expertise ☐ IP ☐ Reimbursement

☐ Fundraising ☐ Funding ☐ Market strategy ☐ Healthcare-system connections

☐ Pharma or strategic partnerships ☐ Manufacturing ☐ Team development ☐ Other

What would make participation in this program a meaningful success for your company?

Response type: Long answer. Maximum 100 words.

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Thank you for applying to the Women's Health Innovation Program.