



BC Care
Providers
ASSOCIATION

EquipCare BC



Climate Action Supplemental Funding

Final Report

October 10th, 2025



October 10, 2025

Dear Advisory Committee,

I am pleased to present the *EquipCare BC Climate Action Supplemental Funding April 2024 - September 2025 Final Report*, submitted in accordance with our agreement with the Province of British Columbia and the Ministry of Health. This report highlights the accomplishments and lasting impact of the EquipCare BC Climate Action Program—a vital initiative supporting long-term care and assisted living homes in **reducing their carbon footprint** while enhancing safety and quality of care.

The climate action stream empowered operators to make energy-efficient upgrades, implement waste reduction strategies, and adopt sustainable technologies benefiting both the environment and the well-being of seniors and staff. Integrating climate-forward practices into care settings is a forward-thinking approach to health care in B.C.

My sincere thanks to the EquipCare BC Advisory Committee for their dedication and thoughtful guidance. Their collaborative oversight ensured funding went to projects delivering both environmental and care-based benefits.

As of October 2025, BC Care Providers Association (BCCPA), in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, has distributed approximately \$45.6 million in funding through EquipCare BC, including significant investment in climate action priorities. We look forward to amplifying this progress through media outreach and sector engagement if of interest with the BC Ministry of Health.

The final report shows that the climate action stream has had a measurable impact. Investments in HVAC upgrades, LED lighting, air and water filtration, renewable energy, and emergency preparedness have lowered costs, cut emissions, and strengthened climate resilience while improving senior comfort and well-being and advancing B.C.'s climate goals.

However, the decision not to renew funding presents a critical challenge. In the face of climate pressures, aging infrastructure, and increasing demand, the absence of continued support threatens to stall our shared momentum.

We urge the Ministry to consider **renewing this funding stream** through a contract from its operating budget. This will support continued innovation, protect our climate, and ensure that seniors and their caregivers can thrive in safer, more sustainable environments.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet and discuss how this program can be sustained and expanded for the benefit of care providers, seniors, and our planet. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Ristovski".

Snezana Ristovski
Sr. Director of Programs &
Organizational Development

Climate Action - Final Report

April 2024 to September 2025

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Introduction

Purpose

BC Care Providers Association (BCCPA) developed the Climate Action Program to identify and address critical areas within the continuing care sector that require improvement to mitigate environmental impact and support climate resilience. Building upon the success of the EquipCare BC program, this initiative aims to streamline and enhance care delivery for seniors across British Columbia through sustainable, energy-efficient solutions.

About this Final Report

This report opens with the methodology, outlining the process used to determine care home eligibility qualifiers and the distribution of funds. An overview of the key determining factors used to approve funding is presented, followed by the review process.

Definitions

Terminology	Definition
AL	Assisted Living
Applicant	The individual with authority to complete and submit the Climate Action application on behalf of the eligible home.
Cost Share	The difference between the funding requested and expected cost. The remaining balance is covered by the long-term care or assisted living home; or by another source of funding other than the Climate Action grant.
Eligible Item	An approved item that can receive funding through the program.
EquipCare BC	EquipCare BC is a provincial Ministry of Health grant awarded to BCCPA to run the program for safety and quality of life items for publicly funded long-term care and assisted living homes in B.C.
Funding Requested	The amount of funds requested to cover partial or full costs of eligible items.
Grant	The equitable allotment of Climate Action funding available to each eligible home. Used interchangeably with funds.
Grant Recipient	The long-term care or assisted living home with an approved application and whereby all requirements have been satisfied to receive the grant payment.
LTC	Long-term care
Quality	An individual's perception of their position in life in the context of the culture and value systems in which they live and in relation to their goals, expectations, standards, and concerns. It is a broad ranging concept affected in a complex way by the person's physical health, psychological state, personal beliefs, social relationships, and their relationship to salient features of their environment (World Health Organization, 2021).

Methodology

Program Overview

BCCPA was awarded a \$6 million grant from the B.C. Ministry of Health as supplemental funding to extend the EquipCare BC program with a concentration on climate action initiatives in seniors care, operating from April 1st, 2024, to September 30th, 2025. This funding was dedicated to supporting equipment purchases that mitigate climate action impacts to enhance safety and improve quality of life for seniors. Details regarding the application intake, adjudication process, grant disbursement, and reporting timelines are outlined in [\(Appendix I\)](#).

The Sr. Director of Programs & Organizational Development oversees all aspects of EquipCare BC including the application adjudication process, application updates, applicant services and experience, and fund disbursement with support from a Sr. Accounts Coordinator and a Program Administrator.

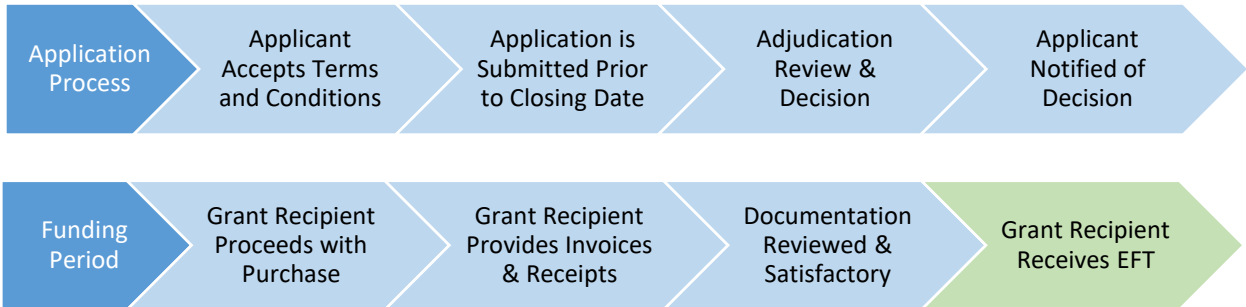
The EquipCare BC Advisory Committee includes representatives from the following organizations: B.C. Ministry of Health, Denominational Health Association, SafeCare BC, and BCCPA [\(Appendix II\)](#).

Eligibility & Distribution of Funds

Applicant eligibility is determined by the following criteria: the site is a long-term care home or listed on the [Assisted Living Registry](#) (Residence Type – Seniors) operating in B.C., the site is publicly funded, and is non-health authority owned and operated. Site eligibility is verified with the BC Office of the Seniors Advocate (OSA), the Ministry of Health, the Health Authorities or by applicant submission of their operating license.

Each applicant was eligible to receive up to \$300 per publicly funded long-term care bed or assisted living suite.

Application & Funding Process



Evaluation

Application Form

The application form includes a section dedicated to identifying the need and intended outcomes of the requested eligible items. The climate action safety and quality of life eligible items for funding [\(Appendix III\)](#) underwent review by the EquipCare Advisory Committee in May 2024. Updates were made to this list as needed throughout the program based on viable requests submitted by applicants.

EquipCare BC - Climate Action Intended Outcomes

Applicants were required to specify their intended outcomes for requested items. They demonstrated how these items positively impact seniors' safety and quality of life as a result of receiving funding from EquipCare BC climate action funding (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Application Form – Identify the intended outcomes of climate action items.

Please mark the intended outcome(s) that apply to your grant funding request (Select all that apply):

- Enhance dignity and care of seniors, improve senior/family satisfaction
- Enhance quality of life for seniors
- Increase senior engagement in physical and social activities
- Reduce responsive behaviours, worsening moods, and aggression rates without medications
- Improve air, water, or environmental quality
- Minimize risk of infection, spread of infection, and outbreaks
- Potentially reduce hospital transfers
- Prepare for emergencies
- Reduce employee MSI injuries and/or claims
- Other: Please enter intended outcome(s)

Additional Information Regarding the Request

To support the need and urgency of each item, applicants were able to provide additional information on funding impact (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Additional Information on Funding Impact

“We were so grateful to be able to do UV window films to reduce heat in south facing resident rooms. Both residents and families have commented positively on the impact – heat reduction and discomfort – on the quality of resident lives.”

– Application ID # CA001

“Residents, families and staff are thrilled with the new curtains that keep out the heat and cold. Staff are reporting how much better residents are sleeping.”

– Application ID # CA002

“Thank you for the opportunity to improve our water quality systems.”

– Application ID # CA024

“LED lighting upgrades not only helped with the environmental costs but with the ambiance and aesthetics of the common areas with a notable improvement on the quality of life for our residents and job satisfaction of our staff. We are greatly appreciative of the funding provided to us by EquipCare BC.

– Application ID # CA023 (See Image #1)

Image #1

“We purchased UV window films and blinds which added to the quality of lives of the elders we serve, and staff work life.”

– Application ID # CA048

“The AC units increased the quality of life for our seniors by providing them with much needed cooling during the hot summer months.”

– Application ID # CA051

“Thank you for funding to provide EV charging at our site.”

– Application ID # CA053

“With this funding we were able to purchase individual air conditioning units, water hydration stations, and improve the HVAC system. These purchases will assist in providing our residents with additional comforts, especially during Okanagan hot summer months.”

– Application ID # CA067

“EquipCare BC Climate Action funding was very instrumental in upgrading our temperature sensor system, improving our soft scaping landscaping to tolerate hot summers, installing smart water valves to reduce water consumption and improving hot water temperature controls to reduce scalding.”

– Application ID # CA070

“The grant allowed new blinds to be installed in the entire building helping us implement greener building practices and cut energy costs. This success highlights how climate-conscious investments can generate both environmental and social benefits A big thank you to the dedicated staff at EquipCare BC!”

– Application ID # CA078

“The upgrades to the air units will ensure the environment will be comfortable for our residents.”

– Application ID # CA142

“This outdoor pavilion would not have been possible without this grant from EquipCare BC. Our seniors were very excited about the warmer weather so they could enjoy the outdoor area. Thank you!!”

– Application ID #CA174 (See Image #2)

Image #2





“Our seniors can enjoy a shady, welcoming spot covered by a new awning in the warmer months; get some reprieve from the heat during summertime thanks to an air conditioning system that can operate effectively with optimal vents/baffles; and enjoy regulated, safe water temperatures. Our staff can also feel supported and well-equipped knowing that the updated emergency preparedness supplies and tools are on hand for the safety of seniors in their care.”

– Application ID # CA195

“We are really grateful for this grant as it allows us to install UV window films that greatly reduced the heat in the seniors' west-facing rooms!”

Application ID # CA211

Decision Making Process

The initial review of each application involves several checkpoints to ensure eligibility. These include verifying applicant eligibility, checking the number of beds or suites, confirming the eligibility of requested items not listed in the drop-down list for funding, and assessing the availability of other funding sources for the requested items. The *5 Guiding Principles* of the program are available in [Appendix IV](#).

There were no ineligible applications that needed to undergo further review through the EquipCare BC Advisory Committee. There were frequently requested items such as evacuation chairs or emergency food supplies added to the list of eligible items under emergency management preparation.

Findings: EquipCare BC – Climate Action

Application Rate

Ninety-two percent (92%) of the publicly funded long-term care homes (172 out of 186) submitted applications to EquipCare BC. The total number of eligible long-term care sites was sourced from the November 2024 [OSA directory](#). The application rate from publicly funded assisted living homes was 69% (87 out of 126), with the total number of eligible assisted living sites obtained from the [Assisted Living Registry](#). As a result, a total of 80% (222/277) of the eligible homes applied for funding.

Application Experience Rating

Survey results showed that 100% of applicants (222) rated the application process ranging from “Good” to “Great”, with a consensus that the system was user friendly, simple to use, straightforward, and easy to complete. No applicants selected the response, “There are several things I would change”. Feedback highlighted the ability to navigate back and forth without losing entered information, experiencing timeouts, clear guidelines and instructions, ease of use of the budget calculator and drop-down menus, and a manageable time requirement for completion. Program queries received prompt and professional responses and support from the team contributing to a positive overall experience. Table 3 presents applicant survey responses, including voluntary additional comments.

Table 3. Additional Comments in Survey Responses

App. #	Additional Survey Comments
CA001	Remains a great process - easy and straight forward. Thank you.
CA008	The entire application process was very easy and straightforward.
CA009	I have nothing but good things to say about the EquipCare funding program. Staff have been helpful, and communication is timely and responsive.
CA011	The process was smooth and painless. Thank you.
CA012	The AC units will assist our seniors greatly during extreme heat or heat domes which due to climate change seem to occur more often.
CA019	This program was a wonderful gift to the care communities. The folks running this program were amazing in the support they provided in completing forms and answering questions.
CA020	Thank you for this great resource fund for our home. It will definitely help our seniors and staff during hot season.
CA028	Thank you for the support and quick responses to questions.
CA050	I love this application form! It's so user friendly. I found the communication on where we were with the application process was amazing. I always knew what was needed or at what stage we were at.
CA052	Thank you for the funding to make these improvements.
CA078	Grateful for these grants!
CA079	I really love how simple the process is and very detailed. Thank you so much for organizing this massive project and the efficiency of it.
CA107	Thank you for the opportunity to enhance senior's care.
CA137	Thank you so much for your continued support to our seniors, their families and healthcare workers!
CA173	Thank you for providing this funding – it will be extremely valuable in supporting senior care.
CA175	Thank you for allowing us to apply for this amazing funding opportunity!
CA176	Thank you for your support in assisting us with these initiatives to enhance life of our seniors.
CA183	I want to commend EquipCare BC for the great work you are doing. Your efforts in providing essential equipment and support to long-term care and assisted living homes are making a significant difference. Keep up the good work!
CA195	We are grateful for EquipCare BC's support that directly impacts the safety and quality of life for older adults.
CA212	Amazing process! So happy for the opportunity and the ease of application.
CA217	Thank you again for supporting us in the work that we do.

Application Demographics

Table 4 is the breakdown of the number of applications received by health authority region:

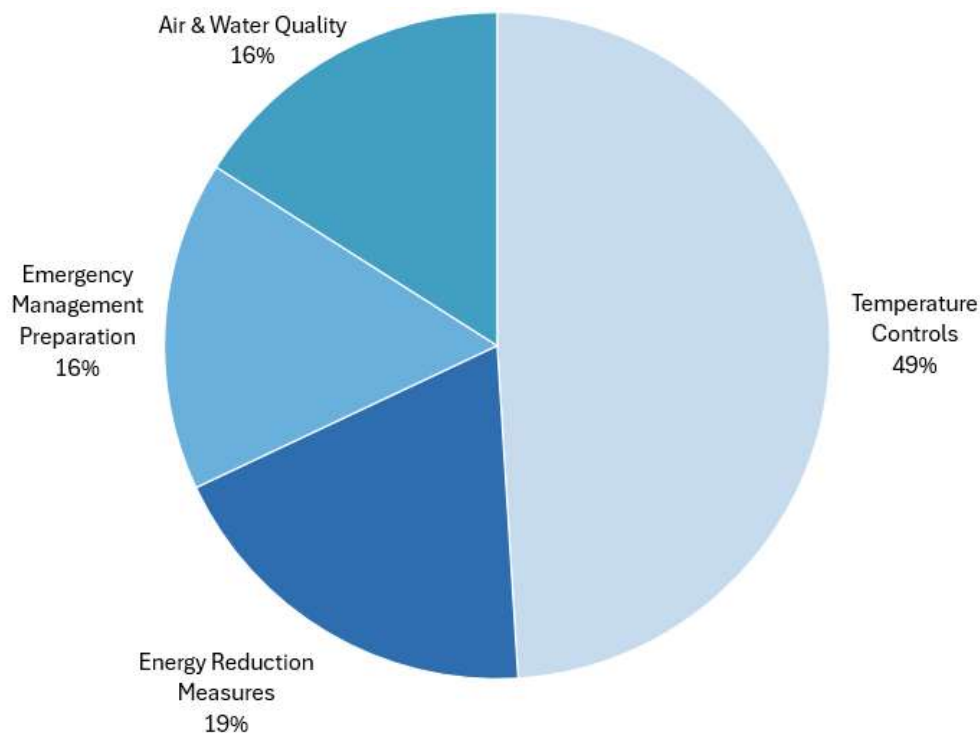
Table 4. Number of Applications by Health Authority Region

Health Authority	# of Climate Action Applications
Fraser Health	79
Island Health	51
Interior Health	50
Vancouver Coastal Health	39
Northern Health	3
Total	222

Distribution of Funded Items

A total of **14,632** items were funded through the Climate Action program, with approximately 16% (2,312) categorized under **Air & Water Quality**, 49% (7,222) categorized under **Temperature Controls**, 16% (2,367) categorized under **Emergency Management Preparation (EMP)**, and the remaining 19% (2,731) categorized under **Energy Reduction Measures**. The program prioritized Climate Action equipment while also making significant investments in enhancing quality of life and overall well-being of seniors and their homes as per Figure 5.

Figure 5. Distribution of Funded Items by Category



The top three items requested for Climate Action grant funding were 3,989 UV window films, 2,631 electrical upgrades, and 2,348 for emergency kits and supplies (Figure 6 and [Appendix III](#)).

Figure 6. Top Three Requested Items by Quantity

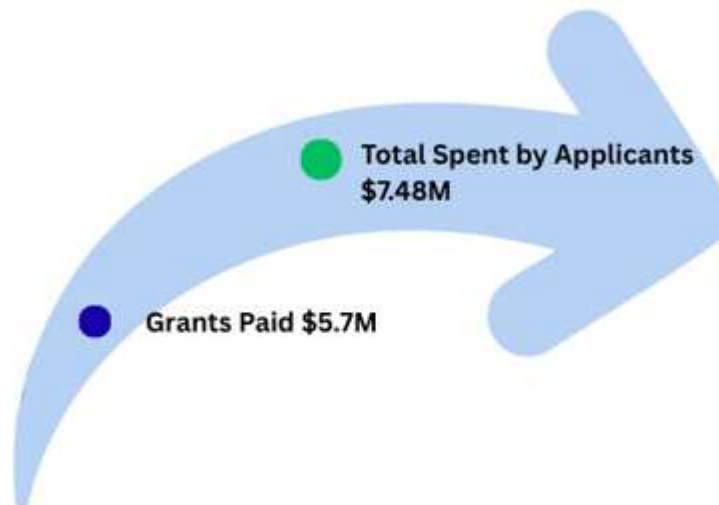


Funding Requested

Total Costs

As of September 30, 2025, the total grant funding disbursed is \$5,700,000, while the total amount spent by the applicants on the requested items is approximately \$7,482,440. This means applicants contributed nearly 23.8% of leveraged dollars (Figure 7). As a result, the difference of approximately \$1,782,440 is estimated as the cost shared by the applicants ([Appendix V](#)).

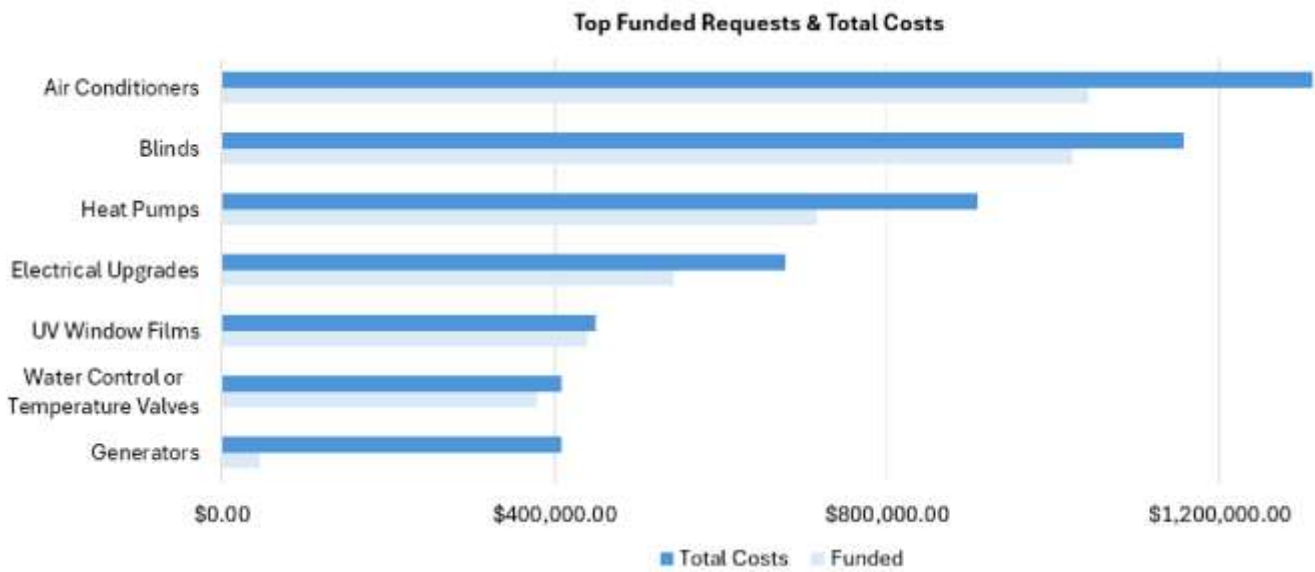
Figure 7. Private Sector Investments



Top Funded Items by Total Cost

The highest funding requests by total cost were for **air conditioners** totaling \$1,311,023; **blinds** totaling \$1,156,680; **heat pumps** totaling \$909,170; **electrical upgrades** totaling \$677,086; **UV window films** totaling \$448,841; **water control or temperature valves** totaling \$408,997; and **generators** totaling \$407,748 (refer to Figure 8 and [Appendix III](#)).

Figure 8. Funded Requests & Total Costs by Item (Difference is Cost Shared by Applicant)



Intended Outcomes

Each applicant identified one or more intended outcomes. A summary of the percentage of applicants who selected each outcome is outlined in Table 9 below.

High-Impact Quality Improvements (Over 50%):

- Improve air, water or environmental quality for seniors and staff (91%)
- Enhance seniors' quality of life (79%)
- Enhance seniors' dignity and satisfaction (51%)

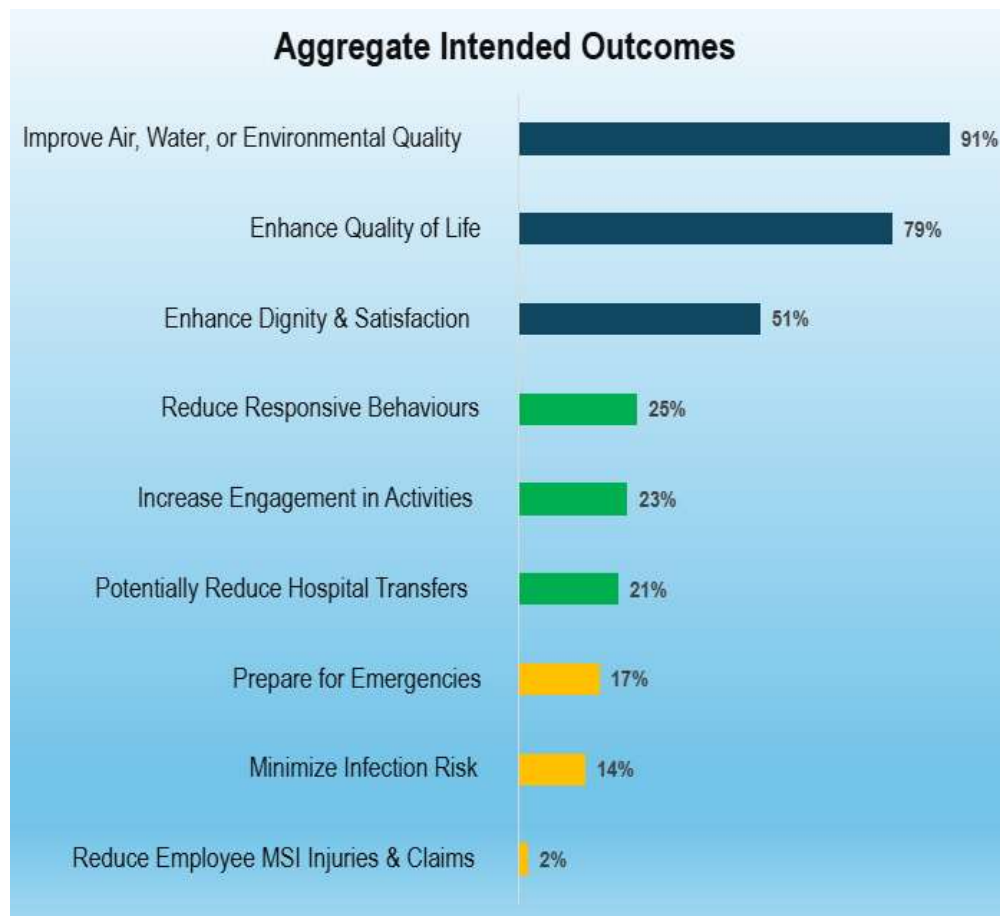
Secondary Outcomes on Well-Being and Care Efficiency (20-30%):

- Reduce responsive behaviours (25%)
- Increase in activity engagement (23%)
- Potentially reduce hospital transfers (21%)

Smaller-Scale Outcomes on Safety & Preparedness (Under 20%):

- Prepare for emergencies (17%)
- Minimize infection risk (14%)
- Reduce employee musculoskeletal injuries & claims (2%)

Table 9. Aggregate Intended Outcomes



Communications and Media

All media and communications materials acknowledged that the program was funded through the provincial Ministry of Health. Public events related to regional and provincial program announcements remain valuable opportunities to showcase these investments and support future program initiatives through province-wide and local announcements.

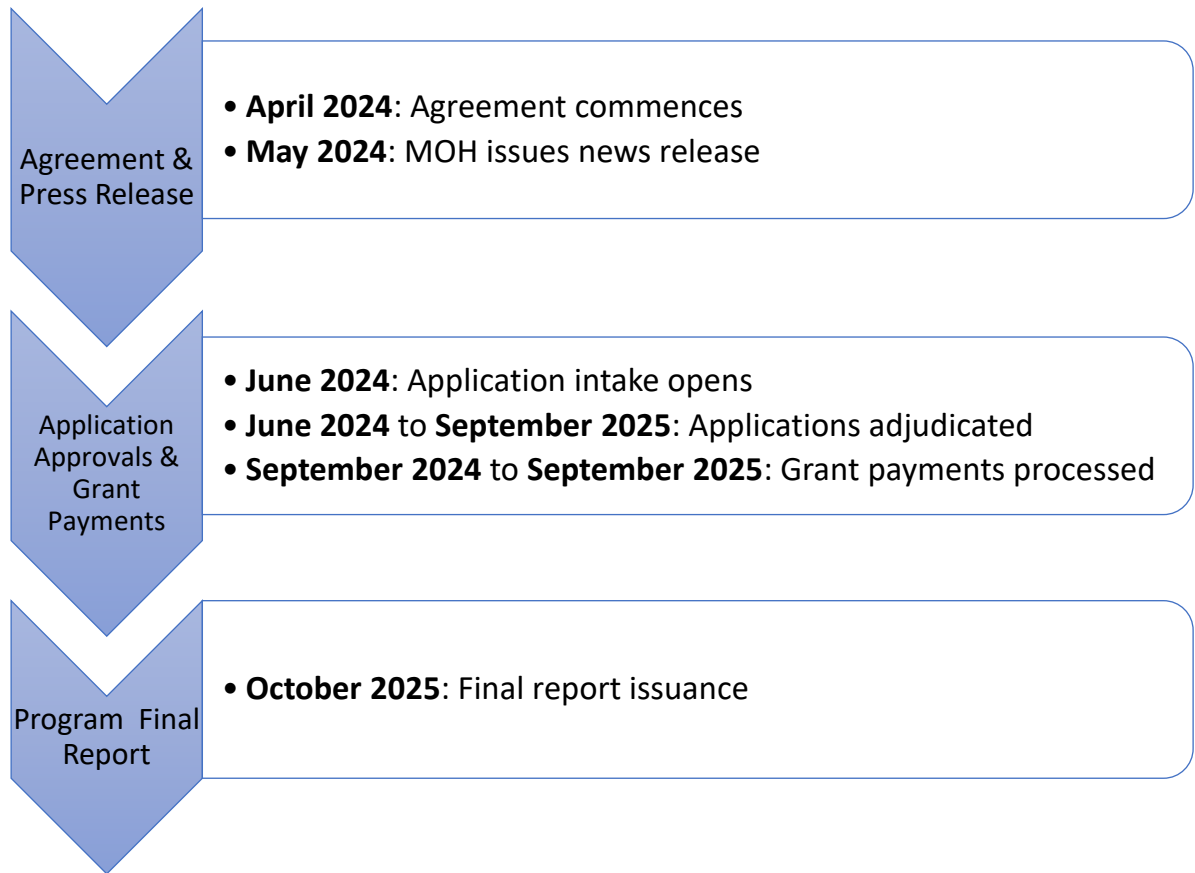
Program Administration Costs

The eligible administration cost (5%) to support the program is outlined below for the 2024-2025 agreement. See Table 10 below.

Table 10. Administration Costs

Period	Program Administration
April 2024 to September 2025	\$ 300,000
Total	\$ 300,000

Appendix I – Timeline of Program Activities





Appendix II – EquipCare BC Advisory Committee Representatives

April 2024 to September 2025

Representing Organization	# Of Representatives	Representative
Ministry of Health	2	Danielle Prpich Jay Evans
Denominational Health Association	1	Bob Breen
SafeCare BC	1	Saleema Dhalla
BC Care Providers Association	2	Ron Pike Ann Marie Leijen

Appendix III – Eligible Items, Requested Funding & Actual Costs

Eligible Item Category	Quantity	Amount Spent by Applicant (\$)	Amount Funded (\$)	Cost Shared (\$)
Air & Water Quality	2312	\$745,340.21	\$495,911.61	\$249,428.60
Air Filters for HVAC Systems	1742	\$106,351.67	\$90,738.54	\$15,613.13
HEPA Air Purification Systems	407	\$255,054.59	\$104,501.25	\$150,553.34
Ventilation Systems	104	\$304,270.24	\$229,113.25	\$75,156.99
Water Filtration Systems	59	\$79,663.71	\$71,558.57	\$8,105.14
Temperature Controls	7222	\$4,293,389.87	\$3,691,760.88	\$601,628.99
Air Conditioners	456	\$1,311,023.42	\$1,042,766.56	\$268,256.86
Awnings, Gazebos, or Pergolas	128	\$262,657.59	\$236,670.63	\$25,986.96
Blinds	1883	\$1,156,680.34	\$1,023,286.77	\$133,393.57
Building Insulation	3	\$7,125.84	\$7,125.84	\$-
Digital Control Systems and Sensors	179	\$390,150.80	\$289,371.63	\$100,779.17
Door & Window Upgrades	397	\$247,961.14	\$216,246.09	\$31,715.05
Heat Island Reduction	6	\$42,059.38	\$41,330.00	\$729.38
Portable Fans	128	\$17,892.86	\$17,281.69	\$611.17
UV Window Films	3989	\$448,841.34	\$439,038.14	\$9,803.20
Water Control or Temperature Valves	53	\$408,997.16	\$378,643.53	\$30,353.63
Emergency Management Preparation	2367	\$489,552.90	\$126,245.06	\$363,307.84
Evacuation Chairs	16	\$41,755.00	\$41,545.00	\$210.00
Generators	3	\$407,748.76	\$45,800.00	\$361,948.76
Emergency Kits & Supplies	2348	\$40,049.14	\$38,900.06	\$1,149.08
Energy Reduction Measures	2731	\$1,954,157.71	\$1,386,082.45	\$568,075.26
Electric Boilers	34	\$49,086.41	\$38,565.86	\$10,520.55
Electrical Upgrades	2631	\$677,086.88	\$543,536.42	\$133,550.46
EV Charging Stations	6	\$24,664.50	\$24,494.48	\$170.02
Heat Pumps	55	\$909,170.68	\$715,065.69	\$194,104.99
Hydronic Additives	2	\$239,400.00	\$24,420.00	\$214,980.00
Laundry Disinfection Systems	2	\$25,874.24	\$12,000.00	\$13,874.24
Solar Rooftop Systems	1	\$28,875.00	\$28,000.00	\$875.00
TOTAL	14632	\$7,482,440.69	\$5,700,000.00	\$1,782,440.69

EquipCare BC

5 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Safety & Quality Improvement | Impact | New Capacity | Integrity | Accountability



What is the program's purpose?

To improve the safety and quality of life for seniors and those who care for them.

1. Safety & Quality Improvement



What does the funding need to show?

Demonstrable benefits, improvements or impacts realized by the funding with positive feedback.

2. Impact



Does the funding create net new capacity?

Approvals are for new procurement whereby no other warranties, programs, grants, rebates, or funding sources exist.

3. New Capacity



How is integrity sustained?

Program criteria, eligibility, and funding allocations are transparent and free from conflicts of interest.

4. Integrity



How is accountability maintained?

Application approvals, documentation and funding reimbursements are provided in a timely manner.

5. Accountability

Appendix V – Grant Disbursements

Grant Disbursement & Total Cost of Items (As Per Final Receipts)

EquipCare BC Program Agreement End Date	Grant	Total Costs (Paid to Vendors)
September 30, 2025	\$5,700,000.00	\$7,482,440.69