## VHa innovators network greenhouse initiative guide

Logo

Description automatically generated

# iNET Greenhouse Initiative Toolkit

#### What is the greenhouse?

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. Human centered design and lean both highlight the importance of prototyping, testing, redesigning and continue, until the innovation is ready for implementation and replication. VA, via iNET, is positioned perfectly to execute this mission; we are the largest healthcare system in the country, ripe with frontline healthcare employee innovators eager to solve challenges. iNET exists to support employee innovators with resources (start-up funding and an education in innovation-related principles) and onsite support (Innovation Specialists) to help them solve problems and operationalize innovation. We also have nine million Veterans who are eager to engage employee innovators by co-designing these solutions.

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.

Because iNET and the VHA Innovation Ecosystem believe that through collaboration, we can deliver more, together; iNET created the Greenhouse Initiative (Greenhouse). The Greenhouse is an opportunity for the healthcare innovation community to collaborate with iNET sites throughout the country to:

1. Conduct end user discovery and ideation
2. Share early-stage product designs for end user feedback
3. Conduct small-scale product feasibility testing with appropriate end users and collect feedback
   1. *With an opportunity for funding support for product prototype development*

The benefit to the external healthcare innovation community is apparent, for VA, 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. This collaboration allows VA to design the products of the future with little investment or risk.

Potential external collaborators- [start here](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QLX7KY7).

## Toolkit Contents

The table below provides an outline of Greenhouse important links, templates, and documentation for both iNET facilities and external collaborators. *End user indicated in When to Use column*.

| **Document Title** | **Description** | **When to Use** | **Embedded Document** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| VHA Innovation Ecosystem 1- Pager | Details the VHA Innovation Ecosystem’s mission and key results. | For informational purposes only (*External Collaborators*) |  |
| VHA Innovators Network (iNET) 1- Pager | Details iNET’s mission and goals. | For informational purposes only (*External Collaborators*) |  |
| iNET Greenhouse Initiative 1- Pager | Details Greenhouse opportunities. | For informational purposes only |  |
| Greenhouse Checklist | Checklist to determine Greenhouse applicability for entry | Checklist used by iNET leadership to determine if external collaborator will pitch to iNET (*Internal Use*) | [Greenhouse Checklist](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=Ixtf6a-r7kWCHberJRqzv-LdRSTeG0lFq_0FI4YASc9UQU9ESEc3V0ExQjRKNjFZSVU4RlRCMEtYRS4u) |
| Greenhouse Application | Application for external collaborators to be considered for Greenhouse support | Required for Greenhouse consideration (*External Collaborators*) | [Greenhouse Application Link](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QLX7KY7) |
| Questions, Comments, and Assumptions Template | A template for initial ideation assumptions collection | For use by stakeholders during pre-discovery (*Internal Use*) |  |
| Team Rating of Idea Template | A template for stakeholder ideation feedback | For use by stakeholders during initial ideation collaboration/review (*Internal Use*) |  |
| Idea Gut Check Template | A template for stakeholder initial solution feedback | For use by stakeholders during initial design or prototype ideation collaboration/review (*Internal Use*) |  |
| Test the Prototype and Give Feedback Template | A template for prototype testing | For use by stakeholders during prototype testing (*Internal Use*) |  |
| Statement of Work | A template which outlines the work to be undertaken by both parties. | An SOW will be created by iNET at the start of any collaboration. This document is also the basis for any more formal legal agreement. *(Both parties)* |  |
| Greenhouse FAQs | Provides answers to commonly asked questions about the iNET Greenhouse | For informational purposes only *(Both parties)* |  |
| 2021 iNET Site Application and Instructions |  |  |  |

NTACT