

# Frequently Asked Questions

**Social and Economic Value of Health Research Programme**

June 2019

**Deadline for outline proposals: 12.00 noon, 25 July 2019**

## **Prepared by**

Hardeep Aiden, Research Manager  
The Health Foundation  
Tel: +44 (0)20 7257 8000  
[www.health.org.uk](http://www.health.org.uk)

## 1.0 Eligibility

### 1.1 Who is allowed to submit proposals? Is it just universities?

This round of the Social and Economic Value of Health (SEVH) research programme ('the social and economic value of health in a place') is an open award programme. Any organisation that can demonstrate the necessary skills and experience to carry out high quality research within the remit of the programme can submit a proposal.

### 1.2 Do all the applicants have to be based in the UK?

The lead applicant must be from a UK-based organisation. However, we will accept proposals which include collaborations with non-UK based researchers, providing sufficient justification is given for the international collaboration.

### 1.3 Can my proposal have partner organisations?

Yes, applicants can collaborate or subcontract, where appropriate, with partner organisations. Please specify what role any partners will have and indicate the current level of progress in developing the collaboration in your application.

### 1.4 Do the proposals need to include service providers as partners?

We are keen to support multidisciplinary teams. While we are not stipulating the composition of each team, the outline proposal application form asks you to provide details of the project team, as well as identify the partner organisations you will be working with on the project and key stakeholders. Proposals that demonstrate how partnership working will add value to the project may be looked upon more favourably than those that do not.

### 1.5 Can two individuals, working for separate institutions, act as co-principal investigators?

We welcome applications from multidisciplinary and multi-site teams with one or more co-principal investigators. However, for the purposes of the outline proposal application form and our award contracting processes, we require you to have only one named primary/lead contact. That person must be ultimately responsible for the delivery of the research.

## 2.0 Budgeting and research costs

### 2.1 How long will the Health Foundation's funding last for this research?

We anticipate the projects will last a maximum of 24 months. We anticipate this will include a start-up phase to allow time for practical requirements including staffing needs and data access. If you need more time for your proposed idea, we would still welcome an application. Please be explicit in your application about why you need more time and what additional value it would bring.

### 2.2 Will the funding begin from grant announcement or from the start of the research programme?

Funding will begin once the research starts and upon signing of a mutually agreed award agreement. Subsequent payments will be made contingent on agreed outputs,

normally by way of progress reports and a final award report. We anticipate that projects supported through these grants will begin in the first quarter of 2020.

### **2.3 What is the funding that I can apply for?**

We anticipate funding a small number of projects with budgets in the range of £200,000 to £300,000. You may submit an application below £200,000, but you should be able to justify how your project will support our objectives for this programme to make a significant contribution at that scale. We will also consider funding research ideas that exceed £300,000. Again, you will need to present an excellent case for this, based on the additional value and impact of the proposal.

### **2.4 What costs can be included as ‘research costs’?**

You should include what you expect to be the items of direct expenditure required to carry out your research. Items commonly covered include travel costs for meetings, relevant conferences, data analysis support, transcription of interviews and focus groups, venue hire and/or refreshments, and travel costs for research participants. You can include honoraria for the involvement of patients, carers or service users and some backfill payments for health and social care staff to participate in specific research activities but not where this would constitute covering the cost of the research team, or for any length of time beyond a few days. Please note that as a charity we will fund only the full directly incurred costs of the research. We do not fund overheads. Furthermore, the research will be supported as a charitable grant and as such is not liable for VAT.

### **2.5 Can we include salary costs for academic staff working on the project, salary costs that are directly allocated not directly incurred?**

We expect that the majority of funding will be spent on direct costs covering academic and/or researcher time spent on projects, which can include staff who are already employed at the institution or new staff (directly allocated costs and directly incurred costs). However, we do not provide funding for academic backfill or teaching replacement time in addition to those direct costs.

### **2.6 Will the Health Foundation fund overheads?**

No. As a charity we will only fund the full directly incurred and directly allocated costs of the research.

### **2.7 Can we include inflation in our costing?**

All costs would need to be covered as part of the overall budget, including any inflationary increases. As a charity we ask that future inflationary increases be based on an appropriate inflation measure. Please confirm which inflation rate you have adopted in your budgeting.

### **2.8 Do you pay VAT?**

No. The research will be supported as a charitable grant and as such is not liable for VAT.

### **2.9 Would you be prepared to part-fund a research project?**

Yes, we have no objection to joint funding with an existing project or joint funder. You will need to provide details of when, and from whom, the rest of the funding is likely to

be secured in your proposal. Prior to any funding decision, we would need clarity about where responsibility lies contractually in terms of research governance issues, intellectual property, publication, dissemination and other relevant issues.

### **2.10 Are proposals for grants required to be accompanied by matched funding contributions from other partners?**

We will favour proposals that can demonstrate a strong commitment to the research from other partners, including a matched funding contribution. It is not, however, a requirement for proposals to have matched funding.

## **3.0 Scope and focus of the research**

### **3.1 Will you fund proposals that focus on the impact of the wider determinants on health?**

No, there is already a large body of research on the impact of social and economic factors on health outcomes. We are looking specifically for research that treats the health of a population as a driver of social and economic outcomes.

### **3.2 Will you fund proposals that focus on individual health?**

No, we will only fund projects that focus on the concepts, definitions and metrics that will inform how the health status of a population may influence the social and economic outcomes of that population. We already have a round of research underway to explore the relationship between health and socioeconomic outcomes from the perspective of individuals. The six projects are using innovative techniques to eliminate the confounding factors that make it difficult to establish causality between people's health and their social and economic outcomes. Using these techniques, the projects will be able to establish whether, and to what extent, a given change in a person's health results in a change in their social and economic outcomes.

### **3.3 Should proposals be oriented towards theoretical/conceptual work?**

While the funded projects should seek to develop or refine relevant concepts and metrics, applications will only be successful if they combine strong conceptual thinking with robust quantitative and/or qualitative research methods.

In addition, we are looking for proposals that are policy-relevant and have the potential to have an impact on policy. Selection criteria will include assessment of this, both in terms of the findings being feasibly actionable, and the ability and preparedness of the team to work with us to engage with, and influence, policymakers.

### **3.4 Will the Health Foundation fund methodological research through this open call?**

Yes, if you can demonstrate how the methodological development can lead, directly or indirectly, to improved definitions and metrics associated with 'health stock' and other relevant concepts. We do not expect methodological research to be the sole focus of the proposal and would expect to see methodological research accompanied by an applied component within your research programme.

### **3.5 In the Notes for applicants, it says that the first stage of this programme is focusing on relevant concepts and metrics, but what are the other stages identified by the scoping work?**

The next two stages identified by the scoping work are:

- the mechanisms through which people's health in a place is found to influence social and economic outcomes
- the extent to which changes in the health of a given population influence the social and economic outcomes of that population.

Because establishing robust and credible concepts and metrics is a precursor to any further work on mechanisms and observational studies, we expect all the research projects to focus on the first stage. However, it is possible that the research projects funded at this stage may also provide insights into the next two stages, particularly mechanisms. We would welcome these insights.

### **3.6 Do I need to obtain ethical and data access approvals for my proposal prior to submitting my application?**

No, not at the time of submitting your outline proposal (stage 1) or full proposal (stage 2) applications. However, you should consider including a start-up phase in your project timeline to allow time for data access (particularly for data linkage), staff recruitment and ethics approvals. We expect some projects may wish to explore data linkage with administrative and other data, but we would look for some reassurance that this would be possible, given the different information governance regimes in operation across the four countries of the UK.

### **3.7 I am very clear about the outputs from my research in the early part of my proposed programme but there may be a number of different options and avenues of investigation that may emerge as the research progresses. Is this okay?**

Yes, we expect that some research programmes, outputs and trajectories for investigation will be contingent on emerging findings from the initial stages of the research. You should be clear in your proposal where this is likely and illustrate in as much detail as possible the range of potential lines of inquiry that may emerge. We believe that such flexibility allows us and the researchers to maximise the impact of their work. Successful applicants will be required to attend a Health Foundation assembled advisory group and this will be your opportunity to present your case for refining lines of investigation during the grant period.

## **4.0 The application process**

### **4.1 I have applied to the Health Foundation for funding before but did not have to submit an outline proposal application. Can I submit a proposal any other way?**

No, we will only consider outline proposal applications that have been submitted using the template provided. If you are invited to submit a full application (stage 2), only applications submitted through our online application portal will be considered for assessment. If you get through to the second stage, please familiarise yourself as early as possible with the application system.

### **4.2 Who should be the primary contact on the application?**

The principal investigator on your outline proposal application form will be the person who receives all future communication and correspondence with regards to your application. Regardless of who submits the outline proposal, the primary contact should be the principal investigator (with a corresponding email address). It is critical that the principal investigator has the capacity to check and respond to their emails in a timely fashion as this is the way in which the Health Foundation will communicate the progress of your application.

#### **4.3 Can I submit more than one proposal?**

Yes, you are welcome to submit more than one outline proposal application form. However, you will need to clearly demonstrate that you have the capacity to undertake more than one research programme if successful. In this case, the applications would have the same organisation, but you may wish to consider having a different primary contact on each one.

#### **4.4 I'm having problems completing my outline proposal application form – what should I do?**

If you have queries about the actual programme or the application process which have not been addressed in this document, or the information call, please email [valueofhealthinaplace@health.org.uk](mailto:valueofhealthinaplace@health.org.uk). We will aim to respond to your query within three working days and, if appropriate, will also update this FAQs document.

#### **4.5 Some of the questions have a character limit. Do these character limits include or exclude references?**

The character limits refer to the content of the question response box, including references. However, you do not need to include references in the outline proposal application unless it is absolutely necessary.

#### **4.6 Do you have a preferred referencing style?**

The Health Foundation uses Vancouver style, but you are free to use any style of your choice.

#### **4.7 Can we include additional material, such as consultation papers or toolkits, as an appendix?**

No. In the interest of fairness, we discourage applicants from submitting applications of different volume and therefore no appendices are allowed.

#### **4.8 Will I be able to get feedback on my outline proposal application if it has been unsuccessful?**

Unfortunately, as we expect interest to be high in this call, we do not have the resources to provide feedback to unsuccessful applicants at stage 1.

## **5.0 Management and communication**

#### **5.1 If successful, when is it expected that research will begin and when is the earliest that funds would be made available?**

We expect projects funded through the open call to start within the first quarter of 2020. We will come to an agreement with each research team on the exact scheduling of the

award payments as part of finalising the research protocol and contracting process. The first payment for a grant agreement is usually made soon after the grant agreement has been signed.

## **5.2 What is the Health Foundation's approach to the management of the research grants, including requirements for reporting and engagement while the research is being carried out?**

We are an engaged funder and are interested in working with the successful research teams to understand and support their work while it is ongoing. Staff from our Research Directorate and elsewhere in the organisation will meet with the successful research teams and will be available to support and advise on the write-up of the findings. We expect successful research teams to keep us updated on their progress, including through annual and final grant reports. In line with Health Foundation policy, an advisory group will be established to support the stewardship of the SEVH research programme. Award holders will be expected to attend board meetings which will be held at least twice a year throughout the life of the programme. Each project team will be expected to establish an advisory group to guide delivery of the project against agreed milestones.

## **5.3 Who owns the intellectual property rights from the research?**

Our grant agreements are constructed so that you would own the rights to the intellectual property, but you would license the Health Foundation to be able to use the intellectual property. This is so that we can, in partnership with the researchers, help support dissemination of the research and maximise impact in line with our charitable objectives.

## **5.4 What are the Health Foundation's expectations regarding publication and dissemination of the findings from this research?**

We see the audience for this research as senior officials in government departments responsible for key areas of economic and social policy (the Department for Work and Pensions, the Department for Education, HM Treasury and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government); public health agencies (Public Health England, Public Health Wales, NHS Health Scotland, the Public Health Agency); commissioners; national and local policy and academic research communities; and third sector organisations that work on economic and social policy. We expect research funded through this programme to be widely disseminated both during and beyond the formal end of the award agreement. We would also encourage researchers to consider innovative methods of dissemination where appropriate.

We will be encouraging successful research teams to communicate the progress of their work from an early stage and will be actively seeking to build linkages and share information where appropriate between the teams funded through this programme. The formal outputs from each project will be an annual award report, an end of award report and a final research report. We would also expect grant holders to publish their work in leading peer review and academic journals and to present their work at meetings and conferences or through social media. The Health Foundation has a policy of supporting open access publication fees for strategically relevant publications. These are decided on an individual basis and so we ask that applicants do not include the cost of open access publishing in their proposals

# Summary of the two-stage application process:

