

Information call for potential applicants

Social and Economic Value of Health in a Place

July 2019

Introduction

The purpose of this call is to provide you with an overview of the Social and Economic Value of Health in a Place research programme, and to go through what we're looking for in your applications. We'll also try to answer any questions you may have. After the call, we'll follow up with an updated FAQ document and a transcript of this call, which we'll post on the research programme website.

This call is designed to clarify the parameters of the programme and to address some common questions that you have. But please know that we can't answer specific questions about your project; we can provide general guidance and information. If, as you complete the remainder of your application, you have any questions, please submit them to us at valueofhealthinaplace@health.org.uk.

Overview of the programme

The Health Foundation's 2019 Social and Economic Value of Health in a Place research call is the second round of a longer-term research programme to establish the impact that health has on wider social and economic outcomes. This research call and a likely further future round of research is seeking to understand the extent to which the physical or mental health of a population in a given place shapes the social and economic outcomes of that population.

The purpose of this call is to develop relevant concepts, definitions and metrics relating to two priority areas. These areas were identified as a necessary first step to more fully understanding the impact that the health of a place has on the outcomes of that place. The aim of research projects in the first priority area will be to examine whether, when, and how the health status of a wider population or groups may influence the individual health status of members of that population.

The aim of projects in priority area 2 is to establish the definitions and metrics required to understand the influence that a population's health has on the social and economic outcomes of that population. In developing these concepts and metrics, consideration should be given to the mechanisms and structures through which the health of a place impacts on the social and economic outcomes of that place.

This could include exploring the extent to which specific institutions, like firms, social structures or population characteristics, all play a role. Projects funded under the programme should have a budget in the range of £200,000 to £300,000, with a maximum duration of 24

months. And that's excluding the start-up phase. I'll now hand you back to Hardeep, who will explain the application process and lead us into the Q&A session.

Application and assessment process

This is an open award call available to suitably qualified and experienced research teams based in the UK, although it's fine if individual members are based abroad. We expect the lead applicant to be from an academic institution or organisation with suitable research expertise.

We would encourage applications from multidisciplinary teams, combining expertise from a broad range of disciplines, including public or population health, economics, geography, sociology and other social sciences. This call involves a two-stage application process. Applicants must initially submit an outline proposal application, using the Word template provided on the web page. We'd also ask that you familiarise yourself with the outline proposal application form guidance.

You have to submit your outline proposal application to us by 12 noon on Thursday 25 July 2019. All outline proposals should be sent to valueofhealthinaplace@health.org.uk. When outline proposal applications are received by the Health Foundation, we will assess them internally against three criteria: alignment with the programme aims; appropriateness of the proposed research method; and value for money of the proposal. Outline proposals rated most highly against these criteria will go through to the next stage of assessment, and applicants will be invited to submit a full proposal through our online application portal.

Applicants will be informed by mid to late August as to whether or not they've been invited to submit a full proposal. The deadline for full applications is 12 noon on Friday 27 September. Each full proposal will be externally peer-reviewed to assess the proposal against our full selection criteria, as outlined in the Notes for applicants. Peer reviewers' comments will be anonymised and fed back to applicants, who will be asked to provide a written response to the comments. This will probably be around mid to late October.

Full proposals will then undergo an assessment by a panel comprising experts in the field. The panel will review the application in conjunction with the peer reviewers' comments and develop a ranked list of applications. Applications deemed of sufficient quality and value for money will be invited to the Health Foundation for an interview on either 11 or 12 November.

Following the interviews, the panel will produce a final ranked list of applications and make recommendations for funding to the Health Foundation. The ranked list will consider the technical merit of the proposal and its strategic fit with the aims of the programme. A final decision to commit funds will be made by the end of November.

Best practice for completing your application

Now, before we open for questions, I'm just going to run through some best practice for developing and completing proposal applications and pick out some of the questions we've already received. A lot of this may sound obvious, but there are some key points that are often missed in applications.

- First, ensure your proposal outlines suitable research methods to address the questions you're seeking to address. While the funded project should seek to develop or refine relevant concepts and metrics, applications will only be successful if they combine strong conceptual thinking with robust research methods. Although we

expect many proposals will involve quantitative methods, we're also keen to see proposals involving qualitative or mixed methods.

- Second, are you involving the right people? When you come to set this out, be clear about the rationale for who you involve in the project team and why. We're really keen to support multidisciplinary research. Project teams will need to demonstrate that they have research and analytical skills relevant to the project in question and a partnership with any relevant stakeholders.
- Third, have you allowed enough time to access the data required for your project and do you have the required information governance in place? We're aware that accessing the data required for research projects, particularly if data linkage is involved, can be a lengthy and involved process. You will need to demonstrate in your application that you have a thorough understanding of data information governance for the project and have allowed for this in your timelines.
- Fourth, think beyond the research. This is an important area that you will be asked about in some detail if you're invited to interview. You should begin thinking early about your plan to share learnings with researchers, policymakers and decision makers responsible for key areas of economic and social policy at national, regional and local levels, as well as the academic research community, commissioners and relevant third sector organisations.
- Finally, if you have more than one research idea, you're more than welcome to submit more than one application, but it's important that you demonstrate enough capacity to undertake the projects in each proposal. We'd also expect to see a coherent rationale for multiple applications and a justification for each separate project.

Questions and answers

Please note we can't go into detail on your individual projects today. If we feel that further information is needed to clarify specifics on a project, we can do this outside of the call.

Q. I noted there was a recording; will it be shared or will there be an opportunity to speak to someone after the call?

A. There will be a transcript of this phone call made available on our web page afterwards. All the questions and answers that we give will also be included in that transcript. But if you have any other questions that aren't covered and which you think of afterwards, do email us at valueofhealthinaplace@health.org.uk and we will endeavour to address those questions as well. We'll also update the FAQ document where relevant.

Q. Could I ask you a question about the two priority areas? They are obviously relatively distinct. Is it possible that projects could marginally overlap and the implications of research done as, say priority one could be spelled out for priority two? Or would you expect them to be quite firmly discrete?

A. I think we'd be happy for them to overlap. To some extent that might be inevitable, depending on exactly how the area is approached, but I think we just wanted to try to disentangle them as clearly as possible within the actual research call. It's worth saying in wider context the entire thing is trying to get to being able to assess the kind of causal impact of health changes in a place, the social and economic outcomes of that place. But this is an early part of that longer-term ambition to try and pin down the kind of concepts and definitions and metrics.

Just to add to that, if they do overlap that's fine. In the outline proposal application form, in Section 6.3, where it asks which priority area you're addressing, please put 1 and 2 there.

Q. I just wondered whether you would be expecting to see any element of matched funding here?

A. It's not essential. We would be happy to receive proposals where matched funding is available, but it's not essential.

Q. I just had a quick question about the multidisciplinary teams. In terms of the applicants, must they be multidisciplinary teams? Are they to be situated within the NHS, or could it be any private company who is working within a multidisciplinary team setting? And if it is an NHS organisation, is it supposed to be a trust, a hospital, a CCG? What does the premise look like?

A. It wouldn't necessarily need to involve the NHS at all. The health we're really interested in is more general population health than the potentially specific, more acute need that you might see through the NHS. Inevitably, it may be that you have to look at that – actual illness and reported health like depression or an actual condition – to get to the Department of Health, but it's not essential that it has to involve the NHS. We would actually prefer it not to be focused on health care. We would be quite happy for it not to involve an NHS team, as long as the proposal addresses one of the priority areas that we've outlined.

Q. I'm just wondering if a project could be considered if it was a continuation of an existing wellbeing project. That's part one of the question and the second part is, should the project focus on a place within the UK?

A. Yes, that would be fine if it's a continuation of something that's existing as long as it's meeting the kinds of requirements we're setting out, and those priority areas. And we have envisaged that this would be based on outcomes within the UK, although a project may draw on international experience for examples, maybe, but I think we're all very much looking at it to understand outcomes within the UK.

Q. I was just wanting to get a bit more information on what an appropriate setting might be, or place. You talked about considering settings in which there could be deemed to be positive or negative effects of agglomeration. Would an online setting be deemed appropriate there?

A. Yes, people tend to automatically think about geographical location and getting into administrative boundaries and things. We're quite keen that the concept of place is broadened out. An online setting would be a potential avenue to explore, or even potentially things like people working within a given area or firm or sector could also be a way of thinking about how people are, I suppose, spending their day and the people they're interacting with.

Q. In terms of recruiting patients, is it supposed to be a randomised controlled trial, or could it be a non-randomised controlled trial, or is there no mandate at all on that part of the project?

A. We're not necessarily expecting randomised controlled trials. We're not looking for patients, per se. We are looking for participants to be involved in some way, but they

wouldn't necessarily have to be patients, as such. Your choice of methods and the people you recruit should align with your proposal objectives. But that would be dependent on each project, so there's no specification at this stage.

Q. I'm just wondering, if we currently hold Health Foundation funding can we apply for this call? And, if yes, how would you look at extensions of current work with the current funding?

A. The answer is yes, you can apply. Please mention in your proposal if you do have current funding and which project you have funding for. We'd review a new application on its own merits. I imagine there would be useful insights and findings that you have from an earlier project, and you can bring those to bear on the proposal. But otherwise we would evaluate it on its own merits.

Q. Just looking at the application, you've a section in the project plan about patient and public involvement (PPI) and I was just wondering, given that the closing date is just about a month away, what level of PPI are you expecting at this initial stage?

A. If you mean in terms of developing the outline proposal, we're not expecting PPI in the development of the outline proposal. If you can get PPI in the development of the full proposal, that would be welcomed. But we're more looking for engagement as part of the whole process.

Q. I just wanted to ask a question: would you be willing to accept proposals for specific populations such as young people, for example?

A. Yes, as long as a case could be made that it would be relevant to the priorities that we set out and it makes sense as far as your application objectives. I think that's fine. A specific focus on one part of a population should be okay, if you can also demonstrate that it's young people within a particular place – and that, as we mentioned earlier, may be a geographical or territorial place or it may be a socially defined place.

Q. Did you state at the beginning that applicants are limited to academic institutions or research companies?

A. We expect the principal investigators on the proposals to have an academic background. That's correct. Or to work in a research agency.

Q. My question is pretty much the same as the previous question. We are a sustainability transformation partnership and I was going to ask if the lead applicant would have to be a university or academic institution.

A. Either a university academic institution or a research agency outside of academia – a research consultancy, for example. Given the nature of the programme we do expect research involvement and we'd expect that to probably be the principal investigator. But we'd also welcome applications involving third sector organisations, commissioners and others.

Q. This is the second round of your programme and I see on the web page that you funded six projects under the first round. Would it be possible to get some

information on roughly what these are doing and to get a bit of an idea of what you fund and what you don't fund?

A. There is already some existing information on the website; it may not be as well flagged as it could be, so we can add a very specific link to detailed background of existing projects onto that main web page.

Wrap up

If you have any further questions, please feel free to email us on the usual email address valueofhealthinaplace@health.org.uk. We are looking forward to receiving your applications by noon on 25 July. Thank you.