

# Notes for applicants

## **Evidence into Practice**

**A Health Foundation call for innovative approaches to translate research findings into practical action for policy and practice**

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### **Prepared by**

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**Deadline date: midday on Thursday 31 October 2019**

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# About the Health Foundation

- 1.1 The Health Foundation is an independent charity committed to bringing about better health and health care for people in the UK.
- 1.2 Our aim is a healthier population, supported by high quality health care that can be equitably accessed. We learn what works to make people's lives healthier and improve the health care system. From giving grants to those working at the front line to carrying out research and policy analysis, we shine a light on how to make successful change happen.
- 1.3 We make links between the knowledge we gain from working with those delivering health and health care and our research and analysis. Our aspiration is to create a virtuous circle, using what we know works on the ground to inform effective policymaking and vice versa.
- 1.4 We believe good health and health care are key to a flourishing society. Through sharing what we learn, collaborating with others and building people's skills and knowledge, we aim to make a difference and contribute to a healthier population.

# The Evidence into Practice programme

- 2.1 The Health Foundation's Evidence into Practice (EiP) programme was established in 2016 to help research teams bridge the gap from academic research findings, to actionable information for people practising in the field.
- 2.2 The 2016 round of the programme call sought imaginative and original ideas from research teams for the translation of findings from completed studies in improvement research, or more broadly in health services research. Eight projects received up to £50,000 over 15 months to fund the development of tools and resources that would enable the uptake of their findings from their research, into policy and practice. To find out more about these projects see <https://www.health.org.uk/funding-and-partnerships/programmes/evidence-into-practice>
- 2.3 The 2019 round of the Health Foundation's EiP programme builds on the success of the previous call by allocating funding of up to £50,000 over 15 months to up to eight suitably qualified and experienced teams based in the UK. This round is open to teams who **have previously received funding from the Health Foundation**, whose work has resulted in actionable findings that are applicable to health and social care practice and/or policy. The funds will support selected teams to develop innovative ways to promote these findings to those who influence, plan and deliver health and care services.
- 2.4 This document sets the application process for the 2019 round of the EiP programme. Applicants should read this *Notes for applicants* document, as well as the *Frequently asked questions* document.
- 2.5 Teams who consider themselves eligible for the programme should contact the EiP Research Manager via email at [EiP2019@health.org.uk](mailto:EiP2019@health.org.uk) to confirm eligibility for funding. Teams passing the initial eligibility checks will be sent an *Application form* and *Project budget template* to complete. The **deadline to submit proposals is midday on Thursday 31 October 2019**.

## Context

- 3.1 In 2006, the Cooksey Review highlighted that the ‘UK is at risk of failing to reap the full economic, health and social benefits that the UK’s public investment in health research should generate. ...there are two key gaps in the translation of health research: translating ideas from basic and clinical research into the development of new products and approaches to treatment of disease and illness; and implementing those new products and approaches into clinical practice.’<sup>1</sup>
- 3.2 Significant progress has been made in the last decade, but knowledge mobilisation remains a priority across the health and care sector, and within government. In 2016, Professor Chris Whitty, then Chief Scientific Adviser for the Department of Health and Social Care, highlighted that health services researchers need to look urgently at how to make research more accessible to policymakers. More recently, the Industrial Strategy<sup>2</sup> outlined plans for the development of a Knowledge Exchange Framework which will ‘benchmark how well universities are doing at fostering knowledge sharing and research commercialisation’. The 2019 consultation draft of the *Concordat to Support Research Integrity*<sup>3</sup> highlights the need for funders to promote openness and transparency in research, in particular calling for funders, researchers and employers to make ‘research findings widely available’. There are also increasing calls for funders to reduce research ‘waste’ by improved review mechanisms, greater use of the public in the design of research programmes and, most relevant for this programme, through better support for dissemination and mobilisation activities.<sup>4,5</sup>
- 3.3 Since 2014, the Health Foundation has spent over £25m on external research programmes. As a Foundation, we are committed to funding applied research and analytics which can be used to improve the health and health care of the UK. The 2019 round of the EiP programme therefore aims to provide additional support for our academic community to better mobilise the evidence generated through projects funded by the Foundation, and to encourage greater innovation in the approaches used to do this.

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<sup>1</sup> Cooksey, D. *A review of UK health research funding*. HMSO; December 2006.

<sup>2</sup> HM Government. *Industrial Strategy: building a Britain fit for the future*. HMSO; November 2017.

<sup>3</sup> Universities UK, *The concordat to support research integrity*. Universities UK; July 2012.

<sup>4</sup> The Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine. Using systematic reviews to reduce research waste – who really cares? *CEBM*; 4 April 2017 ([www.cebm.net/2017/04/using-systematic-reviews-reduce-research-waste-really-cares/](http://www.cebm.net/2017/04/using-systematic-reviews-reduce-research-waste-really-cares/)).

<sup>5</sup> Glasziou, P and Chalmers, I. Research waste is still a scandal. *BMJ*. 2018; 363.

## Priority areas for the call

- 4.1 The 2019 round of the EiP programme will allocate funding to suitably qualified and experienced teams based in the UK who have previously received funding from the Health Foundation, whose work has resulted in actionable findings that are applicable to health and care, including social care, practice and/or policy. The funds will support selected teams to develop innovative ways to promote these findings to those who influence, plan and deliver health and care services.
- 4.2 The call is therefore open to projects that have produced translatable findings in one or more of our strategic priority areas (more detail on each of our strategic priorities can be found at: <https://www.health.org.uk/what-we-do>):
- Healthy lives for all.
  - Understanding the quality of health and care.
  - Supporting health care improvement.
  - Making health and care services more sustainable.
- 4.3 In particular, we are interested in:
- projects aiming to address the social determinants of health;
  - work to reframe the discussion on the ways in which the physical and mental health of a population shapes their social and economic outcomes;
  - knowledge on what works in accessing data or data linkage, or where there is a strong link between the data and evidence base for promoting better health and care;
  - work to support the uptake of new ideas and practices, with particular reference to improving health and care services;
  - work on efficiency, workforce productivity or cost savings; and
  - projects which have a strong emphasis on data and/or technology.
- 4.4 Previous Health Foundation work has highlighted the potential for the use of data to support clinical and managerial decision-making, but that greater attention is needed on the way in which the evidence is generated and is communicated to and understood by the public and policymakers. It is also argued that to successfully spread complex health care interventions requires packaging them up in more sophisticated ways. Therefore, we will particularly welcome proposals that do one or more of the following:
- produce novel tools for disseminating learning, for example developing online tools and training guides, or holding workshops
  - help researchers use/reuse data generated by their work, for example by creating data visualisations or open source repositories

- allow the research outputs to be shared in real time (or near-real time), for example using open lab notebooks
- seek to expand the use of innovative methodologies, where they might enhance and support traditional approaches to data.

## Audience and dissemination

- 5.1 Given the diversity of the programme, projects will need to demonstrate a strong link between their evidence and the audiences they are seeking to influence. They should seek to identify opportunities for dissemination across the health, health care and social care landscape, and target audiences could include (but should not be limited to) acute, community and home care settings, public health, local government, commissioners and providers. Audiences for this work may also include wider system influencers, policymakers and those active researchers who work in the field. There will also likely be an interest from individual practitioners, relevant professional and national bodies, statutory and voluntary organisations and people who use services.
- 5.2 As with the previous round, funding awarded through EiP 2019 is designed to support innovative dissemination of completed research projects, to enable effective implementation of the evidence. Funding is not intended for further research nor for traditional academic dissemination routes, such as journal articles or presentations at conferences. We are seeking projects that capture the imagination and outputs that push the boundaries of common dissemination approaches.
- 5.3 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.
- 5.4 Towards the end of the programme, the Health Foundation will host a sharing and learning event with project teams to pull together insights and learning, to support the wider system to begin to consider their knowledge mobilisation efforts. Successful applicants will be expected to co-design and deliver the event with the Foundation.



## Eligibility

- 6.1 To be eligible to apply for the EiP 2019 programme, applicants must be a current or recent Health Foundation holder.
- 6.2 In addition, the projects for which EiP funding is being sought must have finished, or be due to finish, in the 24 months from June 2018 to June 2020.
- 6.3 Applications are also subject to the following inclusion and exclusion criteria:

**Table 1: Inclusion and exclusion criteria for EiP 2019**

Inclusion	Exclusion
Projects that have produced translatable findings in one or more of the Health Foundation's strategic priority areas.	Projects seeking to pull on learning from MA or PhD studies.
The team must be able to commence development between February 2020 and end of June 2020 (the latter for projects not yet completed).	Projects commissioned by commercial organisations.
Projects and activities that can be completed within a 15-month time period.	Projects that seek to develop resources for personal use (eg personal health apps).
Applicants have the right to use the intellectual property invested in the research for further development into tools/resources.	Projects seeking to develop a commercial product.
	Projects funded through Health Foundation fellowships.
	Projects already in receipt of formal follow-on funding from the Health Foundation (projects granted a no-cost extension are eligible).

# Selection criteria

7.1 Proposals received will be assessed against the following criteria:

- ongoing fit with the Health Foundation's strategic priorities
- robustness of the project delivery
- feasibility of the proposal to deliver the stated outputs
- the experience and expertise of the team and their connection to the stakeholders and intended audience
- pathway to impact
- capacity to deliver to project on time, on budget and to the required standard
- potential for the outputs to mobilise knowledge across the subject area and the wider health and care system, to directly support decision making and/or in day-to-day practice.

7.2 Part of our assessment process will be to develop a mixed portfolio of EiP 2019 projects that are ready to begin straight away (ie February 2020) and projects that will be ready to begin by the deadline start date of July 2020.

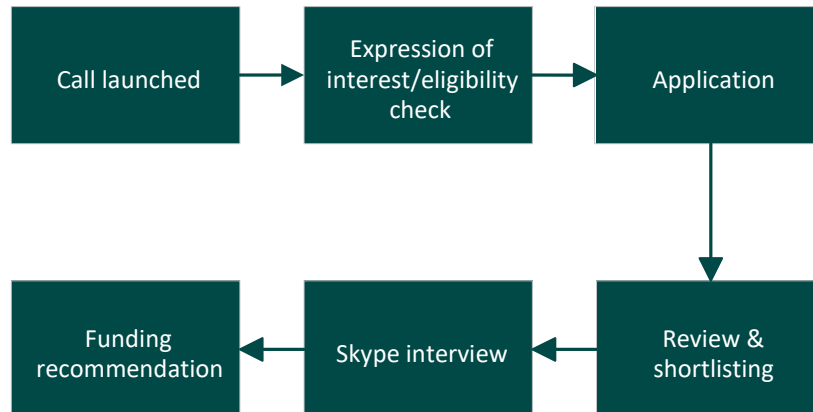
# Budget

- 8.1 The Health Foundation has £400,000 available to make small awards of up to £50,000 per project. In exceptional circumstances we may consider funding the development of resources beyond our maximum of £50,000. You will, however, need to present an excellent case for this, based on the additional value and impact of the proposal.
- 8.2 Please note that as a charity we will fund only the full directly incurred costs of the project. We do not fund overheads. Furthermore, the research will be supported as a charitable grant and as such is not liable for VAT.

# Application process

- 9.1 This is a closed call for proposals, available to recent and existing Health Foundation award holders. A summary of the process is shown in Figure 1 below.
- 9.2 Applicants should read this *Notes for applicants* document, as well as the *Frequently asked questions* document.

**Figure 1: Summary of Evidence into Practice 2019 application process**



- 9.3 Teams who consider themselves eligible for the programme should contact the EiP Research Manager via email ([EiP2019@health.org.uk](mailto:EiP2019@health.org.uk)) to confirm their eligibility for funding and request the application documents. In your email you must include the following information:
- details of the Principal Investigator applying for funding
  - title of the current project for which you are requesting EiP funding (this is contained on your award agreement)
  - the Health Foundation programme supporting the project for which you are requesting EiP funding
  - the start and end date of the project for which you are requesting EiP funding (this is contained on your award agreement and any variation letter).
- 9.4 We will endeavour to reply within three working days. The Research Manager may also contact you to discuss your project prior to sending the application documents.
- 9.5 Teams passing the initial eligibility checks will be sent via email an *Application form* (Word document) and *Project budget template* (Excel document) to complete.
- 9.6 Completed applications should be sent via email to [EiP2019@health.org.uk](mailto:EiP2019@health.org.uk) by **midday on Thursday 31 October 2019**.

- 9.7 Applications will be assessed by a Health Foundation staff member and an external expert with experience in the relevant subject matter area and/or knowledge mobilisation.
- 9.8 Shortlisting will be completed by early December 2019. Unfortunately, as we expect interest to be high in this call, we cannot provide feedback to unsuccessful applicants.
- 9.9 Shortlisted applicants will be invited to join a telephone/Skype interview on either 11 or 12 December 2019. Please ensure that you are available for interview on these dates, as we are unable to offer applicants alternative interview dates.
- 9.10 The interview 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 but also the fit with the strategic aims of the programme. Applicants will be informed of the decision in the week commencing 16 December 2019.

## Key dates

- 10.1 The **deadline to submit proposals is midday on Thursday 31 October 2019**. We will not accept application forms submitted after this time. Other key dates are provided in the table below.

**Table 2: Key dates for Evidence into Practice 2019**

Activity	Timeline
Open for applications	17 September 2019
Closing date for applications	31 October 2019
Assessment	w/c 2 December 2019
Interviews (conducted via phone/Skype)	11/12 December 2019
Funding decision	w/c 16 December 2019
EiP 2019 projects must be ready to commence	at latest, end June 2020
Interim award reports due	at latest, January 2021
End of award reports received	at latest, September 2021
End of award sharing and learning event	Autumn 2021

# Information governance

- 11.1 The proposed projects will be expected to meet organisational and legal information governance requirements. This will be assessed during the application process.

## Conflicts of interest

- 12.1 The Health Foundation's conflicts of interest policy describes how it will deal with any conflicts which arise as a result of the work which the charity undertakes. All external applicants intending to an award proposal to the Health Foundation should familiarise themselves with the contents of the conflicts of interest policy as part of the application process and declare any interests that are relevant. The policy can be found and downloaded from the Foundation's website at: <https://www.health.org.uk/sites/default/files/2019-02/Health-Foundation-policy-on-conflicts-of-interest.pdf>