

Economies for Healthier Lives

Frequently Asked Questions

Updated on Monday 9 November 2020

Application process

How do I apply?

You can complete an expression of interest through [the link on our website](#). You will first be asked to register for our applicant portal. Expressions of interest close at 12.00 (midday) on Friday 15 January 2021.

We would encourage you to register and become familiar with the portal well in advance of the submission deadline to avoid any last-minute problems. Should you have any difficulties submitting an application, please [contact our team](#) who will be able to assist you.

How do I watch the programme information webinar?

Our pre-recorded information webinar will be published on the programme page on Tuesday 24 November. The webinar will introduce the Economies for Healthier Lives programme to applicants, outline what we are looking for in applications, give advice on how to apply and answer pre-submitted questions.

If you would like to receive programme updates and submit a question to be answered in the information webinar, please fill out [the form](#) on the programme page. All questions must be submitted by 12.00 (midday) Wednesday 18 November.

Assessment criteria

How will you be assessing applications?

We will be assessing expressions of interest based on the criteria set out in section four of the [Call for applications](#).

We expect to receive a high number of expressions of interest therefore, we will not offer individual feedback to unsuccessful applicants at this stage. Applicants who are successful at the expression of interest stage will receive feedback and detailed instructions on how to complete the full application.

Are the assessment criteria weighted?

We will place a greater emphasis on assessment criteria 1 and 3 at the expression of interest stage.

Does the application form have a word limit?

Yes, answers to each of the core assessment questions have a word limit. Word limits for each question can be found in section four of the [Call for applications](#) and on the application form itself.

There are no penalties for being under the word limit. Applications will not be assessed on the amount of information provided so if you can answer the question in fewer words please do so.

How much detail do you need on the budget?

At the expression of interest stage, we are expecting indicative budgets only, for example rough splits across organisations or functions. Applications that proceed to the full application stage will be expected to provide more detailed budgets.

Do I need to submit a full project plan?

No. We are just looking for some high-level milestones to give us an idea of what you're planning. Applications that proceed to the full application stage will be expected to provide more detailed plans.

Timing

Why have you chosen to launch now?

We are very aware that many local areas are under enormous pressure and we have tried to design a light-touch expression of interest stage to account for that. We hope that this funding will be useful for local areas as recovery planning develops. Given the likely interest and time needed for assessment, a delay until spring would risk missing the window of recovery planning. Before launching the full application stage, we will consult selected applicants on timings.

What happens if we go into another lockdown or we have capacity issues related to COVID-19 before the application phase closes?

If you have concerns about capacity locally during the application process, please [contact us](#). We will discuss this with you and look at what options may be possible. We will try to be as flexible as possible. We have already taken the decision to extend the application window into January.

Is the application timetable in section 3 of the Call for applications fixed?

Given the uncertainty about the impact of COVID-19 the timelines set out in the [Call for applications](#) may be subject to change. We welcome all applications and will not close our expression of interest stage early. We will remain flexible where we can in response to feedback from applicants on their capacity to engage and support partnerships.

Will you be running this programme again next year?

While we hope there will be further funding opportunities in future, there are currently no confirmed plans to run another round of the Economies for Healthier Lives programme. If you are interested in applying to the programme, please do apply for this current opportunity. You can also [sign up for updates](#) on this programme.

Funding offered by the programme

Will the programme only support projects that use the economic development levers (Table A) outlined in the Call for applications?

No, the example projects listed in the [Call for applications](#) are only a guide for work we would be interested in funding, but this list is not exhaustive. We will consider funding any project that uses economic development interventions to improve public health outcomes. If you're still unsure if your project would be the right fit, please [contact us](#).

What portion of the funding must be used to support public involvement?

You do not need to allocate a specific amount of funding for your public involvement work. Your expression of interest response should indicate what public involvement work you plan to conduct in your project and your budget should reflect the likely cost of this work. You may also wish to consider how much funding you provide to your specialist partner who could potentially facilitate your public involvement work

Can local authorities in Northern Ireland/Scotland/Wales apply?

Yes, we welcome applications from all areas of the UK.

Are you interested in specific population groups?

It is up to you to tell us about your local needs and priorities. Your application should demonstrate local need, either in the area as a whole or in a target population within the area and demonstrate how your intervention will improve health and/or tackle health inequalities.

Can we use this funding as part of local recovery plans for COVID-19?

Yes, if you can demonstrate how your proposal meets the programme's objectives.

How the partnerships will work together

Can any organisation from the partnership lead the application?

Each application must be submitted by the lead partner, which must represent a local authority or statutory regional body, such as a combined authority. Throughout the duration of the programme, the lead partner will be responsible for delivery of the project, managing the budget and subcontracting arrangements to the partner organisations.

Can NHS organisations apply?

A core objective of the Economies for Healthier Lives programme is to improve the capacity and capability of economic development and public health professionals to take joint action to use economic development to improve health.

In some contexts, NHS organisations may be appropriate and important partners. However, we are not looking for proposals that focus on health care improvements and we want to see a strong focus on economic development.

How many organisations need to/can be involved in the project?

There are no restrictions on the number of organisations in the project team. The partnership should be set up in a way that supports the most appropriate and efficient delivery of your project.

Can I be part of more than one application?

A supporting partner organisation can be part of more than one application, although we would encourage you to consider the ability to deliver on more than one project simultaneously. Although we would not prohibit multiple applications from the same lead partner at the expression of interest stage, we would not take forward more than one proposal from each lead partner to the full application stage.

An application from a combined authority would not prevent its constituent councils from applying individually but, in determining final selection, assessors will look at geographical spread of awards to ensure a varied set of partnership locations.

What level of local authority does the application need to be from?

We are expecting the lead applicant to be from an upper-tier local authority or a combined authority with responsibility for economic development. That would not prevent the involvement of a district council or a project focused on a specific locality.

How developed does the partnership need to be at the expression of interest stage?

It is not necessary for partnerships to have an existing relationship. We would encourage applicants to think about how the organisations involved complement each other to achieve the programme objectives.

We understand that finding the right academic partner might be easier in some areas than others. At the expression of interest stage, we are not expecting fully developed plans for the academic partner. However, we do expect as a minimum, an outline of how the academic partner could support and enhance the proposed projects and a commitment from an academic partner to progress the proposal should it be successful at the expression of interest stage. We also expect a commitment from the academic partner to take forward the work if the application is successful.