

Primary care Health Inequalities Innovation Implementation Fund



Guidance for Applicants

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Primary care
HI³
Fund

Introduction

The fund will support the implementation of evidence and service improvements within primary care settings that aim to address health inequalities. Projects should generate practical learning that can be shared across the ICB and wider.

The Primary Care Health Inequalities Innovation Implementation Fund has been generated through funding awarded to ICB hosted primary care research led by the University of Bristol. Excess treatment cost (ETC) funding has been awarded beyond the need of several research projects and is now available for distribution into local primary care.

Purpose of the Fund

The fund supports projects that:

- Implement evidence into practice.
- Improve primary care services.
- Support the ICB priority of addressing health inequalities.
- Test innovative approaches to service delivery.
- Generate learning that can be shared across the ICS (and beyond).
- Demonstrate sustainability beyond the funding period.

The fund is not intended to support routine service provision without a clear improvement or evidence implementation component.

It also cannot be awarded to fund care activities that would rely on additional funding beyond the duration of the project.

The funding is to enable the work that is required to adopt innovations, not to fund the innovation as a short-term additional service.

Available Funding

There is no minimum funding request.

The maximum award is £35,000.00

Duration can be up to 24 months.

Applications requesting larger awards may be considered where a strong case is made and sufficient funds are available.

Funding is subject to the availability of ETC funds and successful assessment through the review process.

Who Can Apply?

Eligible lead applicants include:

- NHS organisations within ICB.
- General practices.
- Primary Care Networks.
- VCSE organisations operating within ICB.

All applications must:

- Be led by an organisation based within the Gloucestershire plus Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire (G+BNSSG) ICB Cluster.
- Include at least one named primary care collaborator.
- Include a named University of Bristol co-applicant.

Organisations outside G+BNSSG ICS may participate as collaborators but cannot receive funding through this scheme.

Eligibility Criteria

Projects must:

- ✓ Primarily benefit residents of Gloucestershire, Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire.
- ✓ Focus on primary care.
- ✓ Address health inequalities.
- ✓ Include meaningful patient and public involvement.
- ✓ Have a duration of no more than 24 months.
- ✓ Include a plan for evaluation.
- ✓ Demonstrate how improvements/benefits will be sustained beyond the funding period.
- ✓ Include an academic co-applicant from the University of Bristol.

Applications that do not meet all eligibility requirements will not proceed to assessment.

Eligible Costs

We would typically expect applications to include 1 clinical session a week for 12 months (or ½ a session for 24 months), and 2-5% of an academic partner.

The fund may support:

- Staff backfill and protected time for primary care and academic staff.
- Project delivery costs.
- Community engagement activities.
- Patient and public involvement activities.
- Equipment required for project delivery.
- Data collection and evaluation costs.
- Dissemination and learning activities.

Equipment requests must include a clear sustainability plan covering:

- Future maintenance.
- Consumables.
- Replacement arrangements.
- Ongoing ownership and running costs.

Evaluation costs must not exceed 20% of the total funding request.

Ineligible Costs

The fund will not support:

- Indirect costs or overheads.
- General organisational running costs.
- Estates or accommodation costs.
- Activities delivered primarily outside G+BNSSG.
- Funding transfers to organisations outside G+BNSSG.
- Capital building projects.
- Routine service delivery without a clear improvement objective.

Expected Outputs

All funded projects must produce:

Mandatory Outputs

1. A final evaluation report.
2. A presentation at a G+BNSSG event or online seminar.
3. A short implementation learning summary suitable for sharing across G+BNSSG and wider.

Recipients will also be expected to contribute to wider system learning and dissemination activities where appropriate.

Assessment

Stage 1 – Eligibility Review

The ICB Research Team will undertake an eligibility review using the eligibility checklist. Applications that do not meet the eligibility requirements will not proceed further.

Assessment

The ICB Research Team will assess eligible applications on the following factors:

- ICS Strategic Alignment.
- Health Inequalities.
- Inclusion and Diversity (patient group and workforce).
- Project deliverability.
- Sustainability.
- Innovation potential.
- Value for money.

Notification

Applicants will be informed of the outcome by email.

Successful applicants will receive an award letter outlining:

- Funding awarded.
- Conditions of award.
- Payment arrangements.
- Reporting requirements.

Unsuccessful applicants will receive feedback and assessment scores.

All applicants will receive their outcome on the same day. We aim for outcomes to be sent within 6 weeks of application.

Conflicts of Interest

All individuals involved in assessment, review, moderation or approval of applications will be required to complete a Conflict of Interest Declaration Form.

Conflicts will be recorded and managed using the process established for the ICB Responsive Call.

Individuals with a financial conflict will be excluded from scoring, discussion or decision-making for the affected application.

A conflict of interest register will be maintained by the ICB Research Team.

Appeals

There is no appeals process for this funding scheme, we do however accept feedback to improve our processes for future iterations. Feedback can be emailed to bnssg.research@nhs.net

To ensure transparency, all applicants will receive:

- Feedback on their application.
- Assessment scores.

Further Information

Questions about eligibility or the application process should be directed to the ICB Research Team before submission at bnssg.research@nhs.net

Applicants are encouraged to engage with potential primary care collaborators, patients, communities and University of Bristol partners at an early stage when developing proposals.

