REAL Research Units

Frequently asked questions

March 2022

### Q: Can applicants submit a joint application?

A: Applicants may submit a joint application. Applications may be developed in partnership with other institutions or organisations who are able to meet the objectives of the programme. However, The Health Foundation will only make the award available to one lead applicant. The lead applicant must submit the application and will be responsible for all financial, reporting and administration obligations of the award if successful.

### Q: Do applicants need to have their teams confirmed before submitting?

A: We expect to see confirmation of named individuals who will be responsible for leading the team. This includes the lead principal investigator and co-investigators. However, we don’t expect all individual roles to be confirmed at this stage. An outline of the team structure, positions and governance will be sufficient.

### Q: What type of agency support will be made available in phase one?

A: The REAL Centre will recruit an agency who is able to support the programme through design-thinking principles. We believe this approach will support both the REAL Centre and the research units to define how we work together to tackle complex problems. They will be skilled in their ability to work collaboratively and creatively and will support the research units to consider multiple perspectives in the design of their research questions.

### Q: How will the budget be split across the two programme phases?

A: We will make £725,000 available to cover phase one costs and £3m available to cover phase two costs. Applicants should use these figures as a guide when developing their programme budget. We recognise that phase two costs are likely to change as phase one progresses. Successful applicants will have the opportunity to revise their phase two budgets at the mid-point review stage.

### Q: Why is there a mid-point review stage?

A: This is a new programme for the REAL Centre and we plan to develop a close partnership with the research units. The mid-point review stage is an opportunity for both parties to reflect on progress and programme ambitions at the end of stage one. We will use this process to determine if the programme is on track to meet its objectives and make any changes necessary.

### Q: Do the REAL Research Units teams need to be based in the UK?

A: The lead applicants must be UK based; however, teams are welcome to work in partnership with international organisations and individuals who can support the ambitions of the programme.

### Q: Why will the REAL Research Units’ outcomes be England focused?

A: England has the largest population of the devolved nations and is therefore most likely to enable the research units to influence decision-making at government level. However, we welcome applications that include expertise from across the devolved nations and welcome a cross-nation approach in engaging stakeholders.

### Q: The application form contains standardised questions. How will applicants know where to add specific details that relate to the Call for applications document?

A: Within the application form there are two ‘form helpers’. These are guides which outline how to answer each question and where to put specific details. We advise that you read these in detail before completing the application form.