

Economies for Healthier Lives

Frequently asked questions

Updated on Tuesday 24 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.

Assessment criteria

How will you be assessing applications?

We will be assessing expressions of interest based on the criteria set out in section 4 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.

The programme will support 'local' and 'regional' partnerships – can you clarify what this means?

We haven't specified what local/regional means because we aren't being restrictive and it's up to applicants to tell us what this means for your partnership.

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

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

Is it purely designed for those areas with high health inequalities/deprivation or can other areas with lower (but still some) health inequalities still stand a chance of being successful?

We are not going to specify areas that are eligible based on the level of deprivation. We know that deprivation and inequality exist among affluent areas. We are interested in understanding how your proposal will help to improve health and/or reduce health inequalities.

Are you looking for new, innovative ideas or more interested in existing systems/delivery models that have yet to be measured/evaluated?

For this funding programme, we want to go beyond measurement and evaluation of existing initiatives.

Would the Health Foundation be more interested in, a) applications that focus on economic interventions to reduce health inequalities for specific population cohorts facing disadvantage, or b) economic interventions to reduce whole population inequality markers?

Either would fit with the programme objectives and we would not specify that we preferred one over the other. However, the requirements around meaningful public engagement may be easier to fulfil in those initiatives focused on specific population groups.

Does the project have to be one specific intervention, or can it cover a range of smaller-scale activities?

A range of smaller-scale activities would be fine as long as there is clear coherence between the activities.

Please can we have more clarification around this statement: '[...] more focused on how to implement economic development strategies targeted

at health rather than assessing the effects of specific interventions.’ Does this mean that the focus is on evaluating methodologies rather than specific impact?

It is difficult to get good long-term health outcomes data around complex interventions. This is the first year running this programme and we are more interested in the ‘how’ of implementing economic development strategies rather than the success of specific interventions. The academic partner will support sites to bring evidence into their practice through, for example: data generation, cleansing data sets, theories of change, generating evidence, and literature reviews.

For some funding programmes, we are quite prescriptive and set out that we want to test ‘x intervention’ and will evaluate its success. This programme is more developmental.

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 **Economies for Healthier Lives**. If you are interested in applying to the programme, please do apply for this current opportunity.

The timescales for the award are over a six-month period – what opportunities are there to ‘tweak’ initial applications to reflect the changing context of COVID-19 and its impact?

We are expecting proposals to develop between the expression of interest phase and the full application stage. We wouldn’t want to see a completely new projects put forward in the full application stage but there would be an opportunity to adjust your initial proposal.

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

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.

You have offered a range of funding (between £300,000 and £500,000) – what are your expectations of where partnerships will be within this range?

We don't have expectations of where you will fall within this range. However, there is a tendency for applicants to bid for the top of the range. We would urge all applicants to consider value for money and whether the proposed costs are proportionate.

How can the funding be distributed over the period? Does it need to be divided equally per financial year, or can it be frontloaded?

Payments are usually divided equally and linked to agreed outputs and reports across the duration of the award and cannot be frontloaded.

Can the funding be used to fund a place-based post?

Potentially, yes. We are expecting a large portion of funding to go on staffing costs. However, we would need to know how the post would contribute to the programme objectives.

Would the funding support local community initiatives?

It depends what those community initiatives are and if they meet the programme objectives. We need to see proposals that are closely linked to our programme objectives.

Is the funding aimed at creating more jobs and employment in the health and wellbeing sector?

Not really. There could be a proposal around job creation and labour market initiatives that happens to link to the NHS but we would really need to understand how that fitted with the programme objectives.

Is the funding aimed at providing coordinated facilities for the public to engage in services that lead to healthier lifestyles?

No, that wouldn't be enough. Our report highlights an example from Finland where young people could access a range of services such as mental health support but also employment advice and recruiters, housing support and a range of other services. If an intervention was focused on coordinated services, it would need to provide more than just healthier lifestyle services.

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.