

Research for Patient Benefit

# Research for Patient Benefit - March 2025

## Overview

Opportunity status:	Open
Type:	Programme
Opening date:	12 March 2025 at 1:00 pm
Closing date:	9 July 2025 at 1:00 pm
Reference ID:	2025/222, 2025/223, 2025/224

## Ready to apply?

Apply for RfPB via one of these funding opportunities through our online application form:

[2025/224 RfPB Researcher-led \(https://awardsmanagement.nihr.ac.uk/s\\_Login.jsp?](https://awardsmanagement.nihr.ac.uk/s_Login.jsp?dest=/Apps/app_viewopportunity.jsp%3Fappid%3D105112%26nextlevel%3D1%26opportunityid%3D10084739)

[dest=/Apps/app\\_viewopportunity.jsp%3Fappid%3D105112%26nextlevel%3D1%26opportunityid%3D10084739\)](https://awardsmanagement.nihr.ac.uk/s_Login.jsp?dest=/Apps/app_viewopportunity.jsp%3Fappid%3D105112%26nextlevel%3D1%26opportunityid%3D10084739)

[2025/223 RfPB Commissioned - JLA Rolling Funding Opportunity](https://awardsmanagement.nihr.ac.uk/s_Login.jsp?dest=/Apps/app_viewopportunity.jsp%3Fappid%3D105112%26nextlevel%3D1%26opportunityid%3D10084737)

[\(https://awardsmanagement.nihr.ac.uk/s\\_Login.jsp?](https://awardsmanagement.nihr.ac.uk/s_Login.jsp?dest=/Apps/app_viewopportunity.jsp%3Fappid%3D105112%26nextlevel%3D1%26opportunityid%3D10084737)

[dest=/Apps/app\\_viewopportunity.jsp%3Fappid%3D105112%26nextlevel%3D1%26opportunityid%3D10084737\)](https://awardsmanagement.nihr.ac.uk/s_Login.jsp?dest=/Apps/app_viewopportunity.jsp%3Fappid%3D105112%26nextlevel%3D1%26opportunityid%3D10084737)

[2025/222 RfPB Commissioned - NICE Rolling Funding Opportunity](https://awardsmanagement.nihr.ac.uk/s_Login.jsp?dest=/Apps/app_viewopportunity.jsp%3Fappid%3D105112%26nextlevel%3D1%26opportunityid%3D10084729)

[\(https://awardsmanagement.nihr.ac.uk/s\\_Login.jsp?](https://awardsmanagement.nihr.ac.uk/s_Login.jsp?dest=/Apps/app_viewopportunity.jsp%3Fappid%3D105112%26nextlevel%3D1%26opportunityid%3D10084729)

[dest=/Apps/app\\_viewopportunity.jsp%3Fappid%3D105112%26nextlevel%3D1%26opportunityid%3D10084729\)](https://awardsmanagement.nihr.ac.uk/s_Login.jsp?dest=/Apps/app_viewopportunity.jsp%3Fappid%3D105112%26nextlevel%3D1%26opportunityid%3D10084729)

The NIHR [Research for Patient Benefit \(RfPB\)](https://www.nihr.ac.uk/research-funding/funding-programmes/research-for-patient-benefit) (https://www.nihr.ac.uk/research-funding/funding-programmes/research-for-patient-benefit) Programme is inviting outline applications for research

proposals that are concerned with the day-to-day practice of health service staff, and that have the potential to have an impact on the health or wellbeing of patients and users of the NHS.

As a researcher-led programme, RfPB does not specify topics for research but instead encourages proposals for projects that address a wide range of health service issues and challenges.

The programme aims to fund high quality quantitative and qualitative research with a clear trajectory to patient benefit. It particularly encourages applications that have a strong element of interaction with patients and the public and that have been conceived in association with a relevant group of service users.

This is a two-stage, commissioned funding opportunity. To apply for the first stage you should submit an outline application. If invited to the second stage, you will then need to complete a full application.

## RfPB funding opportunities

RfPB is participating in the following three funding opportunities with separate applications on the awards management system. Applicants should read each one carefully before applying to the relevant one.

---

### RfPB Researcher-led (2025/224)

This is RfPB's main funding opportunity. Please see the [RfPB webpage](https://www.nihr.ac.uk/research-funding/funding-programmes/research-for-patient-benefit) (<https://www.nihr.ac.uk/research-funding/funding-programmes/research-for-patient-benefit>) for details about the overall programme remit and eligibility criteria.

#### Highlight notice

RfPB is currently participating in the following highlight notice:

- Regional priorities highlight notice - West Midlands and East Midlands

Please see the Regional priorities highlight notice tab for further information.

---

### RfPB Commissioned - NIHR NICE rolling funding opportunity (2025/222)

NIHR RfPB is interested in receiving applications to meet recommendations in research identified in [NICE guidance](https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/published?ndt=Guidance&ndt=Quality%20standard) (<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/published?ndt=Guidance&ndt=Quality%20standard>) that has been published or updated in the last 5 years.

In order to apply you will need to carefully review the [NIHR NICE specification document](https://www.nihr.ac.uk/nihr-nice-rolling-call-specification-document) (<https://www.nihr.ac.uk/nihr-nice-rolling-call-specification-document>).

Proposals received into this funding opportunity must be within the remit of the [RfPB](https://www.nihr.ac.uk/research-funding/funding-programmes/research-for-patient-benefit) (<https://www.nihr.ac.uk/research-funding/funding-programmes/research-for-patient-benefit>)

programme.

---

## **RfPB Commissioned - NIHR James Lind Alliance (JLA) rolling funding opportunity (2025/223)**

NIHR RfPB is interested in receiving applications which address any of the James Lind Alliance (JLA) Priority Setting Partnerships (PSPs) research priorities. In order to apply you will need to carefully review the [NIHR JLA specification document](https://www.nihr.ac.uk/nihr-james-lind-alliance-priority-setting-partnerships-rolling-call) (<https://www.nihr.ac.uk/nihr-james-lind-alliance-priority-setting-partnerships-rolling-call>). Proposals received into this funding opportunity must be within the remit of the [RfPB](https://www.nihr.ac.uk/research-funding/funding-programmes/research-for-patient-benefit) (<https://www.nihr.ac.uk/research-funding/funding-programmes/research-for-patient-benefit>) programme.

### **JLA PSP for digital technology in mental health care**

We would welcome applications addressing priorities within this particular JLA PSP, although applications are not restricted to this area of research.

The Covid-19 pandemic rapidly accelerated the use and adoption of digital technology in health and social care services, including mental health services. Examples of this include:

- video consultations
- apps
- wearable devices
- smartphones for accessing health information
- smart technology/artificial intelligence

Digital technologies can change how health care is delivered, making health and care services more accessible, flexible, person-centred, and a better experience for patients and staff, while also improving efficiency. However, while there are many potential benefits from increased use of digital tools, there is also an acknowledged risk of some people being digitally excluded, such as those with mental health conditions. The evidence base for digital mental health interventions, including demonstration of clinical effectiveness and cost-effectiveness in real-world settings, remains inadequate. The [JLA PSP for digital technology in mental health care](https://www.jla.nihr.ac.uk/priority-setting-partnerships/digital-technology-for-mental-health#tab-26891) (<https://www.jla.nihr.ac.uk/priority-setting-partnerships/digital-technology-for-mental-health#tab-26891>) was established in 2018 to identify research priorities and opportunities for integrating digital technology for people with mental health conditions.

---

## **Key dates**

**12 March 2025, 1pm**

Outline application opening date

## 09 July 2025, 1pm

Outline application closing date

## October 2025

Full application opening date

## November 2025

Full application closing date

## March 2026

Full application funding decision

## Application guidance

While many aspects of the application form will look familiar to those who have applied to the NIHR through the research management system, there are many differences too.

Please read our [domestic outline application guidance](https://www.nihr.ac.uk/research-funding/application-support/guidance/domestic-programmes-outline-application-guidance) (https://www.nihr.ac.uk/research-funding/application-support/guidance/domestic-programmes-outline-application-guidance) to help you complete all aspects of your application. You must read this alongside the information below, which details specific application requirements and guidance for this funding opportunity. You can also refer to the [RfPB FAQs](https://www.nihr.ac.uk/research-patient-benefit-programme-frequently-asked-questions) (https://www.nihr.ac.uk/research-patient-benefit-programme-frequently-asked-questions).

## Contracting Organisation

Please note that for RfPB, applications must be made through an NHS body or other provider of NHS services in England. 'NHS body' means: (a) the Board; (b) a Clinical Commissioning Group; (c) a Special Health Authority; (d) an NHS trust; and (e) an NHS foundation trust. 'NHS provider' includes: Community interest companies. If the application is successful, the NHS body or other provider of NHS services in England will act as the contracting organisation, meaning that it will be the recipient of the funds, and will ultimately be responsible for the delivery of the research.

If you have any queries, please contact [rfpb@nihr.ac.uk](mailto:rfpb@nihr.ac.uk) (mailto:rfpb@nihr.ac.uk) before submitting your application.

## Duration (months)

The maximum duration of an RfPB-funded project is 36 months

## Total cost to NIHR

The programme has an upper limit of £500,000 for research costs requested from the NIHR and all applications must fall within this limit. We will not accept applications that have asked for funding which exceeds the funding cap per project.

Value-for-money is considered at both the outline and full application stages and applicants should read the [Guidance on funding limits](https://www.nihr.ac.uk/research-patient-benefit-programme-guidance-funding-limits) (https://www.nihr.ac.uk/research-patient-benefit-programme-guidance-funding-limits) page to ensure the work planned in their application aligns with what is expected of an RfPB application at a particular level of funding.

Broadly, these it may be helpful for applicants if they work within three cost tiers for their research:

- up to £500,000 for research that might have fairly immediate patient benefit (such as a randomised controlled clinical trial),
- up to £300,000 for research in preparation for full trials, including feasibility studies and pilots depending on the extent of uncertainties,
- up to £200,000 for more upstream research, such as observational studies or proof of concept studies, that will generate results that may be useful for more downstream investigations or might carry a higher risk of failing to achieve patient benefit.

These are not fixed cost limits but indicative ranges. Costs will be accepted if they are well justified and demonstrate value for money in terms of the potential for realising patient benefit.

## Lead Applicant and Research Team

RfPB grants must be administered by an NHS body or other provider of NHS services in England and the lead applicant must have an appropriate relationship with the lead body submitting the application to ensure proper governance and accountability. This means that the lead applicant (if they are not already employed by the NHS body or other provider of NHS services) will need to arrange an honorary contract with that organisation. However, it is not necessary for the honorary contract to be in place when the application is submitted, as long as the lead body is able to confirm that it intends to provide an honorary contract if the application is successful.

Early career researchers leading applications to RfPB are encouraged to apply as Lead Applicant, with a more senior colleague fulfilling the role of mentor and Joint Lead Applicant. For a joint-lead applicant, ensure there is a clear description in the 'Proposed role' section of how they will provide mentorship and guidance for the early career researcher fulfilling the role of Lead Applicant. Please summarise the proposed Joint Lead Applicant's relevant expertise and track record in applied health research, in terms of skills and experience, previous publications, grant funding and impact on health service provision.

Please note that RfPB allows a maximum of 11 members on a research team (either one lead applicant and 10 co-applicants or 2 joint-lead applicants and 9 co-applicants).

## Research Plan

Do not upload a research plan that is more than 4 pages. We will not accept applications with a research plan that is more than 4 pages. If invited to submit a full application, this will have a 15 page limit.

## Background and rationale

Please remember to provide a clear explanation of the health problem to be addressed, the impact on patients/service users, carers, practitioners as well as health and care services, and how this research would fill a demonstrable evidence gap, addressing patient/service user and carer needs and DHSC priorities (at national or local levels).

Explain how your proposed research is within the remit of the RfPB programme and how it addresses the key aim of the programme to produce research findings that will have practical application for the benefit of patients, service users, carers, the public or populations, and the NHS or social care sector in the relatively near future. Your application should also demonstrate its likely trajectory to patient benefit and the anticipated timescale of this.

Applicants are reminded that the application will be reviewed by assessors who may not have a detailed understanding of the particular clinical, public health or social care area that your application relates to. It is vitally important that you clearly tell the story of why this research is important, and how it will make a stepped change to practice and/or outcomes. The committee is looking for novel approaches. Research which, in the committee's view, represents only an incremental development on current practice, or is unlikely to have general application / uptake is unlikely to be supported. Research which improves efficiency and effectiveness (rather than increasing workload in an already stretched NHS) is welcomed.

It is essential that you clearly identify the health and care need that your research aims to address. Please outline the anticipated value or contribution the study will provide.

Briefly describe:

1. the importance of the proposed research and its relevance to the priorities and needs of the NHS (including a statement of the significance of the research area, e.g. burden of disease). If you are responding to a themed call or highlight notice, please explain how your proposed research addresses the key themes of the call or notice.
2. the anticipated outputs, outcomes and impact of the proposed research on the health of patients/service users, carers and/or the public, highlighting the trajectory to patient benefit and quantifying the potential benefits, where possible

3. the anticipated timescale for the benefits resulting from the proposed research to be realised.

Explain why this research is needed now, both in terms of time and relevance. We will only fund primary research where the proposed research is informed by a review of the existing evidence.

Briefly describe:

1. the need for research in this area, drawing particularly from systematic reviews (including NHS context and relevant literature), and the rationale for the particular lines of research you plan to pursue.
2. past and current research that justifies the proposed research and shows that it will add distinct value to what is already known, or in progress
3. work undertaken previously by the research team which has led to the proposed programme (e.g. describe any pilot or feasibility data).

## Timetable

Briefly detail the timetable for the proposed research, including key milestones and deliverables.

## Knowledge mobilisation, dissemination and impact

For pilot or feasibility studies, clear progression criteria to the substantive study should be provided, including identification of the potential funder of the substantive study. Time should also be allocated to the development of the protocol for the substantive study should the proposed pilot or feasibility study be successful.

For further information on applying for feasibility studies, we recommend that you refer to the [Guidance on applying for feasibility studies](https://www.nihr.ac.uk/guidance-applying-feasibility-studies) (https://www.nihr.ac.uk/guidance-applying-feasibility-studies) page.

## Launch of highlight notices to address local research priorities

Despite the uneven distribution of poor health outcomes in certain geographical regions, research efforts often overlook these populations and conditions.

To address this research gap, the Research for Patient Benefit (RfPB) programme has launched a series of regional highlight notices where we invite proposals to address the specific health challenges facing the regions and communities of each funding committee.

Rather than setting specific research themes, these highlight notices will allow applicants to identify and evidence the unmet patient research needs and priorities within their respective regions and

communities. This includes urban centres as well as under-served coastal towns, rural and semi-rural regions where access to healthcare and health outcomes are most disparate.

With the implementation of the 2022 Health and Care Act, Integrated Care Systems (ICSs) have emerged as collaborative platforms, uniting NHS bodies, local authorities, and other stakeholders in the collective pursuit of improving healthcare delivery and reducing disparities. Each ICS is tasked with devising a five-year plan, outlining strategies to address the unique health needs of its population.

Applicants will need to provide evidence that they are addressing a regional research priority by citing, for example, ICS strategy documents, or other regional policy or strategy documents such as Joint Strategic Needs Assessments, regional NIHR Applied Research Collaborations (ARCs) research themes and/or Health Innovation Network (HIN) priorities. If applicants have engaged with, and have the support of, their local ICB/HIN/commissioners, they are also invited to provide a letter of support to demonstrate this. This is to ensure local relevance and utility of the proposed research. Furthermore, in applications that seek to generate evidence which has been initially produced through research in other regions, the applicants will need to clearly justify why pre-existing evidence is not applicable in the regional context proposed.

The RfPB programme encourages projects that propose innovative approaches to address these needs, foster collaboration with local stakeholders, and have the potential to deliver tangible benefits to the populations served. Where possible, applicants should also consider the potential for their evidence generated to be transferable to other settings in comparable regions and highlight this within their application.

Additionally, we encourage applications that embrace diversity, equity, and inclusion principles, ensuring that research outcomes are accessible and applicable to all people with protected characteristics as part of the relevant population. To fulfil the ongoing priority of the programme in developing research capacity, RfPB also encourages applications led by early career researchers and those from under-represented disciplines. In these applications, a more senior colleague should apply as a Joint Lead Applicant to provide mentorship and guidance for the early career researcher.

This is the second highlight notice of this series, which will focus on **addressing the healthcare needs in the West Midlands and East Midlands regions**, and will be part of the funding opportunity launching in March 2025. In order to adequately accommodate this within the regular RfPB funding opportunities, the rollout of the regional highlight notices is staggered. The highlight notice will be rolled out as follows:

Region	Launch date
East of England and South West	November 2024



Region	Launch date
West Midlands and East Midlands	March 2025
London and South East and Central	July 2025
Yorkshire North East and North West	November 2025

## Webinar

A virtual Q&A webinar for the previous funding opportunity took place on Monday 11 November.

If you would like access to the slides or the recording, please contact [rfpb@nihr.ac.uk](mailto:rfpb@nihr.ac.uk) (<mailto:rfpb@nihr.ac.uk>).

## Scope

- Applications should be within RfPB scope.
- Applications should ideally be co-produced with service commissioners, providers and service users wherever appropriate to better ensure findings are of immediate utility in policy and practice. Applicants may wish to consult the [Briefing notes for researchers - public involvement in NHS, health and social care research](https://www.nihr.ac.uk/briefing-notes-researchers-public-involvement-nhs-health-and-social-care-research). (<https://www.nihr.ac.uk/briefing-notes-researchers-public-involvement-nhs-health-and-social-care-research>)
- RfPB is a response mode/researcher-led funding programme for applied health and care research. As such, the research should have a demonstrable impact on the health or health care of users of that service. While this highlight notice deliberately does not specify topics to be covered, you are encouraged to read the programme's aims and scope statements. For this highlight notice applicants are encouraged to utilise the [ICs strategy documents](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1HkdHKN74GxFcu0IF92kWIXBEqBVwLPC-/edit#gid=1492493248) (<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1HkdHKN74GxFcu0IF92kWIXBEqBVwLPC-/edit#gid=1492493248>) or other regional policy and strategy documents to identify the evidenced unmet patient needs within their respective regions and communities.
- As an ongoing priority of the programme in developing research capacity, RfPB also encourages early career researchers and those from under-represented disciplines to apply as a Lead

Applicant on their applications. In these applications, a more senior colleague should apply as a Joint Lead Applicant and provide mentorship and guidance for the early career researcher.

- The potential trajectory to patient benefit is a major selection criterion, so applicants are advised to ensure that they make a clear case for the patient and/or public benefit arising from the study.
- The case for patient benefit should also consider the opportunities and/or barriers to the successful adoption of research into usage at scale (i.e. towards national implementation). The work of the [Health Innovation Networks](https://thehealthinnovationnetwork.co.uk/) (<https://thehealthinnovationnetwork.co.uk/>) can be a useful guide to how such scaling can be nurtured and supported.
- Alongside rigorous research designs and methodologies, we also look for awareness of barriers and facilitators to implementation and dissemination strategies that enhance the likelihood that the results can be utilised. Where appropriate, applicants should outline a clear knowledge mobilisation strategy within the application to ensure that the research findings are integrated into routine practice.

## Frequently asked questions

### How should a lead applicant decide which regional area the application should be sent to?

Ideally, the contractor should be based within the region where the specific priorities are being addressed. The lead applicant must have an appropriate relationship with the lead body submitting the application to ensure proper governance and accountability. This means that the lead applicant (if they are not already employed by the NHS body or other provider of NHS services) will need to arrange an honorary contract with that organisation. However, it is not necessary for the honorary contract to be in place when the application is submitted, as long as the lead body is able to confirm that it intends to provide an honorary contract if the application is successful.

### For an application submitted to the regional priorities highlight notice, can the research only be relevant to the region it is being undertaken in or could the findings be transferable to other regions?

It is expected that findings from any research funded through the regional priorities highlight notice could well be transferable to other regions. Any application should utilise regional policy and strategy documents where possible to evidence the unmet patient needs within their respective regions and communities.

## **What should I do if I am unable to submit my application in time for the highlight notice when it's active in my region?**

If your application is within RfPB's remit and addresses a regional priority, it will always be eligible to be submitted to an RfPB funding opportunity, regardless of whether this highlight notice is active at that time. This series of highlight notices is seeking to promote that applications focusing on regional priorities are an ongoing focus and priority for the programme, rather than serve as a single call for submissions.

## **Can an application be submitted that fits within the regional priorities highlight notice and another active notice (e.g. Competition 56's Tackling inequality in Early Action to Prevent Poor Health Outcomes highlight notice)?**

Yes, applications that are applicable to more than one highlight notice can be submitted and will be eligible for the strategic uplift if recommended for funding.

## **Can researchers in Scotland apply for the regional priorities highlight notice?**

RfPB grants must be administered by an NHS body or other provider of NHS services in England and applications to this highlight notice must focus on a regional unmet need within England. The lead applicant may not be based in England as long as they have an honorary contract with the host organisation in England submitting the application.

## **Could an application be submitted to this highlight notice in order to fund a PhD project, provided that all other requirements are met?**

Doctoral studentship wouldn't be eligible under this highlight notice as the NIHR does not fund PhD studentships through its research programmes. It is possible, however, for a researcher employed to work on an NIHR funded research project to register for a PhD based on the funded project, although RfPB would not reimburse fees.

## **Is a joint-lead applicant that is in place to provide mentorship to an early career researcher expected to have held NIHR grants or be PI for NIHR portfolio studies previously?**

The only requirement for a joint-lead applicant to be an appropriate mentor is that they should be an experienced researcher. Previous funding from NIHR would be helpful but not essential.

## **What types of applications might be suitable for this highlight notice if their methodology doesn't fit within the pilot to feasibility to full trial pipeline?**

Many of the applications funded by RfPB are not feasibility studies or randomised controlled trials and a variety of research designs are permitted in all of the funding tiers. The funding tier system employed by the programme refers to the trajectory to patient benefit from an application, rather

than the research design. Tier 1 applications are for research with a clear and close trajectory to patient benefit. Often these are randomised controlled trials, but can also apply to designs such as target trial emulation studies or other well designed quasi-experimental observational studies. Tier 2 research would cover applications where a limited amount of follow-on work would be required to provide tangible patient benefit and, beyond feasibility work, can include methodologies such as observational studies or some mixed methods work.

The largest variety of research designs are often covered by the Tier 3 funding tier (up to £200k). Tier 3 research projects would be on a pathway to patient benefit, yet further from it and require a further set of follow-on work to realise a change in routine care. For example, these could include observational studies, development of new interventions or outcome measures, exploratory studies or realist synthesis work. Any successful application would still be expected to fully detail the trajectory to patient benefit from the proposed research, with a clear description of what subsequent work would be needed in order to successfully translate to changes in routine care.

For further information, please see the [Guidance on funding limits](https://www.nihr.ac.uk/research-patient-benefit-programme-guidance-funding-limits) (https://www.nihr.ac.uk/research-patient-benefit-programme-guidance-funding-limits) and [Review of tier 3 funding](https://www.nihr.ac.uk/research-patient-benefit-programme-review-tier-3-funding) (https://www.nihr.ac.uk/research-patient-benefit-programme-review-tier-3-funding) page.

## Is there anywhere to see previous successful RfPB applications and their published reports?

Funded RfPB applications can be viewed on the [NIHR Funding and Awards](https://fundingawards.nihr.ac.uk/) (https://fundingawards.nihr.ac.uk/) website and some final reports are available on the [NIHR Open Research](https://openresearch.nihr.ac.uk/) (https://openresearch.nihr.ac.uk/) publishing platform. It is recommended that applicants should contact the [Research Support Service \(RSS\)](https://www.nihr.ac.uk/support-and-services/research-support-service) (https://www.nihr.ac.uk/support-and-services/research-support-service), who can provide advice for creating a successful application.

## Is there an email address that I can communicate for further queries about whether a potential application could be relevant to this highlight notice?

The programme mailbox ([rfpb@nihr.ac.uk](mailto:rfpb@nihr.ac.uk) (mailto:rfpb@nihr.ac.uk)) can be contacted with any queries you may have about a potential application, including questions surrounding highlight notice eligibility, recommended funding tier or RfPB's scope. These will be directed to a Research Manager within the team who can respond and provide the necessary assistance.

## Application process and assessment criteria

- This highlight notice is a part of a series dedicated to addressing regional unmet patient needs. It will focus on two regions per funding opportunity.
- The applications submitted under the highlight notice will undergo routine scrutiny along with other applications submitted to the funding opportunity. Proposals submitted under the

highlight notice will be assessed on their quality and individual merits according to standard RfPB scheme criteria. Reviewers will also be asked to consider fit to the highlight notice including to what extent the research will address unmet patient need within the region based on the evidence provided, and the potential for utility and usability of the research within the region.

- Applications will be considered by a regional assessment Committee and the assessors will be asked to consider fit to the highlight notice.
- Applicants are required to acknowledge within their proposal (in the research plan section) that they are responding to the regional priorities highlighted in the notice.
- The standard RfPB two stage application process will apply to applications submitted under this notice.

## Further reading

[Under-served communities programme](https://www.nihr.ac.uk/about-us/who-we-are/research-inclusion/making-research-inclusive) (https://www.nihr.ac.uk/about-us/who-we-are/research-inclusion/making-research-inclusive)

[INCLUDE programme](https://sites.google.com/nihr.ac.uk/include/home) (https://sites.google.com/nihr.ac.uk/include/home)

## Below is a selection of previously funded RfPB projects addressing regional needs and priorities

[PB-PG-1013-32094](https://fundingawards.nihr.ac.uk/award/PB-PG-1013-32094) (https://fundingawards.nihr.ac.uk/award/PB-PG-1013-32094) - An innovative educational intervention to improve uptake of Hepatitis B and C testing in South East Asians: Intervention development and a feasibility study for a RCT - Award: £329,740.

[PB-PG-0416-20019](https://fundingawards.nihr.ac.uk/award/PB-PG-0416-20019) (https://fundingawards.nihr.ac.uk/award/PB-PG-0416-20019) - Diagnosis and management of dementia in primary care in Black Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) groups: an exploratory study - Award: £149,418.

[NIHR202769](https://fundingawards.nihr.ac.uk/award/NIHR202769) (https://fundingawards.nihr.ac.uk/award/NIHR202769) - Hairdressing salons to promote NHS online application to reduce under-diagnosis of cardiovascular risk factors among women in London's deprived and ethnically diverse neighbourhoods: a feasibility study - Award: £268,462.

[NIHR203466](https://fundingawards.nihr.ac.uk/award/NIHR203466) (https://fundingawards.nihr.ac.uk/award/NIHR203466) - A mixed methods study using co-production to explore food insecurity in adults with Severe Mental Illness living in Northern England - Award: £148,657

[NIHR203548](https://fundingawards.nihr.ac.uk/award/NIHR203548) (https://fundingawards.nihr.ac.uk/award/NIHR203548) - Shared medical appointments (SMA) in primary care for improving self-management of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease

(COPD) amongst underserved groups: feasibility randomised control trial in North East and North Cumbria (NENC) - Award: £239,377

[NIHR203590](https://fundingawards.nihr.ac.uk/award/NIHR203590) (https://fundingawards.nihr.ac.uk/award/NIHR203590) - Effects of Implementation of a care bundle on rates of necrotising enterocolitis and own mother's milk feeding in the East Midlands: a mixed methods impact and process evaluation study - Award: £241,266

[NIHR206378](https://fundingawards.nihr.ac.uk/award/NIHR206378) (https://fundingawards.nihr.ac.uk/award/NIHR206378) - Disparities In Access to the Northwest Ambulance Service during pregnancy, birth and postpartum period and its association with neonatal and maternal outcomes [DIAAS] - Award: £173,798.

## Application process

Find out how to apply for this funding opportunity and what you need to do to get your application ready.

## How to apply

When you are ready to apply, you will need to [log in to our application system to apply](https://awardsmanagement.nihr.ac.uk/s_Login.jsp) (https://awardsmanagement.nihr.ac.uk/s\_Login.jsp). This funding opportunity is on our new NIHR awards management system and you will need to create a new account to apply.

The closing date is 09 July 2025 at 1pm. Applications received after 1pm on the closing date will not be considered.

Please read the following guidance before submitting an application:

- [Domestic outline application guidance](https://www.nihr.ac.uk/research-funding/application-support/guidance/domestic-programmes-outline-application-guidance) (https://www.nihr.ac.uk/research-funding/application-support/guidance/domestic-programmes-outline-application-guidance)
- [RfPB frequently asked questions](https://www.nihr.ac.uk/research-patient-benefit-programme-frequently-asked-questions) (https://www.nihr.ac.uk/research-patient-benefit-programme-frequently-asked-questions)
- all the information highlighted in the 'Application guidance' tab of this funding opportunity

## Download application form template

You can download a Word document template of the application form below. Please use this template as a guide only, to help you prepare your application. For example, to see how many characters are accepted in each section and to see how information in the form is laid out. Please do not try to use this as an application form; it cannot be submitted as an application. You must submit your application online via our awards management system.

(/media/24286/download/)

## domestic-outline-application-form-template.docx

DOCX |

Last updated: 27 November 2024

[Download document \(27.86 KB\)](#)

## Research inclusion and reasonable adjustments

At NIHR we are committed to [creating a diverse and inclusive culture](https://www.nihr.ac.uk/about-us/who-we-are/research-inclusion) (https://www.nihr.ac.uk/about-us/who-we-are/research-inclusion). We encourage applications from people from all backgrounds and communities bringing diverse skills and experiences. If you need any reasonable adjustments throughout the application process, please contact the programme team via the information in the Contact Details tab.

## Research Support Service

Got a research idea and not sure how to turn it into a funding application? The NIHR [Research Support Service \(RSS\)](https://www.nihr.ac.uk/support-and-services/research-support-service) (https://www.nihr.ac.uk/support-and-services/research-support-service) supports researchers in England to apply for funding. It can help you develop and deliver clinical and applied health, social care and public health research post award.

## Contact Details

- For help with your application contact [rfpb@nihr.ac.uk](mailto:rfpb@nihr.ac.uk) (mailto: rfpb@nihr.ac.uk)
- For more information about the funding Programme, visit the [RfPB Page](/research-funding/funding-programmes/research-for-patient-benefit) (/research-funding/funding-programmes/research-for-patient-benefit)
- Got a research idea and not sure how to turn it into a funding application? The NIHR Research Support Service (RSS) supports researchers in England to apply for funding, and to develop and deliver clinical and applied health, social care and public health research post award. [Find out how the RSS can help you](https://www.nihr.ac.uk/explore-nihr/support/research-support-service/) (https://www.nihr.ac.uk/explore-nihr/support/research-support-service/).