



**Pre-announcement: Implementing evidence-based interventions that prevent, delay or reduce health and social care requirements for older adults in underserved communities**

**Opening June 2025**

**Introduction**

Our [recent analysis of the UK ageing-related research landscape](#) identified that there are clear gaps in ageing-related research which focus specifically on preventative approaches. In particular, the Chief Medical Officer for England (CMO) highlighted the need for primary and secondary prevention measures in his 2023 annual report, [“Health in an ageing society”](#). For example:

- Primary prevention, which considers issues such as exercise, nutrition and obesity, as well as smoking, high levels of alcohol consumption and air pollution.
- Secondary prevention which maximises the use of tools we already have, and extending / increasing the uptake of screening programmes and services.

The prevention of infections in older adults was also highlighted by the CMO, as was the fact that “the older population is becoming increasingly diverse”.

This approach also aligns with the [NHS Long Term Plan](#), which commits to supporting people to remain healthier for longer, by improving prevention and addressing health inequalities.

Through this call we hope to bring these two under-researched areas together. Proposals must describe how the intervention(s) in question can directly prevent, delay or reduce health and social care requirements for older adults in underserved communities. This could include, but is not limited to, ethnically diverse groups, older LGBTQIA+ people, those from lower socioeconomic backgrounds / communities and/or those in underserved geographic regions (including coastal and rural locations).

## What will we fund?

Mindful of the substantial number of interventions which have already been developed to prevent, delay or reduce health and social care requirements for older adults – many of which already have robust evidence of effectiveness – our aim for this funding call is to support proposals which seek to implement and evaluate existing evidence-based service / programme interventions at scale, to facilitate their longer-term adoption / commissioning.

Furthermore, proposals must generate evidence on the economic impacts / implications / sustainability of the intervention(s), to help facilitate its longer-term adoption. This should be through a combination of health economic assessment and / or other evaluation methods, and proposals will need to justify the approach being taken. The approach being taken to generate this evidence / data must also be developed in collaboration with community partner(s) and /or any commissioning bodies which aim to adopt the intervention(s) following the end of the programme (e.g. health commissioners, local authorities, housing providers or other third sector organisations etc.).

The work being proposed could therefore include:

- Scaling-up an intervention(s) which has been evidenced in a clinical / experimental setting to evaluate its ‘real-world’ effectiveness.
- Implementing and evaluating an intervention(s) in a new setting / region and/or understanding the contextual factors that impact its wider implementation.
- Adapting and implementing an evidence-based intervention(s) for a new setting / population etc. and evaluating its effectiveness in this new context. **In such cases, applicants will need to provide a clear case for how the intervention(s)’ existing evidence base supports its adaptation for the new setting / population.**
- Comparing and/or evaluating a variety of different implementation strategies for a given intervention(s).
- A combination of the above.

By “robust evidence”, we typically mean evidence published in a peer reviewed journal demonstrating the effectiveness of an intervention(s) based on relevant clinical, health, social care and/or economic outcomes. In some cases, we may consider unpublished data / evidence of effectiveness, but this will need to be provided within the Expression of Interest application. Feasibility studies showing the acceptability of intervention(s) and/or the ability to recruit participants do not on their own constitute evidence of effectiveness. Similarly, interventions which only have small-scale / pilot data to support their effectiveness are unlikely to be suitable for this call.

Within the finalised call guidelines we intend to highlight the following areas, and uplift those proposals that address them at the Expression of interest (EOI) stage:

- Primary prevention: specifically focused on issues of nutrition, obesity, smoking and high levels of alcohol consumption in older adults in underserved communities.
- Secondary prevention: increasing access to and/or maximising the uptake of screening programmes / services amongst older adults in underserved communities.
- Preventing infections in older adults in underserved communities.

All proposals, regardless of the work being proposed, must outline clear and realistic plans for the longer-term sustainability of the intervention(s) following the funding and articulate how the proposed work will help to facilitate this.

In addition, all proposals should be aligned with the Foundation's key values for research as detailed on page 12 of our [2025 – 2030 Strategic Framework](#).

Please note that the call is **not** designed to support the continued funding of a service / programme which has already been adopted / commissioned.

Full details of the call and eligibility criteria will be provided in the call guidelines when the call opens.

### **Who can apply?**

Principal Investigators (lead applicants) must be based at a UK university or other [eligible research organisation](#). Lead applicants from local authorities may be eligible to apply if there is suitable research infrastructure in place – please [contact us](#) directly if you are unsure or would like to discuss this further. The Foundation has no specific geographical link and will consider applications from anywhere within the UK.

If you are the Principal Investigator on a current / active grant from the Foundation, or a Co-applicant on more than one current / active grant from us, then you **may not** be eligible to apply to this funding call – please [contact us](#) directly if you are unsure or would like to discuss this further.

Given the focus of the call, applications **must** include appropriate commissioning / adopter partners (i.e. organisations which could support the longer-term adoption of the intervention(s) following the end of the work), and those with relevant health economics expertise (or similar), within the proposed team.

We encourage proposals with co-applicants and collaborators both from within and beyond academia. This includes people with lived experience of issues relevant to the proposal, as well as community organisations, providers of health and social care services and industry /

commercial partners. There are no restrictions on the number of individuals / organisations within the proposed team.

In addition, where appropriate, we actively encourage multidisciplinary and multi-professional teams and, whilst the work being proposed must take place within the UK, contributions from international collaborators are permitted where clearly justified.

### **How much is available?**

We plan to allocate £2.5M to the call, although more may be available if we receive enough applications of a suitably high quality. Applicants can apply for up to £1.2M for a maximum of four years, and we welcome proposals that include part funding or in-kind contributions from other sources.

As a member of the [Association of Medical Research Charities \(AMRC\)](#), the Foundation will pay the directly incurred costs of research for research institutions, and may pay some directly allocated research costs in specific cases. Broadly, we will also meet the costs of materials and consumables required to implement the intervention(s) and carry out the proposed work, along with justified backfill costs for staff at partnering health and social care and/or community organisations.

If applicable, we will also expect funding to be allocated within the proposed budget to compensate any involved community partner organisation(s) for their contribution to the work at their full economic cost.

Details of eligible costs will be included in the finalised call guidelines.

Any awards would be made to and administered by the Principal Investigator's institution (the lead institution).

### **Timetable and deadlines**

The application process will consist of two stages:

1. Expression of interest (EOI) stage
2. Full application stage

All stages will be administered through our [online Grants Management Portal](#). However, to assist in your planning, we aim to provide blank application form templates within the finalised call guidelines.

The expression of interest stage will open in early June 2025 and close at 5pm on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2025.

Expression of interest proposals will undergo an initial triage by the Foundation's experienced Grants Team, with eligible proposals being passed over to a panel comprising relevant members of our [Research Grants Committee](#). The assessment process at this stage will focus on the alignment of proposals with key aspects of the call criteria / scope (e.g. description of the proposed work, the existing evidence base for the intervention(s), involvement of commissioning / adopter partners etc.).

We are anticipating a large number of expression of interest applications; therefore, we will only be providing general feedback at this stage.

Successful applicants at the expression of interest stage will be invited to submit a full application by the deadline of mid-October 2025.

Once submitted, full applications will undergo external peer review; applicants will then be given the opportunity to respond to specific feedback provided by the peer reviewers.

Applications will then be assessed by an expert panel, who will meet to consider applications in early February 2026. Interviews will be held in mid to late February 2026, if deemed necessary by the panel, following which applicants will be notified of the outcome of their applications by early April 2026.

### **Sign-up for our webinar**

We are hosting a webinar on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> June (11am – 12.30pm) to introduce the call and offer prospective applicants the opportunity to ask questions. You can find out more and register your attendance on [Eventbrite](#).

We intend to make the recording of the webinar available to those who registered, and to include a link to the recording on this page in due course.

### **Further information and contact details**

Full details will be provided in the call guidelines, which will be available once the call opens. **The information on this page may be subject to change prior to the publication of the guidelines.**

Before applying, prospective applicants should complete the [general eligibility quiz on our website](#). We also recommend that you read our [general Funding FAQs](#).

To subscribe to receive news and updates from us, please add your details to the 'Join our community' section of our "[Contact us](#)" page. You can also follow us on [LinkedIn](#) and [Bluesky](#).

Please email any queries relating to the call to [grants@vivensafoundation.org.uk](mailto:grants@vivensafoundation.org.uk) – wherever possible, we will ensure that any queries are addressed in the call guidelines.