RPSC Highlight Notice: Children's Social Care

Overview

Opportunity status:	Open
Type:	Programme
Opening date:	4 June 2025 at 1:00 pm
Closing date:	17 September 2025 at 1:00 pm
Reference ID:	2025/320

Ready to apply?

Apply for this funding opportunity through our online application form:

[RPSC Highlight Notice: Children's Social Care](https://awardsmanagement.nihr.ac.uk/iface/ex/ax_index.jsp?hasdest=1)
(https://awardsmanagement.nihr.ac.uk/iface/ex/ax_index.jsp?hasdest=1)

RPSC is looking to fund research on Children's Social Care. This is a researcher-led funding opportunity.

The [Research Programme for Social Care (RPSC)](https://www.nihr.ac.uk/research-funding/funding-programmes/research-programme-for-social-care) (https://www.nihr.ac.uk/research-funding/funding-programmes/research-programme-for-social-care) is accepting Outline Applications for their Children's Social Care highlight notice funding opportunity.

RPSC aims to fund research that generates evidence to increase the effectiveness of social care services, provides value for money and benefits people who need or use social care services, and carers. In this call, research will cover Children's Social Care only. This is a two-stage 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.

Summary

RPSC is running a highlight notice on Children's Social Care.

Under its highlight notice funding opportunity, "Children's Social Care", the NIHR Research Programme for Social Care (RPSC) is inviting proposals for ambitious research projects that explore what works for children and young people in Social Care, particularly focusing on protection and prevention, poverty and workforce.

The funding opportunity offers researchers considerable flexibility to focus on any subject area or topic providing that it falls within the remits of RPSC and the Children's Social Care highlight notice. We particularly encourage ambitious research that focuses on what works, rather than defining vulnerability (as this area is already well defined and explored).

RPSC is taking a broad view of Children's Social Care. Research must be in line with the principles of the [Children's Social Care National Framework (.PDF)](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/657c538495bf650010719097/Children_s_Social_Care_National_Framework__December_2023.pdf) (https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/657c538495bf650010719097/Children_s_Social_Care_National_Framework__December_2023.pdf). Applications will need to demonstrate how any research will benefit children (under 18 years of age) and/or young people (under 25 years of age) and increase the effectiveness of social care .

As with the regular RPSC funding opportunities, RPSC encourages early career applicants to apply and that all applicants consider applying for the additional capacity building funding. This funding opportunity also includes an RPSC Early Career Researcher sub-stream: please see the RPSC scope for further information.

Our funding decisions are based on assessments of quality, timeliness, potential impact, and value for money.

NIHR and RPSC will continue to run highlight notices and calls that accept proposals for children's social care studies outside of this specific call. Currently these opportunities include:

- [Evaluating interventions for foster/kinship carers of looked-after children with behavioural difficulties](https://www.nihr.ac.uk/funding/evaluating-interventions-fosterkinship-carers-looked-after-children-behavioural-difficulties/2025242) (https://www.nihr.ac.uk/funding/evaluating-interventions-fosterkinship-carers-looked-after-children-behavioural-difficulties/2025242)
- [What are the social and mental wellbeing benefits of intergenerational practises in care homes and schools?](https://www.nihr.ac.uk/funding/what-are-social-and-mental-wellbeing-benefits-intergenerational-practises-care-homes-and-schools/2025318) (https://www.nihr.ac.uk/funding/what-are-social-and-mental-wellbeing-benefits-intergenerational-practises-care-homes-and-schools/2025318)
- [The effectiveness of interventions to support children and young people affected by sexual abuse](https://www.nihr.ac.uk/funding/effectiveness-interventions-support-children-and-young-people-affected-sexual-abuse/2025249) (https://www.nihr.ac.uk/funding/effectiveness-interventions-support-children-and-young-people-affected-sexual-abuse/2025249)

The NIHR funds children's social care research across its research landscape, including through Programmes, the Children and Families Policy Research Unit, NIHR Fellowships and the Applied Research Collaborations (ARCs).

Eligibility

See our [RPSC web page](https://www.nihr.ac.uk/research-funding/funding-programmes/research-programme-for-social-care) (https://www.nihr.ac.uk/research-funding/funding-programmes/research-programme-for-social-care) for details about the scope and eligibility criteria. Prospective applicants are encouraged to attend the launch webinar, which will be advertised on the website. If you have any queries about whether your proposal is eligible for RPSC funding, please send an email with specific questions to the RPSC Programme team at rpsc@nihr.ac.uk.

Webinar

We will hold a webinar about this funding opportunity on Tuesday 01 July 2025 11am -1pm. You will hear about the specification and application process. This will be followed by a live Q&A session for the audience to ask questions to the NIHR RPSC Programme Team. [Register for the webinar.](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1358168621909?aff=oddtdtcreator) (https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1358168621909?aff=oddtdtcreator)

Key dates

04 June 2025, 1pm

Outline application opening date

01 July 2025, 11am

Webinar

17 September 2025, 1pm

Outline application closing date

14 January 2026, 1pm

Full application opening date

25 February 2026, 1pm

Full application closing date

June 2026

Full application funding decision

How to apply

To apply for this funding opportunity you will need to log in through the NIHR awards management system. Click the link below to log-in to the system and start your application. If you have not previously applied through this system you will be prompted to create an account.

[RPSC Highlight Notice: Children's Social Care](https://awardsmanagement.nihr.ac.uk/iface/ex/ax_index.jsp?hasdest=1)
(https://awardsmanagement.nihr.ac.uk/iface/ex/ax_index.jsp?hasdest=1)

Research specification

Background

Children and young people's social care is a clear national priority. On November 18th 2024, the Government [announced](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/biggest-overhaul-in-a-generation-to-childrens-social-care) (https://www.gov.uk/government/news/biggest-overhaul-in-a-generation-to-childrens-social-care) that there will be a major reform of children's social care. With further plans for

funding for children's social care including investment in preventative services being laid out in the [Local Government Finance Settlement](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-government-finance-policy-statement-2025-to-2026/local-government-finance-policy-statement-2025-to-2026#:~:text=The%202025%2D26%20Local%20Government%20Finance%20Settlement%20will%20include%20a,for%20children%27s%20social%20care%20services.) and [further guidance](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/families-first-partnership-programme) published in March 2025.

This funding opportunity is an important part of NIHRs strategy to generate evidence to increase the effectiveness of children's social care, to provide value for money and to benefit people who need or use social care services and carers. It supports our [strategic focus](https://www.nihr.ac.uk/reports/best-research-for-best-health-the-next-chapter/34535#our-areas-of-strategic-focus) of building capacity and capability in social care research.

This RPSC call supports the outcomes of the [Children's Social Care National Framework (.PDF)](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/657c538495bf650010719097/Children_s_Social_Care_National_Framework__December_2023.pdf).

- Outcome 1: children, young people and families stay together and get the help they need
- Outcome 2: children and young people are supported by their family network
- Outcome 3: children and young people are safe in and outside of their homes
- Outcome 4: children in care (all children whose care is being provided by the local authority) and care leavers have stable, loving homes

Scope of the Children's Social Care Highlight Notice

NIHR is looking to increase its impact in children's social care research. While there is a relatively large amount of evidence highlighting challenges that children and young people face, as well as risk and protective factors for poor outcomes, there is less evidence on what works to improve their outcomes within children's social care, there is less evidence on what works, which this highlight notice is focusing on.

Proposals should be within the [RPSC scope](https://www.nihr.ac.uk/documents/research-programme-for-social-care-scope/34488) and the scope of the Children's Social Care highlight notice as highlighted below.

Applications should:

- Detail proposed safeguarding provisions

- Focus on evaluative rather than descriptive research
- Wherever appropriate, include multidisciplinary teams and ways of working
- Be ambitious
- Look at need (not just number of people impacted, but also level of need).
- Be social care focussed - while there may be crossover between health and education, applications must be social care focussed.
- Ensure that applications and teams include people with lived experience
- Detail how the research will support the outcomes in the Childrens Social Care National Framework (.PDF) (https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/657c538495bf650010719097/Children_s_Social_Care_National_

Proposals could include

- Evaluations of what works, which could be feasibility or pilot studies or randomised trials. We would also consider funding quasi-experimental impact evaluations
- Preparatory work for trials/larger studies
- Studies on how to use regularly collected administrative data to inform decisions and provision
- Economic evaluation of services
- Improving how impact is measured
- Improvements to gathering the voices of children and parents/care-givers when running children's services

We encourage

- Applicants to consider including capacity building in their application, particularly for practitioner researchers
- Ambitious, longitudinal research.

Themes of interest include but are not limited to:

1) Prevention/Resilience/Recovery

While there is a relatively large amount of literature on vulnerability, we are particularly interested in how best to ensure that vulnerable children and young people are prevented from experiencing harm ("Harm" is the "ill treatment or the impairment of the health or development of the child"

(Section 31, Children Act 1989; Article 2, Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995; Scottish Government, 2023), or where they have experienced some harm, further harm is prevented.. We also understand that vulnerability is often intersectional. For example, in 2015, [the SEND code of practice (.PDF)](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a7dcb85ed915d2ac884d995/SEND_Code_of_Practice_January_2015.pdf) reported that around 70% of looked after children have some form of SEN, and it is likely that a significant proportion of them will have an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan. [Research (.PDF)](https://pure.hud.ac.uk/files/21398145/CWIP_Final_Report.pdf) has also highlighted the ways in which ethnicity, poverty and disability shape young people's experiences (eg. Therefore we seek research on prevention and recovery that is intersectional (with a primary focus on social care).

- Understand prevention: what is effective and impactful in responding to specific harm types, such as neglect, abuse and maltreatment in general
- Intersectional understanding of protection, prevention, resilience, and or recovery from harm and measuring impact relating to one or more of the following:
  1. Parental mental health
  2. Domestic abuse
  3. Parental substance misuse
  4. Exploitation
  5. Care experienced young parents or care-givers
  6. Parents or care-givers with learning disabilities
  7. Families at risk
- How to improve service delivery to keep vulnerable children safe
- Supporting protection and prevention for children in need and their families.
- Effective early identification support of families, at home and out of the care system - including multi-agency working and early help services
- How to support safe reunification
- Better understanding of the services that children in need and their families receive
- Transitions between children's and adult social care and prevention of harm.

2) Poverty and Vulnerability

We know that poverty intersects with other areas of vulnerability, and wish to explore how families may be better supported. For example, The Childhood Trust has released a report (.PDF)

(https://www.childhoodtrust.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/The-Childhood-Trust-SEND-REPORT-June-2023.pdf) showing that the cost of living crisis has negatively impacted social workers' ability to support children with SEND.Cuts to services and increasing levels of poverty have also driven demand on children's services (https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanpub/article/PIIS2468-2667(22)00065-2/fulltext) . In addition, social workers lack the tools to support families (.PDF) (https://eprints.whiterose.ac.uk/id/eprint/123330/1/Morris%2C%20Kate%20-%20Social%20work%2C%20deprivation%20and%20child%20welfare%20interventions%20-%20AFC%202017-10-26.pdf) who are experiencing poverty and address the ways in which poverty exacerbates other vulnerabilities . Possible areas to explore this further may include the following topics:

- What is effective in supporting families who are in poverty and risk of harm?
- How to support larger families who are at risk of rising poverty
- Intersection between poverty and other areas of vulnerability
  - Children with physical and psychological disabilities
  - Care leavers
  - Neurodiversity
  - Mental health
  - Social isolation
  - Young carers
- Impacts of financial hardship on young people using social care
- Children in need/care and impacts of intersections with poverty.
- Situational vulnerability (temporary or context-specific factors that make a child more susceptible to harm or risk, such as poverty, social isolation, or exposure to abuse)

3) Workforce

The growing pressure on the children's social care workforce, as well as government reforms to family help and child protection means that research is needed to support continuous development, and to upskill people joining the workforce. Possible topics include:

- Supporting workforce to be resilient and develop over time
- Understand and support effective leadership and decision making
- How workforce can support children's social care reforms
- How to create learning organisations, and develop frontline skills

- Improved multidisciplinary working
- Key skills, competencies, knowledge that are essential for children's social care practitioners to support children and families effectively.

Application guidance

Please read our domestic 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 these alongside the information below, which details specific application requirements for this funding opportunity. You can also check our RPSC web page (https://www.nihr.ac.uk/research-funding/funding-programmes/research-programme-for-social-care) for details about the Programme's scope and remit

Section One: Summary Information

Contracting Organisation

Applications can be made through **universities, local authorities/governments, and NHS bodies or other providers of NHS services in England, Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland**. For more information, please see the RPSC Social Care Call Specification (https://www.nihr.ac.uk/nihr-research-programme-social-care-rpsc-call-specification).

Duration

For the current RPSC funding opportunity, the Project cannot start before **01 October 2026.**

Total Costs to NIHR

Please Note: **the RPSC Programme does not have a budget limit for individual projects** (excluding Early Career Applications where the budget is £250,000).

RPSC research teams need to propose a budget that is appropriate for the proposed work packages, project duration, resources, public involvement, equality, diversity and inclusion strategy, and collaborations. Please note that value for money will still be one of the key criteria of assessment. Applicants are encouraged to assess the potential social care impact of the project including its timeliness to develop research plan and budget.

1. Estimated Treatment, Intervention or Service Costs

Enter the total amount of treatment, intervention or services costs associated with this proposal. Treatment, intervention or service costs must be calculated separately from the research costs and research support costs. While it is expected that the organisation responsible for commissioning the treatment, intervention or service being researched should pay the costs, where this has not been possible, social care research studies funded by NIHR may be eligible for intervention cost support from DHSC.

Costs associated with the research that stop when the study stops, including the recruitment of participants, are known as 'support costs'. Support costs (often referred to as 'NHS support costs') are met by the Research Delivery Network (RDN) and social care studies are eligible to receive RDN support. Researchers should include support costs where relevant.

For the purposes of social care studies, 'treatment, intervention and service costs' are the costs that would continue to be incurred if the treatment, intervention or service in question continued to be provided after the research study has stopped. Typically, treatment, intervention or service costs will be provided either by the NHS Trust, local authorities or third sector organisations and costs should be met by the commissioner of the treatment, intervention or service (e.g. NHS, local authorities, third sector etc.).

2. **Research Costs**

Outline Applications do not have a detailed budget section, therefore in the 'Research Cost' section, you should include the **amount** that you are asking the NIHR to consider. For universities, it should be 80%. For other organisations (such as NHS Trusts, Charities, Local Authorities etc), it should be 100%.

For the avoidance of doubt, this means that quoted financial limits in the finance guidance for Early Career Researchers refer to the limit of funding applicants may request from the NIHR. This means that the total project cost (100%FEC) can exceed £250k as long as the application form only requests £250k to be funded by the NIHR (80%FEC).

3. **Online SoECAT: Schedule of Events Cost Attribution Template Form**

Outline Applications: If your research needs support and intervention costs, you need to give the amount in the outline application. At this stage, **you do not have to upload a SoECAT**. However, we advise researchers to access the online SoECAT (https://www.nihr.ac.uk/documents/online-soecat-guidance/30396) resource page **as soon as they plan to apply for RPSC.**

There is an AcoRD specialist in every region of the UK (including centralised specialists in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland) If you are unsure who this is, there is a list of telephone

numbers and email addresses by region that can be found on the [Study Support Service contacts webpage](https://www.nihr.ac.uk/study-support-service-contacts) (https://www.nihr.ac.uk/study-support-service-contacts) and the [NIHR Research Delivery Network webpage](https://rdn.nihr.ac.uk/) (https://rdn.nihr.ac.uk/).

Please note that not all AcoRD specialists will be experts in social care (as their experience is dependent on the research studies in their region). However, they will be able to provide support in terms of how the portfolio can work for Sponsors and applicants as well as interpreting how support for social care studies can be attributed via the AcoRD policy and via the SoECAT.

In addition to contacting your local AcoRD specialist, please also cc in or email directly the following email addresses if your social care study requires an assessment of excess treatment costs or a decision upon who commissions your relevant care pathway in the UK: etchelpdesk@nihr.ac.uk and interventioncostenquiries@dhsc.gov.uk, which are signposted on the [Researcher Guidance for Public Health and Social Care Excess Treatment Costs (ETCs) webpage](https://www.nihr.ac.uk/researcher-guidance-public-health-and-social-care-excess-treatment-costs-etcs) (https://www.nihr.ac.uk/researcher-guidance-public-health-and-social-care-excess-treatment-costs-etcs).

If your study, following review by an AcoRD Specialist, has Excess Treatment Costs of a value over £20,000 per participant or £1,000,000 in total then please contact HighCostETCs@dhsc.gov.uk to ensure that DHSC are aware and can conduct additional reviews prior to final grant approval.

The DHSC email address in particular is aimed at social care queries which may be slightly different to the normal secondary care process. You should receive some advice on how to proceed especially with children's social care in mind.

In the case of social care studies, it is best to adopt the above two-pronged approach to ensure your query gets answered more quickly.

Section Five: Research Plan

The proposed research should be realistic in scope and scale and deliverable within the time and funding agreed.

The research plan should be a maximum of 6 A4 pages in length or 3000 words, including diagrams, depending on the type/complexity/scale of study proposed. Please include the following information when writing your Research Plan and see 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).

Identify all stakeholders who are relevant to your research proposal, clarifying how they benefit from your proposed research and, where appropriate, how they have been involved in the

development of the application, as well as the plans for their involvement in the proposed research.

Remember that the application will be reviewed by assessors who may not have a detailed understanding of the particular social care area that your application relates to. Please clearly tell the story of why this research is important, and how it will make a change to practice and/or outcomes.

1. **Background and Rationale**

The NIHR expects appropriate and relevant involvement of people who draw on social care, carers and the public and other key stakeholders in the research it supports. It is essential to set out your plans to involve service users, carers and the public in the outline application. Your service user, carer and public involvement plans will be assessed by the funding committee including service users, carers and public members.

In this section it is important that you identify all stakeholders who are relevant to your research proposal. For each stakeholder group you need to be clear about how they benefit from your proposed research and, where appropriate, how they have been involved in the development of the application, as well as the plans for their involvement in the proposed research.

2. **What is the problem being addressed?**

Provide a clear explanation of the social care problem to be addressed, the impact on care users and carers, as well as social care services, and how this research would fill a demonstrable evidence gap. Explain how your proposed research is within the remit of the RPSC call and how it addresses the key aim of the call to generate research evidence to improve, expand and strengthen the way that social care is delivered for care users, carers and the public.

Why is this research important in terms of improving social care services and/or the evidence base for social care? Does it address local and/or national priorities for care users, carers, practitioners or the public?

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

Briefly describe the importance of the proposed research and its relevance to the priorities and needs of the social care services (including a statement of the significance of the research area, i.e. the scale of the social, economic, or other key public service burden).

the anticipated outputs, outcomes and impact of the proposed research on the welfare of care users, carers, and/or the public, highlighting the trajectory to social care benefit and quantification

of the potential benefits, where possible the anticipated timescale for the benefits resulting from the proposed research to be realised.

Applications through the RPSC should have:

- A clear pathway to social care benefit which could be immediate or over a longer-term
- A strong link with people who need or use social care, carers and organisations which provide social care services or other relevant groups
- An appropriate team likely consisting of social care researchers, workforce, carers, methodologists and people who use social care, reflecting the nature of the application.

3. **Early Career Researcher Opportunity**

If you wish to apply as an Early Career researcher -You must make this clear in your research plan. Please create an ECR section within your research plan, following the guidance below.

If you are applying for the Early Career Researcher (ECR) opportunity , please state clearly that you are an ECR, how you meet the criteria below, and that you wish to enter the ECR opportunity.

If you want to apply through the ECR opportunity, the funding limit is **£250,000.**

Early career researchers are defined as a researcher who meets either or both of the following criteria:has not held a grant as chief investigator (excluding fellowships) exceeding £100,000 or has completed a PhD within the last 5 years.

ECR applications will be reviewed by the assessing committee, but will not be in direct competition with larger awards or those from non-early career researchers. The ECR opportunity allows researchers to apply as a principal investigator for a project of up to £250,000. Please note, we would still expect an experienced co-app to be a mentor to the ECR. An ECR application should have a team appropriate to the research project.

However, even if you recognise yourself as an early career researcher, you can still apply through the open RPSC opportunity should that be more suitable. In that case, your application will be assessed by the general Committee (excluding ECR applications).

4. **Capacity Building Funding**

If you wish to apply for Capacity Building funding-please create a capacity building section in your project plan with the sub title 'research capacity funding', following the guidance below:

Applicants to RPSC are encouraged to include funding for research capacity development, that supports diverse career paths and promotes greater equity of opportunity for all. Please provide a short summary of your overall approach for increasing research capacity within the programme; including through the provision of training which supports diverse career paths and promotes equality, diversity and inclusion. At the Outline Stage, the selection committee will be looking to see that the need and benefits for building research capacity within the programme have been clearly outlined and justified.

As a general rule, it is anticipated that **10% to 20%** of the overall project budget should be spent on capacity building within the grant (however each request will be reviewed on its merits).

Applicants are encouraged to consider all stages of the academic career pathway (including internships, pre-doctoral/masters, doctoral/PhD and post-doctoral), as well as considering under-represented groups, disciplines and professions in research (e.g methodologists, occupational therapists, social care researchers, practitioners and professionals) and offer funded career development posts in line with what is needed in the programme and where there is a need for building research capacity and supporting research careers. Training and support should be in line with the principles and best practice set out within the [Researcher Development Concordat](https://www.vitae.ac.uk/policy/concordat/full) (https://www.vitae.ac.uk/policy/concordat/full).

Individuals whose academic career development is being supported through NIHR RPSC funding and are undertaking a formal training/career development award will be NIHR Academy members and able to benefit from the wider NIHR Academy programme of support, events and activities. These include: career development and support activities, such as mentorship and leadership, eligibility to apply for some short term research training and academic career development awards, and networking and career development events that embed them within the NIHR family.

Successful RPSC awards will be expected to appoint a **"Named Point of Contact for Training and Development (NPC)"**, who will be the first point of contact for all NIHR Academy related communication and queries. They will work in partnership with NIHR Academy to share best practice and encourage excellence in career development and training.

Under the sub-heading 'research capacity building', please detail the number and type of career development posts/awards you are proposing to support and consider;

- **key stages** within the academic career pathway (in particular current pinch points and where provision may be limited)
- broadening out to a **wide variety of groups, disciplines and professions;** including methodologists and under-represented groups

- **relevant sectors and particular geographies/places** where there may be a low research base and a need for building research capacity.

In addition, please consider:

- The overall 'estimation of research costs', by considering research capacity building staff salary/stipend costs, time commitment, and as appropriate academic tuition fees. We encourage programmes to ring-fence an individual personal training/academic career development budget/support package for those undertaking a capacity building/career development award (e.g costs for a suitable training and development plan; including will be supported for research training in technical research skills, personal and professional skills development, conference attendance etc).
- Indicate who will be the "Named Point of Contact for Training and Development (NPC)". The NPC will be the first point of contact for all NIHR Academy related communication and queries. The NPC has to be listed on the application form, and can be the Lead Applicant, a Co-Applicant with relevant experience, or an existing dedicated career lead from the contracting or collaborating institutions. The NPC should ideally be different from the Academic supervisor. More information about the role of the NPC can be found in the [NPC welcome pack (https://www.nihr.ac.uk/documents/programme-grants-for-applied-research-career-capacity-building-welcome-pack/32569)](https://www.nihr.ac.uk/documents/programme-grants-for-applied-research-career-capacity-building-welcome-pack/32569).
- Individuals should be embedded within a supportive host environment, with appropriate plans to support their research training and academic career development in place throughout the duration of their role within the RPSC award award. Individuals must be well supported as part of the positive research culture of the wider organisation with strong public involvement and engagement embedded within the research they undertake.

5. **Your Research Team**

Please remember to add a named point of contact if you are applying for additional capacity building finance.

6. **Intellectual property or Commercialisation**

All NIHR funding will lead to the creation of IP. For an outline application, information on IP and commercialisation is **NOT required for RPSC outline applications**. However, you will be asked to provide information on IP and commercialisation when completing a full application.

Section Six: Uploads

Flow diagram: optional

If submitting a flow diagram, applicants should also describe complex interventions and controls as accurately and fully as possible within their diagram. If proposing an RCT, we advise that you refer to the CONSORT statement and website (http://www.consort-statement.org/) for guidance. Alternatively, you may find the EQUATOR Network website (http://www.equator-network.org/) useful. The PDF file should be submitted along with your application form.

Logic model: optional

Please include a logic model if this would be helpful. The RPSC Logic Model can be found on the NIHR Open Research website (https://openresearch.nihr.ac.uk/documents/3-56#:~:text=Although%20a%20logic%20model%20is,aims%20to%20bring%20these%20about.).

References (mandatory)

Upload 1 single-side A4 page .pdf document, using Arial size 12 font, listing references used throughout your application. Please include the Digital Object Identifier (DOI) of the main related publications. Please use the Harvard or Vancouver referencing style.

Flexible upload: Gantt Chart (mandatory)

Upload a project Gantt Chart.

Application process

Find out how to apply for this funding opportunity and what you need to do to get your application ready. Please read all the information and guidance carefully before submitting your application.

How to apply

Log in to our awards management system (https://awardsmanagement.nihr.ac.uk/s_Login.jsp) to apply. This funding opportunity is on our awards management system and you will need to create a new account if you do not have one already.

The closing date is 17th September 2025, 1pm. We will not consider applications that we receive after 1pm on the closing date.

This funding opportunity will follow an 'outline' to 'full' application process. If your outline application is shortlisted you will be invited to submit a full application.

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

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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). 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) 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/support-and-services/research-support-service).

Contact Details

- For help with your application contact rpsc@nihr.ac.uk (mailto:rpsc@nihr.ac.uk)

- For more information about the funding Programme, visit the RPSC page (https://www.nihr.ac.uk/explore-nihr/funding-programmes/research-programme-for-social-care.htm)

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