

# Funding Opportunities and Support

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Please find below a summary of potential opportunities for funding and support that may be relevant to you. If you have an idea for an unmet need or innovation that aligns with the NIHR HRC in Paediatrics and Child Health remit and would like to collaborate with us, please review our collaboration request guidance. Please note that this is not an exhaustive list of all funding opportunities.

## NHS England Accelerated Access Collaborative (AAC)

Brings together industry, government, regulators, patients, and the NHS to accelerate innovations in treatment and diagnostics.

Supports all types of innovations, from ideas, proof-of-concept, real-world testing, and adoption and spread (not an exhaustive list):

- **AAC Early Stage Innovations:** Categories of new, potentially highly effective products which need support through the regulatory and approvals process.
- **Artificial Intelligence Health and Care Award (AI Award):** Run by the AAC and NIHR, the AI Award provides funding to accelerate the testing and evaluation of promising AI technologies.
- **Clinical Entrepreneur Training Programme:** A range of entrepreneurial support for staff in clinical training.
- **SBRI (Small Business Research Initiative) for Healthcare:** Supports early- to late-stage innovation development, with a focus on addressing unmet health needs.
- **NHS Innovation Accelerator:** Supports innovators to accelerate the uptake of high-impact innovations for patient, population, and NHS staff benefit.
- **Pathway Transformation Fund:** Funding to help NHS organisations integrate the rapid uptake of products into everyday practice.
- **Innovation and Technology Payment:** Removing some of the financial and procurement barriers to introducing new technologies.

- **AHSN Network National Programmes:** Regional partnerships bring together expertise from universities and NHS organisations to translate early scientific research and discoveries into healthcare.

## UKRI (UK Research and Innovation)

UKRI is made up of seven research councils, Innovate UK, and Research England.

UKRI supports a wide range of innovation development stages, from basic research to commercialisation and adoption.

- **Follow-on Fund:** Supports translation of fundamental research into practical application, including commercialisation.
- **Healthy Living Challenge:** Scheme with seven themes and several strands of work (including funding competitions) to help people remain active, independent, and socially connected.
- **UK Innovation and Science Seed Fund:** Aims to build and grow technology companies stemming from the UK's research base.
- **Transforming Medicines Manufacturing:** Programme aiming to drive de-risking and adoption of innovative manufacturing technologies to accelerate patient access to new treatments.
- **Innovation to Commercialisation of University Research (ICURe):** Pre-accelerator funding programme designed to support commercialisation of UK research. Includes 4 key strands - Engage, Discover, Explore, Exploit.
- **Smart Grants:** Supports SMEs in developing new innovations designed for swift commercialisation.

- **Knowledge Transfer Partnerships:** Connects businesses that have an innovative idea with the academic expertise to help deliver it.
- **Biomedical Catalyst:** Supports SMEs in testing and developing innovative healthcare solutions across life sciences, including medical devices and digital health.
- **Developmental Pathway Funding Scheme:** Supports development and testing of novel therapeutics, medical devices, diagnostics, and other interventions.
- **Knowledge Asset Grant Fund:** Supports development of early-stage assets towards adoption or commercialisation. 3 strands: Explore, Expand, Extend.
- **Impact Acceleration Accounts (previously Confidence in Concept):** Strategic Awards providing funding to research organisations to respond to impact opportunities in flexible and creative ways.
- Many UKRI research councils also offer grants for fellowships (doctoral, postdoctoral, new investigator awards, future leadership awards), travel (placements, international collaborations), standard research, and establishing new research programmes and networks.

## NIHR

Supports a wide range of innovation development stages, from early-stage proof-of-concept to late-stage clinical trials.

Suitable for projects at various stages:

- **Invention for Innovation (i4i) Product Development Awards:** For early- to late-stage product development, including prototyping, pre-clinical testing, and clinical evaluation.
- **i4i Challenge Awards:** For late-stage innovations that address specific healthcare challenges and are close to market.
- **NIHR i4i Connect:** For early-stage innovations, providing funding for market research, IP protection, and business planning.
- **Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Programme:** Supports research that is already proven to be effective but requires evaluation in an NHS setting.
- **Efficacy and Mechanism Evaluation Programme (EME):** Supports early-stage research (following proof-of-concept) to determine proof of clinical efficacy and safety.
- **Research for Patient Benefit:** Funds health, public health, and social care research that increases effectiveness of day-to-day NHS services and improves patient wellbeing.

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## Current Funding Opportunities

To find out more information about current funding opportunities and the organisations that provide them, please visit the below websites:

NHS England AAC: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/aac/>

UKRI Funding Finder: <https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/>

UKRI Research Councils: <https://www.ukri.org/councils/>

NIHR Funding Opportunities: <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/researchers/funding-opportunities/>