

Online Resources

Funding Opportunities and Support

This resource lists the major UK **organisations that fund and support health and care research** and includes a summary of the funding programmes and initiatives they offer to researchers and innovators.

Please note that while this document may be used as a guide for researchers looking for funding, this is not an exhaustive list of all funding opportunities.

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National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR)

NIHR offers several funding programmes that each have a specific focus, aiming to address key areas in health, care, and public health.

- **Better Methods, Better Research:** Improve research methods in health and care focussed research.
- **Efficacy and Mechanism Evaluation (EME):** Evaluate the efficacy of new approaches to disease prevention and treatment and how they may work in practice.
- **Evidence Synthesis:** Review existing tests, treatments, and interventions to provide guidance for health decision makers.
- **Health and Social Care Delivery:** For evaluative research to improve the health and social care services, often focuses on the organisation and accessibility of care.
- **Health Technology Assessment (HTA):** Evaluate the cost-effectiveness of treatments and tests e.g. by comparing evidence for a new technology with the current methods.
- **Invention for Innovation (i4i):** For translational research aimed at medical devices, in vitro diagnostic devices, and digital health technologies addressing an unmet need.
Includes several funding streams:
 - **i4i Product Development Awards (PDA):** For early- to late-stage product development, including prototyping, pre-clinical testing, and clinical evaluation.
 - **i4i Funding At the Speed of Translation (FAST):** Small amount of funding to answer a specific question to address an evidence gap.
 - **i4i Translate Healthcare Research through Innovation and Entrepreneurship (THRIVE):** For the translation of early-stage innovations which tackle health inequalities from bench to bed and offers entrepreneurial training.

- **Programme Development Grants:** Supports work needed for an application to the Programme Grants for Applied Research (PGfAR) programme, or development work for existing PGfAR programmes.
- **Programme Grants for Applied Research (PGfAR):** Researcher-led programme for applied health and social care research. Studies seek to address health and care needs in areas other research funders may not focus.
- **Public Health Research:** Aims to improve the health of the public and reduce inequalities, generate evidence for delivery of non-NHS interventions and test practical interventions.
- **Policy Research Programme:** Enables evidence-informed policy making in health and social care.
- **Research for Patient Benefit (RfPB):** Aims to improve the effectiveness of health and social care services which will benefit patients and the public.
- **Research Programme for Social Care:** Generate evidence to improve social care provision in the UK.

UK Research and Innovation (UKRI)

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

UKRI funding programmes support a wide range of research, spanning the whole innovation pipeline, from early-stage proof of concept projects up to adoption and commercialisation. Find below some examples of regular funding streams from UKRI:

- **Standard Research Grants:** Funding for unsolicited research proposals that can be submitted at any time.
- **Programme Grants:** Flexible funding to world-leading groups to address significant major research challenges.
- **Follow-on Fund:** Supports the translation of fundamental research into

practical application, including commercialisation.

- **Knowledge Transfer Partnerships:** innovative idea with the academic expertise to help deliver it.
- **Smart Grants:** Supports SMEs in developing new innovations designed for swift commercialisation.
- **UK Innovation and Science Seed Fund:** Aims to build technology companies stemming from the UK's research base.
- **Transforming Medicines Manufacturing:** Aims 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.
- **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):** Funds research organisations to respond to impact opportunities in flexible and creative ways.
- Many UKRI research councils also offer grants for **career development fellowships** (doctoral, postdoctoral, investigator and leadership awards), **travel**, and establishing **new research collaborations and networks**.

NHS Accelerated Access Collaborative (AAC)

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

It offers programmes that fund and/or support health innovation throughout the development pipeline.

- **Clinical Entrepreneur Training Programme:** Entrepreneurial support for staff in clinical training.
- **AAC Early-Stage Innovations:** Provides support through the regulatory and approvals process for new products.
- **Small Business Research Initiative for Healthcare (SBRI):** Supports early- to late-stage innovation development, with a focus on unmet health needs.
- **Test Bed Programme:** Brings NHS organisations and industry partners together to test digital technologies in real-world settings.
- **NHS Innovation Accelerator (NIA):** Supports innovators to accelerate the uptake of innovations for patient, population, and NHS staff benefit.
- **Rapid Uptake Products Programme:** Provides tailored support for innovators which have been given NICE approval.
- **Pathway Transformation Fund:** Funding to help NHS organisations integrate innovations into everyday practice, delivered with the support of the Health Innovation Networks.
- **Health Innovation Network:** 15 Health Innovation Networks across England support innovation at pace and scale, improving health and generating economic growth.
- **Academic Health Science Centres:** Bring together expertise from universities and the NHS to translate scientific research into healthcare.
- **NHS Innovation Service:** Provides support from organisations with expertise in the development and adoption of health innovations.

The programmes listed here are not the only way to secure funding for your research.

There are **many other organisations and routes to consider** and it's important to think about where you are in the innovation journey and what support you need alongside the funding itself e.g. training or career development, support for involving patients and the public, establishing new collaborations, industry expertise, etc.

You may wish to explore grants, fellowships, and other types of funding through:

- Charitable organisations that are dedicated to a specific area of health or disease e.g. the British Heart Foundation, Asthma UK
- Charitable organisations that fund medical research in general, often through programmes aligned to strategic areas of health e.g. Wellcome Trust, Association of Medical Research Charities
- Hospital charities
- University funding programmes
- Private investment from businesses/industry partners
- Accelerator programmes may provide several areas of support such as funding, mentorship, and entrepreneurial training
- Academies and professional bodies e.g. Royal Societies and Royal Colleges
- International organisations and funding programmes e.g. Horizon Europe

Where to find new funding opportunities

We regularly collate and share new funding opportunities in paediatric research and health technology innovation and development from these organisations on our website.

FUNDING CALLS

Sign up to our mailing list to receive a monthly newsletter with the latest funding opportunities, news, and upcoming events.

MAILING LIST

Use the links below to find out more about the funding opportunities listed above and the organisations that offer them:

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

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

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

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