Public Health Research (PHR) Programme

Applying for research funding
The Public Health Research (PHR) Programme

Remit
The PHR Programme funds research that evaluates public health interventions, providing new knowledge on the benefits, costs, acceptability and wider impacts of non-NHS interventions intended to improve the health of the public and reduce inequalities in health.

The PHR Programme can offer you
- Funding for research with no maximum limit on the duration and costs of proposals, but all costs should be clearly justified and demonstrate value for money
- Research topics advertised after expert identification and prioritisation
- Monitoring and support during the project
- Full publication in the NIHR Journals Library.

Eligibility
Lead applicants and the centre of gravity for the project are expected to be located within the UK, although applications may include collaborators from outside the UK. Applicants should always check the programme website and call specification documents for full details of eligibility requirements.

Fitness is the goal
Could a fitness programme hosted by Scottish Premier League football clubs help overweight fans slim down?

This PHR trial is assessing whether a fitness programme hosted by Scottish Premier League (SPL) football clubs could help fans lose weight.

This trial is based on a pilot study funded by the Scottish Chief Scientist Office (CSO) and the SPL.

Chief investigator: Professor Sally Wyke, University of Glasgow
The PHR Programme is committed to funding the highest quality research projects through its workstreams.

Commissioned workstream: Outline proposals are invited in response to specific research questions prioritised for their public health importance by the Programme Advisory Board. In addition, applications are occasionally invited in response to broad thematic areas (themed calls).

Researcher-led workstream: Applicants can submit outline proposals to the researcher-led workstream at any time during the year. There are three cut-off dates when applications will be considered by the Programme Advisory Board.

Fast-track scheme: Most research funded by the PHR Programme will follow the normal two-stage process of assessment before being funded. However, it may sometimes be necessary to accelerate the handling of a topic and so researchers may be eligible to apply through the fast-track scheme.

For more details on workstreams visit www.nets.nihr.ac.uk/phr/application-process

We are always happy to answer your questions about the programme, its remit or your application, before you start to apply.

### Key selection criteria:

- Will the study lead to significant improvements in public health?
- Will the outcomes answer questions relevant to practitioners and the public?
- Is the proposal methodologically and scientifically sound?
- Is there appropriate public involvement in the design and conduct of the study?
- Does the team have the skills and experience to complete the project?
- Is the research good value for money?
Applications are usually assessed via the process outlined below:

1. **Outline Application**
   - **COMMISSIONED**
   - **RESEARCHER-LED**
     - **Reject/transfer**
     - **Competitiveness and remit Checks**
       - **Reject/transfer**
       - **Programme Advisory Board (PAB)**
         - **Reject**
       - **Outline applications to Research Funding Board (RFB)**
         - **Reject**
2. **Full Proposal**
   - **Peer review**
     - **PHR Research Funding Board (RFB)**
       - **Reject**
       - **Fund**
         - **Fund with changes**
           - **Resubmit**
     - **Changes Agreed**
   - **Contract**
Supporting research

Keep in touch
Information about our funding opportunities is available on our website at www.nets.nihr.ac.uk/funding
You can sign up for PHR Programme funding alerts and bulletins by emailing us at info@phr.ac.uk. Please give your name, job title and organisation in the body of the message.

Follow us on Twitter @OfficialNIHR

External reviewing for the PHR Programme
The PHR Programme relies on the help of large numbers of expert reviewers. These include: practitioners, methodologists, statisticians, economists, academics and public contributors - to review and assess the research proposals received.

If you would like to support our work in this way, please visit our website for more information www.nets.nihr.ac.uk/get-involved

‘On the buses’ evaluating the impact of introducing free bus travel for young people on the public health.

Researchers found that free bus travel increased young people’s ability to travel independently and extended their social opportunities through facilitating extra trips, trips further afield and/or exploratory trips with friends.

Chief investigator: Professor Judith Green, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine

Suggest a research topic
Topics are identified through active engagement with a wide range of organisations including NICE, local authorities, charities, and the third sector, through professional literature searches and via an open-access webform www.nets.nihr.ac.uk/get-involved/topic-id
Who can apply?

Anyone who considers that they can carry out high-quality research is likely to be eligible. If you have any concerns regarding your eligibility to apply we advise that you contact us before completing an application. NETS programmes welcome applications which are within the programmes’ remits from all sectors. Applicants are strongly advised to consider establishing partnerships with other relevant sectors or organisations to demonstrate they have the full breadth of expertise to carry out their proposed research in their applications to NETS programmes. Applicants should always check individual call specification documents for any additional eligibility requirements.

The Public Health Research Programme is funded by the NIHR, with contributions from the CSO in Scotland, NISCHR in Wales and the HSC R&D Division, Public Health Agency in Northern Ireland.

Contact: If you have any questions, please contact us using the details below, and a member of the PHR Programme team will be happy to help.

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