

# Taking action on the social determinants of health

A Health Foundation funding call open to members and observers of the UK Public Health Network (UKPHN)

As part of our strategy to improve health in the UK by mobilising cross-sector action on the social determinants of health, we are launching a new funding call for partner action projects between members of the UK Public Health Network (UKPHN) and other organisations who can influence one or more social determinants of health.

The projects must demonstrate the potential for improving people's health by taking action on the social determinants of health. We have up to 8 grants of £40,000 - £60,000, available to apply for between Wednesday 5 September to midday, Friday 5 October 2018.

This document contains the full specification for the awards. Applications must be made through our online portal AIMS. The UK Public Health network will circulate application details by email on Wednesday 5 September.

If you are interested in applying and would like any more information about the funding call or you have any questions, please contact Clare Smyth, Healthy Lives Programme Officer, at [clare.smyth@health.org.uk](mailto:clare.smyth@health.org.uk) or on 020 7664 4662.

## **1.0 About the Health Foundation**

- 1.1 The Health Foundation is an independent charity committed to bringing about better health and health care for people in the UK.
- 1.2 Our aim is a healthier population, supported by high quality health care that can be equitably accessed. We learn what works to make people's lives healthier and improve the health care system. From giving grants to those working at the front line to carrying out research and policy analysis, we shine a light on how to make successful change happen.
- 1.3 We make links between the knowledge we gain from working with those delivering health and health care and our research and analysis. Our aspiration is to create a virtuous circle, using what we know works on the ground to inform effective policymaking and vice versa.
- 1.4 We believe good health and health care are key to a flourishing society. Through sharing what we learn, collaborating with others and building people's skills and knowledge, we aim to make a difference and contribute to a healthier population.

## **2.0 Context**

- 2.1 One of the core objectives of the Health Foundation's Healthy Lives strategy is to mobilise cross sector action on the social determinants of health at a national and local level. This programme aims to fund projects that will demonstrate the potential for improving health by taking action on a range of social determinants. It will fund partner action between members and/or observers of the UK Public Health Network (UKPHN) and other organisations who are already working in or can influence one or more social determinants of health.
- 2.2 Over the past two years the Foundation been working closely with the UKPHN. The UKPHN is a collaboration of organisations representing public across the UK. The broad membership of the network and its coverage across the UK, makes it an excellent vehicle for funding innovative work in organisations which can facilitate national and local change.
- 2.3 There is recognition across the UKPHN of the importance of the social determinants of health. However, there could be more opportunities for partner action between UKPHN members and/or observers and organisations outside the traditional public health community, such as those in the housing, employment or education sectors, that have potential to shape the social determinants of health.
- 2.4 It is intended that this programme will build the capacity of the UK public health community to take collective action on the social determinants of health, develop new partnership relationships beyond the public health community, and promote the shared dissemination of knowledge and insight by the network.
- 2.5 The Health Foundation has also recently commissioned the Institute of Health Equity to work with stakeholders - including academics and experts, those working at a national and local level to address health inequalities, and policy makers – to explore

developments since the publication of *Fair Society, Healthy Lives*, (The Marmot Review) in 2010. This will include assessing data trends since 2010, exploring key policies, assessing what has impacted positively and negatively on health inequalities and encouraging a renewed focus on reducing health inequalities through action on the social determinants of health. Our aim is to publish a report in February 2020 with the theme of “*What next for health inequalities: ten years on from the Marmot review*”.

2.6 To date, this work has identified four key areas of interest; early years and education, work and income, housing and places, and communities. These areas of interest will be used to structure the current funding call.

2.7 Aligning the programme of work funded by this call with the analytical work of the updated Marmot review will increase opportunities for synergy between the projects. In particular, it is intended that the outputs of this programme will be disseminated in 2020 alongside relevant sections of the updated Marmot review as part of a coordinated communications strategy. It is hoped that this will increase the impact of both programmes and help to reinvigorate the policy debate on health inequalities and the social determinants of health.

### **3.0 Selection criteria and eligibility**

3.1 The scope of the programme is intentionally broad, to give applicants significant freedom to propose new ways of addressing the problem of the social determinants of health. Our ambition is that the programme will allow considerable room for innovation.

3.2 **Please note that this programme is open to both members and observers of the UK Public Health Network (UKPHN).** In this call, the definition of members is understood to include both members and observers of the UKPHN.

3.3 Applications will be in scope if they have the potential to take positive action on any of the four priority areas listed below:

- early years and education
- work and income
- housing and place
- strengthening communities

3.4 To be eligible for funding, all applications should meet the following requirements:

3.4.1 Be delivered by a partnership between a member(s) of the UKPHN and an organisation(s) from outside the public health community;

3.4.2 Aim to increase understanding of how to improve people’s health through action on one or more social determinants of health, in the priority areas identified above;

3.4.3 Be within the scope of one or more of the following activities: building insight into good practice; policy development; capability development; or small-scale testing.

- 3.4.4 Identify clear, measurable outcomes which will result from their project and propose a realistic plan for evaluating the impact of their work against these outcomes;
  - 3.4.5 Focus on 'up-stream' system-level action. Projects will be out of scope for this award if they propose taking action through behaviour interventions (e.g. smoking cessation or weight management schemes) or through secondary/tertiary prevention projects (e.g. screening schemes for chronic diseases). Projects which are primarily research-oriented will also be considered out of scope.
  - 3.4.6 Each network member may submit a maximum of two applications. If a member chooses to submit two applications, they should be substantively different from each other in nature or scope, and should propose working with different partners.
  - 3.4.7 Project should be completed within 12 – 18 months of the award being made.
- 3.5 All proposals will be assessed against the following key criteria:
- 3.5.1 A strong and credible partnership between a public health organisation(s) which is a member of the UK Public Health Network (UKPHN) and a non-public partner(s), with influence over one or more social determinants of health;
  - 3.5.2 Ability of the partnership to influence one or more social determinants in the priority areas identified above;
  - 3.5.3 A robust work plan which can be realistically achieved within the timeframe and the resources available;
  - 3.5.4 Potential for the proposal to have a positive impact on health and wellbeing through a social determinants approach;
  - 3.5.5 A clear Theory of Change approach to impact assessment and a learning plan;
  - 3.5.6 Potential for the project to have an impact beyond the life of the award from the Health Foundation.

#### **4.0 Budget and timeframe**

- 4.1 The Health Foundation has up to £450,000 to fund our ambitions for this round of awards. If sufficient high quality applications are received, we anticipate funding up to 8 projects through the programme with budgets in the range of £40,000 - £60,000.
- 4.2 Applicants may submit an application below £40,000, but they should be able to justify how their project will support our objectives for this programme to make a significant contribution at that scale. In exceptional circumstances, we may consider funding a proposal beyond our maximum of £60,000. However, applicants will need to present an excellent case for this based on the additional value and impact of the proposal.
- 4.3 We anticipate making grants for projects lasting between 12 and 18 months.
- 4.4 Please note that as charity we will fund only the full directly incurred costs of the proposed work. We do not fund overheads. Furthermore, the projects will be

supported as a charitable grant and as such are not liable for VAT. Overheads and VAT are only payable where work is sub contracted by the lead applicant to another organisation.

## **5.0 Award management**

- 5.1 Awards will be made directly to the successful UK Public Health Network (UKPHN) member who will hold the award on behalf of any partnerships with a non-public health organisation(s).
- 5.2 Where more than one UKPHN member is applying in partnership with a non-public health organisation(s), the award will be held by the lead UKPHN member.
- 5.3 Financial management of the awards will be carried out by the Health Foundation working directly with grant holders.
- 5.4 At present, the intention is that the UKPHN will support the management of the awards drawing on the technical expertise which exists within the network to assure the quality of the work being carried out and to maximise the opportunities for learning extracted and disseminated.

## **6.0 Application and Selection Process**

- 6.1 Applicants must submit a complete proposal using our online application portal AIMS.
- 6.2 Only one proposal should be submitted per partnership application. The proposal should be submitted by the UKPHN member as the lead applicant.
- 6.3 The AIMS application portal will be open for applicants to submit proposals between 5 September 2018 and midday, 5 October 2018.
- 6.4 The deadline to submit proposals is **midday on Friday 5 October 2018**. The online application portal will not accept proposals submitted after this time.
- 6.5 Shortlisting of proposals will be completed by Friday 26 October 2018. In addition to internal review by the Health Foundation, all proposals will be peer reviewed by external reviewers, independent of the UK Public Health Network.
- 6.6 Shortlisted applicants will be invited to interview on Monday 12 November or Tuesday 13 November. The assessment panel will be chaired by Tim Elwell Sutton, Assistant Director for Healthy Lives, the Health Foundation.
- 6.7 If you have any queries about the programme or the application process please contact Clare Smyth ([Clare.Smyth@health.org.uk](mailto:Clare.Smyth@health.org.uk)) in the first instance.

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Date</b>
Applications open on AIMS online portal	5 September 2018
Deadline for applications on AIMS online portal	Midday, 5 October 2018
Shortlisting complete and applicants informed of interview	w/c 29 October 2018
Interview dates	12 & 13 November 2018
Applicants informed of final decision	w/c 19 November 2018