

What if the application is not successful?

Only a small number of proposals actually get funded. If the application is unsuccessful, the research team will decide whether to re-apply for funding. It sometimes takes several attempts before finally being successful. Some researchers do decide to give up.

How can I get involved?

If you are interested in getting involved in research and would like to know more about current or future research projects, please let your local RDS know.

For more information about active public involvement in all aspects of research activities visit our website at:

www.rds.nihr.ac.uk/public-involvement

To find existing public involvement groups in your area visit NIHR INVOLVE's online map of groups and organisations that support public involvement health and social care research.

www.invo.org.uk/communities/invodirect

What happens next?

You may be invited to a project team meeting or to a group meeting with other interested patients, carers or service users.

You may be asked to comment on some of the paperwork that makes up the application for research funding.



Getting involved
in health research
grant applications

Research Design Service



Members of the public are needed who might be willing to help researchers plan research projects and apply for research funding from the NHS.

When the public are involved, the research application is better, because the research is designed with patients' experiences and views in mind.

The better the research application the more chance it has of getting funded. So your help could make the research more relevant and ensure that it is carried out in a way which is beneficial to the public.

Why get involved?

Getting involved can be interesting, rewarding and enjoyable. You will be doing something important and may contribute to increasing medical knowledge. It can also provide opportunity to meet new people with similar experiences.

You can help the research and development of the grant application in the following ways:

- plan the way the research is designed, so that patients' concerns are at its core,
- make sure that the research proposal is written in a way patients can understand,
- advise researchers on ways to tell the public what the research found out,

- knowledge and experience of the topic being researched from your perspective as a member of the public, patient or carer,
- ideas about the best ways to involve others in research.

Training and support needs will be taken into account by the researcher. These may change as the project progresses and people become aware of the skills required.

What is a research grant application?

The NHS funds research to find new ways to improve people's health and to improve health and social care. The National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) is the research arm of the NHS.

Research funding is limited and the NIHR only pay for the best research, so applications for research funding are very competitive.

To compete for funding, researchers must submit detailed research proposals. Applications must include a detailed description of the research, what it aims to find out, who will be doing it and how much it will cost. Applications are judged by a committee, which includes members of the public.

Will I be paid?

You will be paid for your travel and the cost of hiring carers if you need to do so. You may also be paid an attendance fee to cover your time. You will need to keep a record of all your expenses and the time you have spent helping with the research. Once the research grant application is submitted to the funding organisation it is considered alongside all the other applications. Not all applications will be successful and feedback is provided by the funding board.

If the application is successful, you will need to decide if you want to continue to be involved in the project. You will need to agree with the researchers exactly what your involvement in the research will be and your time and expenses will be costed into the overall grant to ensure you are paid for your contributions, if the grant is successful.

If you decide to continue to be involved, you can ask for a clear written outline of your involvement; the time commitment, payment arrangements, and so on.

