



March 2026

Find out about funding opportunities

The Health Innovation East Midlands funding newsletter highlights funding opportunities for innovators. For each opportunity we have provided a brief summary and a link to the full details.

We help bring health and social care innovations to patients faster, to improve patient outcomes, increase value for the NHS, and support economic growth for UK plc. In supporting commercial, academic and clinical innovators we help develop solutions to real needs, develop the evidence base supporting those solutions, offer support to navigate appropriate governance standards, and drive adoption.

This newsletter is split into categories to help to organise the content by interest. These categories are industry, research and NHS.



If you are an innovator looking for support, please complete our East Midlands innovator engagement form to tell us more about your innovation.

Contact us & complete an innovator engagement form



NIHR i4i Thrive funding call

The National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) have launched their Invention for Innovation (i4i) THRIVE (Translate Healthcare Research through InnoVation and Entrepreneurship) funding and training programme, which funds early stage innovations to tackle health inequalities.

THRIVE supports clinicians and researchers to accelerate the translation of healthcare innovations tackling health inequalities from bench to bed, speed up patient benefit and concurrently expand the entrepreneurial mindset of researchers and clinicians.

We have a team of experts who have a strong track record supporting over 10 successful i4i calls. Contact our Ignite team at ignite@nottingham.ac.uk to find out how we can support your application.

Applications open 12 March at 1:00pm and close 17 April at 1:00pm.

Funding available amount: £150000.00

[Find out more about this opportunity here.](#)

Featured funding opportunities



Industry

FundingHero High-Growth Specialist Fundraising Accelerator

Deadline: 6 March 2026

Applications are now open for **Cohort 5 of the FundingHero High-Growth Fundraising Accelerator**, a Midlands-based programme proudly supported by the **British Business Bank** since launch.

This 12-week, in-person accelerator begins **20 March 2026** and is designed for **innovation-led, high-growth Midlands businesses** preparing to raise angel, VC or structured debt investment.

[Find out more](#)



Industry

Innovate UK Innovation Loans Round 25

Deadline: 4 March 2026

UK registered micro, small or medium sized enterprises (SME) can apply for loans for close to market innovative projects with strong commercial potential. They must significantly improve the UK economy and drive societal benefit.

[Find out more](#)



Industry



Research

Global Health EDCTP3 work programme 2026

Deadline: 4 March 2026

Global Health EDCTP3 2026 will fund up to €147m in research and innovation projects for sub-Saharan Africa, tackling tuberculosis, lower respiratory tract infections, HIV and climate-change-driven infectious diseases, among other topics.

[Find out more](#)



Industry

Eurostars Calls for projects - March 2026

Deadline: 19 March 2026

Eurostars is a funding instrument that supports innovative SMEs and project partners by funding international collaborative R&D and innovation projects.

Projects led by innovative SMEs can apply for up to €360k, which can cover up to 60% of costs.

[Find out more](#)



Ignite bespoke support

Through [Ignite](#), Health Innovation East Midlands offers bespoke services to support health innovations no matter where they are in their development timeline. Within this fast-moving environment, we have a specific focus in the development and delivery of the work packages that are required for the majority of the funding competitions within the UK today.

With an excellent return of successful partnerships and funding wins, we can support innovators in the following key deliverable areas including (but not limited to): Pathway Mapping, Stakeholder Mapping, PPI (Patient & Public Involvement), EDI (Equality, Diversity & Inclusion), Value Proposition, Budget/Cost Impact Analysis, Health Economics, Business Case, Commercialisation, and Adoption and Spread.

Ignite and Health Innovation East Midlands' focus and experience aligned with our NHS background and expertise allows us to support innovators in a unique way that has led to many successful funding competitions for our partners. If you are interested in finding out more, please contact us at: ignite@nottingham.ac.uk

Other funding opportunities



Application Window for Innovations for Older Adults

Deadline: 22 March 2026

The Innovation Application opened **24th February** for submissions. NIHR invites all eligible applicants with forward-thinking ideas focused on **Older Adults** to review the guidelines and submit their proposals.

[Find out more](#)



DLN Transformation Fund

Deadline: 1 April 2026

A major new DLN Transformation Fund is being launched across the Derby & Derbyshire, Lincolnshire and Nottingham & Nottinghamshire (DLN) Cluster to accelerate improvements in care, reduce inequalities and strengthen the long-term sustainability of local health services.

[Find out more](#)



Innovative Health Initiative 12th Call For Proposals

Deadline: 21 April 2026

Up to €60m per project for international consortia to tackle unmet public health needs with ambitious public-private partnerships.

[Find out more](#)



Contracts for Innovation in drug and alcohol addiction healthcare & Advancing innovation in drug and alcohol addiction healthcare

Deadline: 6 May 2026

Organisations can apply for a share of £20 million across two competitions. Projects will advance development of pharmaceutical, digital and MedTech tools to improve treatment recovery and prevention of harm and deaths from drug and alcohol addictions.

[Find out more about Contracts for Innovation](#)

[Find out more about Advancing Innovation](#)



Knowledge Transfer Partnership: 2026 to 2027 round one

Deadline: 1 April 2026

UK registered academic institutions, research and technology organisations or Catapults can apply for a share of up to £10 million to fund innovation projects with businesses.

[Find out more](#)



Industry



Research

Horizon Europe 2026-27: Health Cluster

Deadline: Various - Apr/Sep 2026, Apr/Sep 2027

Topics available under Horizon Europe's Health programme for 2026/27, with funding of up to €90m per call.

[Find out more](#)



Industry

EPSRC Prosperity Partnerships 2027

Deadline: TBC

Apply for funding to support ambitious, collaborative research programmes. Prosperity Partnerships projects must be business-led, co-created, and co-delivered by business and academic partners that share an existing working relationship.

[Find out more](#)



Industry

HSBC Women's Growth Initiative

Deadline: Open

HSBC's Women's Business Growth Initiative £250 million funding pot, looking to partner with women-led businesses. Specialist pitch workshops and events, and masterclasses have been developed with businesses led and owned by women in mind to help you grow your business. Personalised funding support for businesses led by women from an HSBC relationship manager for lending needs over £100,000.

[Find out more](#)



Industry



Research

Access to Isambard-AI and Dawn AIRR supercomputers

Deadline: Open call

Apply for 10,000 graphics processing unit hours on the Isambard-AI and Dawn supercomputers for artificial intelligence-related research and development projects. Open to UK researchers from academia, industry, or other organisations.

[Find out more](#)



Industry

The FFicn Forward Faster Accelerator

Deadline: Open

Over six months, the programme blends growth bootcamps, investment clinics, strategic mentoring, and high-value ecosystem collaboration – all designed to help high-growth, woman-founded businesses go further, faster. Aimed at: UK-based, female-founded businesses (25%+

ownership) with £1M+ revenue and bold plans to scale in sectors like fintech, health, consumer, media, and tech.

[Find out more](#)



Industry



Research

Female Founders - British Banks

NatWest - Women in Business - With over 400 Women in Business Specialists in the UK, NatWest can help women entrepreneurs with everyday business support needs.

HSBC – accelerators, loans, personalised relationship manager if borrowing more than £100k

Barclays – access to coaches, mentors, accelerators and community of other female founders.



Research

UK Innovation & Science Seed Fund

Deadline: Open

The UK Innovation & Science Seed Fund (formerly known as The Rainbow Seed Fund) is a £27.1m early-stage venture capital fund building and growing technology companies stemming from the UK's research base.

[Find out more](#)



Research

Decarbonising the health and social care system

Deadline 11 March 2026

As part of NIHR's [climate health and sustainability commitments](#) to help reduce carbon emissions and achieve net zero, this cross-programme funding opportunity will run annually for 5 years from 2024. There will be £25 million total funding available across the 5 years, with a new application process opening each year.

[Find out more](#)



Research

Developmental pathway funding scheme: stage one Horizon Europe 2026-27: Cancer mission

Deadline: 15 September 2026

Improving the lives of more than 3 million people by 2030 through prevention, cure and for those affected by cancer including their families, to live longer and better.

[Find out more](#)

Horizon Europe 2026-27 Health Cluster

Closing dates: various - Apr/Sept 2026, Apr/Sept 2027

Topics available under Horizon Europe's Health programme for 2026/27, with funding of up to €90m per call.

[Find out more](#)



Industry

The British Business Bank (BBB)

Deadline: Open

BBB are a government-owned business development bank dedicated to making finance markets work better for smaller businesses. Whether you're looking for finance to start a business, grow to the next level, or stay ahead of the competition, they say that they can deliver greater volume and choice of finance.

[Find out more](#)

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