



April 2025

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 Transformative and disruptive innovations funding call

The National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) Invention for Innovation (i4i) programme have launched a funding opportunity focused on innovative health technologies that help reduce waiting times and waiting lists across healthcare settings. The call offers uncapped funding per project over a 12-36 month period.

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 close 7 May 2025 at 1:00pm.

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

Featured funding opportunities



NIHR i4i PDA (Product Development Award) Call 30

Opens: 9 April 2025 Deadline: 28 May 2025

i4i Product Development Awards (PDA) supports the collaborative research and development of medical devices, in vitro diagnostic devices and high-impact patient-focused digital health technologies for use in the NHS or social care system.

PDA aims to de-risk innovations, supporting early product development and real-world evaluation, to make them more attractive for follow-on funding or commercial investment. Research proposals may address any area of unmet need.

Projects must have a clear pathway towards adoption and commercialisation.

[Find out more](#)



British Heart Foundation Innovation Fund

Deadline: Midday 28 April 2025

The British Heart Foundation is offering funding of up to £350k to develop ways to transform the delivery of services for people with cardiovascular disease. The fund aims to test and evaluate innovative approaches.



NIHR i4i THRIVE

Deadline: 16 May 2025

The NIHR Invention for Innovation (i4i) programme is accepting applications to their new researcher and clinician-led THRIVE (Translate Healthcare Research through InnoVation and Entrepreneurship) funding and training opportunity.

THRIVE aims 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. THRIVE offers up to £150,000 over 9 months.

[Find out more](#)



Cancer Grand Challenges

EOI Deadline: 18 June 2025

Seven new Cancer Grand Challenges are open, offering up to £20 million (\$25million) in funding. Cancer Research UK and the National Cancer Institute invite international teams to submit Expressions of Interest by 18 June 2025 to tackle urgent, complex cancer research problems.

[Find out more](#)

[Find out more](#)



Access free on demand funding resources

Our Innovation Academy has a section dedicated to funding advice and support including expert speakers from NIHR, Innovate UK, SBRI, and the British Business Bank.

Register for our **FREE** Innovation Academy



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



Research

Gap fund for early-stage development of new healthcare interventions

Deadline: 9 July 2025 4:00pm Opens: 7 May 2025 9:00am

The Medical Research Council (MRC) is offering funding to generate critical data that builds confidence in developing a new or repurposed medicine, medical device, diagnostic test, or other medical intervention.

To apply, you must be based at a research organisation eligible for MRC funding.

Total fund:

£3,000,000

Award range:

£50,000 - £300,000

[Find out more](#)



Industry



Research

Contracts for Innovation: READ-OUT digital cognitive dementia

Deadline: 14 May 2025 11:00am

Organisations can apply for a single award of up to £600,000, inclusive of VAT. To implement and assess a dementia based digital cognitive assessment to be evaluated as part of the Real-world dementia outcomes (READ-OUT) study being managed by the University of Oxford. This is a **Contracts for Innovation** competition funded by Innovate UK. [Read the summary here.](#)

This competition is a demonstrator and aims to accelerate innovation in dementia based digital cognitive assessments (DCA). High maturity DCA innovations will be deployed and assessed as part of the **READ-OUT** (REAL-world Dementia OUTcomes) blood based biomarker study and feed into the Davos Alzheimer's Collaborative System Preparedness project. The University of Oxford will support and facilitate the real-world use of the DCA test at READ-OUT clinical sites.

Total fund:

£1,200,000

Maximum award:

£600,000

[Find out more](#)



Industry

Life Sciences Innovative Manufacturing Fund (LSIMF): Expression of Interest

Deadline: Open (rolling basis)

Capital grants to support investments over £8m in the manufacture of human medicines, medical diagnostics and medtech products; assessed quarterly.

[Find out more](#)



Industry

Innovate UK innovation loans future economy: Round 20

Deadline: 7 May 2025

UK registered businesses can apply for loans for innovative projects with strong commercial potential to significantly improve the UK economy.

Eligibility

This competition is open to single applications from [micro, small or medium sized enterprises](#) (SME) registered in the UK.

- Round 20 will open on 6 March 2025 and will close on 7 May 2025
- Round 21 will open on 8 May 2025 and will close on 2 July 2025
- Round 22 will open on 3 July 2025 and will close on 27 August 2025

[Find out more](#)



Research

Proof of concept funding opportunity

Deadline: 7 May 2025

Apply for proof of concept funding to support the commercialisation of research and the development of new products, processes or services. Applications from across all disciplines and research councils' remits are welcomed.

Total fund

£9,000,000

Award range:

£100,000 - £250,000

[Find out more](#)



Industry



Research

Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP) 2025 to 2026 round two

Deadline: 11 June 2025

UK registered academic institutions, research and technology organisations (RTOs) or Catapults can apply for a share of up to £9 million to fund innovation projects with businesses or not for profits.

[Find out more](#)



Research

Applied global health research: stage 2

Deadline 16 July 2025 4:00pm

Apply for funding to support applied research that will address global health challenges and inequities. Funded by Medical Research Council (MRC), they are looking to develop a portfolio of high-quality global research, which will be diverse, promote multidisciplinary and strengthen global health research capacity.

You must be invited to apply for stage two of this funding opportunity.

Award range:

£150,000 - £2,000,000

[Find out more](#)



Research

Economic and social research council (ESRC)

Deadline: Open call

ESRC Research Grant

If you have an excellent idea for a research project, the ESRC have their Research Grants open call. Awards ranging from £350,000 to £1 million (100 per cent full Economic Cost (fEC)) can be made to eligible institutions to enable individuals or research teams to undertake anything from a standard research project through to a large-scale survey and other infrastructure or methodological development.

[Find out more](#)

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](#)

Small Business Research Initiative (SBRI) funding

Innovate UK Contracts for Innovation (formerly known as the Small Business Research Initiative or SBRI) helps public sector organisations to solve complex challenges by running a competitive funding opportunity, to develop and adopt new solutions and technologies.

[Find out more](#)

To opt out of receiving this newsletter please email healthinnovation-em@nottingham.ac.uk