

NIHR Leeds BRC Pump-Priming Funding Call

The NIHR Leeds BRC wishes to help support new collaborative research either within the current BRC partnership or with new external partners to facilitate new early translational and experimental medicine clinical research which align with our strategic aims.

We are inviting researchers and collaborators to apply for funding of **up to £40,000 (over a period of up to 18 months duration)** to help support and facilitate **new** early translational and experimental medicine clinical research. We expect to support *up to 4* projects.

This pump-priming research grant call is designed to fund projects that have the potential to expand research activity in, or across, our current Themes and which lead to new, **high quality grant applications** delivering significant additional levered grant funding. This might be through:

- **Fostering new partnerships:** Developing and initiating collaborative projects with NHS, HEI and/or industry partners.
- **Seeding new technologies:** Integrating cutting-edge solutions into health and care research.

Applicant Eligibility:

This funding call is open to all staff across the Leeds BRC partnership organisations. We particularly encourage applications led by mid-career researchers.

The lead applicant must hold an appropriate contract with a BRC partner organisation and it is expected that this contract will exceed the duration of the proposed project. If this is not the case, then arrangements for how the project would be managed if the lead applicant was employed elsewhere should be included. At least one of the applicants should also already be in receipt of BRC funding.

As a BRC, we endorse and champion collaborative, multi-disciplinary research and this is expected to be evidenced in applications.

Please read the guidance notes for further information.

Submission deadline 29 February 24

Applications should be sent to leedsbrc@nhs.net by this date.

Guidance

The key aim of this Pump-Priming Funding Call is to support new research projects or collaborations which tackle issues within the BRC remit, so that they can help move those projects/collaborations through the translational pathway and help pave the way for larger, follow-on external funding.

Projects should align with current BRC Themes and cross cutting capabilities and have the potential to expand research activity in or across our current Themes. The BRC is particularly interested in funding projects that bring in new collaborators.

Timelines

Project duration - Up to 18 months.	
Funding Call Open	23 January 24
Funding Call Closes	29 February 24
Panel Review	commences 1 March 24
Award Letters Issued	w/c 11 March 24
Project Start Date	no later than 1st June 2024
Project Duration	Up to 18 months

Pump-priming awards will fund direct costs:

- Directly incurred staff costs, in line with the call guidance
- Materials and consumables – these should be project specific and not general costs
- Equipment/facilities access
- Equipment purchases (capped at £5,000 per item and must be justified against the duration of the project)
- Workshops
- Other engagement, knowledge exchange, training and culture change activities can also be supported.

Pump-priming awards will NOT fund:

- Costs that are supplementing existing BRC research
- Projects with no clear link to the BRC Themes
- Animal Work
- Bridging Funds (staff between posts)
- Projects with no clear translational agenda
- Directly allocated, Indirect, Estate or Overhead costs
- Equipment costs of more than £5000 per item

To ensure your costing is accurate please contact your University Research Finance Support office or Trust R&I office prior to submission, as appropriate.

Award Assessment

- Applications are subject to a review by a scientific review panel.
- Awards are made based on scientific merit, relevance to our priority areas, impact on patient health outcomes and evidence of new collaborative, multi-disciplinary research

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Acknowledgements and Open Access

Publications, conferences, and any other media communication generated from this project must acknowledge NIHR as the funding source.

If fully funded: *This research was funded by the NIHR Leeds Biomedical Research Centre. The views expressed are those of the author(s) and not necessarily those of the NIHR or the Department of Health and Social Care.*

If co-funded: *This research was co-funded by the NIHR Leeds Biomedical Research Centre and <list other funders>. The views expressed are those of the author(s) and not necessarily those of the NIHR or the Department of Health and Social Care.*

All original research supported in whole or in part by the grant and accepted for publication in a peer-reviewed journal, or as a scholarly monograph or book chapter, must be made available from Europe PubMed Central as soon as possible and no later than six months from the date of final publication.

Animals

Animal research will not be funded.

Award Letter

The award letter will act as a contract for the delivery of the project as detailed in the approved application. You will be expected to spend your award in line with that expressed in your application (including schedule of spending) and you must request permission from the BRC, in writing, if you need deviation from the original scope of the project. The issuing award letter will detail awardee details, award amount, name of project and dates for deliverables.

Employment

Applications can be led by BRC and Non-BRC affiliated individuals. In the case of a lead applicant not having a BRC affiliation, it would be expected that some co-applicants from the BRC would be included.

The lead applicant must hold an appropriate contract with the BRC partner organisation where the project activity will take place and should exceed the duration of the proposed project.

Partner organisations are:

- Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust
- The University of Leeds
- The University of York

If the recipient of the award is an early career researcher (ECR), it is expected the senior co-I will oversee the project undertaken with the award and both the awardee and the senior co-I will be responsible for the potential follow-on project and reporting.

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

EDI must be acknowledged and included in each funding call. Applicants are expected to provide detail on how EDI principles have been considered and applied throughout the project, if applicable.

By accepting this award, you agree to being contacted in the future by Leeds BRC for data gathering initiatives, surrounding equality, diversity and inclusion measures which could inform equality monitoring.

Equipment

Equipment may be bought up to the cost of £5,000 per item. Consider leasing equipment above this price threshold.

Expenditure

All funds must be spent in line with the schedule expressed in the application and by the agreed project end date as stated in your award letter. Any Variation to spending plan must secure prior BRC approval. The BRC advises that requests for supplemental funding or extensions to project duration will not be supported.

Reporting

A final report is expected within 1 month of the project end date where the PI must report how project milestones and objectives have been met and what plans are in place to build upon the new partnership. The report should also include new and planned grant application resulting from the pump-priming award along with any associated publication.

Leeds BRC will contact the awardee(s) for up to five year's post-award, to record follow on activities resultant from the pump-priming award, including (but not limited to)

- Grant applications and awards
- Publications
- Career progress of associated ECRs
- Collaborations with Industrial partners
- Impact and IP

Liability

Leeds BRC accepts no liability from the research funded by this award, financial or otherwise.

Monitoring

You must inform us in writing if there is a significant change in the project which will lead to a delay of its progress and/or outcomes. The BRC may request information on the project at any time for monitoring purposes.

Responsibilities for the Awardee

The grant holder must ensure that all ethical and regulatory requirements associated with the project are fulfilled, including from any third party and collaborative parties supporting the project.

The grant holder must ensure all project costs (including but not limited to staff time, consumables, sponsorship, third party providers, site costs) have either been included within the application or alternative sources of funding identified.

The award must be spent solely on the objectives and purpose as detailed in the approved application.

By accepting this funding award, you are confirming that you have not received any competitive funding from any other source for this same research project, as detailed in the approved application.