

2019

HEALTH+MEDICAL RESEARCH

Investigator Development Grants

Guidelines



NSW Health
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www.health.nsw.gov.au
www.medicalresearch.nsw.gov.au

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Further copies of this document can be downloaded from the Cardiovascular Research Capacity Program webpage:
www.medicalresearch.nsw.gov.au/cardiovascular

Purpose

NSW Health Investigator Development Grants are competitive grants open to Chief Investigators in NSW. Grants provide funding of up to \$100,000 for 12 months, for cardiovascular research projects that received a score in the fundable range in the 2019 round of NHMRC Investigator Development Grants, but did not receive NHMRC funding.

Grants provide funding to undertake targeted activities that advance the project to be more competitive, in preparation for re-applying for NHMRC funding in 12 months' time.

Indicative timeline

30 Sept 2019	NSW Health Investigator Development Grants Open
13 Nov 2019	Applications due to NSW Health
Dec-Jan 2020	Applicants notified of outcome, commencement of funding
Oct-Dec 2020	Grant recipients reapply to NHMRC*
2021-22	Applicants notified of NHMRC outcome*, information forwarded to NSW Health.

*NHMRC timelines for 2020-21 to be confirmed.

Eligibility

To be eligible for an Investigator Development Grant, the applicant must meet all of the following criteria:

- the Chief Investigator on a 2019 NHMRC Investigator Grant application that scored 5 or higher, but did not receive funding
- intend to resubmit the application during 2020-21 to the NHMRC Investigator Grants scheme (see note below)
- an Australian citizen, permanent resident or have an appropriate work visa
- currently residing and employed in NSW
- employed by a NSW-based Medical Research Institute, University, or Non-Government Organisation for the duration of the Investigator Development Grant.

Note: Applicants intending to resubmit their application to the NHMRC Investigator Grant 2020 or the Investigator Grants: MRFF Priority Round 2020 (closing date 27 November 2019) are eligible to apply for a NSW Investigator Development Grant, provided they satisfy all eligibility criteria and requirements. If the application is awarded an NHMRC Investigator Grant commencing in 2020 or 2021, NSW Health

Development Grant Funding may be retained, and must be used for capacity building and/or to advance the project. Examples of capacity building include recruitment and retention of research staff and creating opportunities for PhD and early-mid career researchers. Proposed activities to be undertaken in this circumstance should be outlined in the application form.

Scope of cardiovascular research

Funding will support researchers working in cardiovascular research, across biomedical, clinical, health services and population health research. The term cardiovascular is used to encompass all diseases and conditions of the heart and blood vessels, including but not limited to:

- coronary heart disease
- stroke
- heart failure
- vascular disease and vascular health
- major independent risk factors for cardiovascular disease
- cardiovascular complications of diabetes and obesity
- rheumatic heart disease
- congenital heart disease.

Submission of applications

Applicants must use the NHRMC Investigator Development Grants Application Form and include any supporting evidence. The form is available at www.medicalresearch.nsw.gov.au.

Applications submitted to NSW Health should comprise:

1. A completed NSW Health application form
2. A copy of the NHMRC Investigator Grant 2019 application
3. A copy of any feedback received on the application
4. Certification by the Chief Investigator and Chief Executive of the Host Organisation.

Application forms must be saved using the following format for naming in the email subject line:

Chief Investigator name_Investigator Development Grant

For each additional attachment, the following format for naming should be used: Chief Investigator name_Document name

All applications and attachments should be submitted by email to MOH-OHMRGrants@health.nsw.gov.au by 5pm on 13 November 2019. Applications submitted by any other means will not be considered.

Please refer to <http://www.medicalresearch.nsw.gov.au> for relevant program dates and updates to the program. For queries regarding NSW Cardiovascular Research Capacity Program grants, please email MOH-OHMRGrants@health.nsw.gov.au.

Selection criteria

Applications will be assessed according to the following selection criteria:

- expertise and capacity of research team members to undertake the research activities proposed
- quality, significance and feasibility of the proposed activities to be undertaken using the NHRMC Investigator Development grant
- value of development funding to the project, beyond what could be achieved without additional funding
- alignment of proposed research with State and National Priorities, such as NSW Health priorities, Premier's priorities, NHMRC and MRFF priorities
- alignment of the proposed research with current research programs in NSW, including those of the host organisation
- additional and potential ongoing benefits of this collaboration to the researchers, host organisation and NSW
- appropriateness of the proposed budget.

Requirements

Applications submitted to NSW Health should comprise:

- a copy of the NHMRC Investigator Grant 2019 application.
- a copy of the score received from the NHRMC for this application.
- any feedback that has been received for this application.
- a completed NSW Health Investigator Development Grant Application Form.
- certification by the Chief Executive of the host organisation confirming acknowledgement and agreement to the proposal, including any financial and other support.

Funding conditions and exclusions

- Research funded through this scheme must be conducted in the New South Wales health system or affiliated organisation (university, medical research institute, industry partners).
- Grants are for research projects or programs and can cover a combination of salaries of the research team (clinical and/or non-clinical), backfill for clinicians to quarantine research time, consumables, equipment and other research infrastructure.
- Grants must not be spent on capital works, general maintenance costs, organisational infrastructure or overheads, telephone/communication systems, basic office equipment, such as desks and chairs, rent and the cost of utilities.
- Applicants are required to declare the source, duration and level of funding already held for research in the subject area of the application.
- Funding is conditional on the Chief Investigator and the Chief Executive of the host organisation signing the declaration on the application form, which outlines the host organisation's obligations.
- Grants may be applied for regardless of other funding, including NHMRC fellowships and NSW Health Cardiovascular Research Capacity Program funding from previous rounds.

Host organisation requirements

The host organisation employs the researcher for the duration of the grant and is where the researcher undertakes the research described in the application. Grant funds must be paid to a host organisation that is a university, medical research institute, or non-government organisation, which has capacity to administer the funds for the period of the grant.

The host organisation must:

- Be located in NSW
- Conduct health and medical research in one of the following: a department or research centre within a university, an independent medical research institute, or a not-for-profit organisation.
- Provide infrastructure support, including wet/dry lab space, computer equipment, desk space, and other appropriate support.

Reporting requirements

The host organisation will enter into a funding agreement with NSW Health that sets out the obligations of both parties and will contain a schedule of reporting requirements.

Application and review process

Step 1: Initial eligibility appraisal

Following the closing date for applications, NSW Health will make an appraisal as to whether or not each application has satisfied the eligibility criteria.

Step 2: Scoring against the selection criteria

An independent selection panel of expert reviewers will assess each application against the selection criteria using a standardised scoring system.

Step 3: Recommendation for funding

The independent selection panel will agree on the final ranking of all eligible applications, and will make a recommendation for funding to NSW Health.

Step 4: Decision and notification

The NSW Ministry for Health will make a determination on grant recipients and amounts. Applicants will be notified.

Step 5: Grant Agreements initiated

NSW Health will make contact with successful applicants to develop and enter into funding agreements with the host organisation.