**A circle of people's faces

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**NIHR Birmingham Biomedical Research Centre: Pre-Application Support Fund**

**Patient Advocacy and Training for Health Success (PATHS) funding**

**Aims and Purpose of the Call**

The NIHR has provided funding to the Birmingham BRC to directly support applicants to prepare future applications for [NIHR career development funding](https://www.nihr.ac.uk/explore-nihr/support/academy.htm) and other career development funding opportunities. NIHR outlines the funding awarded should be used to **provide extra support to those who need it to enhance their chances of making a successful application**. The funds should therefore be used by individuals for specific and future-focussed activities rather than to supplement existing funded investigations.

**Scope**

There are 4 schemes available to support researchers to prepare applications for funding to advance their research career. This information and application form is for the **Patient Advocacy and Training for Health Success (PATHS)** funding stream.

This funding stream is to support researchers to deliver early public involvement and engagement activities during the development of grant applications and prior to grant funding being approved/available. **The focus of this scheme is to support the involvement of patients and/or public to inform the design of research studies.** However, this may also include activities to engage initially with public groups and communities to get to know them and build relationships to support their future involvement in the research funding applications (and during the study should the funding application be successful).

The PATHS scheme funding can be used for:

* Reimbursing out-of-pocket expenses for members of the public (e.g. travel, subsistence, carer costs). This will be paid in line with local policy.
* Offering payment for the time spent by members of the public (in line with [NIHR payment policy](https://www.nihr.ac.uk/payment-guidance-researchers-and-professionals)).
* Refreshments at meetings or events.
* Venue hire external to the researcher’s organisation, if this is fully justified (e.g. where an accessible room is not available or another venue is more appropriate)
* Materials which the researcher would not normally have access to within their organisation (e.g. play materials for a session with children).

Funds **cannot** normally be used to:

* Pay for the time or out of pocket expenses for research team,
* Pay for time of paid members of staff asked to be involved in developing research as contributors.
* Undertake research.
* To hire a venue within the researcher’s own organisation.
* To pay for materials which the researcher can reasonably gain access to with their organisation (e.g. printing costs).

\*In exceptional circumstances researchers may be able to claim travel expenses (for example, when a researcher is travelling to see a member of the public and travel funds are not available from elsewhere). This must be fully justified and will be decided on a case-by-case basis by the Core BRC PPIE team.

There is limited funding available, with the first round of funding being available up until 31st March 2025, and individual applications not exceeding £2K. Further funding may be available after this date, but this is to be confirmed.

**Timeline**

Open call but would encourage applications by 28th February 2025 to secure funds in the first round of funding.

**How to Apply?**

Please complete the application form below.

Applications are welcome from BRC-affiliated academics/researchers.

Applications will be reviewed by a diverse team including our BRC public contributors.

Applications should be submitted by email to the Academic Capacity Development lead Trish Lalor ([p.f.lalor@bham.ac.uk](mailto:p.f.lalor@bham.ac.uk)) with [BirminghamBRC@uhb.nhs.uk](mailto:BirminghamBRC@uhb.nhs.uk) copied.

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Description automatically generated**NIHR Birmingham Biomedical Research Centre: PATHS**

**Application Form**

**Details of applicant and proposed application for further funding**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Applicant name and contact details (email address)** |  |
| **Affiliated BRC theme** |  |
| **Briefly outline current role, professional background and previous research experience/qualifications** |  |
| **Current employing organisation** |  |
| **Target funder, including deadline. Please include funder timelines for interviews/outcomes if available** |  |
| **Please list supervisors/leadership/mentors as appropriate** |  |
| **Project title (approximate)** |  |
| **Plain English project description (up to 300 words)** |  |
| **Have you submitted this for funding previously? If yes, please provide details including any feedback as to why not funded** |  |

**Details of support requested from PATHS**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **What funding are you requesting from PATHS and why is this required to support your funding application development (i.e. why do you need additional support)? Please detail then complete the table below.** |  |
| **Which aspects of your research design will public involvement contribute to (tick all that apply):** | * Research question * Recruitment procedures * EDI considerations * Ethical considerations * Intervention design * Outcome (selection and collection methods) * Dissemination and engagement plans * Public involvement plans during the study * Public and/or community engagement plans * Reviewing the plain English summary * Writing/reviewing the funding application (e.g. public co-applicant) * Other (please specify below) |

**Funds requested**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Description/Purpose,** please include intended start and duration for all costs | **Cost (full) Note FEC not required.** | **Organisation,** please indicate type and name of organisation the funding should be made available to. E.g. HEI, UoB |
|  |  |  |
| **TOTAL** |  |  |

**About you**

We invite you to answer some questions about yourself. Note that this information will be stored securely, separately to your application and will not be supplied to the panel or used to inform any decision regarding this funding opportunity. However, we are required to collect this information by NIHR to help us to ensure we are providing opportunities and capacity development support to a range of individuals with various life experiences and career pathways. The data will also help us to build a picture of our research community to ensure we are considerate of needs when creating opportunities or events.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **What is your ethnic group?** |  |
| Prefer to self-describe (Please add your answer in the box to the right) or choose one option that best describes your ethnic group or background from the list below |  |
| Arab |  |
| Asian/Asian British - Bangladeshi |  |
| Asian/Asian British - Chinese |  |
| Asian/Asian British - Indian |  |
| Asian/Asian British - Pakistani |  |
| Asian/Asian British – Any other Asian background |  |
| Black/black British/Caribbean or African - African |  |
| Black/black British/Caribbean or African - Caribbean |  |
| Black/black British/Caribbean or African – Any other black, African or Caribbean background |  |
| Mixed or multiple ethnic groups - White and Black Caribbean |  |
| Mixed or multiple ethnic groups - White and Asian |  |
| Mixed or multiple ethnic groups - White and black African |  |
| Mixed or multiple ethnic groups – Any other mixed or multiple ethnic background |  |
| White – English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British |  |
| White – Irish |  |
| White – Gypsy or Irish Traveller |  |
| White – Roma |  |
| White – Any other white background |  |
| Prefer not to say |  |
| **Which of the following best describes your gender?** |  |
| Prefer to self-describe |  |
| Man |  |
| Non-binary |  |
| Woman |  |
| Prefer not to say |  |
| **Do you consider yourself to be a disabled person (this could be a physical or hidden disability)?** |  |
| Yes |  |
| No |  |
| Prefer not to say |  |
| If you have answered yes to the above question and are comfortable to disclose your disability and what support you may require, this will help us to accommodate your needs during any in-person meetings or events. |  |
| **Do you have any caring responsibilities?** |  |
| Yes |  |
| No |  |
| Prefer not to say |  |

**Declarations.** Please tick to confirm that you agree to the following actions:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| I understand I will need to contact the BRC Public Involvement Lead if I wish to make significant changes to my proposed public involvement activities as outlined in this application or changes to the use of the award |  |
| I will organise payment of expenses and time to public contributors involved in my research should they opt to receive payment/to reimburse their expenses |  |
| I understand I will be required to complete reports and/or provide information/ contribute to development of case studies/evaluation as required by NIHR Birmingham BRC. |  |

​ **Further PPIE help available**

* NIHR Research Support Service (RSS) Hub can provide methodological guidance on PPIE, as well as other research design advice and support. Visit their website to request support, or email NIHR-RSS@contacts.bham.ac.uk
* Core BRC PPIE team can provide local, practical PPIE advice, guidance and training, including sign posting to BRC PPIE groups and advice on costing PPIE into grants. See our website <https://www.birminghambrc.nihr.ac.uk/staff-resources/involving-patients-and-the-public-in-your-research> and/or contact [brcppie@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:brcppie@contacts.bham.ac.uk)
* The University of Birmingham Public Involvement Hub provides drop in PPIE advice sessions, a range of online resources as well as practical documents such as payment policy. Contact [ppi@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:ppi@contacts.bham.ac.uk)

**GDPR Privacy Statement**

*Only a few authorised staff members will have direct access to your personal data and only when necessary. We respect your trust and protect your privacy and therefore will never sell or share this data with any third parties outside of University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust or University of Birmingham unless you give us permission to do this. By filling out this form you are giving permission for us to store and process your data for up to 5 years.*

*We may sometimes report anonymised and aggregated data internally or externally. For example, if a research funder asks us to report on how many women and men have received funding as part of this scheme, or how many people identify as a particular ethnicity.   You will not be able to be identified within the summary.*

*The personal information provided will be processed safely and securely by University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust (UHB) and/or the University of Birmingham (UoB) for equality and diversity monitoring purposes. Please see* [*UHB’s full privacy notice*](https://url.uk.m.mimecastprotect.com/s/c9ILCm7zkuLRXPRsGfWSRH--O?domain=uhb.nhs.uk/) *and the* [*UoB’s full privacy notice*](https://url.uk.m.mimecastprotect.com/s/R_RTCnGAlhp6w36hJhVSJNbHq?domain=birmingham.ac.uk) *for further details about how the UHB and UoB will process your personal information.*

*By ticking the box below, you are agreeing to the processing of your personal information as outlined in the privacy statement above.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| I understand and agree to the processing of my personal data |  |