

Research Development Fund Guidance Notes

Background

The BHF CRC has established a fund to support project development in clinical research. We encourage bids from UK based research teams to help develop future projects that are of sufficient importance to have attracted the support of at least one of our national Research Groups (RG).

Aims and Objectives

The aim of this fund is to support the development of ideas or gather pilot data in preparation for a larger clinical study program. Examples might include:

- Assessment of clinical research priorities (including service user reviews)
- Systematic reviews
- Grant targeting and preparation
- Collecting meaningful pilot data
- Study development - collaborative work to develop a study protocol, optimise a study design and analysis plan

Potential applicants should note that we do not support:

- Basic science projects
- Extensions to or support of funded projects
- Stand-alone, smaller-scale clinical research with no clear link to a specific future project

We want to fund something that:

- Tackles an important question, as judged by the RG
- Provides a clear stepping-stone to a larger study of real import
- Might otherwise not happen, or happen soon, without this grant

Application Scoring

Applications will be scored with consideration in the following domains:

Potential value of the project to aid the development of future research activity (NB This score is weighted by a factor of x1.5)	n/5
Importance and relevance of the clinical question to be addressed	n/5
Methodological rigour of the proposed work	n/5
Likelihood of project completion in the specified timescale (includes a consideration of the strength and cohesion of the research team)	n/5
Value for money: Is this grant crucial to enabling the project; Reviewers may suggest options for cost reduction	n/5
Total	n/25

Award

Funding is available up to a maximum of £10,000, however applicants need to consider that projects are assessed on ‘value for money’

Application Process

- Applicants must seek the formal support of one of the BHF CRC RGs ([listed here](#)) to act as ‘sponsor’ for the bid; this RG must provide a letter of support, accepting the role of sponsor
- Other RGs may also offer support (and letters of support can be included with the application), but one RG must be named as the sponsor of the project
- Applications should be made on the appropriate form and sent to the BHF CRC
 - By email to: enquiries@bhfcrc.org
- Each RG can only sponsor two applications in any round of awards. In the event of three or more bids being made in the name of an RG, the sponsor RG will review the applications and select up to 2 bids which will then go forward to the BHF CRC Steering Group (SG) for final scoring

Schedule of Events

Round opens	2 nd May 2023
Closing date for submission to BHF CRC	26 th June 2023
Review and scoring by Steering Group completed by	7 th August 2023
Notification of award decisions	1 st September 2023
Final date for transfer of award funds	31 st October 2023
Projects must be completed by	3 rd March 2025

Miscellaneous

- Application forms and enquiries should be sent to enquiries@bhfcrc.org
- Projects must be completed within 18 months of being awarded funding
- Project teams must produce an end of project report
- Applicants may be asked to present their project bid to the SG and/or answer questions relating to their bid