

Strategic Support Fund Application Template and Guidance

Purpose

1. The Strategic Support Fund has been created exclusively to encourage the establishment of new courses for healthcare professions prioritised in the NHS Long Term Plan and People Plan, by funding the associated education infrastructure. The maximum value of any awarded funding over eighteen months is £100,000.
2. For more information on the fund, visit <https://www.hee.nhs.uk/our-work/strategic-support-fund>.

Eligibility pre-requisites

3. HEE will consider applications to fund infrastructure to support the establishment of new courses for the following healthcare professions:
 - Pre-registration nursing, in all four disciplines
 - General practice nursing
 - Diagnostic and therapeutic radiography
 - Occupational therapy
 - Orthoptics
 - Physiotherapy
 - Prosthetics and orthotics
 - Nursing associate
 - Midwifery
 - Dietetics
 - Operating department practice
 - Paramedics
 - Podiatry
 - Speech and language therapy
4. Applications must be submitted in collaboration with local NHS placement providers, and be jointly endorsed by both organisations' vice-Chancellor / Chief Executive;
5. HEE will consider funding applications to develop infrastructure that supports the establishment of new courses, not for the expansion of existing courses. HEE will consider applications to fund infrastructure that supports the reopening of courses that have been discontinued for two years or longer (last intake in January 2018).
6. Applicants must be able to evidence their expenditure of awarded funding and be in a state of readiness to receive their first intake of new students by 1st October 2021 at the latest. Awarded funding will be repayable in full to HEE in the event that this condition is not met.
7. Higher scores will be given to those that can admit their first intake earlier (please refer to the Weighted Success Criteria below).

Application Evaluation

8. Applications will undergo an initial review by the corresponding HEE regional director (RD), including consideration of the feasibility of applications and to confirm they demonstrate an acceptable and appropriate use of public monies. The national panel will only consider applications that have been endorsed as feasible by the RD.
9. To enable a robust and fair process, the national panel will assess and score applications against the weighted criteria set out below. In the event of this process being over-subscribed, this will allow the highest ranked applications to be selected and also ensure that a minimum pre-set threshold is met, up to the maximum available aggregate funding of £2million.

Timeline

Monday 24 th February 2020:	Funding application window opens
Monday 9 th March 2020	Funding application window closes at close of business
Tuesday 10 th March 2020:	Initial shortlisting by Regional Directors
Monday 16 th March 2020	HEE National evaluation panel
Tuesday 17 th March 2020:	Announcement of successful grant applications at HEE Board
w/c 23 rd March 2020	Funding awarded to successful applicants.

Weighted Success Criteria

Criteria	Weighting
Delivery timescales	20%
Course capacity	5%
Workforce Intelligence:	50%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence why this is a priority profession in your region 	[20%]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How will the course enable the local health economy to deliver the priorities of the NHS Long Term Plan and People Plan, as identified by your Sustainability and Transformation Partnership (STP) or emerging Integrated Care System (ICS)? 	[15%]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How will the course employ successful approaches for attracting, recruiting and retaining students, that respond to observed trends and behaviours? 	[15%]
Widening Participation	10%
Innovation	15%

Strategic Support Fund Application

Type of Education Institute [HEI/FE]	
Name of Organisation	
Name of NHS placement provider	
Education Institute endorsement	
Vice Chancellor signature:	
NHS placement provider endorsement	
Chief Executive signature:	

<p>Cost/Activity Breakdown:</p>	
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Success Criteria	
Delivery timescales [20%]	
<p>What is the proposed start date for the first cohort, after implementation of infrastructure improvements facilitated by this funding?</p> <p>[20%]</p>	
Course capacity [5%]	
<p>What is the proposed course capacity?</p> <p>[5%]</p>	

Workforce Intelligence [50%]	
<p>Evidence why this is a priority profession in your region [20%]</p> <p>[500 word limit]</p>	
<p>How will this course enable the local health economy to deliver the priorities of the NHS Long Term Plan and People Plan, as identified by the STP or emerging ICS. [15%]</p> <p>[500 word limit]</p>	

<p>How will the course employ successful approaches for attracting, recruiting and retaining students, that respond to observed trends and behaviours? [15%]</p> <p>[500 word limit]</p>	
Widening Participation [10%]	
<p>Describe how the course will support widening access for students from under-represented backgrounds</p> <p>[500 word limit]</p>	

Innovation [15%

Describe how you will take a creative approach to building capacity, that reflects the latest research, evidence and technology.

This may include innovative approaches to:

- recruiting the right people;
- providing new routes for progression through the clinical career pathway;
- creating a supportive learning environment;
- training a digital-ready workforce;
- building clinical placement capacity
- clinical placement activity.

[800 word limit]