Sydney Health Partners Implementation Science Pilot Grants

Guidelines 2020

Background
In 2015 the NHMRC accredited Sydney Health Partners (SHP) as an Advanced Health Research Translation Centre and recognised as a world leader in translating research into better health outcomes for our community. Patient and public benefit is at the core of what we do. Through our Partnership we are committed to conducting and using health and medical research to improve the lives of our patients and community faster and more consistently. For more information about Sydney Health Partners, please visit our website: https://www.slhd.nsw.gov.au/sydneyhealthpartners/about-partners.html

Purpose
The purpose of the Sydney Health Partners Implementation Science grants is to encourage teams of clinicians and researchers to develop collaborative projects that seek to pilot the implementation of robust evidence into practice. Implementation Science is defined as ‘the scientific study of methods to promote the systematic uptake of evidence-based practices into routine clinical practice, and, hence, to improve the quality and effectiveness of health services and care’. These pilot grants are intended to help teams to build translational research foundations that identify promising evidence-based practice improvements.

Overview
In 2020, we will provide $50,000 to fund two pilot projects ($25,000 each) to commence in August 2020. The funded projects can last up to 24 months. These grants are designed to enable teams to undertake essential work to pilot test the implementation of an evidence-based intervention, program or innovation (hereafter ‘intervention’) with at least one partner Local Health District or Network. The pilot project outcomes may help teams to apply for larger grants via funding schemes such as MRFF and TRGS.

Eligibility
Applications for proposed projects should fulfil the following eligibility criteria:

- Two (2) Principal Investigators should be named, one each from the University of Sydney and a partner Local Health District or Network. The Principal Investigators are expected to lead the funded project and must be employees of Sydney Health Partners’ member organisations (for more information, use the link in Background).
- Up to eight (8) other team members can be named on the application (e.g., healthcare providers, health services researchers, consumer representatives). Ideally, collaborators should be employees of, or affiliated with, Sydney Health Partners’ member organisations; external collaborators can also be named.
- Students of the University of Sydney may be included as team collaborators but cannot be the Principle Investigator.
• Teams are encouraged to include early and mid-career clinician-researchers as collaborators.
• Applications should detail how a partnership will be fostered between academics and at least one LHD/Clinical partner to address an issue about implementation.
• The team must have the capacity to establish a work program of value to the health system and achieve milestone within a 24-month timeframe.
• The pilot grants are intended to fund applied projects that focus on testing existing interventions or implementation strategies in real-world settings.
• Basic science or laboratory-based translational research, piloting of a clinical trial design or any projects that are T1-T2 translational research are out of scope for this grant opportunity and will not be funded.
• Any real or potential perceived conflict of interest in relation to applying for the SHP Implementation Science pilot grants should be declared in the application form.
• Members of the assessment panel are excluded from applying for these grants.

Selection criteria for applications
Applications will be assessed using the selection criteria described below:

• Clinical problem (25%): Outline the clinical problem that the team wants to address:
  o Applications should include a background about the evidence-practice gap including any local data.
  o Applications that focus on implementation or adaptation an existing intervention (including health program, innovation or model of care) will be prioritised over applications that propose to develop a new intervention.

• Implementation and evaluation plan (25%):
  o Describe how you will engage participating clinical sites in the project
  o Applications must specify at least one framework, model or theory from the Implementation Science or Quality Improvement literature that will inform the work plan.

• Anticipated outputs (20%):
  o Describe what the project milestones will be, including potential knowledge generated that will contribute to the discipline of implementation science
  o Applications that focus on health service and implementation outcomes will be given priority over those that focus exclusively on clinical or patient outcomes.
  o Describe the potential to impact on health service improvements.

• Collaboration (30%):
  o Describe how the team will work together including activities to build a strong collaboration
  o Briefly outline any previous projects on which team members have collaborated. Include any consumer or primary care involvement
  o Please include a brief biography (max. 150 words) and up to five relevant publications for each team member (excluding external collaborators).
It is desirable, but not essential, that Applications align with one or more clinical or thematic streams of Sydney Health Partners (see https://www.slhd.nsw.gov.au/sydneyhealthpartners/our-research.html)

Applications relating to COVID-19 research will be equally weighted in comparison to applications in other content areas.

**Use of Funds**

Funds can be used for costs associated with conducting research and translation activities including salaries, but cannot be directed towards capital works, general maintenance costs, telephone/communication systems, basic office equipment such as desks and chairs, rent and the cost of utilities.

Although all successful grants will eventually be administered by Sydney Local Health District (in consultation with Sydney Health Partners). Applications must identify one SHP health service (Sydney LHD, Western Sydney LHD, Northern Sydney LHD, or Sydney Children’s Hospital Network at Westmead) as the leading organisation. This will help ensure that the proposed project is ‘health service’ led.

**The Assessment Process**

Applications must be submitted using the **SHP Implementation Science Grants Application Form**. Apart from biographical team information, no additional documents are required.

Applications should be completed using Arial 11pt and line width single spacing. Applications must be signed by the Lead Clinical and Academic Investigators.

Applications will be initially assessed against the eligibility criteria outlined above. Any application that does not fulfil those criteria will not proceed further for review. This includes any applications that exceed the budget of $25,000.

All eligible applications will proceed to assessment by a panel appointed by the SHP Implementation Science Steering Committee. Final funding recommendations will be made to the SHP Research Committee.

Successful recipients will be informed via email. Unsuccessful applicants will not receive specific information about the ranking, content or quality of the application as assessed by the review panel. Grants will commence from August 2020.

Enquiries can be directed to: sydneyhealthpartners.snrprojectofficer@sydney.edu.au
Grant timeline and submission details

**Tuesday 2 June 2020**
Applications open via the Sydney Health Partners website.

**Tuesday 30 June 2020, 5pm AEST**
Applications close
Eligible and complete applications must be submitted online by **5pm AEST** on the closing date. Applications should be submitted via email to: sydneyhealthpartners.snrprojectofficer@sydney.edu.au

**File name convention:** Please label the application using the following format of: SHP-IS grant-Investigator surname Academic, Investigator name Clinical-2020.pdf e.g. SHP-IS grant-Brown-Smith-2020.pdf

Late applications will not be accepted.

**Week commencing Monday 13 July**
Notification of outcomes will be made
Successful applicants will receive an offer of funding to commence August 2020.