



This document supports the funding opportunity for a leadership team to establish a national behavioural research hub. It will be regularly updated to reflect the questions most frequently raised with ESRC. Potential applicants, and their research organisations, should review this document before contacting us for advice. There is a separate FAQ document for the CDT+ in behavioural research.

Last updated: 09/11/2022

How many hubs/leadership teams are you looking to fund? We're looking to fund one leadership team to develop a single hub.

Would ESRC prefer multi-institution bids? We have no specific ask for multi-institutional bids. What is important is the collective skills and expertise of the leadership team which is a key assessment criterion.

Will geographic location of the leadership team affect decision-making? No, geographical location is not an assessment criterion however proposals should clearly articulate how the hub will deliver across the UK.

How many co-investigators would be considered appropriate and what level of time commitment is expected for each of them? This will depend on specific proposals and the approaches taken. Please note that very small amounts of co-investigator time should be avoided unless clearly justified in the proposal.

Is there a limit on how many bids an institution can be a co-I or collaborator on? No, there is no limit.

Should the leadership hub have an international as well as a UK focus? Over the longer term an international element would be highly welcomed, however it is not an initial priority and is not as an assessment criterion.

Do you envisage participation of people and organisations outside of academic institutions as part of leadership team? UK co-investigators and/or project partners from across different sectors (including government, the third sector and business) are encouraged.

Is there a way of connecting potential bidders to the call? One way to connect bidders is via participation in the next webinar. When registering, there is a box to tick that will allow us to share your details with other participants after the webinar.

Does ESRC have particular research themes or challenges in mind? No. Applicants should articulate their ambition for the research function and their approach to working with stakeholders to develop the research programme within their proposal. Please note that we are not expecting detailed plans of the research programme during the application phase.

Is the leadership hub expected to conduct applied behavioural research in the first 18 months? No. We anticipate that the research programme will be developed during the first

phase of the grant and detailed plans for this programme will be submitted to ESRC for peer review at 18 months.

Is there scope to conduct fundamental research that underpins the more applied elements? Yes. Methods development and maximising the value of data are two such areas highlighted in the funding opportunity but is not limited to this.

What activities described in the funding opportunity are a priority? It is expected that all the activities described in the funding opportunity will be delivered over the course of the grant. During the first 18 months, scoping, stakeholder engagement and development of the hub, its vision and work programme alongside some early activities (to be determined by the applicants) are the priorities.

How will future spoke themes be determined? There will be a combination of mechanisms. The development of the spokes could be driven by the hub, funders, or developed in response to needs and interests of stakeholders. The hub will work closely with ESRC during the development of the spokes.

Is the funding for this initiative additional to the standard research grant funding? Yes, this is additional funding.

Can directly allocated costs for academic staff to be included in the leadership / management staff costs? Yes, directly allocated costs can be included and will be funded at 80% fEC.

Who can we contact for further information?

Please contact behaviour@esrc.ukri.org for any further questions you may have about Hub applications. Any questions relating to the CDT+ applications, please contact pgtframework@esrc.ukri.org.