Health Tech Adoption and Acceleration Fund

October 2023

The purpose

The Government is investing £30m in the Health Tech Adoption and Acceleration Fund.

The fund is for ICSs to expedite the adoption of technologies which map to **local priority needs.**

HTAAF Summary

Who

Each ICS can submit one application up to £700k. The fund covers England only.

Applications need to be signed off by Regional Medical Directors and ICB Chief Execs.

Application support is available from Health Innovation Networks (HIN) for ICSs and HIN regional leads for RMDs.

What

Technology that fits within the criteria and categories on the next slides.

Applications can contain multiple technologies within a care pathway, or within a technology category, and can build on existing programmes/plans.

Applications should incorporate the resources and support required to implement the technology.

When

**Application window:
10th October to midday 27th October**

The revenue funding is available this Financial Year (2023-24). ICSs need to ensure tech is affordable from April 2024 onwards.

We aim to notify ICSs of their application outcome by 15th November.

Department of Health & Social Care

Essential criteria

1. Addresses a **national priority** in line with the categories on the next slide.

2. Accelerates the adoption of technologies that address **a local unmet need.**

3. Has tangible **benefits for patients and/or improves staff productivity**.

4. Recurrent funding needs from 2024 onwards will be met by the ICS.

Desirable criteria

1. The technology is **NICE recommended.**

2. The technology is 'late-stage' and can be **easily incorporated into pathways** to facilitate adoption at pace.

3. The technology is **cost saving**.

4. If a digital technology, it is compliant with the **Digital Technology Assessment Criteria.**

Department of Health & Social Care

Technology categories

1 **Virtual wards/clinics**

e.g. remote monitoring of heart failure patients, pre-clinical intervention, or to monitor deterioration and virtual wards for acute respiratory infection

2 **At home management – diagnostics and treatment**

e.g. sleep apnoea diagnosis using wearable tech, spirometry at home for asthma diagnosis, continuous glucose monitoring for diabetes patients

3 **Elective recovery**

e.g. digital consent, tools to predict DNAs and support appointment attendance, use of innovative blood tests, automated telemedicine, technology to support audiology and diagnostics in ENT pathway, digital 3D imaging technology

4 **Clinical productivity**

e.g. ambient voice dictation, tools to capture activities in operating theatres to improve productivity and feedback for training staff, novel logistics/supply chain solutions such as drones

5 **Self-management**

e.g. COPD, education and therapy support, MSK including chronic pain management, guidance and support for mental health management, digital technologies to treat insomnia

6 **Early cancer diagnosis**

e.g. imaged-based technologies (applications receiving AI Diagnostic Funding will not be eligible), innovative blood tests

The application process
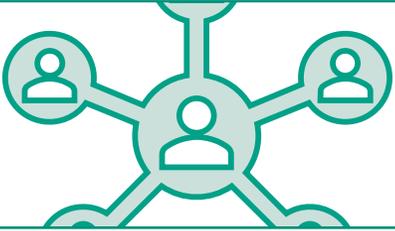
Health Innovation Networks (formerly called Academic Health Science Networks) will be on hand to support ICSs to develop their application.

The application is a short form, asking ICSs to detail the technology (or technologies) they wish to fund, their procurement route, and the anticipated benefits. The form, alongside video and written guidance, has been shared with ICSs and is available on NHS Futures.

Applications need to be approved by ICB Chief Execs, and the forms submitted to the NHSE HTAAF team by midday 27th October

Application process

ICSs have been asked to detail the benefits of their chosen technology in their application:

Provider/system benefits, for example:
- Improved clinical outcomes (improves health outcomes such as accuracy of diagnosis, detection rates, effectiveness/availability of treatment, or ability to manage a condition)
- Improved service provisions (improves a care pathway, reduces the number of procedures undertaken by a service or reduce waiting times)
- Increased financial savings (reduces service delivery costs or staffing costs)
- Increased time savings (reduces the number of missed appointments)
- Improved NHS staff performance (provides training, upskilling or education for staff)

Patient and wider societal benefits, for example:
- Improves quality of life, safety, experience, independence and empowerment in the healthcare process, addresses an unmet patient need
- How will this clinical pathway change impact on carbon emissions in line with published NHS guidance: https://www.england.nhs.uk/greenernhs/publication/applying-net-zero-and-social-value-in-the-procurement-of-nhs-goods-and-services/
- How will this address health inequalities in line with published NHS guidance: https://www.england.nhs.uk/about/equality/equality-hub/patient-equalities-programme/legal-duties/
- How will this care pathway change demonstrate social value in line with published guidance: https://www.england.nhs.uk/greenernhs/publication/applying-net-zero-and-social-value-in-the-procurement-of-nhs-goods-and-services/
- Detail the patient and public participation (PPI) in this care pathway change in line with published PPI Policy: https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/patient-and-public-participation-policy/

To assist ICSs, the application form includes 'Example Template' tabs that shows the type of information we are looking for in this section.

£30m investment in the Health Tech Adoption and Acceleration Fund

3rd October
Health Tech Adoption and Acceleration Fund announced

27th October (noon)
Submission deadline

w/c 20th November
Finance release funds to ICSs

10th October
ICSs will be invited to apply to access the new funding

By 15th November
Confirmation of approval

November-March
Ongoing monitoring of adoption and impact