

#iWill Fund | Pears Foundation - Health & Social Care

Expression of Interest Guidance for NHS Charities

Pears Foundation, in partnership with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and the Big Lottery Fund, are delighted to be managing a dedicated strand of the #iwill Fund to support the growth of inclusive, high-quality, youth social action opportunities in the Health and Social Care sector.

This document aims to set out the key areas of consideration for NHS charities interested in accessing the fund, as well as the information required to submit an expression of interest.

Background Information

The proposed funding model outlined below is based on recent research, pilot evaluations and discussions with the wider sector. We strongly recommend any interested organisation begins by consulting some of this existing evidence, in order to understand both the challenges and opportunities.

[Helping in Hospitals, A Guide to High Impact Volunteering in Hospitals](#)

Nesta, July 2016

[Encouraging Greater Youth Volunteering in Health and Care](#)

Livity, March 2015

[Volunteering and Social Action in Health and Care](#)

Volunteering Matters, 2015

Using the reports above, and having convened partners across the #iwill Campaign and Association of NHS Charities, we have devised a programme of funding to enable young people to access volunteering opportunities through NHS Trusts. We envisage this will primarily be through the seed-funding of Volunteer Management posts within NHS charities, but are happy to discuss other models or approaches if appropriate.

Our ambition is to identify between five and seven NHS charities per annum over the next four years who would be interested in accessing seed-funding of approximately £80,000 per organisation, with the expectation that the work will be embedded and sustained within the charity after the funding period has ended. There are no strict deadlines for when in the year a project should start, or the duration.

Three of the NHS Trusts in Nesta's 'Helping in Hospitals' pilot (see above) have collated some of their learning for organisations specifically interested in working with young volunteers. This is available from [Pears Foundation's website](#), and we would highly recommend this as starting point for anyone wishing to pursue an expression of interest.

At present, owing to the nature of the #iWill Fund, this support is limited to England. However, as a UK-wide funder, Pears Foundation is keen not to limit participation to England, and asks any NHS Trusts from Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland to contact us directly to discuss further.

Registering your Project

Pears Foundation does not accept unsolicited applications, so please ensure that you have made contact with the Foundation directly before drawing up any written proposals. Demand for this funding is already very high, and we will not be able to support all the proposed projects. It is, therefore, very important that you contact us at an early stage so we can help manage demand and expectations.

Initial contact should be made through the [online form](#) available on our website where we will ask for your details, your organisation's details, and a very brief idea of the project you are considering. This will help us track interested organisations, funding demand and proposed timeframes. Please also feel free to contact us directly if you feel that a short discussion would help before progressing (see details below).

Building an Expression of Interest

Once you have registered your interest, we will contact you to give you a sense of current funding levels and demand. If it is appropriate, we will then invite you to submit an expression of interest.

We strongly encourage you to have as many conversations in advance of submission as possible, particularly with internal stakeholders, but also with any external partners who you feel may be instrumental in the success of your project (eg existing volunteer programmes, youth organisations who can help recruit etc). Topics to address in these discussions include, though are certainly not limited to:

- The appetite for introducing, or changing, a culture of volunteering within your NHS Trust: where it currently sits, roles, training, engagement, age-range etc.
- The capacity of your NHS Charity to manage and support volunteers, and specifically young volunteers.
- Whether volunteering opportunities in your NHS Trust would meet Step Up to Serve's [Six Quality Principles](#), and any wider commitment or pledge from your organisation to the #iwill Campaign.
- The ability of your organisation, at this time, to build on seed-funding to a sustainable programme, and how you might progress this.
- What your organisation can contribute to the wider development of youth volunteering in NHS Trusts: What is your particular context? What can your organisation offer? What might you want to replicate from others? What might you want to do differently?

We are very happy to have discussions on any of the topics above, but you may also find it useful to engage with organisations and networks that have experience or learning to share. Please ask if you require any introductions to enable you to do this.

Evaluation and Impact Measurement

Nesta's 'Helping in Hospitals' project gathered evidence on the positive impact young people could have on patient experience and outcomes. The #iWill Fund would like to build on and develop this evidence base, and we will therefore be asking all interested partners to consider their approach to evaluation and impact measurement.

An external Learning Partner will be recruited to facilitate the gathering and sharing of learning amongst partner organisations so it will not be compulsory for organisations to commission their own evaluation. However, a strong commitment to participating in this wider programme evaluation is required, and an interest in internal learning and dissemination is desired.

Information to Include

The precise format or structure of your Expression of Interest is up to you. We find that organisations often have templates that work well for them internally, or that they already produce for other funders or stakeholders, and as long as it contains the information we require we are happy to be flexible. The information we require is:

Contact Information

- Contact details for one primary contact. This should be the individual who will be responsible for managing the project moving forwards.
- The name of the organisation behind the proposal, its registered charity number and website. These will be used to undertake due diligence processes if your proposal is accepted.
- The contact details of any named partners that are critical to project delivery (see 'Building an Expression of Interest' above).

Costs and Budgets

- A concise budget for the project and a breakdown of costs. Please consider the full costs of the project, such as travel, uniform, training, safeguarding.
- The amount requested from the #iWill Fund. Following consultation, we expect grants to be in the region of £80,000, but there is no minimum amount.
- Any match-funding, support or resource vital to the project that will be provided by other funders, existing staff, your own NHS Charity or NHS Trust. Please specify whether this is confirmed.
- A statement on future costs and how your organisation proposes to meet them (see supporting documentation).



Project Timings

- A timetable for the project from the point of securing funding.
- Key milestones and targets you have set for the project and when you hope to achieve them.

Management and Structure

- An explanation of the aims, focus and structure of the project as relevant to your specific context. This is important: we want to understand the context of your organisation, community and setting, and how you propose to tailor your project to that.
- Learning and dissemination opportunities you have identified – either topics or themes you believe your project would be well-suited to address, or avenues and vehicles for dissemination you would like to use.

Supporting Documentation

In addition to the proposal above, we ask that you submit a letter or email from your Board of Trustees (or equivalent) to indicate their awareness and endorsement of the application, and their commitment to the project.

Submission of Proposal and Next Steps

Please feel free to speak to Bridget or Hannah regarding any queries or concerns relating to your proposal. We are more than happy to discuss amendments to the model, or to explore additional developments, if you feel they are necessary and/or desirable. We are also happy to look at drafts in advance of submission if helpful. Completed expressions of interest should be submitted to Rachel Franklin at Rfranklin@pearsfoundation.org.uk and we will be in touch.

Useful Contacts

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Thanks and Acknowledgement

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the following for their generous contributions to our discussions and thinking at this stage.

Chris Burghes, Melina Pelling, Desiree Benson, Royal Free Charity

Ian Lush, Imperial Charity

Amanda Witherall, Association of NHS Charities

Rebecca Gray, Maudsley Charity

Sian Jarvis, Lucy Goodwill and Rania Marandos, Step Up to Serve

Annie Finnis and Jullie Tran-Graham, Nesta

Kath Evans, NHS England

Alex Ankrah and Mandy Mackenzie, Office for Civil Society

We look forward to continuing to work together.