

# Guidelines for Funding Nursing and Midwifery Service Improvement Innovation Initiatives 2024

## Introduction

A key function of the Office of the Nursing and Midwifery Services Director (ONMSD) /Nursing and Midwifery Planning and Development Units (NMPDU)/ Centres of Nursing and Midwifery Education (CNME), is to strategically lead and support nurses and midwives to deliver safe, high quality, person-centred care.

On behalf of the ONMSD, the NMPDUs manage and process a designated budget (pending annual funding allocation) for Nursing and Midwifery Service Improvement Initiatives. The NMPDUs provide support, advice, expertise and a transparent application and awarding process to enable services to engage in innovative activities that bring about service improvement in nursing and midwifery practice. Funding for **Nursing and Midwifery Service Improvement Innovation initiatives** is available from the NMPDUs in 2024.

A completed application form is submitted for each **initiative** to the relevant NMPDUs <https://healthservice.hse.ie/NMPDU/onmsd>. Only fully completed application forms, which meet the criteria outlined below will be considered for funding.

## Funding Principles:

1. Supports innovation that brings about new service improvement in nursing and midwifery practice that contributes to an enhanced service user outcome/experience.
2. Supports enhancement and improvement in nursing /midwifery clinical practice and/or improvement of nursing /midwifery service provision.
3. The initiative supports the Health Service Executive's (HSE) delivery plan, and is linked to the strategic themes of the **HSE Service Plan 2024**.
  - [Sláintecare Implementation Strategy](#)
  - [Report of the Expert Review Body on Nursing and Midwifery 2022](#)
  - [The Research Priorities for Nursing and Midwifery 2023-2028](#)
  - [Sharing the Vision: A Mental Health Policy for Everyone](#)
  - [Shaping the Future of Intellectual Disability Nursing in Ireland](#)
  - [National Maternity Strategy – Creating a Better Future Together 2016 - 2026](#)
  - [A National Strategy for the Future of Children's Nursing in Ireland 2021-2031](#)
  - [National Cancer Strategy 2017 – 2026](#)
  - [Nursing and Midwifery Digital Health Capability Framework](#)
  - [National Clinical and Integrated Care Programmes -Models of Care](#)
4. The initiative /innovation supports the Organisational Reform of the HSE - Health Regions Implementation Plan (July 2023) and/or priorities of the ONMSD.
5. The initiative/innovation supports the profession by the enhancement of nursing and midwifery clinical practice, aligned to the strategic priorities outlined in the ONMSD

Strategic Plan 2023 – 2025 (<https://healthservice.hse.ie/about-us/onmsd/onmsd-blog/onmsd-strategic-plan-2023-2025.html>). The strategic priorities are:

- ✓ Clinical Expertise
  - ✓ Quality and Safety
  - ✓ Service Change and Transformation
  - ✓ Service User Engagement
6. The initiative objectives are Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, Time-framed (SMART).
  7. The initiative contributes to the development of Nursing/Midwifery research and is aligned to the ONMSD Strategic Priorities [The Research Priorities for Nursing and Midwifery 2023-2028](#)
  8. The initiative/innovation contributes to the development of the knowledge, skills and attitudes of the nurses and midwives involved, leading to improved nursing /midwifery practice and/or service improvement, patient /service user experience, care and support.
  9. The [Health Services Change Guide](#) is utilised as a framework to support the change in nursing and midwifery practice, service delivery changes and sustainability of the initiative /innovation.
  10. The initiative/innovation where applicable is designed to support shared learning in practice, between health care professionals in an interdisciplinary, integrated care forum.
  11. Collaborative initiatives/innovations led by nurses and midwives, that enable integrated care and multidisciplinary working will be considered.

### Conditions of funding

1. All expenditure in relation to the proposed initiative /innovation must comply with the [HSE National Financial Regulations](#), which are available on the HSE website, in addition to [Public Procurement Policy](#) and [www.etenders.gov.ie](http://www.etenders.gov.ie).
2. Applicants ***must be in a state of readiness to utilise the funding*** following approval by the Funding body and to fully expend the funding allocation by the end of the financial year in which funding is was approved.
3. The initiative/innovation is delivered as described in the application. Where a service considers changes to the original proposal, written approval must be obtained from the NMPDU funding the initiative/innovation ***prior*** to any commitment being made by a service to make changes. For example, if the proposal cannot be delivered as outlined in the submission and/or it is proposed to use the funding to deliver an altered or an alternative initiative, this needs to be approved by the NMPDU.
  - Where an initiative/innovation has not met its projected targets, the service provides a full rationale in the end of year report and funding is returned to the NMPDU as appropriate.
  - Where an initiative/innovation cannot commence in the timeframe proposed the service informs the NMPDU. The service may have the option to submit a new application in the next financial year, as appropriate.

4. Quotations/ invoices/ receipts in relation to all expenditure on approved initiatives /innovations are retained on file by the service. These are produced to the NMPDU on request, for audit purposes.
5. An end of year/progress report must be provided to the NMPDU by early to mid-December of the funding year to facilitate NMPDU end of year financial process.
6. If it is the intention of the service to extend the initiative into the next financial year, the end of year/progress report provided to the NMPDU outlines arrangements at local service level for the accrual of funds, as applicable.
7. There must be an acknowledgement of the financial support provided by the NMPDU in all documentation/presentations related to the initiative/innovation.
8. Limited funding may be available for services hosting conferences. Where the submission for a conference meets criteria and funding is supported by the NMPDU, all nurses and midwives attending, employed in HSE and HSE funded (Section 38) services, are entitled to attend free of charge.
9. Funded initiatives/innovations and outcomes are to be shared with other regions/services or on a national basis. For example, initiatives/innovations that inform regional/national research agenda, national Nursing/Midwifery practice enhancement, policy development, etc. The NMPDU can provide advice and support to services on sharing their initiatives/innovations.
10. Funded initiative/innovations may be made available on the ONMSD/NMPDU websites

### **Out of Criteria**

Innovation funding is not available for the following (this is not an exhaustive list):

1. Normal service delivery including equipment
2. Service specific Mandatory Training
3. Annual/multi-year re-accreditation of recurring licence /programmes/registration costs for nurses/midwives
4. Substantive Whole Time Equivalent (WTE) posts
5. Minor capital works
6. On-going, in-service programmes
7. Locum cover/replacement of staff to attend conferences and programmes
8. Repeat printing of booklets, leaflets, etc.
9. Administrative support (except to support research processes)
10. Expenses for travel, accommodation and subsistence.