

Guidelines for Funding Nursing and Midwifery Service Improvement Innovation Initiatives 2021

Introduction

A key function of the ONMSD / NMPDU / CNME is to support the professional development of nursing and midwifery practice. Funding for **Nursing and Midwifery Service Improvement Innovation initiatives** may be available from the Nursing and Midwifery Planning and Development Units (NMPDU) in 2021. A completed application form for each initiative should be submitted to the NMPDU. Only fully completed application forms which meet the criteria outlined below will be considered for funding.

Funding Principles:

1. The initiative supports an innovation that brings about new service improvement in nursing and midwifery practice
2. The initiative supports the Health Service Executive's (HSE) delivery plan, and linked to the strategic themes of the HSE Service Plan 2021 [Read the National Service Plan in full](#)
 - ✓ Sláintecare
 - ✓ Covid 19 Action Plan
 - ✓ Clinical Quality & Patient Safety
 - ✓ Improve population Health & Wellbeing:
 - ✓ Workforce: leadership, culture, staff engagement, capacity building
3. The initiative supports Regional/Organisational Service Plan and/or priorities of the Office of the Nursing and Midwifery Services Director (ONMSD).
4. The initiative supports the ONMSD strategy 2019 – 2021
 - ✓ Clinical Expertise
 - ✓ Patient Experience and
 - ✓ Improvement and Assurance
5. The initiative supports the health reform agenda
6. The initiative can demonstrate anticipated measurable outcomes/impacts through evaluation as a result of the service improvement
7. The initiative objectives are Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, Time-framed (SMART)
8. The initiative contributes to the development of the knowledge, skills and attitudes of the nurses and midwives involved, leading to improved/better patient care
9. The initiative contributes to the development of nursing/midwifery research
10. The sustainability of the initiative / change in practice is considered.
11. The initiative is designed to support shared learning in practice
12. Collaborative initiatives that will enable integrated care and multidisciplinary working will be considered

Conditions of funding

1. All expenditure in relation to these initiatives must comply with the HSE National Financial Regulations which are available on the HSE website and also with public procurement policy www.procurement.ie and www.etenders.gov.ie
2. Applicants must be in a state of readiness to utilise the funding following approval and to fully expend the funding allocation by end of financial year.
3. Funded initiatives be shared with other regions/services on a national basis as appropriate
4. Funded initiative details may be made available on the ONMSD/NMPDU websites
5. The initiative is delivered as described in the application. If it is proposed to vary the initiative in any way, i.e. if it cannot be delivered as outlined in the submission and it is proposed to use the funding to deliver an altered or an alternative initiative, written approval must be obtained from this office **prior** to any commitment being made. Where an initiative has not met its projected targets a full rationale is provided and funding returned as appropriate.
6. An end of year report will be provided to the NMPDU if the initiative extends into the next financial year and arrangement at local level for accrual of funds.
7. A final evaluation report must be provided.
8. There must be acknowledgement of the financial support provided by the NMPDU in all documentation/presentations related to the initiative.
9. Quotations/ invoices/ receipts in relation to all expenditure on approved initiatives must be retained on file by the service and produced to the NMPDU on request for audit purposes.
10. If the NMPDU fund the delivery of a Conference, all nurses and midwives employed in HSE will be entitled to attend free of charge.

Out of Criteria

Innovation funding is not available for;

1. Normal service delivery
2. Minor capital works
3. On-going in-service programmes
4. Locum cover/replacement of staff to attend conferences and programmes
5. Photocopying or other equipment
6. Administrative support (except to support research processes)
7. Travel expenses