



**National Institute for
Health Research**

BEST RESEARCH FOR BEST HEALTH

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN 6.2b (established)

NIHR RESEARCH FOR INNOVATION, SPECULATION AND CREATIVITY (RISC) PROGRAMME

*Best Research for Best Health*¹ set out a 5-year Research and Development Strategy for the NHS in England. This Implementation Plan provides more details on a key component of that strategy: NIHR RESEARCH FOR INNOVATION, SPECULATION AND CREATIVITY (RISC) PROGRAMME.

The NIHR RISC Programme has been fully implemented.

*Version: 11 (final)
Issue date: July 2009*

Aim

The aim of the National Institute for Health Research, Research for Innovation, Speculation and Creativity (NIHR RISC) programme is to support potentially paradigm-changing projects in the arena of Health Services and Public Health research.

Purpose

- The NIHR RISC programme funds new and radical ideas for health research, with potential for high impact. RISC awards are intended particularly for speculative, novel proposals that are unlikely to fair well in traditional peer review processes.
- The programme provides a response-mode funding stream for applications that would be too speculative for other NIHR project funding programmes such as the Research for Patient Benefit Programme, see Implementation Plan 6.2a.
- A fixed grant is awarded to successful applicants and it is envisaged that follow-on funding could occur through the RfPB programme or other NIHR programmes.

¹ Best Research for Best Health: A New National Health Research Strategy. The NHS contribution to health research in England. Department of Health. 2006.

Funding

- There will be up to 50 awards each year at a maximum cost of £200,000 each.
- Awards will be for 12-18 months' duration.

Process

- The NIHR Central Commissioning Facility (CCF) administers the programme.
- Applicants are asked to set out a clearly stated hypothesis and approach demonstrating the potential impact of the project and an understanding of the risks inherent in the proposed project; and showing that the work has not been undertaken elsewhere.
- As a condition of funding, all awardees will be required to submit an 'end-of-grant' report that will be collated into a publicly available report. One of the main benefits of the RISC awards will be the negative results – that is those potentially paradigm-changing ideas that proved to be unsuccessful.

Selection Criteria

- Applications will be judged on the quality of the research proposed, the significance and potential benefit of that research to the NHS.
- Detailed selection criteria are available from the NIHR CCF website.

Eligibility

- Applications must come from an NHS organisation.
- All NHS organisations in England, including those in primary care, are eligible to apply.
- Applications from NHS organisations with academic partners as co-applicants are particularly welcome, together with service user involvement.
- In all cases, funding will be awarded to an NHS organisation.

Further information

Further information about the NIHR RISC programme is available at www.nihr-ccf.org.uk/site/programmes/risc/default.cfm

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