

Guidelines for Applicants

Introduction

The Burdett Trust for Nursing is an independent charitable trust that makes grants to support nurse-led¹ projects focused on supporting the nursing contribution to healthcare. The Trust aims to use its funds to empower nurses and through this to make significant improvements to the patient care environment.

Nurse-led improvement projects in digital health

The COVID-19 pandemic has forced a renewed focus on digital health - defined as the process of using information technology, digital hardware and devices, software and the Cloud, and the collection of data to measure clinician interventions. Digital health can transform the way we deliver patient care: making it safer, leading to better patient outcomes and improving efficiency in the way health services are planned and delivered.

The NHS has struggled to implement many digital health solutions due to cost, organisational obstacles and lack of buy-in from hard-pressed staff. In 2016 Professor Robert Wachter carried out a review of IT in the NHS at the request of the then Health Secretary, concluding that the NHS did not have enough staff with digital health skills to support a successful whole-system move to digitalisation of records and processes. In response the NHS Digital Academy was established to train a number of NHS staff to become change agents in their organisations. To date, nurses have been underrepresented in the three cohorts that have received training, with managers greatly outnumbering clinical staff. The good news is that system leaders, such as Health Education England, are now acknowledging that digital health will only succeed when there are health and care staff with the skills to implement it and who are supported at every stage. Three areas identified by nurse leaders as requiring support in implementing digital health solutions are: communication and culture; governance and project management; and leadership.

Burdett Trust believes that through the COVID-19 pandemic nurses have emerged as true change agents in the digital space as they innovated at scale to care for patients. In response to the pandemic nurses have fast-tracked many nascent digital health initiatives such as remote monitoring of patients and virtual clinics. However, it is clear that many nurses leading digital health initiatives would benefit from wraparound support to help them make their digital projects successful and sustainable. This Burdett Trust grant programme will give nurses the opportunity to use the insight they have gained from working on the frontline to model new ways of working that can lead to transformational change in the way patient care is delivered.

¹ Where the term nurse is used in this document it includes midwives, health visitors and allied health professionals

Grant programme application process

Burdett Trust is keen to ensure that its investment in the nursing contribution to Digital Health will lead to sustainable change. With this in mind the Trust has developed a two-stage approach. Firstly, applications will be invited within three specific areas of digital health; and secondly all grant holders will join the 'Change Agents Framework' provided by Burdett Trust, to support them through their project, as well as teach them project management and leadership skills that will enhance their nursing practice.

STAGE ONE: Grant applications must fit within one of the following three cohorts:

Cohort One - Data, data analytics, digital nurse standards, and patient safety

- Collecting and using evidence to make the case for digital in their trusts and/or organisations: specifically focused on data as evidence of the need for change, setting metrics for cost-savings and/or patient safety interventions.
- Introduction of new metrics and international standards as a measure of success in the digital space.
- Standardising nursing terminology across patient records in support of interoperability.

Cohort Two - Leadership in digital health, digital from ward to board, expanding the role of digital nurse leaders

- Developing Trust-level digital leadership.
- Developing digital teams: including additional job descriptions for Agenda for Change bands.
- Working with professional organisations and membership groups to introduce digital leadership development and accreditation.
- Working in partnership with external organisations.

Cohort three - Patient-centred digital health improvement projects

- Using digital health to reach excluded groups – homeless people, people with learning disabilities, frail and elderly.
- Projects to improve digital literacy in patients so they can access online/remote care.
- Digital to support management of complex long-term conditions, cancer and dementia.
- Projects to support caregivers who are managing multi-agency support for a patient they look after.

STAGE TWO: Change Agents Framework

Burdett Trust defines ‘Change Agents’ as those who actively develop the skills, confidence, power, relationships and courage to make a positive difference. The Digital Health grants programme will give grant holders the tools to manage their project successfully and skills in transformational leadership to take forward in their career. Burdett’s Change Agents Framework will be hosted on an online educational learning platform to offer grant holders six touchpoints as shown in the following table:

| Timeframe | Change Agents |
|--|---|
| Pre-application webinar dates: 16 or 18 March 2021 | Grant applicants <i>must</i> register online for one of two <i>Change Agents Framework webinars</i> which will explain the three cohorts and how successful grant holders will be supported. Only attendees can progress to submit a grant application. |
| Month 1 | Grant holders are enrolled onto the educational learning platform within the three cohorts |
| Month 2 | Communication Skills workshop |
| Month 4 | Project Control Skills workshop |
| Month 6 | Creativity Skills workshop |
| Month 10 | Workshop on writing up results and presenting Evidence |
| Month 12 | End of programme - celebration and sharing of best practice |

Eligibility

Eligibility will be explained in detail at the Change Agents Framework webinars. All Burdett Trust grant programmes focus on projects that are nurse-led and demonstrate an innovative approach. The Trust’s grant programmes are not designed to support projects developed and undertaken by individuals and the Trust cannot award grants to private sector organisations.

Applicant organisations must be:

- properly constituted bodies in the public or voluntary/charity sectors; or
- a university or other charitable educational body that provides health-related education, training or research and development.

Funding & Awards

Grants awarded within this programme are likely to be in the region of £25,000 to £50,000. Larger sums may be available for exceptional projects.

Terms and Conditions

- Projects must fit within the programme timetable and be completed within a twelve-month period.
- Grant payments will be staged and may be withheld if projects do not progress as approved.
- A final report will be required from all projects.
- The Trust will not fund projects that are part of established improvement programmes or projects which are already funded by other bodies.
- The Trust will not fund projects concerned with the statutory elements of staff transfer or the mandatory retraining or orientation of staff to new organisations.
- Applicants are advised that project proposals will be evaluated on a competitive basis to ensure that funds are used to support projects that best meet the Trust's objectives.

What will Trustees look for in applications?

Trustees anticipate a large number of project proposals. The Trustees aim to fund projects that:

- are innovative, offering new ways to strengthen and improve nursing leadership and multi-agency collaboration
- provide evidence of direct user and patient involvement and the co-production of self-care solutions
- will generate learning or new practices that can be shared with others and which have the potential to be disseminated and adopted more widely
- will promote collaborative working among health and social care professionals, and partnerships within and across organisations
- have the support and backing of key stakeholders
- have sound arrangements for project management and monitoring, and robust plans for evaluation
- are succinct, well-argued and demonstrate clearly why the project is needed and what benefits it will deliver.

Application Process and Deadlines

Applicants **must register for and attend** one of two *Change Agents Framework webinars* which will take place from 15:30 – 17:00 on 16 and 18 March 2021. Applicants should follow the link on the Burdett Trust’s website to register.

The deadline for registration is **5pm Friday 5 March 2021**

After the webinar, applicants will be sent details about how to submit their grant application.

Data Protection Act

To comply with this Act, we require your consent to use personal data supplied by you in the processing and review of your grant application. This includes transfer to and use by such individuals and organisations as the Trust deems appropriate. The Trust requires your further assurance that personal data about any other individual is supplied to the Trust with his/her consent. Submitting an outline proposal to the Trust confirms this consent and assurance.

Please note: the Trustees’ decisions are final and no correspondence will be entered into in relation to them.