

Clinical Innovation Award – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

How often can I apply?

- A person can submit multiple ideas/projects as long as the ideas/projects are different

What type of ideas/projects should I submit?

- The competition is looking for ideas or solutions that will address a significant need in healthcare

What is a significant need in healthcare?

- A significant need is a problem or challenge affecting many people and/or costs the healthcare system a significant amount of time, resources, and funding to address. See the how to guide on the webpage to determine the size of a problem or challenge

Is this a competition looking for technology solutions?

- Yes. The development of innovative technologies or solutions are the goal of this programme

What is innovation?

- Innovation has many definitions. For this programme, innovation is the development of a new technology, or the use of an existing technology in a different sector, to address a need in healthcare

What stage of development should my idea/project be at?

- The competition is open to ideas/projects at all stages of development from concept, early-stage research, prototype, to more advanced projects. All technology readiness levels (TRL) are welcome ([TRL guide](#))

How will the prize funding be used?

- The prize funding of €15,000 will be used to hire a third-party consultant to do a thorough market analysis to determine if a viable market exists to support the development of your solution. A strong market report is a stepping-stone to developing a solution further. It should provide information on the market gaps, stakeholders, payers, competitors, existing and emerging solutions, and other key areas necessary to understand the development pathway. The award can also fund a small demonstration model or early prototype, up to the maximum value of €5,000

Who can apply?

- This competition is open to those working in the healthcare system (HSE) in Ireland or for those working with someone in the healthcare system in Ireland

Is this open to people working in Voluntary Organisations (Section 38) and GPs?

- Yes to both. However, GPs must be practicing in Ireland

How to apply?

- Download the application ([on the website](#)) and see the info sheet ([on the website](#)). Link in with an academic institution (University, Technical University, Institute of Technology (IoT), etc.) for support. Applications require sign off from an academic institution's Technology Transfer Office. HIHI can assist with introductions. See list [here](#)

What is a Technology Transfer Office?

- Ireland's Universities, Institutes of Technology (IoT) and research organisations have a professional technology transfer infrastructure in place to work with researchers, innovators, entrepreneurs, and companies to support new enterprises. The [Technology Transfer Offices \(TTOs\)](#) help innovators to:
 - Access new knowledge and expertise to drive [innovation through research collaboration](#), contracted services and consultancy
 - Identify and license new technologies and [intellectual property \(IP\)](#) relevant to their business.
 - Make use of state-of-the-art facilities and equipment

Can I apply as part of a team?

- Yes. As long as the lead applicant is employed by the HSE, a Voluntary Organisation (Section 38), or a GP practicing in Ireland

Who owns the idea/intellectual property?

- Please contact HIHI for further information. Generally, this is dealt with on a case by case basis

What is in it for me?

- The winners will receive €15,000 from Enterprise Ireland to develop the project further (terms and conditions apply)
- The winners may have the opportunity to engage with the NHS Clinical Entrepreneurship Programme (CEP). Fess and some travel costs may be provided as part of the prize package (more on CEP below)
- The winners will be announced at Enterprise Ireland’s Big Idea Event in November. Big Ideas is an annual showcase event that highlights successful collaborations between higher education institutes, investors and state support. An Enterprise Ireland led event that empowers the front-runners in Irish research, to take centre stage and pitch their technology solutions and business propositions to an audience comprising the Irish research and investment communities. Big Ideas provides investor ready start-ups with a bespoke pathway to success, support with growing their business and creating jobs in Ireland
- All participants will learn the innovation process of developing an idea from concept through to an evidence based value proposition for all stakeholders including clinical teams, patients, management, etc. These learnings are relevant and applicable to all projects, services, and process/quality improvements. Participation would be a welcomed addition to any CV or career development plan.

What is the NHS Clinical Entrepreneurship Programme?

- Launched in 2016 the NHS’s [Clinical Entrepreneurship Programme](#) is a one-year part-time course for clinical personnel on entrepreneurship and setting up a business, delivered by [Anglia Ruskin University \(ARU\)](#). They have a strong network of clinical, industry, and alumni partners to support the programme participants. They have had 881 participants since 2016, 423 companies formed, £868 million funding leveraged, 2,850 jobs created, and some other good numbers. Some of the previous participants and their projects are showcased on the webpage for the Clinical Innovation Award
- The programme is delivered in a series of two-day meetings called “Pit Stops”, usually a Friday and Saturday, once a month. The “Pit Stops” are educational and networking events, connecting participants with peers, mentors, key opinion leaders, investors, and other experts. Participants have the option to attend in person or virtually.