

**Health and Medical Research Fund**  
**2025 Open Call for Investigator-initiated Projects**  
**Closing date: 31 March 2026 (6:00 pm Hong Kong time)**

The Health Bureau is calling for funding applications to the 2025 Open Call for Investigator-initiated Projects under the Health and Medical Research Fund (HMRF) today.

The HMRF emphasises the importance of translational potential of research findings, and therefore only supports the following types of research projects:

- Clinical research (including patient-oriented research, epidemiological and behavioural studies, outcomes research and health services research);
- Infectious diseases research with public health implications from bench to bedside and at community level, and with translational value; and
- Clinical research based on Chinese medicine theory or clinical research on Chinese medicine theory and methodology.

Applications for research and health promotion projects addressing the [thematic priorities](#) under the following themes will be given a higher priority for funding –

- (a) Infectious Diseases;
- (b) Non-communicable Diseases excluding Cancers;
- (c) Cancers
- (d) Primary Healthcare and Preventive Care;
- (e) Digital Health and Advanced Technology; and
- (f) Clinical Trials and Implementation Science.

Applications must be submitted **via the electronic Grant Management System (eGMS)** (<https://rfs.healthbureau.gov.hk/eGMS/>) by completing the electronic application form on or before the above closing deadline.

Briefing sessions on grant applications, to be held on 19 and 22 January 2026, are now open for [registration](#).

Your attention is drawn to the following matters –

1. The principal applicant (PA) shall be employed by an administering institution (AI) which is based in Hong Kong at the time of application and throughout the project period.
2. Each PA is allowed to submit one application only (either a new or a resubmission of an application). Only application rated **“2” or above in the 2024 HMRF Open Call** can be submitted under the category of **“Resubmission”**.
3. Applicants will normally be informed, within six months from the above closing deadline, of the results of their applications by email to applicants’ email addresses entered in the electronic Application Form (e-Form) via the eGMS.
4. Application with single applicant is not allowed. PA is required to indicate a Co-Applicant (Co-A) to take up the PA role in the application as a contingency measure in case the PA cannot continue the project after its commencement and the administering institution cannot

identify a replacement PA who is no less qualified in terms of relevant experience and qualifications than the existing PA. The consent from the nominated Co-A must be obtained. Additionally, the PA must declare whether he/she is being debarred from submission of applications to the HMRF or any other funding schemes (local or non-local) as at the closing deadline. If so, the PA is ineligible to apply.

5. The normal grant ceiling is **\$1.5 million per project** with a grant duration not exceeding **three years**. The threshold of seed grant is **\$500,000 per project** which supports larger-scale pilot study such as study evaluating trialability and scalability for future implementation or small-scale research with achievable objectives.
6. Applicants are strongly recommended to consult the field experts to improve the feasibility of proposals, in particular clinical studies and those involving human subjects.
7. Applications which do not use the standard proposal template (**Section 10 of e-Form**) and include the required information listed in the proposal template will be treated as incomplete. These applications will not be processed and may result in administrative withdrawal.
8. PA shall declare whether there is any similar/related research work done before the proposed commencement date of project stated in the e-Form when he/she receives the decision email that his/her application is recommended for support. Any changes in the proposal will be sent to Grant Review Board (GRB) speaker and GRB Executive for endorsement. Any non-disclosure of similar/related research work done before the proposed commencement date stated in the e-Form will be subject to penalty.
9. Scientific misconduct and non-compliance with HMRF's requirements, if substantiated, will lead to serious consequences including but not limited to disqualification in the concerned funding exercise, debarment in all capacities in all funding schemes administered by the Research and Data Analytics Office, recovery of grants and downgrade of rating for new funding applications. The Government may, without reference to the PA or the AI disclose to any Government's Bureau/Department which administers funds to support health and medical related research as it thinks fit, the penalty imposed on PA due to PA's scientific misconduct and/or non-compliance with HMRF's requirements according to the *Management of Track Records of Applicant* which is available on [the website](#) of the Research Fund Secretariat (RFS).

Please refer to the [Guidance Notes on Grant Application](#) or visit the [RFS's website](#) for more details.

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