

FTCI Improvement Fund: Frequently Asked Questions



MAYOR OF LONDON



Fast-Track Cities Improvement Fund

Summary

This document provides information about the Fast-Track Cities Improvement Fund.

It summarises proposals for the bidding process, the areas we are inviting bids for and the criteria which we propose using for assessment.

What is the Fast-Track Cities London Leadership Group?

The Fast Track Cities London Leadership Group brings together non-statutory organisations, London Councils, Public Health England, Greater London Authority, Healthy London Partnership and NHS England (London), along with representatives from HIV NGOs and HIV community representatives.

The group has worked in partnership with the HIV community to develop the London Fast-Track Cities roadmap designed to show how we work together as a city to get to zero new HIV infections, zero deaths and zero stigma before 2030. The overarching aim is to improve the health, wellbeing and lives of people living with HIV in London.

Public Health data indicates that in London as many as 95% of people with HIV have been diagnosed, 98% of these are receiving treatment and 97% have undetectable viral loads.

However, London's ambition is to go much further. We want to become the first global city to meet the United Nation's AIDS target of 'Getting to Zero'.

The next step will be reaching the final 5% who are undiagnosed, ending all HIV transmissions, ending HIV stigma, ending preventable deaths from HIV-related causes, and improving the health, quality of life and well-being of people living with HIV in the capital.



What is included in the London Fast-Track Cities roadmap?

The roadmap shows the steps the partners must take on the journey to zero for London, which will include system leadership, advocacy, collaborative delivery and communications and engagement.

The roadmap was developed through engagement with the HIV community and an asset and gap analysis of HIV projects and services in London.

What is the Fast-Track Cities Improvement Fund?

£3m has been identified over the next three years (£1m per year) to fund improvement projects which focus on achieving some of the specific aims of the London Fast-Track Cities Roadmap.

The Leadership Group is therefore inviting improvement project bids from across the system which will help us achieve the aims of the roadmap.

Who can bid?

The role of the improvement fund is to compliment the work already taking place by the voluntary and statutory sector and make the best use of the knowledge and experience of providers already delivering services.

The fund is open to all organisations, or combinations of organisations, which deliver HIV services in London. However, the lead bidder must be a voluntary sector organisation.

Bids are encouraged from multiple organisations, including statutory organisations, where there is evidence that partnership working will deliver high impact and high value outcomes which contribute to achieving the specific aims of the London Fast-Track Cities Roadmap.

Bids must also be for work which is not already funded or is the specific responsibility of



statutory organisations.

What should the improvement project bids focus on?

Bids for funding will need to demonstrate that they contribute to the overall aims of Fast-Track Cities. This means that they must support efforts to reach those living with HIV, who are undiagnosed and to maintain high treatment and care standards.

In particular we are looking for bids which focus on:

- Early diagnosis and testing - Reducing new, late and undiagnosed HIV infections
- Supporting long term virological suppression and re-engaging those lost to care
- Improving integration and personalisation of services – helping people with HIV to live well and experience seamless care and pathways between primary, secondary and community care
- Reaching underserved populations - The cohorts of Londoners where current significant health inequalities exist

The assessment panel will be looking to finish with a balance of these priorities through the programme.

How long can the bids be for?

Bids may be made for between one and three years, although we will review all projects on at least a yearly basis. We may look to alter projects to better fit the overall aims as we progress.

How much can I bid for?

We are not proposing a specific limit for bids although clearly if you put in a single bid for the entire £1m per year it is unlikely to be successful. We will be looking to split the £1m fund equally against our three main target areas:



- 1) Early diagnoses and testing
- 2) Supporting long term virological suppression and re-engagement in care
- 3) Living well with HIV

Reaching underserved populations will be key in any bid across the three areas.

This leaves approximate envelopes of £333k for each area per year although the awarding panel will be flexible on this total depending on the dialogue process.

We will consider multi-level bids or bids that could be scaled up or down from the initial bid offer from providers. Where for example one bidder may say that for £50k they could do x and for £80k they could do x plus y. We believe this will be helpful in ensuring we spend the full £1m per year.

What happens if we are successful?

Critically, these bids are not grants, we will be awarding organisations allocations with a clear expectation that each project signs up to be part of a collection of projects constituting a Quality Improvement Community. This community will be working together to measure and alter the impact of projects for the benefit of the HIV community as a whole. We will be asking all bidders to commit to being part of the Quality Improvement (QI) Programme including attending QI sessions throughout the period.

What Quality Improvement support will I receive?

All improvement projects will receive Quality Improvement training and support. There is no need for the bids to have any prior knowledge of QI approaches or methodologies, as full training will be provided.

QI is an approach which increases our knowledge of 'what works' through data and experimentation. It ensures that improvement projects engage with and listen to staff and patients.



How will be bids be procured?

The bids will be commissioned under the ‘competitive dialogue’ procurement process which will be administered by North East London CSU’s procurement department, working on behalf of Healthy London Partnership. This allows for flexibility to look at ways to make changes to projects after the bidding process has been completed and as they progress.

Projects will be shortlisted based on the criteria in the bid documentation combined with the bid price. The questions in the application form will be scored, and a final mark will be given based on the weighting of each question as reflected on the application form.

Scoring will be as follows:

Score	Assessment Level	Descriptor
0	Non-compliant	No response or partial response and poor evidence provided in support of it. Does not give the Panel confidence in the quality of the bid.
1	Weak	Response is supported by a weak standard of evidence in several areas giving rise to concern about the quality of the bid.
2	Minor reservations	Response is supported by a satisfactory standard of evidence in most areas but a few areas lacking detail and/or evidence giving rise to some concerns about the quality of the bid.
3	Good – a compliant response	Response is comprehensive and supported by good standard of evidence. Gives the panel confidence in the quality of the bid.



4	Very good	Response is comprehensive and supported by a high standard of evidence. Gives the Panel a high level of confidence in the quality of the bid. Exceeds the Panel’s requirements in some respects.
5	Excellent	Response is very comprehensive and supported by a very high standard of evidence. Gives the Panel a very high level of confidence in the quality of the bid. Exceeds the Panel’s requirements in most respects.

Shortlisted bids will be invited to participate in the dialogue phase of the process where the panel will engage with applicants on the details of their bids and enter into dialogue on the values of funding applied for in an attempt to achieve the optimum mix of bids across the areas identified and in order to make best use of the available funding. During this stage, bids may be modified following any such dialogue to account for proposed changes in funding levels. Progression to this stage of evaluation does not guarantee applicants that they will receive all, some or any of the funding requested in their bid.

Project changes might include expanding the scope to cover a greater geographical area, including additional partner organisations, or amending approaches as the project learns from experimentation.

The reason for running this process is twofold. Firstly, it is to ensure that we can allocate the full amount of money £1m per year to the programme. Secondly, it is to ensure that we have the right combination of projects to achieve our aims and allow the assessment panel to make informed judgments and influence how this will all work together as a single programme.

It is proposed that bids are approved in December before being worked up to go live as soon as possible in the New Year.



Who will assess the bids?

Bids will be assessed by a panel representing the Improvement Fund Sub Group of the Fast-Track Cities London Leadership Group. We will aim to ensure the panel consists of members who are neutral and without any conflict of interest. We will include representation from the voluntary sector and clinicians, as well as patients whom do not have a specific conflict of interest in this process. The Fast-Track Cities London team are working to finalise this panel together.

How do I bid for funds?

We will open the bidding process in the next couple of weeks and update the London Fast-Track Cities website, which you can access via <https://www.healthylondon.org/our-work/fast-track-cities-initiative/fast-track-cities-london-improvement-fund/>.

