

# Health Hub - Founded by Spar Nord Fonden

Guidelines for Grant Application (2023-2024)

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## 1. About Health Hub Grants

### 1.1 What is Health Hub?

'Health Hub - Founded by Spar Nord Fonden' is a platform for developing new innovative solutions connected to the clinical needs of the North Denmark Region, with the aim of alleviating some of the challenges facing the current and future healthcare system. The development takes place in conjunction with Innovationsklinikken (Innovation Clinic). In addition, we want to strengthen the innovation network within North Jutland by helping to connect the most important players.

We do this by:

- Matching clinicians/researchers with external partners to help solve validated clinical needs together
- Granting early-stage financing in the form of a grant
- Providing access to Innovationsklinikken's specialist competencies and facilities

### 1.2 Which types of projects are supported by the grant?

The project must fulfil the following requirements:

- Aims to solve a clinically validated unmet need through innovation
- Shows potential for scalable impact within the healthcare sector
- Includes at least one department within the North Denmark Region (co-creation)

### 1.3 What types of clinical impact do you consider relevant to address?

There are many ways to define impact in the medical field. Types of impact may include (but not limited to):

- Reducing physical and/or emotional burden (e.g. saving or prolonging lives, increasing quality of life of patients and/or caregivers)
- Reducing economic burden (e.g. saving money for the hospital, patient, and/or society)
- Operational enhancements (e.g. improved patient/staff flow through the hospital, better decision support, reduce hospital visits, earlier diagnosis, personalized treatment etc)
- Reducing environmental burden or increasing sustainability (e.g. recyclable or reusable solutions)

### 1.4 Who can apply?

Two main target groups can apply for funding:

- Any employee within the North Denmark Region who has identified an unmet clinical need which they wish to solve, or
- Any person, group or business/company who wish to **co-create\*** a solution for an unmet clinical need with the North Denmark Region.

**\*Co-creation** means that the applicant has a collaborator employed by the region who actively contributes to the development of the new solution to the clinical problem. Ownership of any Intellectual Property (IP) created during the project will be shared between the partners. Health Hub does NOT cover clinical testing of products/solutions that have already been developed.

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### 1.5 What if I have an idea and wish to co-create a solution, but have no connection to the North Denmark Region?

Since Health Hub is focused on co-creation activities, you must secure a partner within the North Denmark Region BEFORE applying for a grant. Through our extensive network, Innovationsklinikken can reach out to clinicians and hospital staff on your behalf, in an attempt to find the right partner for the project. If you need help finding a partner, contact [health.hub@rn.dk](mailto:health.hub@rn.dk).

### 1.6 How much money can I apply for?

We generally fund projects between approx. 30.000-100.000 DKK, and it is preferable to seek smaller amounts at a time. If you succeed in reaching your milestones, you may apply for further Health Hub funds. If your financing needs fall outside of the scope of this funding, please contact us to discuss before applying. The grant must be utilized within the specified project period.

### 1.7 What can the funding be used for?

The grant money can be used to help to advance the idea to a further stage and eliminate risks, e.g.:

- Buying out clinician time to increase their availability to work on a project
- Hiring other employees, such as student worker(s) or research assistant(s) through RN
- Proof-of-concept funding and/or prototype development

The money can generally NOT be used for:

- Conferences, travel, publications or other dissemination activities
- Students not employed through the North Denmark Region
- Costs other than direct material costs for any co-creation partners that are not regional employees

### 1.8 When are the deadlines for application?

Applications are processed approximately 4 times per year, with a hard deadline 2 weeks before each assessment round. When creating your project timeline, you should plan to start the project 2-3 months after the application date. This will give us time to provide feedback and make the final decision. You are welcome to contact us if you would like to know the specific dates of the next committee meetings. For more information, see section 2.3 'How is the project assessed?'

### 1.9 How long can a project run?

There is no set timeline for how long a project can run, although typically they are no longer than a year. We suggest that longer projects be split into shorter milestones and apply multiple times. Health Hub is currently funded through the end of 2024.

For projects with a timeline of more than 1 year, Health Hub - Founded by Spar Nord Fonden must annually receive a short, written status of the project, including a statement of the project plan, as well as financial accounting with relevant appendices that explain and document the use of the grant.

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### 1.10 What additional support will I receive if my project is granted funding?

Projects accepted into Health Hub - Founded by Spar Nord Fonden will additionally benefit from:

- Access to specialist competencies within Innovationsklinikken (e.g. project management, market analysis, business development, legal services, patent and regulatory advice, industrial design).
- Office space near Aalborg University Hospital South (if required).

### 1.11 Who is part of the project team? (partners vs. external contractors)

Partners in your project team are defined as any actors who may hold partial ownership over the outcome of the project and are part of the collaboration agreement.

External contractors are any actors who are paid for a service (e.g. paid to design or create a prototype, software, model) but who do not hold any ownership over the final outcome of the project. External contractors are not part of the project team.

### 1.12 Can I apply more than once?

You are welcome to apply more than once in several instances:

- You can apply for a new project not related to the first application.
- You can apply for the continuation of an existing Health Hub project. The new application must be for a 'next step' in the project not related to the original application, for instance, a new milestone in the project.
- In some cases, if a project is denied, you will be eligible to apply again. The terms of re-application will be stated in the correspondence received at the time of rejection.

## 2. Application Process and Assessment

### 2.1 How do I apply?

You can apply using our concise application form, found [HERE](#). Finalized applications, along with any attachments are sent to [health.hub@rn.dk](mailto:health.hub@rn.dk)

### 2.2 What is included in the application?

The application includes the following sections: basic project and team information, background of the need, innovative solution and value proposition, impact, commercial potential, project status and plans, and budget. You can include an image/schematic in an attachment, if necessary.

### 2.3 How is the project assessed?

The application is reviewed individually by 3-5 Committee members. You may then be contacted for a short interview to provide clarification of some aspects of your application. After individual review and clarification, the Committee will meet to discuss your case and make a final assessment, in which the project will be approved or denied the grant. Occasionally a project will be 'tentatively approved' on the basis of receiving further information or making small changes to the application. The project may also be 'partially approved' with a smaller budget than was originally requested.

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### 2.4 What happens if my project is approved?

Congratulations! You will receive a formal correspondence with an acceptance letter or 'Bevillingskrivelse' highlighting the amount of money and conditions of the grant. The main applicant along with the leader of their department will sign and return this document. You may then begin your project based on the proposed timeline.

If your project includes partners outside of the public sector, and funds are being paid directly to the partner, an acceptance letter will be sent directly to the partner. In some cases, the letter will be split to reflect the portion paid to the public sector and the portion paid to the private partner. A 'de minimis declaration' will also be required of the private partner (see below).

### 2.5 What happens if my project is rejected?

You will receive a formal correspondence stating our decision and some feedback on why the application was declined. In some cases, you may be eligible to apply again. This will be stated in the correspondence.

## 3. Project Terms

### 3.1 Collaboration Agreement

Health Hub - Founded by Spar Nord Fonden is focused on co-development of new solutions. This means that the region and any secondary players will share an active role in developing the solution to the unmet clinical need. As such, ownership of any intellectual property (IP) that is created during the project will likely be shared between the partners. A collaboration agreement will therefore be required if there are any additional partners outside of Aalborg University Hospital, and it is a condition of receiving the Health Hub financing that this agreement is in place.

The lawyers associated with Aalborg University Hospital and your project leader within Innovationsklinikken will be able to guide you on this step. Be aware that it can take several months to finalize a collaboration agreement.

### 3.2 Payments

The funds are generally paid out retrospectively, after submission and approval of the final reporting. Exceptions can be made; however, they must be agreed upon in writing before the application is approved. For further questions regarding grant payment, contact [projekt.adm@rn.dk](mailto:projekt.adm@rn.dk).

If payment is made in advance, any unused funds must be repaid to Health Hub - Founded by Spar Nord Fonden no later than 2 months after the end of the project period.

### 3.3 Confidentiality

All applications are treated as confidential. All members of the Committee are subject to confidentiality obligations and requirements regarding legal capacity.

Any projects that are not yet protected by intellectual property will not be publicized in a way that will put eventual IP in jeopardy. Any publicity will be discussed with the team before it is published.

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### 3.4 State Aid for Private Actors

If one of the project partners is a private person or company, they must comply with the terms of de minimis aid, in which a maximum of € 200,000 can be received over a period of 3 financial years.

Aid is granted in accordance with the rules on de minimis aid, in accordance with Commission Regulation (EU) No 1407/2013 of 18 December 2013 on the application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to de minimis aid. The declaration of de minimis aid will be provided and is completed and signed prior to receipt of aid in accordance with the rules on de minimis aid.

More information can be found here <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DA/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:32013R1407&qid=1647603387117&from=EN>

### 3.5 Visibility

If your project is approved for financing, the project must be referred to in writing as a Health Hub - Founded by Spar Nord Fonden project, and the logo for Health Hub must be applied to any publicly presented materials. This includes press releases, presentations etc.

Spar Nord Fonden, Innovationsklinikken and Health Hub - Founded by Spar Nord Fonden would like to contribute as much as possible to the visibility of the many valuable Health Hub projects by promoting the success stories of individual projects on various platforms. As recipients of a Health Hub grant, the project team is expected to be reasonably available for interviews, sparring, presentations, etc. regarding the project. Care is taken to protect the confidentiality of non-disclosed inventions.

### 3.6 Reporting Requirements

Within one month after the end of the project period, Health Hub - Founded by Spar Nord Fonden must receive a brief written status of the project as well as final financial accounting with relevant appendices that explain and document the use of the grant for the entire project period.

Health Hub reserves the right to initiate an independent audit to determine whether the grant has been used in accordance with the grant conditions and the application, including the budget.

If there is non-compliance with the terms of the grant, Health Hub - Founded by Spar Nord Fonden has the right to demand that disbursed funds be repaid immediately.

### 3.7 Changes to an Approved Project

Health Hub - Founded by Spar Nord Fonden must be contacted if there are deviations in the project in relation to the application. Significant changes to the project in relation to the official grant letter, including the grant conditions, application, and budget, require prior written approval. Contact [health.hub@rn.dk](mailto:health.hub@rn.dk) with the following information:

**Project Title:**

**Change Request:**

**Reason for request:**

**How will this affect your project?:**