



## HSE National Office for Suicide Prevention

# Grant Scheme for Collaborative Research Projects

### Round 1 – December 2020

The HSE National Office for Suicide Prevention (NOSP) supports, drives and coordinates the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of Connecting for Life (CfL), Ireland's National Strategy to Reduce Suicide 2015-2020 [www.connectingforlifeireland.ie](http://www.connectingforlifeireland.ie). CfL focuses on the primary and secondary prevention of suicidal behaviour, and addresses a broad range of risk and protective factors. There are 69 actions under the seven ambitious strategic goals; 22 government departments/agencies have made commitments as lead and/or supporting partners to deliver on these actions. In addition, 23 NGO partners are funded (by the HSE) to deliver on work aligned with CfL's strategic objectives.

Goal three of CfL focuses on groups in the population which may be at increased risk of suicide and self-harm. Indeed, particular demographic groups have consistently been shown by both national and international research evidence to have increased risk of suicidal behaviour. These include young people aged 15-24 years, people with mental health problems of all ages, people with alcohol and drug problems, people bereaved by suicide and prisoners. In addition, there are other groups with potentially increased vulnerability to suicidal behaviour where the research evidence is either less consistent or limited. These include asylum seekers, refugees, migrants, sex workers and people with chronic illness or disability. While there is significant overlap between many of the groups, it is important to note that even within a group where there is increased risk, only a minority will engage in suicidal behaviour. Furthermore, these risk groups may change over time.

A list of the groups who are listed in CfL as being at an increased risk of suicidal behaviour, based on epidemiological research, is below.

- **Health/mental health related groups:** People with mental health problems of all ages, those who have engaged in repeated acts of self-harm, people with alcohol and drug problems and people with chronic physical health conditions.

- **Minority groups:** Members of the LGBT community, members of the Traveller community, people who are homeless, people who come in contact with the criminal justice system (e.g. prisoners), people who have experienced domestic, clerical, institutional, sexual or physical abuse, asylum seekers, refugees, migrants and sex workers.
  - **Demographic cohorts:** Middle aged men and women, young people and economically disadvantaged people.
  - **Suicide related:** People bereaved by suicide.
  - **Occupational groups:** Healthcare professionals, professionals working in isolation, e.g. veterinarians, farmers.
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## The HSE NOSP Research Grant Scheme

The HSE National Office for Suicide Prevention (NOSP) is launching its first grant scheme for collaborative research projects on priority groups in Ireland. The purpose of the scheme is twofold: to further our understanding of the groups that are at increased risk for self-harm and suicide; and to promote and support collaborative research projects between researchers and services working in the area of suicide prevention in Ireland.

Applicants will be asked to select one of the priority groups listed in the section above and to submit a research proposal for this group. The purpose of the call is to help;

- Identify the characteristics of particular priority or minority groups vulnerable to suicidal behaviours in Ireland
- Address gaps in knowledge relating to how to support these priority/vulnerable groups
- Identify interactions between risk factors and priority/vulnerable groups
- Target interventions for priority groups at increased risk of self-harm and suicide
- Establish (local) working groups to engage with these groups.

## Who can apply?

Applications are invited from suitably qualified researchers (applied and academic) and service organisations working in the area of suicide prevention. Single applicants are welcome but collaborative applications between researchers and service organisations will be preferred as part of this call.

## Funding available

The funding awarded will be up to a maximum of €40,000 per application. The HSE NOSP reserves the right to offer less funding than requested in the original application.

## Funding duration

12 months.

## How to apply

- Applications (using the [Application Form](#)) should be made directly to Dr. Gemma Cox (NOSP Evaluation Manager) at [gemma.cox@hse.ie](mailto:gemma.cox@hse.ie) by **Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at 5pm.**
- Queries related to applications or the terms and conditions of scheme should be made to Sarah Rochford (NOSP Research Officer) at [sarah.rochford@hse.ie](mailto:sarah.rochford@hse.ie).

A review panel will be established within NOSP to review and score proposals.

Successful applicants will be informed of the decision in writing by **Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021.**