



MSD UK 2026 GRANTS PROGRAMME

MSD UK is proud to launch its 2026 Grants Programme, for Healthcare and Patient Organisations to **address health inequalities, with a focus on delivering patient and population impact**. Building on from the support we were able to provide through our 2025 Programme, the MSD UK 2026 Grants Programme will also be open to healthcare organisations and patient organisations across two open application windows:

- **Application window 1 - March to early May 2026**
- **Application window 2 - July to end of August 2026**

BACKGROUND	2
GOALS OF THE 2026 GRANTS PROGRAMME.....	2
GOAL 1: Addresses health inequalities	2
GOAL 2: Delivers patient and population impact	2
2026 PROGRAMME CRITERIA & SCOPE	3
THEME 1: Community and neighbourhood care	3
THEME 2: Prevention focused.....	3
THEME 3: Digital innovation to enable health living and behaviours.....	4
2026 PROGRAMME AREAS OF INTEREST	4
Oncology	4
Public Health	4
Cardiovascular Disease	4
EVALUATION OF APPLICATIONS	4
FUNDING AVAILABILITY	5
ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA	6
HOW TO APPLY	7

BACKGROUND

MSD recognise that we have an important part to play in tackling health disparities to drive improvements in healthcare access and outcomes for patients across the UK. MSD is committed to improving the outcomes and experience of patients and populations. We do this by engaging effectively with national and local health systems and developing solutions to overcome issues impacting patients and populations, such as health inequalities.

MSD therefore believes that its ability to support non-product related, non-promotional activities represents an important contribution to addressing health inequalities in the UK and to improving patient outcomes. Part of that contribution is the funding of appropriate third-party activities, based on grant requests - activities in which MSD exercises no direct control but in which it has provided funding.

GOALS OF THE 2026 GRANTS PROGRAMME

Our aspiration is to support activities which seek to **address health inequalities**, with a focus on **delivering patient and population impact**. Projects should align to **both goals** of the programme.

GOAL 1: Addresses health inequalities

Clearly defines and seeks to address a disparity in health outcomes, access to healthcare, and/or wellbeing among individuals or groups in the UK. This could involve a focus on addressing social/cultural barriers to care, improving health literacy or reducing inequalities in screenings and outcomes in underserved communities.

GOAL 2: Delivers patient and population impact

Places patient and population needs at the centre of solutions, driving improvement in community wellbeing, patient care and/or sustainable patient pathways. In doing so, projects should effectively reach their target populations, demonstrating how they plan to deliver on key performance indicators to drive improvement in behaviours, systems and pathways.

2026 PROGRAMME CRITERIA & SCOPE

The 2026 Grants Programme is broadly focused on **tackling inequalities** and delivering tangible **patient or population impact** through aligning with shifting trends in healthcare systems across the UK. Our programme will have the following themes:

- **Community and neighbourhood care**
- **Prevention focused**
- **Digital innovation to enable healthy living and behaviours**

It encourages healthcare, research, or education-related activities, to meet the needs of the public and patients which also includes, but is not limited to; disease awareness, advocacy, patient education and peer support. For projects to be considered they must align with **both goals of the programme and one or more** of the themes below:

THEME 1: Community and neighbourhood care

Involves tailored engagement with people and communities, adapted to their needs and circumstances, to improve the health and wellbeing of the community or people the project serves.

E.g.

- Projects acutely conscious of community needs, building solutions around people and their neighbourhoods.
- Projects which are culturally grounded, respecting the values, beliefs and needs of populations to engage them effectively or build supportive environments for patients.

THEME 2: Prevention focused

Involves projects aligning with ambitions to move to a preventative model of health, tackling root causes of illness and empowering individuals to make informed choices about their health.

E.g.

- Projects which seek to address variations in uptake of vaccination, screening and preventative medicine, tailoring solutions to communities with unmet needs.
- Promoting healthy living choices, exercise and holistic wellbeing in populations. Including educating healthcare professionals and the public about the link between lifestyle and disease risk.
- Policy research and evidence-based projects, which highlight the importance of preventative health measures such as screening, vaccination and lifestyle choices.

THEME 3: Digital innovation to enable health living and behaviours

Involves innovative digital solutions which harness technology and social media to address changing population health trends, driving improvements in health outcomes.

E.g.

- Projects which improve access to health services through the roll out of a digital solution/tool/app.
- Digital patient or public engagement: for example, projects which propose a new or tailored approach to drive improvements in patient care or engage hard-to-reach populations using social media.

2026 PROGRAMME AREAS OF INTEREST

If projects align with the grants programme goals and themes they will be considered. Projects which align to MSD's areas of interest, in oncology, public health (vaccines or HIV) or cardiovascular disease (pulmonary hypertension or hypercholesterolaemia) will be prioritised.

Oncology

MSD is proud to work with patient groups, healthcare professionals, policy makers and the NHS to address some of the UK's most significant cancer challenges. By working effectively, together, we can accelerate patient pathways, alleviate NHS capacity, explore new care delivery models, reduce variation in care and overcome health inequalities – all for the benefit of people with cancer and their families.

Public Health

MSD is committed to supporting the local and national health system to strengthen the UK's public health response by reducing inequalities in access to services, screening, and treatment. MSD's commitment to public health aligns to vaccines and HIV.

Cardiovascular Disease

We are proud of our heritage and ongoing commitment to the cardiovascular disease (CVD) community. This includes supporting patients and the healthcare system to achieve speedier diagnoses and improved outcomes across Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension (PAH). We are also keen to support care pathways for lipid management.

EVALUATION OF APPLICATIONS

Applications will be evaluated based on their alignment to the 2026 Grants Programme goals, plus at least one of the programme themes. The 2026 grants programme is open to applicants across all disease areas; **MSD has particular expertise within the areas of oncology, public health and cardiovascular disease.** All applications will be assessed based

on **their projected outcomes** and **clearly defined management plan** for the project. See **Figure 1** below which details how a strong application would be structured.

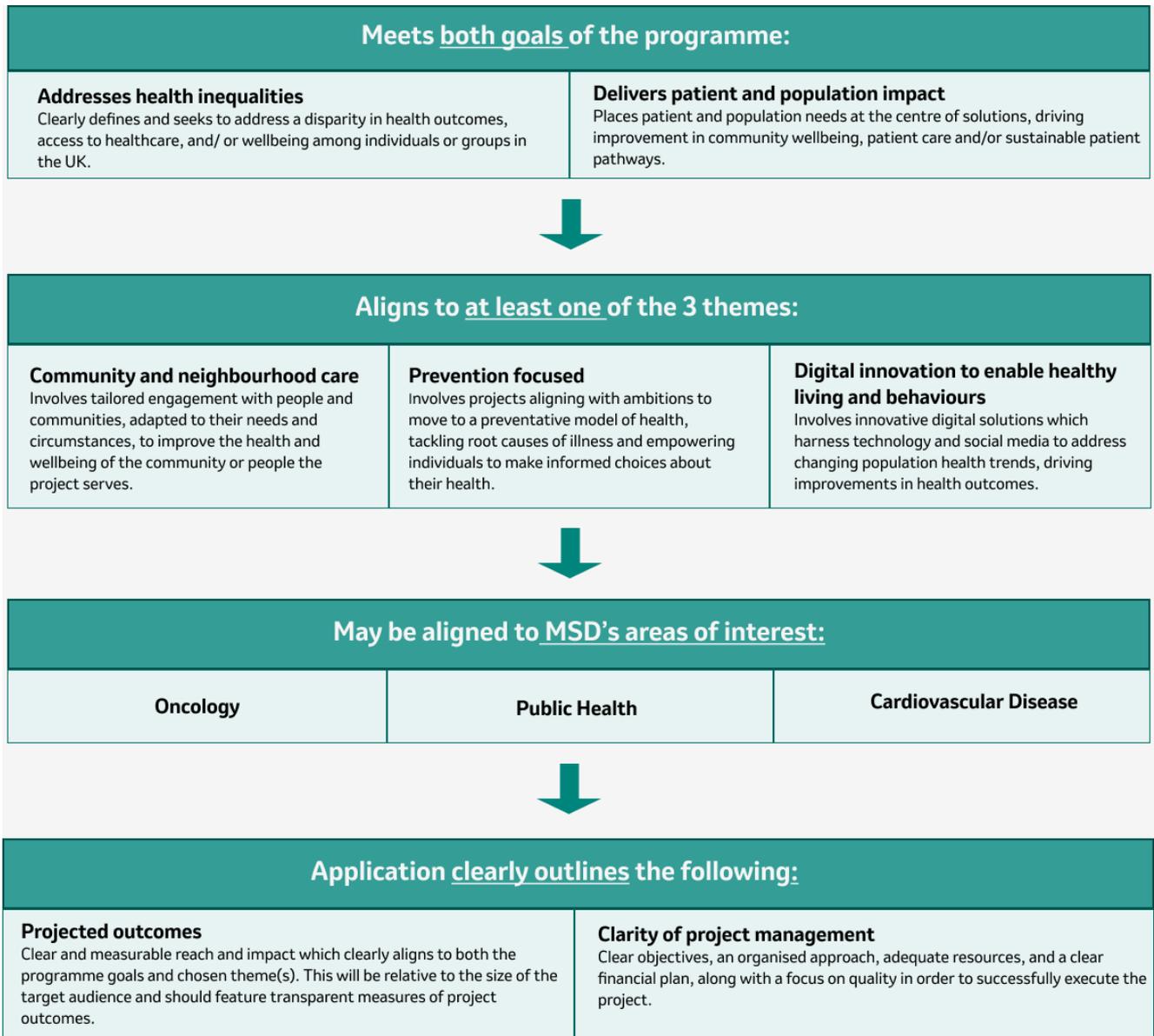


Figure 1 - Overview of the 2026 Grants Programme for applicants

FUNDING AVAILABILITY

- Individual grant proposals from Healthcare Organisations must be for a minimum of £15,000 and can be for a maximum of £25,000.
- Individual grant proposals from Patient Organisations must be for a minimum of £5,000 and can be for a maximum of £15,000.
- Subject to meeting the criteria, we hope to make between 8-12 grants available

within each open application window in 2026.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Grants recipients

1. Grants can only be paid to an organisation, not to an individual
2. Phase 1 of the 2026 Grants Programme is open to both healthcare and patient organisations, which are defined as follows:
 - a. **Healthcare Organisations** are defined as organisations that are:
 - **either** directly involved with patient care, treatment and management. e.g. NHS Trusts, Primary Care Networks
 - **or** an HCP membership organisation or Learned Society that is indirectly linked to patient care, treatment and management.
 - b. **Patient Organisations** are defined as organisations that are:
 - Not-for-profit organisations (including the umbrella organisations to which they belong), mainly composed of patient advocates, patients and/or caregivers, that represent and/or support the needs of patients and/or caregivers.
 - To be eligible for a grant, Patient Organisations must be able to show that are legally registered with a business address, company or charity number and have an established company organisation chart (i.e. CEO, Finance Director, etc).

Financial conduct

1. Grants can only be paid to organisations with other additional sources of annual revenue (MSD will not be a 'sole funder')
2. The total value of grants plus any other payments to an individual organisation **cannot exceed half of the annual income of the recipient organisation**
3. Grants are project based and cannot be provided for core funding (i.e. basic running costs) or capital expenditure (e.g. buildings or vehicles) - please see further details below under 'Project Criteria'

Project criteria

1. Grants can be provided to fund costs directly to the project, including but not limited to non-clinical research, creative services, material production and distribution, website costs, advertising costs, logistics, venues and non-lavish hospitality where it is secondary to the purpose of the event.
2. Grants cannot be provided to offset routine or normal business expenses of the organisation. For example, costs described as 'overheads' and 'administration', or any staff costs relating to the day-to day running of the organisation, cannot be supported.
3. However, the cost of time spent specifically managing or delivering the project by salaried and / or contracted staff can be supported, if it is clearly set out in the project budget and is not used to increase an individual's current salary.

4. Grants cannot be provided to support capital expenses (e.g. building repair, office equipment, medical equipment or vehicles).
5. Projects should be started and completed within a 12-month timeframe following approval of the grant.
6. Grants can only support projects that deliver outcomes in the UK.
7. Grants cannot fund direct medical care for a patient(s), or the purchasing or prescribing of specific medicines or medical devices.
8. Where hospitality (travel, room-hire, or overnight accommodation etc) is required as part of the project, arrangements must be clearly stated.
9. Hospitality must be limited to the purpose of the event and secondary to the main purpose of the meeting. As such, MSD is unable to support events which take place in luxury / five-star venues, golf clubs or health spas for example, and we cannot support first class travel. We ask that requests for hospitality and travel costs include acknowledgement of this requirement.

HOW TO APPLY

At MSD, we understand that every project we are asked to support is different, so we want to give you the chance to give a full description of your proposed activity in your own words.

Within the application form there are also some details which are critical to our understanding of your request and its eligibility for funding. We have asked for these specifically in the application form, as well as your project description.

To apply for the programme, please find the application form on our Grants and Donations webpage: <https://www.msd-uk.com/partnerships/grants/>

If you have any questions about the programme, please email: grantscommittee@msd.com
