

NHS Race and Health Observatory's Learning and Action Network

Frequently Asked Questions

The Frequently Asked Questions will be updated regularly. Please send any additional questions you may have about the NHS Race and Health Observatory's Learning and Action Network to the NHS Race and Health Observatory's Learning and Action Network team by emailing: implementation@nhsrho.org.

1. What are the benefits of taking part in this work?

The NHS Race and Health Observatory's Learning and Action Network will drive the development and spread of effective approaches to addressing health inequalities in maternal health. The network will be an opportunity to accelerate local action on maternal health inequity, to scale and spread good practice, and contribute towards the development of a truly anti-racist improvement approach.

2. We need more information before submitting an Expression of Interest – is this available?

If you would like to ask any questions ahead of submitting your expression of interest, please contact implementation@nhsrho.org and one of the NHS Race and Health Observatory's Learning and Action Network team will get back to you.

3. Do we need permission/sponsorship from a senior representative in the organisation/Integrated Care System before submitting our application?

Executive leaders in an organisation play an important role in supporting teams to drive quality improvement initiatives as well as spread initiatives by supporting and facilitating the efforts. A senior/executive sponsor is responsible for providing overall guidance, identifying and addressing system issues, keeping the executive leadership group apprised of the progress of the Quality Improvement work, and serving as an advocate for the improvement. We therefore require you to identify a senior/executive sponsor in the organisation/Integrated Care System for the Expression of Interest and they will be required to submit a letter of support as part of the full proposal stage.

4. Do we pay to take part?

While there is no cost to be part of the NHS Race and Health Observatory's Learning and Action Network, there is a "cost" to participate in terms of resources – both people's time in NHS Race and Health Observatory's Learning and Action Network activities and advancing the work outside of these activities. We recommend weekly meetings outside of NHS Race and Health Observatory's Learning and Action Network activities to keep up momentum of their efforts. Each member will be expected to "give" a lot as they put themselves out there, be vulnerable, and to prioritise for whom we are doing this important work.

5. Who is funding this project?

This project is funded by the Health Foundation. The Health Foundation is an independent charity committed to bringing about better health and health care for people in the UK.

6. We wish to get involved but cannot provide a submission at this stage – will there be another time slot to submit an application?

We are seeking to select and work with 5-10 provider/Integrated Care System sites to establish the Race and Health Observatory's Learning and Action Network. Although we hope to continue this initiative with future cohorts, we do not currently have developed plans beyond the 2023-24 initiative.

7. We/the organisation no longer wishes to participate - how do we withdraw our EOI?

Please let us know through contacting our email address implementation@nhsrho.org. If you have any questions or specific reasons the organisation no longer wishes to participate, please let us know in case there is a solution whereby the team can still participate or stay in touch.

8. How long will this project take?

Beginning in January 2024, those organisations and ISC chosen from across England will work together with NHS Race and Health Observatory, the Institute of Healthcare Improvement (IHI), and an Advisory Group made up of experts in maternal health, to improve the outcomes for maternal health through participation of an action oriented, fast-paced Learning and Action Network. The partnership of NHS Race and Health Observatory and IHI serves as an incubator for the NHS Race and Health Observatory's Learning and Action Network to establish the core components, infrastructure, and measurement strategy by August 2024.

9. Will our action plan/involvement be kept confidential or shared with other participants in the NHS Race and Health Observatory's Learning and Action Network LAN?

The NHS Race and Health Observatory's Learning and Action Network is grounded in an 'all teach, all learn' philosophy therefore we promote the sharing of actions plans, measurement plans, and learning. The Learning Sessions and NHS Race and Health Observatory's Learning and Action Network calls are opportunities for participants to network and, share learning and good practice with each other. However, no patient confidential information will be shared between participating organisations.

10. When will we/the organisation be notified on the status of our application status?

Expressions of Interest forms received will be reviewed at the end of September. Successful applicants will be invited to submit a full proposal by the 20th October 2023. Unsuccessful applicants will also be notified around this date.

11. Which other organisations are taking part?

The NHS Race and Health Observatory's Learning and Action Network has been created through a partnership between the NHS Race and Health Observatory and IHI with support from the Health Foundation.

12. We want to participate but not be cited in external publications/media – is this an option?

As part of the launch announcement, a Press Release will be published on our website and issued to external media outlets announcing details of the overall project. This will include all the organisations involved. We will not require a quote for inclusion in the Press Release. Ideally, we will want to share and amplify best practice case studies where possible across relevant internal and external networks/platforms.

13. We missed the deadline – can a late Expression of Interest be submitted?

Unfortunately, if you have missed the deadline, we are unable to accept your expression of interest. However, we will have methods of staying in touch with applicants for future opportunities and to share learning from this cycle of the NHS Race and Health Observatory's Learning and Action Network. Contact us at implementation@nhsrho.org.

14. How many members of staff need to be involved in the project?

Participants are expected to form a multidisciplinary core team (including a team leader) of 3-5 members who attend all in person learning sessions. A wider team of 6-12 members (e.g. clinicians, policy manager, etc.), who are influencers in the organisation who can drive commitment and attention to the work, as well as support frontline staff to test changes is also expected. This wider group should include a member responsible for data entry. We recommend that your team includes representation of a lens on data, quality improvement, equity, and patient-facing care.

15. How many hours a week will staff have to spend on the project?

The NHS Race and Health Observatory's Learning and Action Network will require participants to have time and space to be able to regularly connect locally as a team, enabling progress of improvement activity as part of daily work. Participants therefore will need to dedicate about 30 hours per week, shared across all participants. This will include testing improvement ideas via PDSA (plan, do, study,

act) cycles, meeting as a team to review data and next steps and sharing learning. The core team should be willing to commit to the dates identified for the in person learning sessions and regular webinars and NHS Race and Health Observatory's Learning and Action Network calls.

16. Will any of the NHS Race and Health Observatory's Learning and Action Network activities be in-person?

The three Learning Sessions will be in-person events. The core team will be expected to attend the three sessions in person and share learning back to the wider team about quality improvement skills, shared learning, and next steps to focus on during the next action period.

17. On what days/dates will the Learning Sessions take place?

We will send out a schedule no later than early December, shortly after decisions are announced.

18. If we have new staff members are they able to join the process mid-way?

Yes, new members can join the process through the journey. The NHS Race and Health Observatory's Learning and Action Network Webpage will host useful background documents and key information to help onboard new members. Please notify the NHS Race and Health Observatory's Learning and Action Network Team of any changes to help us ensure we update our records and contact details.

19. What happens if we're unable to complete the programme?

The expectations and information provided should help you to decide if you should complete the Expression of Interest at this time. If you believe you cannot commit to the NHS Race and Health Observatory's Learning and Action Network presently, there is no requirement to complete the Expression of Interest and the NHS Race and Health Observatory's Learning and Action Network will be providing updates and communication that you can access.