

CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR REGIONAL RESEARCH FUNDING FOR THE YEAR 2027

The Central Norway Regional Health Authority (RHA) has allocated funds for strengthening research, research-oriented innovation and professional development within medicine and health sciences in the region. The funding is allocated through The Liaison Committee for Education, Research and Innovation in Central Norway (Samarbeidsorganet). Subject to the financial framework for the Central Norway RHA, it has been decided to announce a call for proposals for research funding for 2027 within the following categories:

1. PhD research fellowships (three-year fellowship)
2. Postdoctoral research fellowships (three-year fellowship)
3. Researcher fellowships (three-year fellowship)
4. Project funds (NOK 500 000 – NOK 1 500 000 per year for 1-3 years)

Information regarding the [formal requirements](#) of each category is found here.

The deadline for application is 1 September 2026 at 3:00 p.m.

Strategic research areas

You may apply for funding of projects within medicine and health sciences. 10 percent of the total allocation is set aside for applications that fall within the following specific focus areas:

- Health data
- Technology in the health care services
- Artificial intelligence (AI)
- Research on health care services

The Central Norway RHA aim to strengthen research throughout the health region. Regional cooperation in the projects, between the health trusts in the region and between different sectors, including the university and college sector, municipalities, industry and business sector, will be given particular weight in the allocation.

For more information on strategic areas, applicants can refer to Helse Midt-Norge's *Regional utviklingsplan*, *Handlingsplan for forskning* and *Handlingsplan for innovasjon*, national strategic plans and documents regulating medical research and Oppdragsdokument 2026 from the Ministry of Health and Care Services [the documents are only available in Norwegian].

Samarbeidsorganet encourages applicants employed in health trusts to take advantage of the opportunity within the category of *project funds* to apply for funding to be relieved of clinical duties for research purposes.

Applications may be submitted by employees from the following institutions:

- Health trusts (HT) in Central Norway
- Universities and university colleges in the region, in collaboration with HT in Central Norway
- Regional Private-sector parties that have an agreement with the Central Norway RHA, in collaboration with a HT in Central Norway.

The research projects must be relevant to the health services, and it is required that all projects are conducted with participation from one or more health trusts. The projects are expected to result in scientific publications where the given health trust is listed as an affiliation.

Formal requirements for the application

1. Applications must be in line with the [template for project description – applications for research funding from Samarbeidsorganet](#) *The application must be written in English.*
2. Applications for funding must follow the [guidelines, requirements and regulations for the call](#).
3. Applications must be submitted from a health trust in the region (applicant institution). The application must state which institution will manage the research funds (host institution).
4. Documented collaboration with a health trust is a requirement. All projects must document active cooperation and participation from at least one person employed in a HT in the region. This implies that the HT-employee must have participated actively in planning- and writing the project description, and that the person in question has a central role in the project. This is to be described in the application. All project participants must confirm their participation in [eSøknad](#).
5. Documented management commitment is a requirement. The head of clinic at the applicant institution must approve all applications. An approval indicates that the management approves of the HT-employee's contribution in the project and recognizes that participation may require clinic resources.
6. Applications coming from the higher education sector or private sector must in addition include a completed management [commitment form](#) signed by the appropriate authority of the host institution as an attachment.

Applications that do not fulfill the formal requirements will be rejected.

[Rejection reasons are described in detail on page 4](#)

Limitation on the number of applications

A project manager can submit a maximum of two applications to the call. If two applications relate to the same main-project, the project descriptions must clearly describe a) which applications are related to each other, and b) the unique contribution of each sub-project to the main-project.

Submitting applications

Applications must be submitted through the health trusts' electronic application system, [eSøknad](#). Choose the call «Helse Midt-Norge – Utlysning av regionale forskningsmidler for 2027» on the front page and follow the instructions integrated in the eSøknad application system.

It is not possible to edit your application or resend documentation after the deadline has expired.

Allocation of funds

An academic committee will evaluate all applications, except for those rejected based on violation of formal requirements. The committee give their recommendations to Samarbeidsorganet based on an [evaluation of the scientific quality and impact](#) of each application. All applicants will receive brief written feedback on their application from the committee.

Samarbeidsorganet will decide on the allocation of funds in December 2026. The allocation will be published on Central Norway RHA's website.

The projects awarded grant funds may start at the earliest 01.01.2027 and latest 01.10.2027.

Questions about the call for proposals may be addressed to

The secretariat of Samarbeidsorganet: samarbeidsorganet@helse-midt.no

Note: in case of conflict, the Norwegian version of the call for proposals is the legally binding version.

Rejection reasons

Category	Rejection grounds	Comment
Submission deadline	The application is not submitted within submission deadline	The application portal closes at submission deadline. Submission of applications is not allowed past submission deadline
Formal demands	One or more formal demands, general and/or directly related to any given application categories, described in either the Call for proposals, and/or guidelines, requirements and regulations to the application categories or other governing documents referred to in the call.	Applications cannot be altered past submission deadline Example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Missing coherence between registered applicant in the application system eSøknad and the person identified in the attached CV and/or list of publications - An applicant for Ph.D. or Post doctor scholarships has completed a tenure of office at the same host-institution in the same position as it is applied for at an earlier time - The main or co-supervisor for a Ph.D. candidate does not meet the doctoral-granting institution's requirements for a supervisor - Main- or co-supervisor does not hold a doctoral degree - The application is submitted by an institution that is not qualified to apply
Project description	The attached project description does not follow the project description template layout and/or lacks one or more items described in the template	A corrected project description cannot be submitted past submission deadline
Mandatory attachments	The application lacks [an] attachment[s] mandatory to the given application category, as described in guidelines, requirements and regulations to the application categories.	Attachments that are not attached to the application within the submission deadline cannot be submitted past submission deadline.
Formal demands to mandatory attachments	Mandatory attachment[s] does not fulfill the format requirements and/or is incomplete	Example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The management commitment form from host institution lacks the leader's signature or mandatory comment - Main supervisor's statement does not name the candidate and/or lacks signature - Main supervisor's CV lacks personal details - The applicants' diploma is incomplete Corrected attachments cannot be submitted past submission deadline.
Management commitment	The application lacks documented leadership approval from the applying institution and/or host institution, where host institution is another than the institution applying	The leader of the clinic from which the application is sent must approve the application. If relevant, the application must be approved by a leader with authority at the host institution if this is not a clinic.
User involvement	User involvement and its description does not meet the requirements for used involvement described in the call and/or template for project description.	The project description must include a plan for user involvement and to which degree users are involved in planning and/or execution, or an explanation of why user involvement is not relevant.