

Application Guideline on “COVID-19 public health emergency - response, governance and impact”

By NSFC dated 24 February 2020 (see contact person end of page 3)

COVID-19 is a major public health emergency that poses great challenges towards the country's medical health system and huge impact on the economy and society. National Science Foundation of China (NSFC) hereby launches a special programme to provide support for the prevention and control of the epidemic to alleviate impact on economy and society, optimise the national governance system and upgrade social administration capacities.

This programme will support scientists with relevant data and research capacities who are in close collaboration with the organisations participating in the epidemic control to conduct foresighted, basic, retrospective and evidence-based joint research surrounding four aspects in the epidemic prevention and control in terms of responses and management, governance mechanism, economic impact and countermeasures, and social governance.

It is requested that applicants should be oriented towards the problems and policy needs, and targeted at revealing the scientific connotation and mechanisms behind practical problems, to concentrate on breakthroughs in fundamental bottleneck issues, so as to put forward reliable, practical and targeted theories and methods in support of policy recommendations.

I. Research themes to be funded

- 1) Prevention and control in response to major infectious epidemics
 1. Transmission spatiotemporal measurement modelling and risk prediction
 2. Data-based monitoring, warning and response
 3. Warning, response and operation optimisation in hospitals
 4. Medical resource supply and allocation modes under major public health emergencies
- 2) Governance mechanism for major public health emergencies
 5. Global health governance and international cooperation mechanism
 6. Integrated coordination mechanism for public health system and medical service and medical security system
 7. Rapid risk assessment, decision-making support and response mechanism
 8. International comparison and core capacity building in public health emergency management system
- 3) Economic impact from major public health emergencies
 9. Impact on high-quality economic development and countermeasures
 10. Impact on foreign trade and cross-border investment, and foreign trade and investment policies
 11. Impact on major industries and regional economy and countermeasures
 12. Impact on industrial supply chain and countermeasures
 13. Impact on SMEs and countermeasures
- 4) Social governance under major public health emergencies
 14. Social governance system
 15. Public service system
 16. Livelihood security and social assistance
 17. Public risk perception, behaviour rules and public sentiment guidance
 18. Public opinion response and governance

II. Funding

- 1) Projects funded under this programme will have a duration of one year, starting from 15 April 2020 to 14 April 2021. Direct cost for each project will be around 500,000 to 800,000 yuan per project. A number of projects will be selected based on merits to focus on research on the above 18 areas.
- 2) Continuous funding mechanism will be tried with projects funded under this programme. Projects selected for funding will be continuously funded if outstanding results are achieved and where truly needed.

III. Eligibility requirement

- 1) Application conditions: applicants should meet the following conditions:

1. Experiences in basic research topics in relevant fields
2. Hold senior professional titles (posts)
3. Applicants are encouraged to form joint research teams with health administrations, economic and social administrations, disease prevention and control administrations and hospitals. Excellent researchers from overseas are encouraged to participate in applications.

On-post postdoc researchers, ongoing postgraduates, and individuals with no employers or whose employers are not host institutes cannot apply.

- 2) Project number limits

1. The project under this special programme will not be calculated as the 2-projects limit entitled to senior professional or technological staff.
2. The applicant and main participants can apply for and participate in no more than one of the above 18 areas
3. Applicants can apply for only one project under the special programme within the same year

- 3) Points for attention in applications

1. This special programme requires projects to be problem-oriented and driven by needs. Interdisciplinary integration is emphasised to put forward innovative ideas and designs with results that could be transformed in applications or provide guidance to practical works.
2. Before submitting applications, applicants should read carefully this guideline and relevant content indicated in the 2020 NSFC application guidelines. Applications that fail to meet relevant requirements will not be accepted.
3. Applications shall be filled up by following the outline and inline with the directions and objectives provided in this guideline, with project titles indicated exactly the same as shown in the above 18 areas.
4. Applicants should log in at the NSFC info system <https://isisn.nsf.gov.cn> to fill up the application forms. Application code 1 should choose G04; "funding category" to choose "special programme"; "sub-category" to choose "research projects"; "annexed explanations" to choose "comprehensive research projects".
5. Applicants should set up the NSFC project budget form in line with the relevant rules and requirements as set out in the NSFC project fund management methods and the NSFC project budget formulations methods based on the principles of "relevance to objectives, compliance with policies, and economic rationality"
6. Paperless application will be adopted for this programme. Applications should be submitted by 20 March 2020, 4:00pm . After completing the application forms, the

applicants should submit the electronic version and annexes online. Annexes requested should be scanned and upload. If under circumstances that impede timely submission due to engagement in epidemic control, explanations should be given in the application form.

7. The host institutes should check the authenticity and completeness of the materials provided by the applicants, and send the application documentations to NSFC timely, with the following specific requirements¹.
8. contacts for inquiries

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¹ Specific requirements not translated here