



SPARK Innovation Programme

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The Spark Innovation Programme is a bottom-up led initiative that encourages healthcare providers to develop and implement their ideas so that we can improve our health service.

Spark was established in 2017 as a national programme to encourage, support and recognise innovation among frontline healthcare workers in Ireland by the National Doctors Training and Planning (NDTP). The programme has grown from focusing on NCHDs to include Nursing and Midwifery and AHPs with support from the National Quality Improvement Team, the Nursing and Midwifery Services Director (ONMSD) and the National Health and Social Care Professions Office (NHSCPO) with the goal of encouraging innovation across our health service.

Since the Spark programme began the consistent hard work and dedication that HSE frontline staff throughout the country have shown, demonstrates the desire to innovate and improve our health system. Our programmes allow frontline healthcare workers to highlight problems they have identified and want to develop innovative solutions for. These may be related to changes we have experienced as a result of the pandemic, or they could be problems present for a long time that are crying out for meaningful solutions.





The main themes for Spark are:

Improving Patient and Healthcare Provider Experience

As our patient cohort becomes more complex, providing high standards of care becomes more challenging. Frontline members of staff are ideally placed to recognise the issues faced by their patients and colleagues and implement creative solutions to these issues. We want to support projects that make our health service a better place to work and receive care.

Sustainable Innovation

With all the exciting advances in medical technology, we must ensure that innovation is ethical and there is equitable access for all. The Spark Programme wants to encourage projects that promote justice, help tackle health threats such as climate change and take a patient-centred approach.

Digital Disruption

Digital medicine will transform the way we deliver care. Harnessing technology will allow us to provide better care but this requires engagement from all stakeholders including doctors. The Spark Programme wants to involve NCHDs in future eHealth initiatives. If you have ideas for how we can use digital technology to optimise care or would like to get involved in our Digital Health Working Group for NCHDs, we would love to hear from you!

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zFZuoP9erV0>

Click here for more information on seminars <https://www.hse.ie/eng/staff/leadership-education-development/met/spark-innovation-programme/spark-latest-news/spark-design-thinking-brochure.pdf>

SPARK INITIATIVES INCLUDES





- Spark Seed Funding

Spark sees that it is people and not just good ideas that make meaningful improvements a success. If you have noticed a problem in your clinical area, whether you have an idea already or not, and if you are interested in learning about how to use healthcare design principals to improve your unit/hospital/etc. we want to hear from you!

After learning about design and innovation, Spark Innovators will have the opportunity to pitch for micro-funding for their own project to get it started (up to €3,000 available per individual or group).

For further information on how to go about the application, click here <https://www.hse.ie/eng/staff/leadership-education-development/met/spark-innovation-programme/spark-seed-funding/>

- Hospital Innovation Fund

The Spark Innovation Programme in collaboration with the Acute Hospitals Division is delighted to introduce the **Hospital Innovation Fund**, an initiative designed to promote innovation in Irish Hospitals by funding senior-led hospital projects. This initiative offers funding from **€20,000 up to a maximum of €60,000**.

Senior healthcare professionals can apply for funding for **novel initiatives** that have the potential to improve the way care is delivered in our public health service.

The initiative will fund projects that:

- ❑ Add **value** to your hospital through increased delivery of best practice care, cost savings or increased capacity.
- ❑ Demonstrate **new ways** of working
- ❑ Encourage **collaboration** within the hospital and between organisations.
- ❑ Can be **scaled up** and transferred to other services or other hospitals.
- ❑ Show **commitment to innovation** from your hospital or hospital group. In





particular, we are looking for the following features in your project:

- ☐ An emphasis on **sustainability** and a commitment to reducing the carbon footprint of healthcare
- ☐ Evidence of innovative or **design thinking**
- ☐ Engagement with emerging **technologies**

This fund is designed to empower hospital staff to deliver innovative solutions to problems faced in the health service by all of its stakeholders. This initiative should be considered a substitute funding source for staff resources, usual renovations or routine equipment etc. The Hospital Innovation Fund opens **14th December 2021**.





Eligibility of application:

- ② Hospital staff -Eligible Grades:
 - Doctors – Consultants and above
 - Nurses/Midwives – CNM3, ANP, ADON and above
 - Health and Social Care Professionals – Managers and above
- ② Signed approval for project from Hospital CEO, Deputy CEO, COO or Operations Manager is required.

Applications must be made using the application form by 5pm on the 21st of January 2022.

Please follow the link [here](#). Applicants should refer to the Applicant's Guide for further details when completing the application. Please note that incomplete applications and proposals for ineligible items/funding of job posts will **not** be considered.

Further information on each of our initiatives can be found on [our website](#) or by contacting spark@hse.ie



[@ProgrammeSpark](#)



[@spark_programme](#)





This initiative is a cross-department, multi-stakeholder initiative made possible by funding from the following bodies:

- ❑ Health Service Executive – Acute Operations
- ❑ Health Service Executive – Office of the Chief Clinical Officer
- ❑ National Doctors Training and Planning
- ❑ Office of Nursing and Midwifery Services Director
- ❑ Health and Social Care Professions

Job opportunities include

- National Innovation Fellows – NCHD + Nursing/Midwifery + HSCP

For more information on spark summit, click here <https://www.hse.ie/eng/staff/leadership-education-development/met/spark-innovation-programme/spark-summit/>

Contact: Dr Rachel McNamara

Email: ramcnama@tcd.ie

Twitter: [@ProgrammeSpark](https://twitter.com/ProgrammeSpark)

