

Research Skills Accelerator Fund guidelines

Who can apply?

Any employee or team working in a local authority in Greater Essex can apply for funding to develop their or their team's research and analytical skills. We also welcome joint applications from across more than one team or organisation.

You do not need to be a research professional. In fact, we are keen for colleagues working in a range of roles to apply. What is important is that you are looking to develop your skills in carrying out and using research and evidence.

It is essential that the skills you develop add value to the work of your team, organisation and/or wider public services in Greater Essex. You will be asked to detail how you will apply and share your learning in ways that can help us all make better, evidence-informed decisions in your application. You will also be asked to complete a case study within 6 months of carrying out your training to help us understand the wider impact it has had.

You will need the support of your line manager/s in order to apply.

What can the funding be used for?

Funding can be used for any learning and development activity that will help you, your team or organisation to better carry out or use research and evidence.

This could, for example, be attending a course on how to design and moderate focus groups or inviting a trainer to deliver a bespoke session on capturing the views and experiences of children and young people for you and your team.

Is there a limit to the amount I can apply for?

There is no set limit to the funding you can apply for. However, applications for larger amounts will require a clear and compelling plan for applying the training to better enable your team or organisation to carry out and use research to make evidence-informed decisions. Awards for larger amounts may also be subject to additional terms and conditions.

When can I apply?

The application window will close on Wednesday 7 May 2025.

When will I know if I have been successful?

You will be notified of the outcome of your application by email by early June 2025.

When should the training take place?

As you won't be notified of the outcome of your application until June 2025, any training you are applying for funding for should take place from July 2025 onwards.

If you have any questions or require any further information on the Research Skills Accelerator Fund, please contact Dawn Temme, HDRC Capability Lead, at dawn.temme@essex.gov.uk.

For further information about the HDRC's work, please contact the HDRC Greater Essex team at hdc@essex.gov.uk.