

Applied welfare research 2024: Collaboration grants

Information about the call

This call includes four types of grants: project grants, programme grants, practice-oriented research fellows and collaboration grants. The call will help to strengthen client- and practice-oriented research within the social services' areas of activity. The research will be conducted in collaboration with relevant target groups. Project grants aim to support individual research projects. Programme grants aim to develop and strengthen research environments for long-term knowledge building and skills development over a longer period of time. Grants for practice-oriented research fellows aim to promote the connection between research and the practice of social services, and can be applied for by those who work with social services issues and who want to do part-time research. The collaboration grant can be used to fund activities that contribute to a knowledge-based and knowledge-developing practice within social services or to improve the conditions for practice- and client-oriented research, and which are carried out in collaboration between researchers within academia and enterprises and authorities within social services' areas of activity.

A total of SEK 182 million is set aside for 2024-2029.

The deadline for submitting an application is 14:00 on 25 October 2023.

Background

Forte is responsible for a national research programme on applied welfare research. The aim of the national research programme is to strengthen client- and practice-oriented research within the social services' areas of activity. Client- and practice-oriented research is based on questions that are relevant based on social services', clients' and users' needs, and can benefit and be useful to clients, the operations of social services and society as a whole. Research that is funded by the programme must be useful for social services to develop and improve operations, as well as users' living situations and conditions. Another of the programme's goals is to increase collaboration between research and practice, and to increase the participation of users and relatives in the research. The programme will also help to ensure that the research results benefit the surrounding community and are translated into development and improvement.

The research that is funded must meet strict quality requirements, address identified research needs and preferably cover several different disciplines and scientific competencies. Forte welcomes studies from different scientific approaches; qualitative and quantitative methods or mixed methods.

Focus

Applied client- and practice-oriented research requires that the research is anchored in the needs that exist within practice and policy as well as current research, and that the results of the research can be converted into development. The research then needs to be developed in collaboration with those who are affected by the research, and low thresholds are needed for collaboration between research and practice. This means, for example, that researchers and practitioners need to have forums to share knowledge about the challenges, prerequisites and needs that exist in practice and policy, as well as among users and relatives. The organisations, in turn, need to have the prerequisites and ability to collaborate in research and to conduct development work based on research.

The collaboration grant has two main purposes:

- to contribute to the development of a knowledge-based and knowledge-developing practice through collaboration between research and practice in practice-oriented knowledge development
- to promote future practice- and client-oriented research within social services' areas of activity through collaboration between academia and practice.

Collaborations between academia and practice in practice-oriented knowledge development can contribute to a greater amount of research being converted into activities development and to more people gaining experience in research-based development work. Development of structures and forms for cooperation between academia and practice is an important prerequisite for knowledge-based social services as well as practice- and client-oriented research. In addition to the actual knowledge development that practice-oriented collaboration projects can result in, collaboration between academia and practice can also contribute to increased understanding of each other's activities and prerequisites, contributing to a more effective exchange of knowledge, ideas and experience between academia, practice, decision-makers and user representatives. It can also help to identify what constitutes urgent research questions from a practice, policy and user perspective, thereby providing clues for new research and lowering the thresholds for future collaboration in research.

Collaboration grants

The collaboration grant can be used to fund different types of activities that correspond to one of the purposes of the call. The activities must be carried out in collaboration, be value-adding for practice as well as research and provide added value in relation to ongoing work or existing structures for collaboration.

Collaboration grants can, for example, be applied for so that researchers and practitioners can work together on practice-oriented development work or to otherwise address identified problems or needs in organisations. This can involve less extensive research, analysis, development or evaluation activities based on practice-related questions or problems, which are carried out in collaboration.

It is also possible to apply for grants for activities that help to develop sustainable structures for cooperation between research and practice. For example, this can take place by developing new or existing forms of collaboration and/or other activities which

promote long-term sustainable collaboration between academia and practice. The funded activities should be based on client and/or practice-related needs and must provide clear added value in terms of existing structures.

The call is also open to other types of activities than those described above, provided that the applicants can clearly and credibly describe in the application how the activities further the aims of the call.

In the application, the purpose, goals and implementation of the activities must be described and justified. In addition, the applicants must describe how the cooperation between the parties will take place. It needs to be clear that the planned activities are anchored in challenges or development needs within social services and that planning and implementation take place in collaboration. If clients or users participate, their costs must be covered by the requested budget.

In order to support the fact that the activities carried out lead to results and effects which remain even after the end of the grant period, it is advantageous if the activities are linked to ongoing development work or determined strategies in the operations and that this is stated in the application, in this case.

Who can apply?

The collaboration grant can be applied for by a constellation, consisting of at least one researcher active at a higher education institution and a representative from practice. Practice refers to operations and authorities that work within social services' areas of activity, and can include, in addition to the municipality's own organisation, private and non-profit organisations, such as provider organisations and organisations supporting users and relatives. Research and development units within the social services or other relevant actors can also be main applicants, but they cannot replace the practical operations or the higher education institution in the collaborative activities.

- **Time period:** Grants can be provided for a period of one to two years. The level of activity can vary during the grant period.
- **Grant amount:** Applications can amount to max. SEK 1 million per year for two years. Note that the max. amounts include indirect costs (OH).
- **Eligibility:** The main applicant must be connected to an approved administrating organisation.
- **Restrictions:** In this call, a person can only submit one application as the main applicant for one of the three types of grant: project grant, programme grant and practice-oriented research fellow. In addition, it is also permitted to submit an application as the main applicant for a collaboration grant. There are no restrictions for applicants who also apply for, or already have, grants in Forte's other calls.

The application process

All applications must be sent via [the application and review system Prisma](#). Before starting your application, make sure the following conditions are met:

- You have created a personal account in Prisma
- Everyone involved in the application as a participating researcher has created personal accounts in Prisma
- Where applicable, CV and publication details for the main applicant and participating researchers have been stored on the respective applicant's personal account
- Your administrating organisation has an organisation account in Prisma and has been approved as an administrating organisation at Forte. The application to be approved as an administrating organisation must be made no later than four weeks before the call closes. [Find out more about Forte's criteria for approving administrating organisations »](#)

One condition for your application being processed is that final accounts for any previous grants have been submitted. This only applies to grants where the deadline for final reporting has passed. We take into account any previously granted extension of the availability period and therefore the postponed date for reporting.

Applications for a collaboration grant must be written in Swedish or English. For more information on how to write the application, see the instructions on the website for the call.

The assessment process

When you have submitted your application, it is passed to the review panel for assessment. The review panel is made up of researchers who are experts in their fields and representatives of organisations in social services' areas of activity. Based on their assessment, Forte's board will decide which applications are to be accepted.

To be granted funding from Forte, an application must meet the requirements and assessment criteria described below. The assessment is an overall assessment which weighs up all the criteria and requirements and relates them to the call and its purpose. Central to the assessment is how the applicant has justified the different choices made in the application.

Application requirements

All applications must meet the requirements below to be granted funding. Part of the review panel's overall assessment involves judging to what extent these requirements are met.

- The activities must be relevant in relation to the focus of the call and the description of the type of grant.
- The application must address and justify whether a gender-perspective is applicable to the activities applied for and how this will be taken into account.
- The activities must be conducted ethically and the application must account for the handling of any ethical problems.

Assessment criteria

The various criteria are given equal weighting in the assessment, unless stated otherwise in the call text. The extent to which these criteria are met is part of the overall assessment by the review panel.

Added value and potential

The potential of the proposed activities to contribute to lasting effects in the form of activities development, knowledge development or structures for collaboration between research and practice. How clearly and well the activities are described and justified in relation to the needs within academia and practice and the purposes of the call.

Relevance and benefit

The anchoring of the activities in general or specific challenges or development needs, as well as their expected benefit for social services' operations, clients and the surrounding community. The possibility that lessons learned and knowledge generated can also contribute to operations other than the parties involved in the project.

Feasibility

The clarity and plausibility of the work plan, the budget and the planned efforts for implementing the activities, as well as the possibility of fulfilling the purpose and set goals. Anchoring in and connection to determined or planned development work or strategies within practice.

Guiding questions

The guiding questions are based on the assessment criteria above. The purpose of the questions is to provide support for applicants in formulating their applications and for Forte's reviewers in the assessment process.

Application requirements

- Do the activities match the focus of the call and the description of the type of grant?
- Can a gender-perspective add anything important to the activities and, if this is this case, has it been included in an appropriate way?
- If applicable, are the activities conducted in accordance with the principles of research ethics and good research practice and have any ethical problems been addressed in a suitable manner? [Read more in the European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity »](#)

Added value and potential

- Are the activities well described and justified in relation to the focus and purposes of the call and the needs within social services?
- Do the activities have clear added value, in the sense that they bring something new or strengthen existing forms of collaboration?
- Is there potential for lasting results in the form of knowledge development, activities development or development of cooperation between academia and practice?

Relevance and benefit

- Are the activities anchored in a current challenge or development need for social services' operations?
- Can the benefit of the activities also be useful to other organisations outside the project, users or surrounding community?
- Do the activities help to increase researchers' understanding of the problems that are relevant to practitioners, users and decision-makers?
- Do the activities help to strengthen the prerequisites for practice-based research within the social services' area of activity?

Feasibility

- Is the work plan realistic and suitable for carrying out the activities and reaching the set goals?
- Is it evident from the application that the main applicant and the other participants have the skills needed to carry out the planned activities and achieve the set goals?
- Are the budget and the participants' planned efforts realistic and suitable for carrying out the activities and reaching the set goals?
- Is it evident from the application that the activities are anchored at the appropriate operations level? Is there a letter of intent to confirm this?

Guidelines for how Forte handles applications where parts of the research are to be conducted abroad

Forte looks favourably on international research collaboration. Forte's areas of responsibility cover complex social challenges where international research collaboration can make important contributions.

Forte's grants can be used to fund research where certain parts are conducted in other countries, but the research must be initiated and led from Sweden or a distinct part of the collaborative research.

Applications that include international collaboration are assessed using the same criteria as other research applications and by the same review panels.

In the assessment of the research applications, the reviewers in Forte's review panels must assess whether a potential overseas component of a project brings added value to the project or is a prerequisite for a project, for example with a global or comparative approach.

It is the responsibility of the main applicant to find out how their own administrating organisation views funding research where certain parts are conducted in other countries and to find suitable forms of collaboration in each specific case.

It is the administrating organisation for the grant, i.e. the main applicant's home institution in Sweden, that decides on and is responsible for appointing foreign staff, if necessary, or paying for activities and services that take place in other countries.

Plan S and open access

Results from research funded by Forte must be published with open access. [Find out more about Forte's guidelines for publishing with open access »](#)

SweCRIS

Forte sends information about awarded grants to SweCRIS, a national database of grant-funded research set up on behalf of the government. [Find out more about SweCRIS »](#)

Schedule

The call opens	2023-09-07
The call closes	2023-10-25
Forte's board makes decisions on funding	February 2024
The decisions are published	March 2024
Start of project	2024-04-01