

# Applied welfare research 2019

## Information about the call

Within this call for proposals you may apply for five types of grants: programme grants, practice-oriented research fellows, postdoc grants, planning grants and/or grants for systematic reviews. In this call for proposals, it is not possible to apply for a project grant. A call for proposals for project grants is scheduled for 2020.

In total, around SEK 100 million is reserved for the period 2019–2024.

*The deadline for applications is 16 April 2019 at 14:00.*

## Focus

Forte is commissioned by the Government to run a national research programme for applied welfare research. The research programme aims to promote client and practice-oriented research in the field of applied social services. Client and practice-oriented research is based on issues that are relevant in regard to the needs of social services and clients and which can lead to benefits and usability for clients, social services activities and society as a whole. The initiative aims at strengthening collaborations between research and practice and increasing the participation of users and those close to users. The research that is funded shall fulfil the requirements of high quality and encompass several different disciplines and scientific competencies. The research should be planned in collaboration with relevant target groups, such as concerned professions and users. We welcome studies that apply both a quantitative and qualitative scientific approach as well as studies that utilise mixed methods.

The focus of the call is based on eight priority areas. They are presented in more detail in [the programme's strategic agenda](#). Please note that the strategic agenda is only available in Swedish. Applications within this call are to focus on one or more of the following priority research topics:

- **The effects of interventions.** There is a need for more intervention research that evaluates the effects of the interventions used in social services based on individual-oriented outcomes. Research is needed on both existing interventions and the development and evaluation of new initiatives. The social aspects of interventions need to be highlighted, such as methods for interpersonal communication, creating relationships and approaches. There is also a need for additional research regarding the cost-effectiveness of different interventions.
- **Methods for needs assessment for individuals.** Research on methods for investigating, assessing and describing individuals' problems, situation and need for interventions. There is a need for both quantitative research and research with a qualitative approach that investigates interpersonal communication, interactions and the creation of relationships, and how this impacts the assessment.

- **Early/preventive measures of the social services.** More knowledge is needed on the effects of the preventive, early and outreach measures of the social services. In addition to the individual and group perspectives, the research area also includes community-based social services. There is a need for research on the effects and benefits of social services' involvement in community planning to help prevent social problems and contribute to a good social environment.
- **Implementation and change management.** Research is needed on methods for translating new knowledge into practice as well as knowledge on how the organisation can be arranged to create a working culture centred on learning and quality improvement. There is also a need for research on methods for systematic follow-up, such as development and research on planning and follow-up tools, both for the social services' core activities and for treatment activities.
- **Coherent service provision initiatives.** Research on coordination in the interface between the social services and, for example, healthcare services, schools, different authorities and civil society. The research needs to evaluate the effects that coordination will have for the users. There is also a need for research on cooperation between municipalities and within local social services along with socio-economic aspects relating to coordination.
- **User participation.** It is important to develop and evaluate methods based on the users' needs and to organise the work and working methods in the social services based on a user perspective. Research on methods for creating participation and influence, as well as the effects and consequences of user involvement. The user perspective is also an important aspect in research within the other priority research topics.
- **Digitalisation and welfare technology.** Research on welfare technology to develop working methods, processes, organisation and interventions in the social services. The area covers research on ethical and legal aspects of welfare technology as well as health economics research on the effects on digitisation and welfare technology.
- **Non-profit and entrepreneurial providers of social services.** Research on how changes to the social services and the division of responsibility in the form of privatisation affect the users, the quality and content of the services and the cost trend. The conditions for society's governance and control of this field are important research issues, as is the question of how the information to users and relatives should be organised and provided.

## Grant types

Within this call for proposals, it is possible to apply for five different types of grants. The terms and conditions, grant length and grant amount for each type of grant can be found under the respective headings below.

Only one application per grant type and main applicant is allowed. Applications for different types of grants may not relate to the same project.

! *Note that the maximum amounts below include indirect costs.*

## Programme grant

Programme grants aim to strengthen applied welfare research on a long-term basis and enable the development of research environments within the topics stated above. Forte particularly welcomes applications from programmes that aim to strengthen intervention research and build up methodological competence and method development within intervention research for social interventions. This effort will enable research groups to address new issues and process them for a longer period. The programmes should be interdisciplinary in nature and there should be collaboration between researchers, users/relatives, professionals and other actors. The programme plan shall include a clear description of how the research results are intended to be utilised within the social services.

- **Grant amount:** 3–4 million per year. The grant is sought for six years but is initially granted for three years. After three years, the grant can be extended by three years following the submission of a follow-up report focusing on the organisation, commencement and progression of the research and research environment.
- **Eligibility:** To apply, you must have obtained a doctoral degree no later than the date of the call closing.
- **Grant-specific requirements:** The applications should relate to interdisciplinary collaboration between at least two research groups with complementary focus, and it should be clear how the programme's interdisciplinary collaboration creates added value.

## Practice-oriented research fellow

Grants for practice-oriented research fellows will give persons with a PhD, working with social services issues outside of the academy, the opportunity to carry out research and translate their research experience into practice. The grant can be applied for by researchers working within the social services, medical services, research and development units within the social services, other public agencies and organisations. The applicant must have the opportunity to conduct research on a part-time basis. The purpose of the grant is to promote the link between research and social services practice as well as the translation of research experience into practice, thus promoting continuous development and improvement work.

- **Grant amount:** SEK 500,000 for three years, which is intended to cover the cost of a half-time salary for three years.
- **Eligibility:** To apply, you must have obtained a doctoral degree no later than the date of the call closing and work with social services issues in your regular position.
- **Grant-specific requirements:** In the application, there must be a certificate from a municipality/employer indicating that part-time hours have been set aside for the applicant, as well as a certificate from the department indicating that you are welcome to conduct your research there. The application must describe your current duties and the manner in which they concern the activities of the social services. See the appendix "Instructions for the Prisma application form" for more information.

## Postdoc grant

The postdoc grant will give researchers who recently obtained their doctoral degree (at the earliest January 2017) the opportunity to continue their research career. For a postdoc grant, you are the sole applicant, and you consequently cannot invite participating researchers. The form of support covers 2 years and the grant is intended to cover a full-time salary.

Forte wants to promote mobility, which is why we would like to see the postdoc period undertaken at a higher education institution or department other than the one where the doctoral programme was conducted. It is also an advantage if some of the project time is spent engaged in practical work within the social services. Forte welcomes placements abroad during the postdoc period and there will be the opportunity to apply for extra grants for stays abroad. However, the grant must be administered by a Swedish higher education institution. Example on successful research environments abroad are presented in appendix 12 in the programme's strategic agenda. For further information [follow this link](#). Please note that the strategic agenda is only available in Swedish.

- **Grant amount:** SEK 1 million per year for a placement in Sweden and a maximum of SEK 1.4 million per year for a placement abroad. A postdoc grant is awarded for two years.
- **Eligibility:** You are eligible to apply for a postdoc grant in this call for proposals if you have obtained a doctoral degree no earlier than January 2017. If you obtained a doctoral degree before January 2017, you can deduct time for periods such as parental leave or military service. Instructions are provided further down in this document, under the heading "Deductible time".

## Planning grants

Planning grants provide the opportunity to prepare for major research projects, establish collaborations with among others various research disciplines, practice and users including the possibility to launch a pilot study. The planning grants are intended to support research groups that want to consolidate themselves before a major project application within applied welfare research.

- **Grant amount:** 1 million over 1 year.
- **Eligibility:** To apply, you must have obtained a doctoral degree no later than the date of the call closing.

## Systematic reviews

Grants for systematic reviews are given to identify current knowledge and research needs within a well-defined topic of relevance to social services interventions and activities, which benefit from initiatives from several scientific areas or disciplines. The projects are to follow current methodology for systematic reviews and should include ethical, social and contextual aspects and, if possible, cost efficiency.

- **Grant amount:** 1 million over 1 year.
- **Eligibility:** To apply you must be a researcher, with a doctoral degree, working at a university, university college or other research organisation.

- **Grant-specific requirements:** The systematic review should adhere to an established method for systematic reviews. A clear account of the choice of method and approach should be included in the application. Proposed methods are SBU's method handbook or Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA).

## The application process

All applications are to be submitted via the Prisma application and review system.

Conditions for you to be able to submit your application:

- You must create a personal account in Prisma
- Each person included in the application as a participating researcher must also create a personal account in Prisma
- CVs and details of publications by applicants and participating researchers must be saved in each applicant's/researcher's personal account
- Your university or university college must have an organisation account in Prisma

In order for your application to be considered, the final reporting for your previously approved projects must have been submitted. This only applies to grants where the deadline for final reporting has passed. Any previously granted extensions of project duration, and consequently of reporting deadlines, will be taken into account.

For more information on how to fill in the applications form, see instructions for each respective grant form on [the call's web page](#).

## The review process

The applications are assessed by a review panel composed of international researchers and Swedish community representatives. Funding decisions are made by Forte's board.

Since applications are reviewed by international experts, your application should be written in English (with the exception of fields where Swedish is specifically requested). If the application is written in Swedish, the quality of the assessment may be compromised.

### Forte's set assessment criteria

#### Scientific quality:

- Purpose, research questions, theoretical framework, background and originality  
Study design, methods for data collection and analysis
- Interdisciplinarity and/or multidisciplinary
- Gender and diversity perspectives in the content of the research

**Relevance:**

- Relevance in relation to society's needs and Forte's areas of responsibility
- Engagement with users of research results during the research process
- Utilisation and communication of research results

**Feasibility:**

- Work plan quality
- Project leader's and research group's research competence
- Account of any previous own research in the area
- Staffing and budget, assessed on reasonability

**Call-specific assessment criteria**

- Relevance in relation to the call for proposal's focus and priority research topics
- Relevance for application of research results within the social services
- Collaboration with representatives from the social services, users, professionals and other actors in the research process

## Guidelines on how Forte handles applications where part of the research is to be carried out abroad

- Forte is positive towards international research collaborations. Forte's area of responsibility covers complex societal challenges in which international research collaborations can provide important contributions.
- Forte's grants can be used to finance research where certain parts are carried out in other countries. However, the research shall be initiated and led from Sweden or be a clear part of the collaborative research.
- Applications involving international collaborations are assessed against the same criteria as other research applications and by our review panels.
- In assessing research applications, the reviewers in Forte's review panels shall assess if any foreign section of a project brings added value to a project or is a prerequisite for a project with, for example, a global or comparative approach.
- It is the principal applicant's responsibility to: find out how his or her administrating organisation stands on financing research where certain parts are carried out in other countries; and, find suitable collaboration procedures in each specific case.
- It is the grant's administrating organisation, i.e. principal applicant's home institution in Sweden, that determines and is responsible for, if necessary, appointing foreign personnel or paying for activities or services carried out in other countries.

## Deductible time

If you are applying for a type of grant with special career length requirements, you may apply for an exemption due to deductible time. The deductible time should have occurred after the doctoral degree was completed.

Acceptable reasons for deductible time are parental leave, work as labour union or student union representative, military service or illness (personal illness or care for an ill relative). Note that we do not accept other employment, unemployment, or vacation as deductible time.

Confirm your deductible time by sending a certificate to [forte@forte.se](mailto:forte@forte.se) no later than 23 April 2019. Your e-mail should specify the reference number of your application (available in Prisma after the application deadline, meaning that your application should have a reference number on the morning of 17 April. For parental leave, a certificate from Försäkringskassan must be submitted. In special cases where this is not possible, a certificate from the employer can be submitted instead. It is important that you check the box for deductible time, indicating that you are submitting certificates separately.

## Open access

Results from research funded by Forte shall be published with open access. [Read more about Open Access.](#)

## SweCRIS

Forte transfers information of issued grants to SweCRIS, a national database on grant-funded research set up at the request of the government. [Read more about SweCRIS.](#)

## Time plan

The call closes	<b>16 April</b>
Forte's board decides on financing	<b>1 October</b>
Project start	<b>1 December</b>