

Applied welfare research 2020

Information about the call

Within this call for proposals you may apply for five types of grants: projects grant, grant for practice-oriented research fellow, planning grant, network grant and grant for systematic reviews.

In total, around SEK 73 million is reserved for the period 2020-2023.

The deadline for applications is 6 February 2020 at 14:00.

Focus area

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 preferably 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](#). We also refer to the [analysis conducted by Forte and SBU regarding social services-related research needs](#) from the perspective of users and practitioners. Applications within this call are to focus on one or more of the following priority research topics. Within this call for proposal, priority is especially given to the areas 1 to 3. The review panel can make strategic recommendations to Forte's board of directors based on the prioritised areas.

1. **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.
2. **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.

3. **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.
4. **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 centered 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.
5. **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.
6. **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.
7. **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.
8. **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

Five types of grants are available within this call. The terms and conditions, grant limits, and eligibility requirements for each type of grant can be found under the respective headings below.

Only one application per grant type and main applicant is allowed. However, applications for different grant types cannot refer to the same project.

! Note that the maximum amounts below include indirect costs. Applications exceeding the specified maximum amount will not be considered.

Project grant

Project grants are grants for individual research projects. Research projects must be based on the questions and needs of the profession and users/clients. The research projects must therefore be conducted in collaboration with social services, e.g. through regional support and collaboration structures, local R&D units, managers and staff. Forte especially welcomes projects focused on the effects of interventions and methodology for investigating the intervention needs of individuals, as well as projects on prevention and early intervention. Applications may be submitted for a fourth year for complex and comprehensive research projects such as intervention studies, as well as for implementation and follow-up. An explanation justifying the need for a fourth year must be included in the application.

- **Grant limit for project grant:** This call welcomes applications for project funding for two, three, or four years. Forte has allocated a total of SEK 50 million over a four-year period for project funding. There is no maximum limit for this type of funding, but the budget must be explained in the application. Forte grants an average of about SEK 1.3 million annually in project funding.
- **Eligibility requirements for project grant:** To apply for a project grant you must have completed a doctoral degree no later than the date of the call closing.

Practice-oriented research fellow

Practice-oriented research fellowships are aimed at applicants who wish to both work in practice and to conduct research. 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 limit for practice-oriented research fellow:** SEK 500,000 per year for three years, which is intended to cover the cost of a half-time salary for three years.
- **Eligibility requirements for practice-oriented research fellow:** 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. The application must describe the added value that will be provided from receiving the

grant, as well as how the grant will contribute to the programme goal of driving research and practice in the field of social services closer together. See the appendix “Instructions for the Prisma application form” for more information.

Planning grant

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 limit for planning grant:** SEK 1 million over 1 year.
- **Eligibility requirements for planning grant:** To apply for a project grant you must have completed 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 limit for systematic reviews:** SEK 1 million over 1 year.
- **Eligibility requirements for systematic reviews:** To apply for a project grant you must have completed a doctoral degree no later than the date of the call closing.
- **Grant-specific requirements:** 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).

Network grant

Network grants seek to facilitate collaboration between researchers from various disciplines and different parts of Sweden and internationally in the prioritised areas. Such grants may also be awarded for collaboration involving the practical setting, users/user organisations and other stakeholders. The network may include researchers in other countries, but the coordinator must be linked to a funding administrator in Sweden. Network grants are awarded for two or three years.

- **Grant limit for network grants:** SEK 150,000 per year for two or three years.
- **Eligibility requirements for network grants:** To apply for a project grant you must have completed a doctoral degree no later than the date of the call closing.

The application process

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

- You have created a personal account in Prisma
- All participating researchers have created personal accounts in Prisma
- Each participating researcher has stored personal data, CV and publications on their accounts
- Your administrating organisation has an organisational account in Prisma and has been approved as an administrating organisation at Forte. [Forte's criteria for approving administrating organisations](#) »

In order for your application to be considered, the final reporting for any 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 out the application, see instructions for each grant form on the call's website.

The review process

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

Since applications are reviewed by international experts, your application should be written in English (except for fields where Swedish is specifically requested). If the application is written in Swedish, the quality of the assessment may be compromised. Forte is not responsible for the quality of any translations.

Forte's assessment criteria

Scientific quality:

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

Relevance:

- Relevance in relation to societal needs, Forte's areas of responsibility and the focus area of the call
- Engagement with end users
- Utilisation and communication of research results

Feasibility:

- Work plan quality

- Research competence of project leader and research group
- Account of any previous own research in the area
- Staffing and budget, assessed on reasonableness

Call-specific assessment criteria

- Relevance in relation to the 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 the same 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 main 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. the main 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.

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	6 February 2020
Forte's board decides on funding	20 May 2020
Project start	1 July 2020