### Blue text on a black background  AI-generated content may be incorrect.**Screening Inequalities Funding Application 2025**

**(Promoting Cervical Screening Awareness and improving women’s health in your community)**

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# **Introduction**

Funding is available for third sector and community organisations to support the delivery of innovative, community-based initiatives that raise awareness of the importance of cervical screening and how it supports staying healthy. The aim is to improve understanding, engagement, and participation in the cervical screening programme amongst women that you work with. Your organisations have existing relationships with the women and are best placed to connect with local people especially those who are missing from screening, underrepresented or at greater risk of poor health and inequality.

# **Why focus on cervical screening?**

Data shows that cervical screening uptake is falling and is lower in women between 25-49 years but especially low among younger women between 25-29 years. Evidence shows that if we can engage young women successfully from the age of 25 then they are more likely to attend screening as they get older.

Uptake varies across different population groups and communities with the lowest uptake are those living in the most deprived areas and minoritised populations, including black and ethnic minority populations. It can be related to other priorities, lack of education about the benefits of screening or family and cultural influences.

Cervical screening is one of the best ways to protect women and anyone with a cervix from cervical cancer. It is offered routinely every 5 years to all women and those with a cervix aged 25-64 years. Cervical cancer is the most common cancer in women aged 25 to 35 years. The combined effect of having the HPV vaccination and attending for regular screening means that any changes can be identified early and treated to help prevent cervical cancer.Therefore, it is important to support women to engage with cervical screening.
*Find out more about cervical screening on* [NHS Inform](https://www.nhsinform.scot/healthy-living/screening/cervical-screening-smear-test/)

# **We are looking to fund:**

* Organisations who demonstrate a strong understanding of the community they work with and the health challenges faced by them.
* Innovative and tailored approaches suitable for your community that will:
* **Increase Awareness –**Educate community members on the importance of regular cervical screening through opportunistic conversations and incorporating into your day to day activities.
* **Encourage Participation** – Motivate individuals who are eligible for screening and those approaching screening age to take action and participate in the cervical screening programme.
* **Reduce Health Inequalities** – Engage with groups who are underrepresented in screening and already experience inequality to ensure equitable access to screening services.

# **Support provided:**

NHS Lothian Screening team (Directorate of Public Health & Health Policy) will help to equip local organisations with the tools and information they need to help educate and guide community members about their health and the importance of screening by providing:

* Up to £2000 for each successful application
* Training for staff and volunteers on screening, inequalities and health.
* Two funded places on the SCQF accredited Health Issues in the Community (HIIC) course.

# **Application Criteria and Eligibility:**

Open to all third sector and community organisations, either individually or in partnership.

# **Application Form****:**

Application Deadline: (01/08/2025)

We will require a final report at the end of the year to inform a report from NHS Lothian to the Scottish Government on how the Screening Inequalities Funding was spent and how it addressed inequalities in Lothian.

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| **Section 1: Organisation Details** |
| Organisation name |  |
| Charity Number |  |
| Address |  |
| Email/Phone Number |  |
| Website/Social Media Links |  |
| Describe your organisation |  |
| Who do you work with? (Describe the profile of your community and service users, including relevant demographics) |  |
| **Section 2: Proposal Details:** |
| Project Title |  |
| Target Audience  |  |
| Summary of your ideas/ key activities (Max 200 words):Please briefly explain how you could incorporate cervical screening awareness into your activities. |  |
| What do you think are the 3 most important messages about cervical screening for your community? | 1.2.3. |
| **Section 3: Budget Outline** |
| Please provide a brief outline of what the money would be required for |  |
| Evaluation- how would you know your project has been successful |  |
| Please indicate if you are interested in the Health Issues in the Community training and if its staff or volunteers (delete as appropriate) | **Yes**1 or 2 places Volunteer/ Staff | **No** |
| **Section4: Declaration**By signing this application, you confirm that the information provided is accurate and complete. You agree to adhere to the terms and conditions of the Screening Inequalities Funding |
| Name of authorised representative: |  |
| Position: |  |
| Signature: |  |
| Date: |  |
| Checklist Before Submission:* Completed all sections of the application form.
* Signed the declaration.
* Please submit your completed application to Wafaa.salama@nhs.scot by [01/08/2025]. Late submissions cannot be considered.
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**For Office Use Only:**

* Date Received:
* Application Reference Number:
* Reviewed By:
* Decision: