



Research Grants – Process and General Guidelines

Section 52 (2) of the National Health Insurance Law (1994) defines the roles of the National Health Council as follows: monitoring law implementation, conducting studies, surveys, and promoting discourse between key stakeholders and professionals. The main goal is to monitor implementation of the National Health Insurance Law, and to evaluate its impact on Israeli health services, their quality, efficiency, and cost. The Health Council appointed the Israel National Institute for Health Policy Research (NIHP) to carry out these tasks.

Research proposals are invited in four main fields:

- **Health Policy**
- **Health Services Organization**
- **Health Economics**
- **Health Services Quality**

Priority will be given to studies with practical potential to influence health policy, as well as multi-center and multi-disciplinary studies.

This year, priority will be given to the following topics:

The impact of continuous emergency states on the healthcare system: pandemics and wars (e.g., impact on ER activity, availability of elective treatments, waiting times for specialists, screening tests, vaccination rates).

1. **Medical education and training** (e.g., education regarding compassion and empathy, characteristics of candidates for nursing and medical studies, new models for teaching students and residents).
2. **Policy and regulation of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies in the healthcare system** (e.g., the level of proof required to adopt AI-based systems in healthcare, availability of large databases).

**Call for Proposals 2026 – Deadline for submitting proposals :
Tuesday, 20.10.2026 at 15:00**

Study proposals with outcomes that will assist Israeli healthcare leaders in decision-making and policy-setting processes will be given highest priority. Study proposals for developing databases, technical tools for ongoing management, or methods for diagnosis or treatment will have a lower priority. Clinical research studies will not be accepted.

Evaluating and prioritizing proposals will be done through a **PEER REVIEW** process. The final decision rests with the NIHP's Research Committee. The requested budget size is a factor in the judging process.

Abstracts of all completed studies will be published on the Institute's website. With the approval of the principal investigator responsible for the study, the NIHP may publish or otherwise use the final reports of funded studies, with the exception of scientific publications in professional literature. From time to time, researchers whose proposals were approved will be asked to present their findings at relevant Institute forums, during or upon completion of the study.

A. Who is eligible to submit a research proposal?

1. The researcher who submits the proposal herein will be referred to as the Principal Investigator (PI) (see section 3 below). Researchers with a Master degree (with thesis) or higher, or MDs are eligible to be PIs or co-Principal Investigators (co-PIs). The PI must work at a recognized research institution in Israel.
2. A research institution for this purpose is any academic institution recognized by the Council for Higher Education - hospital, health fund (Kupat Holim), government ministry, local authority, etc. - provided that the institution engages in research and has a specific organizational unit (a Research Authority or Research Fund) that can manage the grant funds in a separate, audited budget and will be accountable to the NIHP on all administrative and financial matters.
3. A study can have no more than two principal researchers – a PI and co-PI - and up to four Associated Investigators (AIs). The **PI** will sign all grant documents, along with authorized signatories of the Research Authority/Fund, and will be accountable to the NIHP for the study in all matters.

Please note: It is the PIs responsibility to verify with their Research Authority that they are permitted to submit a research proposal on behalf of their Research Institute.

4. In each annual call-for-proposal, a researcher can only be listed as a principal investigator (PI or co-PI) on one research proposal.
5. A researcher can participate in a maximum of three studies funded simultaneously by the NIHP, with a maximum of two as principal researcher (PI/co-PI).
6. Researchers from abroad can participate as a Co-PI or AI, but the NIHP will not fund work performed abroad.
7. The PI cannot go on sabbatical or be absent during the study for a period exceeding 3 months, without prior notification and approval by the NIHP.
8. None of the research investigators are permitted to draw a salary, claim personal expenses or any other payment from the research grant.

B. Timelines and Budget:

The requested grant amount is a significant factor in the adjudication process.

1. A standard study will be planned for a timeline of up to a year and a half, with a budget range of 50,000 ILS to 150,000 ILS.
2. A large-scale study will be planned for a duration of two to three years, with a budget not exceeding 300,000 ILS.

These frameworks are general guidelines only. Both the requested budget and the required timeline must be detailed within the proposal, allowing reviewers to determine the appropriateness of the budget and timeline, for each of the proposals activity components.

C. Research Proposal Submission and Approval Process:

1. As a first step, the **PI** must log into the research management system on the website: www.nihpr.org.il. The registrant will appear from then on as the PI. This status cannot be changed during the application submission process. After registration, the PI will receive a "Registration Confirmation" message to the email address provided during registration.
2. After registration confirmation, access to the research management website will be possible by entering an ID number and password as determined during registration. From this stage onward, submitting proposals and managing the study through its various stages will only be done online through this system by the PI.

Submitting a Preliminary Research Proposal

The preliminary proposal will be **written in Hebrew**, except for concepts that have no translation or when English is required within the form itself.

a) The preliminary proposal abstract includes three main parts:

1. Details of the Principal Investigators

Please note: At this stage, only (up to) two principal researchers should be included – the PI (the proposal submitter) and co-PI. If the proposal progresses to submitting a full research proposal, up to four Associated Investigators can be added.

2. Timeframe and Budget

The study duration (in months) and total budget must be specified, as well as the responsible institution that will manage the grant funds.

Please note: The total budget requested in the full proposal cannot deviate by more than 20% from the estimated total budget in the preliminary proposal.

3. Study Abstract: Includes six sections (total number of words must not exceed 350).

- **Scientific Background** – up to 90 words; no reference list is required at this stage.
- **Research Objectives**
- **Working Hypotheses** (including expected results)
- **Research Methods** – outline of the research design, methods, data source(s), target population, sample size, and methods of analysis.
- **Significance and Innovation** – explanation of the study's importance, relationship to the goals and relevance to the National Health Insurance Law, and a description of the study's innovation.
- **Possible Recommendations for Policy Makers** – detail the potential implications of the proposed study findings on decision-making processes in the healthcare system.

b) Submission Process for Preliminary Proposal

Upon completing the online proposal application form, two options exist: "Save as Draft" wherein the proposal is saved as a draft in the system and can be accessed again for editing or "Submit" for final submission. Upon completing all edits, pressing the "Submit" button enters the proposal into the system and the evaluation and adjudication process will begin. Please note that after clicking "Submit," no changes can be made to the proposal; please review carefully that the form was filled out correctly. If however the "Submit" button is not clicked, the proposal will not be processed for adjudication.

Preliminary requests undergo initial screening by the NIHP Research Committee. Researchers whose proposals are deemed worthy will be asked to submit a full proposal in Hebrew or English, within a specified timeline, according to the NIHP's decision. Outcome status for all preliminary proposals (accepted/rejected) will be sent to the PI and relevant Research Authority by email ONLY (to the addresses, as registered in the system by the PI).

NIHP staff will only process proposals submitted online, in accordance with the detailed instructions provided above.

Submitting a Full Research Proposal

A full proposal will be submitted on the dedicated form: [Full Proposal Evaluation Forms](#). Please ensure a logical thread connects the parts of the proposal: the background justifies the need for the study; objectives are detailed; methods match the objectives. (Specific instructions regarding how to complete each section of the form are provided on the form itself).

Deadline for submitting full research proposal : Tuesday, 20.10.2026 at 15:00

Instructions for the Budget Request in the Full Submission Form:

1. Ensure that the total requested budget does not deviate by more than 20% from the budget specified in the preliminary proposal. The cost of the entire study (including overhead up to 10%) shall not exceed 300,000 ILS.
2. Notes and justifications are very important in the budget approval process and should be as detailed as possible.
3. Do not include salary or other expenses of the researchers (PI, co-PI or Associated Investigators) in the budget.
4. Do not include the purchase of permanent equipment, computers, computer software, professional literature, literature review, telephone expenses, editing and publication expenses, participation in conferences (in Israel and abroad), refreshment expenses, etc.
5. When including **subcontractor costs**, attach a quote from the subcontractor that includes detailed specifications of the work order and costs (such as data collection method, sample size, etc.).
6. If the budget includes payment for using **databases**, a quote from the database provider(s), including the names of the database(s), the database provider(s), and details of the costs involved in preparing the database must be provided, as customary for subcontractors.
7. **Travel expenses** (in Israel and by public transportation only) for research purposes must be included within the manpower items as part of the wage, and not as a separate item.
8. If, after approval and completion of the research, the results are accepted as a scientific publication in a peer-reviewed journal, the Institute will participate in publication expenses up to an amount of \$2,200 (subject to providing a detailed invoice). Therefore, publication expenses should not be included in the budget proposal.

9. The table below presents average monthly salary costs recommended by the NIHP for studies it funds. Deviating from these guideline costs requires clear and detailed justification.

Education/Qualifications	Cost to Fund, Monthly Salary, ILS
No degree / Junior Researcher	7,000
Bachelor's Degree Graduate	8,000
Master's Degree Graduate	12,000
Ph.D. Graduate	15,000
Ph.D. with unique expertise	20,000

10. The NIHP is to be informed of any grant applications submitted, or planned to be submitted to other institutes in the future.
11. The NIHP is aware that during the course of a study, changes to the initial budget may arise. Any changes must be requested, with a detailed explanation for their necessity, in advance. Retroactive budget changes will not be approved.

Research Evaluation Process and Contract Agreement

- Full proposals will undergo a thorough peer review process by peers in Israel and/or abroad.
- After receiving the reviewers' feedback, the final decision whether to approve or reject each proposal lies with the Research Committee. Reviewers' feedback, in full or in part, will be forwarded to the PI, along with either a request for more information or a final response, as applicable. In addition, an in-depth review of the requested budget will be conducted by the Budget Committee.
- At each stage** of the process, proposals will be examined based on the following criteria:
 - Appropriateness of the research methods selected; adequacy of detail.
 - Researchers' qualifications, means available to them, and suitability of the research institution.
 - Size of the overall budget requested and its sub-components; level of fit between budget components and research plan components.
 - Originality of the research and its unique contribution to the body of knowledge and methodology of health services/policy research.
 - Contribution of the research to the National Health Insurance Law, the law's application, and promotion of its goals.
 - Extent to which the study serves as a basis for decision-making by health policy makers and implementers.
 - Potential contribution of the research to developing health services in Israel and improving their quality.
- In all studies involving human experiment, patient interviews and/or procedures that raise ethical and/or privacy issues (including the use of databases), approval from the Helsinki Committee, an ethics committee, or other relevant body must be provided prior to final research approval.

5. In any study where cooperation with other institutions is required (data requests or any other purpose), approval from the authorized body of the other institution(s) must be attached to the full proposal.
 6. For any deviation from the research outline (such as changing the timeline, sample size, or research methods), prior written approval must be obtained from the NIHP.
 7. All correspondence between researchers and the NIHP will be between the PI or a representative of the Research Authority only, and only via email nihp-r@israelhpr.health.gov.il. Attached documents must be scanned.
- After approval of the research proposal and budget, a contract agreement will be generated. The agreement will be signed by:
- a) On behalf of the NIHP: Authorized signatories
 - b) On behalf of the Study: All participating researchers, authorized signatories of the relevant Research Authority and management of the institution where the PI works

Reporting and Timeline Requirements for Approved Studies:

The study commencement date shall be no later than three months after the date of the signed agreement. The PI and/or Research Authority will notify the NIHP of this date via email.

Interim reports (scientific and financial) of active studies will be submitted at the halfway point of the research plan, according to the timeline approved by the National Institute.

Final reports (scientific and financial) of active studies will be submitted at the conclusion of the study, according to the approved timeline.

Delaying report submission will be considered a breach of contract conditions, unless prior approval was obtained. A request to defer the submission date of an interim or final report by more than 3 months must be accompanied by an updated report, up to the date of the request.

Additionally, the NIHP may demand a progress report and financial report at any stage of the research at its discretion, with reasonable notice.

In any publication of the research, including publications outside professional literature, researchers must state that the study was conducted with funding from the NIHP and from the Health Council budget.