



UK Research
and Innovation



Centre for
Homelessness Impact

Better evidence for a world without homelessness

UKRI policy fellowships 2026

Fellowship position

Fellowship title:

Centre for Homelessness Impact applied health economics for cost-effectiveness in homelessness prevention fellowship

Fellowship type:

What Works Innovation fellowship

Host organisation:

[Centre for Homelessness Impact](#)

Host team:

Evidence and Data Team

Academic discipline/s:

Health economics, social policy, public policy, statistics & data science

Summary:

Opportunity to apply health economic approaches to quantify the system-wide costs of homelessness and co-design a decision-support tool enabling local authorities to model cost-effectiveness, fiscal savings, and value for money from homelessness prevention interventions.

Policy topic:

This fellowship will address the policy challenge of improving the effectiveness and value for money of homelessness prevention and early intervention. The government's homelessness strategy highlights the rising costs of homelessness across public systems, including £3.7 billion in annual expenditure and £2.8 billion on temporary accommodation, while recognising the need to shift from crisis response to prevention.

However, there is currently limited evidence on the cost-effectiveness of homelessness interventions or the fiscal savings associated with prevention across systems such as housing, health and criminal justice. This fellowship will apply health economic approaches to strengthen the evidence base on the costs, impacts and cost-effectiveness of homelessness prevention and intervention strategies. The specific focus will be shaped through co-design during the inception phase.

Research career stage:

Open to all career stages

Fellowship structure

The fellowship is expected to begin in May 2027, subject to onboarding and security clearance requirements. It will consist of three phases:

- inception phase: 3 months at 0.4 FTE
- main placement phase: 12 months at 0.6 - 1 FTE
- knowledge exchange phase: 3 months at 0.4 FTE

Work arrangements

Location requirements:

The fellow will be based with the Centre for Homelessness Impact in London, where they will be embedded within the Evidence and Data team.

Hybrid working:

The fellow will be expected to attend the Centre for Homelessness Impact office in London for a minimum of two days per week during the main placement phase, with flexible remote working for the remaining time. During the inception phase, occasional in-person meetings in London will be required (approximately one to two days per month). There may also be occasional travel to meet stakeholders, including local authorities and government partners.

Security clearance and nationality eligibility criteria:

[Basic Personnel Security Standard](#) (BPSS) clearance is required for this role and typically takes four to six weeks. The successful applicant will be expected to begin the process once the fellowship is confirmed by UKRI. Clearance will be required for the main placement phase. Further information can be found in the UK Government guidance on [National security vetting: clearance levels](#).

Applicants must have the right to work in the UK for the duration of the fellowship, including UK or Irish nationals, EU/EEA nationals with settled or pre-settled status, or individuals with indefinite leave to remain. Eligibility will be confirmed at interview stage. Applicants are encouraged to review the [Civil Service guidance](#) on nationality rules to understand eligibility requirements.

Fellowship position description

Overview

This fellowship will strengthen the economic evidence base for homelessness policy, particularly around prevention and resource allocation. While the government's homelessness strategy highlights the rising costs of homelessness across public systems, there is limited evidence on the cost-effectiveness of interventions. The fellowship will apply health economic approaches to better link costs, outcomes and decision-making across housing, health and related public systems.

Research focus and areas of interest

The fellow will undertake research and analysis in one or more areas, including estimating the costs of homelessness across public systems, assessing the cost-effectiveness of prevention and intervention strategies, developing outcome and cost-effectiveness metrics, exploring variation in impacts across populations and service models, and developing decision-support tools for policymakers and local authorities. The precise research questions, methods and outputs will be shaped through co-design between the fellow and the host organisation.

Distinctive contribution of health economics

Health economics offers a way to link costs, outcomes and value across public systems. In the context of homelessness, this includes assessing cost-effectiveness, comparing prevention and crisis responses, and supporting evidence-based resource allocation and decision-making across housing, health and related systems.

Co-design and collaboration

The fellowship will be delivered through a co-design approach, with flexibility for the fellow to shape the research focus in line with their expertise and interests. The scope, methods and outputs will be refined during the inception phase in collaboration with the Centre for Homelessness Impact and policy partners.

Embedding and policy engagement

The fellow will be embedded within the Centre for Homelessness Impact's Evidence and Data team, working at the interface of research, policy and practice. This will include engagement with government and local authority partners, involvement in ongoing evaluation programmes, and access to relevant data and analytical support, providing direct exposure to policymaking and evidence-informed decision-making.

Benefits to the fellow

The fellowship offers the opportunity to co-design and publish original research, apply health economic methods in a real-world policy context, and contribute to national and local homelessness policy. The fellow will have access to relevant datasets, networks of policymakers and analysts, and opportunities for knowledge exchange through workshops, roundtables and cross-government collaboration.

Person specification

Applications will be assessed by UKRI panel assessment against the following essential opportunity-specific requirements in addition to the generic eligibility and call criteria.

Essential criteria:

- a strong academic track in health economics, social policy, public policy, statistics or data science
- experience applying quantitative methods relevant to the fellowship, such as economic evaluation, cost-effectiveness analysis or econometric modelling
- experience analysing complex datasets to generate policy-relevant insights

Applicants shortlisted from the panel assessment will be invited to a host-led interview. At this stage the host will also consider the following desirable fellowship-specific requirements.

Desirable criteria:

- experience applying research in policy or practice settings
- experience working with administrative or linked datasets
- interest in developing practical tools to support decision-making and knowledge exchange

Processing personal data

If applicants are shortlisted by the UKRI assessment panel UKRI will need to share the application and any personal information that it contains with the host for the host led interview selection process.

Your personal data will be handled in line with UK data protection legislation and managed securely. If you would like to know more, including how to exercise your Rights, please see the UKRI [privacy notice](#).

Please see the Hosts' [privacy notice](#) and they will delete your data at the end of the selection process unless you are successful, in which case we will retain your data as an independent data controller.