



Foundation

Proposal Guidance

Global Safety Evidence Centre
funding call

June 2025

Global Safety Evidence Centre funding call

The grants from the **Global Safety Evidence Centre** funding call will directly contribute to the Foundation's mission to engineer a safer world and the strategic objective of growing the foundation's capability and reputation as a trusted source of safety evidence and insight.

These grants are intended to create evidence to improve understanding and sharing of which safety interventions work; inform decision making; and highlight and fill knowledge and data gaps, ultimately influencing others to act and leading to better safety outcomes.

Who can apply

This call is open to **academic institutions, research organisations, non-profit organisations and industry worldwide. Collaborations across sectors and disciplines are highly encouraged.** Eligible institutions must be actively engaged in **research** activities that align with Lloyd's Register Foundation's mission to engineer a safer world, focusing on safety science and safe work.

In line with government guidelines, Lloyd's Register Foundation adheres to the following principles when granting funds to non-charitable organisations:

- Lloyd's Register Foundation grants must only fund activities, services, or outcomes aligned with its **charitable mission**.
- Funding for support costs is restricted to specified activities, services, or outcomes. Please consult further information on the **Applying for Funding** and **Managing Awards** pages of the Foundation's website.
- Grants must not provide personal benefit to individuals involved.
- Lloyd's Register Foundation and its Trustees must justify each funding decision as serving the Foundation's best interests.
- Recipients must use funds for the stated purpose, ensuring public or organisational benefit, not profit.
- These principles ensure that all grants to non-charitable organisations remain aligned with Lloyd's Register Foundation's mission and are compliant with relevant regulatory standards.



Applications for research are strongly encouraged in the Foundation's Ocean Centre Countries; Brazil, Kenya, Ghana, Bangladesh, India, Philippines and Indonesia, and other communities working within safer maritime systems.

In line with the Foundation's strategy, for projects led by colleagues from OECD countries, we will be looking for proposals that demonstrate leveraged funding and/ or strong global partnerships including with the Ocean Centre Countries.

Your Proposal: what we're looking for

Your Proposal

We are seeking ambitious and innovative proposals that aim to support with understanding and sharing which safety interventions work; inform decision making; highlight and fill knowledge and data gaps and lead to safer outcomes; or lead to the creation of evidence to support efforts to influence others to act.

Evidence outputs must be open access and it is anticipated that they will form part of the evidence repository of the Foundation's Global Safety Evidence Centre, subject to meeting quality standards.

Proposals should be for evidence projects of up to two years. We anticipate to see budgets of between £100,000 to £250,000 but should you wish to discuss projects with smaller or larger budgets please get in touch on the below details.

Proposals that are seeking to secure the higher budget threshold are likely to be those resulting in multiple research types or areas/ regions of focus. Applications that leverage funding from other sources is highly encouraged.

Themes and Topics

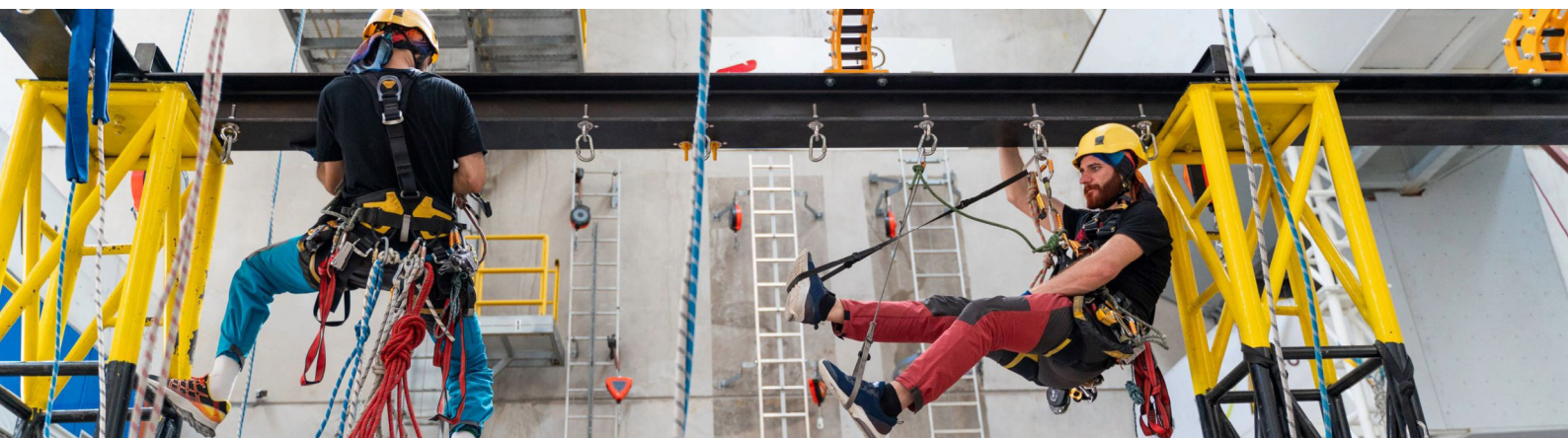
Proposals should address one or more of the following themes:

Safe Work:

The creation of a safe work environment, particularly in 'high hazard' industries, building on insights from the Lloyd's Register Foundation **World Risk Poll**. We are seeking proposals that contribute to the evidence base for the **Sustainable Development Goal 8.8: Promote Safe Working Environments**.

Safety Science

Knowledge about risk and safety, and how individuals understand, assess, measure and manage them, at work and in other spheres such as transport, energy or other critical infrastructures. At present safety science terms are poorly defined, interventions are inconsistent and those that are implemented are typically never evaluated. We are seeking evidence projects to support in defining key terms and approaches, and evidence that seeks to use models and theories to make causal relations in safety evidence.



Types of research projects

Proposals should take the form of one or more of the following research outputs

Evidence reviews and synthesis:

Reviewing existing and published global studies, either through established methods for search and assessment or through developing new methodology and capability for global evidence in safety.

This could include:

- **Conceptual and indicator reviews** to produce more precise, universally accepted definitions of safety and models to measure them in the workplace.
- **Rapid evidence assessments, scoping and umbrella reviews** to provide a broad overview of safety knowledge and interventions evidence.
- **Intervention effectiveness reviews** to understand the evidence range of what the impact of specific occupational safety interventions have been. We are especially keen to see reviews focusing on informal workers and organisations without dedicated safety professionals.
- **Living evidence synthesis and partnerships** to continuously update safety reviews and guidelines as new evidence becomes available. For example, examining how new evidence and partnerships are moving society closer to achieving Sustainable Development Goal 8.8: Protect Labour Rights and Promote Safe Working Environments.

Research, evaluations and trials:

Building on the current evidence base, using established research methods to produce quantitative or qualitative research. We are looking to test theoretical models that clarify the causal relationships between attitudes, behaviours or organisational practices and improvements in safety outcomes.

This could include:

- **Innovation and discovery evidence** – pipeline studies to get a better understanding of key elements of safety culture, theories of change or determining context for new ideas and small scale pilots of safety interventions.
- **Scaling and development evidence** – promising safety intervention ideas with a solid theory of change that are ready for larger scale trials.
- **Implementation and deployment studies** – established effective projects that require better understanding of how best to achieve implementation in practice and how to measure them. For example, exploring acceptability, feasibility or affordability.

Data and analysis:

Reviewing existing data, from organisations and practitioners to gain a deeper understanding.

This could include:

- **Secondary data analysis** (typically we would expect these to be shorter and lower cost in nature).
- **Data infrastructure capacity** – building to make it easier, quicker and cheaper for audiences to do high quality data collection and analysis to measure safety initiatives and knowledge.
- Primary data collection will only be funded in the Foundation's three safety strategic priority areas.



Types of research projects

Analysis of evidence knowledge and use in practice and policy:

Researching overlooked areas assessing where the evidence needs are pressing but research outputs have been slow to emerge. We are particularly keen to see partnerships with user led programmes and non-governmental organisations within this area. This could include:

- **Research that helps identify and evidence existing safety knowledge or needs** of practitioners and others working in the space of occupational safety. Projects would look at understanding practitioners knowledge, what interventions they implement based on their applied experience and what needs they have in their daily roles.
- This could include further analysis and research into an issue or place to better understand the local context and needs faced by different industries or types of workers. This could also include mapping evidence to understand which research gaps exist against occupational safety and health practitioner knowledge as well as what level of qualifications they have compared to what level is required.
- **Developing areas of research interest or collaborative research agendas** with practitioners, working collaboratively to identify problem statements.
- **Projects looking to apply evidence with wider communities and end users** – for example identifying how to embed safety evidence into national or sector safety plans. This could also include extending and comparing the occupational safety and health practitioner research to other sectors such as shipyards, commercial and shipping, ports, energy and search & rescue.
- **Safety policy analysis** to highlight evidence gaps and priorities to support further research and policymaking. We would expect this to be significantly shorter and lower cost in nature to other research outputs.



Criteria

Essential Criteria

It is anticipated that high quality proposals will feature the following characteristics:

- Research should build on, challenge, or extend existing knowledge in the field and address a relevant gap or need.
- Research method design should be sound, appropriate, and carefully considered, with a well-founded approach based on the best available evidence or theory.
- Research should take a systematic and transparent approach to analysis and interpretation.
- Evidence reviews should have a pre-registered protocol with clear inclusion and exclusion criteria and take a systematic and transparent approach to searching and selecting studies as well as a robust and consistent way of appraising the quality of included studies and assessing the confidence level of the review findings.
- Researchers should demonstrate an understanding of the context for the area of government or policy that they hope to inform and/or an understanding of how their work is grounded in real world context.
- Objectives and outcomes should be clearly defined and feasible, given the current stage of knowledge, with a logical methodology suited to achieving the goals.
- The project should be realistically achievable with the proposed resources, timeline, and expertise, and the plan should align with the stage of knowledge, whether it is early-stage exploration or advanced application.
- The proposal should have a clear dissemination plan and collaboration activities for explaining, sharing, and using results.
- Proposals should demonstrate how their scope aligns with our mission to engineer a safer world and the potential for leveraging wider support and generating long-term impact.

Desirable Criteria

- Applications that leverage funding from other sources is highly encouraged.
- Applications for research are strongly encouraged in the Foundation's Ocean Centre Countries; Brazil, Kenya, Ghana, Bangladesh, India, Philippines and Indonesia, and other communities working within safer maritime systems. In line with the Foundation's strategy, for projects led by colleagues from OECD countries, we will be looking for proposals that demonstrate leveraged funding and/ or strong global partnerships including with the Ocean Centre Countries.
- Whilst safety evidence projects are welcomed from a broad spectrum of areas, there is a preference for projects that address the Foundation's strategic priorities of Safer Maritime Systems; Safer Sustainable Infrastructure; and Skilled People for Safer Engineering.
- There will also be a preference for projects that consider the Foundations strategic challenges of Adapting to Climate Change, Decarbonisation, New Technologies, and Changing Global Workforce. Work on decarbonisation should link to or build on the work of the **Decarbonisation Hub**. To discuss this further please do contact our team (contacts listed below).
- We are particularly keen to see projects that are global and led by local voices, including practitioner led work

An example of a strong evidence project previously funded by the Foundation can be **seen here**.

Criteria

Out of Scope

Proposals will not be considered if they:

- Include organisations outside the scope of our mission, politically minded organisations and religious groups.
- Do not contribute to improving safety outcomes.
- Lead to commercial gain or prioritise commercial product development without a strong connection to research and safety outcomes.
- Projects where activities only directly benefit the applicant.
- Applications that include costs for practical application resulting from the research, such as funding the interventions themselves – this call is focused on funding research only.
- We will not fund significant overhead costs and applicants should use UK charity costing to reflect this – please consult our information on **eligible costs** for full details.





What we offer

Funding Support

Funding for between £100,000 – £250,000 over two years, please see specific guidance for each area of research outlined above. Should you wish to discuss projects with larger budgets please get in touch on the below details.

A dedicated Case Officer to support you through the process of putting forward a strong proposal.

Access to Networks and Expertise

Successful applicants will gain access to our global network of industry leaders, academic institutions, and policy experts, fostering valuable connections to enhance the project's reach and outcomes.

Expertise to support with quality assurance of the grant.

Support for Dissemination and Publicity

We are committed to amplifying the impact of funded research through our **Global Safety Evidence Centre**. Subject to quality assurance standards, we will seek to work with successful grant recipients to disseminate findings through high-profile channels, including industry platforms, conferences, and publications.

We will provide support in promoting the outputs and outcomes to key stakeholders and decision-makers, ensuring that your work reaches the right audiences to drive change.

Collaboration with Lloyd's Register Foundation

Successful applicants will have opportunities to collaborate closely with us and our partners, benefiting from shared insights and strategic alignment with our broader mission to engineer a safer world.

Full details of how to apply can be accessed on the [funding call page](#).

Expression of Interest

Submission until 17 September 2025

Project Summary and Rationale

- Describe your research project, the issue or need it addresses, and the geography and context in which it sits.
- Outline what your project will do in response to that need, and the changes or outcomes you aim to achieve.
- Explain why this work matters: what difference it could make, for whom, and why it is timely or distinctive.

Aims, Objectives, and Activities

- Set out your key aims, objectives activities, referencing the four categories outlined in the call and the methodology you will follow.

End-User Engagement

- Describe how you will engage end users, practitioners, or communities throughout your research to inform, test, shape the work and communicate.
- Provide any background to the existing relationship you have with the end users, practitioners, or communities you plan to work with.
- Clarify how this engagement will strengthen your research, enhance its relevance, support communication and contribute to real-world impact.

Why should the Foundation be interested in funding your proposal How does this meet the aims of the Foundation's Strategy?

- This should reference the Lloyds Register Foundation 2024–2029 strategy and clearly outline the alignment.

Total Budget Requested

- Approximate amounts should be listed at this stage, it should be clear how your proposal narrative relates to your budget. Salaries and travel costs need to be proportionate, appropriate and clearly justified. Indirect costs can be included up to 10%.
- Capital costs are generally not funded by the Foundation. If you have included any capital costs, please add a justification for the inclusion in the budget.
- Please consult our information on **eligible costs** for full details.



Full application

Invited applicants will have one month, from 12th November, to submit a full application

Further guidance will be shared to support applicants that are successful in reaching the next stage and invited to submit a full application.

- Detailed information about the partners and key stakeholders you intend to work with, how you will engage end users, practitioners, or communities throughout your research to inform, test, or shape the work
- Theory of change – clearly outline the objectives, activities, outputs, outcomes and difference your project will make
- Impact – showing how you plan to monitor and track progress and evaluate impact
- Detailed budget – this should match your theory of change and consider our information on **eligible costs** for full details
- Leveraging other funds – outlining other funds or in-kind contributions you may be able to assess if you were to be successful with this project
- Communications – outlining your dissemination plan and how you will share updates on your work externally
- Risk and governance – outline the key risks within the project, how likely they are to occur and how you will mitigate them as well as outlining the governance of the project
- Sharing key policies
- Supporting information – an opportunity to upload accompanying information including letter of support, background information
- Feedback on completing our online form



Theory of Change

Applicants may find it useful to use a Theory of Change model when scoping their evidence projects. The Lloyds Register Foundation Theory of Change, for the Global Safety Evidence Centre is documented below:

Engineering a safer world – our charitable purpose and objectives

To secure for the benefit of the community high technical standards of design, manufacture, construction, maintenance, operation and performance for the purpose of enhancing the safety of life and property at sea, on land and in the air.

The advancement of public education including within the transportation industries and any other engineering and technological disciplines

With the LRF Global Safety Evidence Centre we will:

- Find, Share and Grow Evidence with people who can use it to improve safety outcomes.
- Convene, Guide and Mobilise evidence informed action.
- Grow knowledge that is as useful and relevant as possible.

Activities	Outputs	Outcomes	Influence	Difference
<p><u>Find, share and grow evidence</u></p> <p>Global safety evidence, i.e. the World Risk Poll</p> <p>Manage the Foundation's knowledge assets and outputs</p> <p>Collate the best evidence from our partners and other sources</p> <p><u>Convene, guide and mobilise people</u></p> <p>Develop capacity and skills to empower practitioners, communities, decision- and policy-makers, and businesses to use evidence and insight for improving safety outcomes</p> <p>Engage in thought leadership, collaborations, and awareness-raising activities on global and local safety data and evidence</p>	<p><u>Foundational research & primary evidence generation</u></p> <p>Data collection, analysis, concepts, methods, indicators</p> <p><u>Synthesis, trials & evaluation</u></p> <p>Knowledge Asset Repository</p> <p>Learning from Action & Funding</p> <p>Living Evidence Synthesis</p> <p>OSH trials, 'Labs', advice and guidance</p> <p>Foundational research & primary evidence generation</p> <p>Data collection, analysis, concepts, methods, indicators</p> <p>Synthesis, trials & evaluation</p> <p>Knowledge Asset Repository</p> <p>Learning from Action & Funding</p> <p>Living Evidence Synthesis</p> <p>OSH trials, 'Labs', advice and guidance</p> <p><u>Areas of research interest</u></p> <p>Co-produced 'what next' R&D agenda, Practice in Need of Evidence (PINE)</p> <p><u>Guidance & training</u></p> <p>Evidence standards, guides for reviews, evaluation and trials, toolkits, user focused and accessible resources</p> <p>Skills development</p> <p><u>Thought leadership</u></p> <p>Motivation, narrative, and engaged policy makers & professionals</p>	<p>The provision of high-quality structured information about safety</p> <p>Safety is recognised as a meaningful and measurable goal for decision makers</p> <p>Knowledge of what works to improve safety outcomes and how to implement it reaches people who can and want to use it</p> <p>More evidence-informed action is taken to improve safety</p> <p>More trials and studies are done which continue to build the evidence base</p>	<p>High quality safety data is routinely collected and made available</p> <p>Improved understanding of the various factors that affect safety at a global, national, community, industry and individual level</p> <p>Practitioners, communities, regulators, policymakers, businesses and others use safety data and evidence to inform their decisions and practices</p> <p>Improved communication, education, policy development, decision-making, regulation around safety</p> <p>Better and more timely decisions, interventions and investments made</p>	<p>People feel, and they are safer!</p> <p>Secure and resilient critical / future infrastructure</p>

Reporting

Successful applicants will be asked to submit quarterly monitoring reports, an annual report and a final report. Full details of reporting schedules will be added into contracts when they are issued. Reports should be submitted in line with the Foundation's reporting policy, which will form part of the project contract. View our [standard terms and conditions](#).

Reports will include an update on:

- Brief update on progress to date
- Financial spend to date
- Update on any changes or serious incidents
- If/ how you have leveraged other funds

Following the completion of the project, annual impact reports will be requested for three years, to understand the long term impact that has been achieved.

Payment schedules will be linked to the acceptance of reports. Once reports are submitted to the Foundation, your Case Officer will review your report and ask any questions. Our Grants will also review the finances. Once both the Case Officer and Grants Team have completed their checks, and any queries resolved, your next payment will be released.

Quality Assurance

The Foundation are seeking evidence outputs that are robust, relevant and well communicated. Subject to meeting quality assurance standards, it is expected that evidence outputs would form part of the Global Evidence Safety Centre.

To support with this, the Foundation will want to see detailed information about your quality assurance processes so that the outputs are

- a) robust in methods and the context of the research field
- b) relevant and useful to end users and
- c) clearly communicated.

The Foundation is also able to play a collaborative and active role in quality assurance, such as joining a steering committees set up by your organisation or working with you to create links to the Global Evidence Safety Centre's Advisory Board. This should be discussed with the Foundation during the development of full applications.



Frequently Asked Questions

Answers to any new Frequently Asked Questions will be regularly added to this list while the funding call is live. Please refer back to the web version of this document for additional information.

Application Process

Are current grant holders eligible to apply?

Yes, as long as your institution meets the eligibility criteria. We welcome both new and existing grant holders to apply for the call.

Is this a recurring call, or is this the only opportunity to apply?

Currently, this is the only planned Global Safety Evidence Centre call within the next 12 months.

Do we need to include partner institutions in the Expression of Interest (EOI)?

Yes, please list all expected collaborators in your EOI. While formal letters of support are not required at this stage, identifying partners and their roles will strengthen your proposal.

Can I submit an EOI first and find partners later?

We strongly recommend identifying your partners before submitting the EOI.

Eligibility & Partnerships

Can non-academic institutions and industry organisations apply for this funding call?

Yes, academic institutions, research organisations, non-profit organisations, social enterprises and industry organisations are all eligible to apply. Non-charitable organisations are not bound by the same restrictions of charitable purpose or public benefit. Therefore, when the Foundation considers grant funding for such organisations, it is essential to ensure that the activities, services, or outcomes being funded directly support the Foundation's charitable objectives and deliver public benefit. Further guidance on applying for funding from non-charitable organisations can be found on the [call page](#) and [UK Government guidance](#). Please note that collaborations across sectors and disciplines are highly encouraged.

Are there any priority regions for this grant?

The grant is global, but Lloyd's Register Foundation has strategic focus areas, including: India, Bangladesh, Kenya, Ghana, Philippines, Indonesia, Brazil, as well as other communities working within safer maritime systems. Lead applicants or collaborations from partners in these locations may strengthen your application, but it is not mandatory. It is worth noting that, in line with the Foundation's strategy, for projects led by colleagues from OECD countries, we would particularly welcome seeing collaborations with partners in those countries and/ or leveraged funding from other sources.

Budget & Funding

What is your policy on indirect project costs or overheads?

Lloyd's Register Foundation will consider funding a small proportion of organisational indirect project costs and overheads if they are clearly justified, proportionate to the project, and supported by a robust business case. These costs, whether listed separately or incorporated into employee cost rates, must be transparently presented in the application and budget. Arbitrary allowances will not be approved; all requests must include supporting calculations and clear allocation justifications. Further information on eligible costs can be found [here](#).

What types of costs can the grant cover?

We would expect to see the following types of costs included in budgets:

- Researcher time dedicated to convening activities. Staff gross salaries and benefits for personnel directly involved in the evidence project.
- Travel and subsistence expenses for networking and collaboration which must be essential, cost-effective, attributable to the project, and aligned with the Foundation's or the grantee's travel policy.
- Impact evaluation / expenses associated with impact evaluation and monitoring.
- Consumables and materials directly used in project activities, where clearly justified. Examples include: laptops or basic computing devices (or contribution towards), when integral to research or data processing.
- Workshop organisation costs (venue, materials, facilitation), where applicable.

We are unable to fund:

- Profit-making activities – grants must not be used to generate profit for the recipient organisation.

- Political or religious campaigning – activities that promote a specific political or religious agenda are ineligible.
- Retrospective costs and any expenses incurred prior to the grant award date.
- Capital expenditures, such as costs incurred to acquire, upgrade, or maintain physical assets, including property, buildings, technology, or equipment, unless explicitly justified as essential to achieving project outcomes.
- Grants are not subject to VAT, and the Foundation does not cover VAT costs for organisations that can recover VAT on its expenditure. However, if the organisation is unable to reclaim VAT, VAT on eligible expenditure may be included in the grant budget with clear justification.
- Significant overheads unrelated to the evidence project.

How detailed should the budget be in the Expression of Interest (EOI)?

The EOI budget should provide a high-level estimate of expected costs. A detailed breakdown will be required at the full proposal stage.

Can funding be distributed among partners?

Yes, while the grant contract will be with the lead institution who will receive the full funding, funds can be distributed to partners in accordance, as per the project agreement.

Is there a specific level of leveraged income the Foundation is looking for?

There is no specified amount that should be contributed from the applicant organisation or other funding source. However, especially where from OECD countries, a higher percentage of leveraged funding will be preferred.



Scope & Themes

Can the project include broader themes beyond maritime safety?

While safety evidence projects are welcomed from a broad spectrum of areas, there is however a preference for projects that address the Foundation's strategic priorities of Safer Maritime Systems; Safer Sustainable Infrastructure; and Skilled People for Safer Engineering. There will also be a preference for projects that consider the Foundations strategic challenges of Adapting to Climate Change, Decarbonisation, New Technologies, and Changing Global Workforce.

What is the expected output of the project?

Please note the four types of evidence outputs we are expecting to see in applications. You should also provide a compelling vision for the impactful utilisation of your evidence output, from the point of view of impact pathway to impact (such as; defining key terminology, designing and measuring interventions, highlighting knowledge gaps, providing best practise guidance, influencing policy makers).

Other questions

Can an organisation submit multiple proposals?

Yes, it is possible to submit more than one EOI from the same organisation. It is however more likely that we will fund a range of organisations rather than multiple from one organisation. Projects will be assessed individually and ranked according to strength of proposals and we will seek a balanced portfolio of projects.

Is there any indication for start and end date of the proposed projects?

We hope projects can begin in mid-2026, for up to two years. We expect project end dates to vary depending on the focus of a project and would encourage you to consider of timeframe that will be most appropriate to achieving its aims and objectives. All current timelines are listed on the funding call page – should any changes to timelines be needed, they will be updated [here](#). Projects should not start and no announcements should be made until contracts are signed by both parties.

How can I stay informed about future funding opportunities?

Sign up for the [Lloyd's Register Foundation newsletter](#) and follow our [LinkedIn page](#) to stay updated on upcoming calls.

Contacts



Nancy Hey – Director of Evidence and Insight



Caitlin Vaughan – Project and Stakeholder Engagement Manager



Milly Hooke – Programme Manager