

Issues and Criteria the Governing Board Considers when Reviewing Applications for Strategic Development Support

Why the funding is needed:

- Why was the funding lost?
- What would the strategic development support (SDS) be used for?
 - Support for Centre, Fields, Methods or Review groups?
 - Break down by Group, number of staff and what their roles are
 - % of funds required compared to overall total Group funding
 - Projects or activities that will be continued
- What activities will be lost? Can some of the activities be suspended for a defined period of time (e.g., 6-12 months)?
- Will the production of Cochrane Reviews be affected if the SDS is not received?
- Is there evidence that attempts to secure alternate funding have already been made?
- What other options for dealing with the funding shortage have been explored (i.e., merger, shift of work to satellites in other countries)?

Future funding:

- Is the SDS to wind down a Group's activities or a true 'bridge' (i.e.: what is the chance of funding later on if the activity will continue? Or, is this a time-limited activity)?
- Is there evidence that further funding is a strong probability within a six-month period (i.e., funding applications are underway, funding bodies with grant rounds, etc)?
- Can the Cochrane SDS be used to lever match funding?
- Is there evidence that SDS would affect other funders' decisions?

Exclusions:

- Travel will not be funded as other sources of funding for travel is possible

Information required for assessment of applications

Information covering all the above issues/criteria would need to be provided by the Group submitting the application.

A full 'Plan of Action' (including detailed budget and deliverables) would be required from the Cochrane Group showing how the funding would be spent and how it would assist the Group to reach a sustainable position (not necessarily at the same level of staffing and resourcing as before).

Prioritizing applications (Information to be provided by the Central Executive Team):

- Would the strategic development support assist activities supporting strategic priorities such as the priority list of reviews, partnerships, training and advocacy?
- Group track record
 - Is the Group well organized, and well run?
 - Assessment of the Group's performance: outputs and impact over the last five years
 - Assessment of the Group's contributions to Cochrane in other areas of work
 - Quality of reporting of the Group's work in Cochrane's monitoring and management reports
 - Were other forms of financial or other resource support (e.g., staff time) required or received in the past?
- The ability of Cochrane to cover the same activities provided by the Group in other ways or via other parts of the organization.