

Community and Connection Grants 2020 Call Guidance

Value: Up to £25,000

Duration: Up to 24 months

Closing date for applications: 17:00 on 16 April 2020

Introduction

All Maudsley Charity funded projects, at whatever scale, need to demonstrate

- potential to make a **positive impact** on the lives of people who experience mental illness, with clearly articulated intended outcomes
- commitment to **collaboration** in design and delivery of the work
- commitment to **learning**, gathering evidence of what works (and doesn't) and sharing this knowledge.

The purpose of Community and Connection grants is that they should make a positive and direct contribution to the lives of those people in south London who are experiencing, or who have experienced, serious mental illness, over and above what might be provided through NHS funding.

This scheme will therefore have a particular focus on funding projects working with and for people who are, or have been, severely unwell and who are likely to have experienced additional social or economic disadvantage. We are particularly interested in seeing projects that have the potential to be scaled up or sustained beyond the lifetime of the grant.

Who should benefit from projects in this round?

Projects must primarily benefit people within the boroughs served by South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust (SLaM). Applications will be open to teams in SLaM and to Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) organisations working in the local area. We expect VCS projects to include an element of cooperative or partnership working with NHS services.

This programme does not provide support for projects that are intended to promote good mental health and wellbeing in the general population.

We have a particular interest in supporting projects intended to support people who have experienced serious mental illness **and** face additional social or economic disadvantage.

What impact will projects in this round be expected to make?

Examples of outcomes projects will deliver include

- improvements in mental health, sustained recovery and crisis avoidance
- ability to move into work or further education
- improved levels of regular social interaction which contribute to well being and sustained recovery
- improved levels of physical health
- improved awareness of and engagement with NHS mental health services,

Who may apply in this round?

All organisations providing for the mental health needs of people in the boroughs served by SLaM may apply – this includes teams in SLaM and local community organisations that have a strong connection with SLaM's work.

How can we submit an application?

The first step is to tell us something about you and your organisation and to give us a brief outline of your project idea, and the outcomes the project is intended to achieve and for whom, by completing the online [Expression of Interest form](#).

We will need to receive this by 5 pm on Monday 16 March. We may contact you once we have received your Expression of Interest to further explore your idea with you.

If your proposal meets our criteria, in the week beginning 23 March we will invite you to submit a full application, to be received by 16 April.

If you are invited to apply, you will be sent an email with instructions for accessing the online application portal. We will also give you the opportunity to attend a session where a member of our team will guide you through SmartSimple, the online grants management system.

Must we collaborate with other organisations/groups?

We expect applicants from community organisations to engage with or work directly with SLaM to ensure that their proposal will enhance and complement what is being provided by statutory services.

All applicants should show that they are collaborating with the people who use services and/or their families and supporters. Where possible, there should be collaboration with beneficiaries in both the design and delivery of the project.

We expect all applicants to have understood the context for their work, including whether similar work has been undertaken locally (where relevant nationally) now or in the past and what learning may be drawn from that within your project.

Are there restrictions on where the project takes place?

Projects should normally be based in Croydon, Lambeth, Lewisham or Southwark, or any other borough where SLaM currently provides NHS services.

Are there restrictions on the duration of the project?

Projects should run for up to two years.

How much money is available for each project?

The maximum available for each project is £25,000, including all costs.

Will we be able to apply for further funding for the same project in future?

Further funding may be available, but only if you are able to demonstrate potential for scaling your project up and/or spreading it more widely in a second phase. We would also expect to see achievement of exceptional results against the proposed outcomes for the initial project

When is the closing date for applications?

The closing date for applications is 17:00 on Thursday 16 April 2020.

Can the funding cover our overhead costs?

Funding may cover some overhead costs, but these will have to be clearly identifiable in your budget and included within the maximum grant amount available. We would not expect project funding to cover significant core costs that are disproportionate in relation to the scale of the project.

Can we combine a Maudsley Charity grant with other sources of funding?

Yes, it is permissible to use more than one source of funding for your project and we are happy to be co-funders.

What support for our proposal do we need from our organisation?

If your project will be based in SLAM, we will request confirmation from your Service Director that the proposed initiative has the support of the service. Applications from KCL/loPPN will be endorsed by the Grants Office. If you are applying from a voluntary sector organisation, we will ask you to confirm that the proposed initiative has the support of senior management in the organisation.

How will our application be assessed?

All applications will be assessed by a specially convened panel including the Charity's Grants Advisory Committee (made up of three trustees, the Charity's CEO and the Director of Programmes) plus several experts by profession and experience, selected according to the nature of the applications under consideration. Applications may be peer-reviewed by other community, service user, clinical or academic experts.

How can we keep you informed of the progress of our project if we are awarded a grant?

As soon as you are invited to make an application, the process will be managed entirely through our online "SmartSimple" grants system. Apart from telephone contact, this will include all communications and document exchanges throughout the lifetime of your project. At every stage of the process you will be kept informed by email of the status of your application as it moves through various stages. If you are awarded a grant, monitoring, evaluation and payments all pass through the system. You will be able to log in through the dedicated Maudsley Charity portal to upload required monitoring documents at various stages, for which you will receive reminders.

In this way we will ensure that all information relating to your grant is kept in the same place and that you will always be able to access it. We will, of course, also keep in touch with you and will visit projects wherever possible. We would welcome invitations to attend events relating to your project.

How should we approach evaluation of our project?

We will help you identify the most appropriate ways to evaluate your project. For more sophisticated evaluation/complex projects, we may seek advice from King's Improvement Science (see below). Your evaluation should seek, above all, to measure the extent to which your project has achieved its anticipated outcomes and the "distance travelled" from any baseline measures in place at the start of the initiative. The tools you use for these measurements will differ according to the nature and context of your project.

How will grant payments be processed?

Grant payments will be made via BACS into your organisation's bank account, the details of which you will have shared with us. Payments will be made according to a schedule that will be drawn up and agreed with you at the point where a grant is awarded.

How can we acknowledge the Maudsley Charity's Support for our project?

We will provide successful applicants with logos and guidance on how we would like our support to be acknowledged.

Will the Maudsley Charity commit resources to the project that go beyond the basic grant funding?

We may be able to contribute some of the following to enhance your project:

- General ongoing advice and support from Maudsley Charity staff through monitoring visits, and informal telephone or face to face meetings
- Connecting projects with each other and with relevant services when we become aware of potentially fruitful links
- Participation in dissemination and sharing events organised by the Charity.