

## Community and Connection Grants 2021 Call Guidance

Value: Between £20,000 to £30,000

Duration: 12 to 24 months

Application window opens: 4pm on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2021

Closing date for applications: 4pm on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Online Q+A for applicants: Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2021

Support is available via [grants@maudsleycharity.org](mailto:grants@maudsleycharity.org)

### What is the Community and Connection Fund for?

The purpose of the Community and Connection grants is that they should make a positive and direct contribution to the lives of those people in South London, particularly in Lewisham, Croydon, Lambeth and Southwark, who are experiencing, or who have experienced, serious mental illness.

This fund has particular focus on funding projects working with and for the benefit of 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 hearing from projects that can demonstrate a meaningful commitment to diversity and inclusion, and which reach and empower people to play an active role in their own wellbeing and recovery. Proposed projects should go over and above what might be provided through NHS funding.

### What are we looking for in projects and why?

#### 1. Impact

- Potential to make a **positive impact** on the lives of people who experience mental illness
  - We particularly welcome projects that build on evidence to shape their work
    - **Why?**
    - Because we want to help you make a tangible difference through our funding.

#### 2. Collaboration

- Designed and delivered in **collaboration** with those the project affects
  - We particularly welcome projects that also represent collaboration across organisations such as community groups, NHS services and researchers.
    - **Why?**
    - Because we recognise the value of diverse experiences in shaping projects appropriately, and in bridging siloes

#### 3. Learning

- Commitment to open **learning**, gathering evidence of what works and what doesn't.
  - We particularly welcome projects that demonstrate ways they will actively go about sharing their learning with wider audiences
    - **Why?**
    - Because we want our funding to generate new insights that will help everyone involved to make progress in supporting people more effectively

## FAQ

### **Is there a geographic focus?**

Projects must primarily benefit people within the boroughs served by South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust (SLaM). Lewisham, Croydon, Lambeth and Southwark. Benefit may extend beyond this area if appropriate to the project aims.

### **Who can lead on applications for funding?**

We are keen to see applications from a diverse range of organisations who are active in the voluntary and community sector within the four boroughs, as well as those lead by SLaM staff. We welcome partnership bids where there is an eligible and clearly accountable lead organisation.

### **What impact will projects be expected to make?**

Examples of outcomes include but are not limited to;

- 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 that supports wellbeing and sustained recovery
- improved engagement with or effectiveness of NHS mental health services,

We have a particular interest in supporting projects that aim to make a positive impact in supporting people who have experienced serious mental illness **and** face additional social or economic disadvantage.

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

### **Must we collaborate with other organisations/groups?**

We encourage SLaM to engage with community organisations to enrich and enhance what is provided by statutory services.

We encourage community organisations to engage with SLaM to ensure that their proposal will enhance and complement what is being provided by statutory services.

All applicants should show involvement of people who use services and/or their families and supporters. Where appropriate, there should be suitable collaboration with beneficiaries in both the design and delivery of the project.

### **Are there restrictions on the duration of the project?**

Projects should run for a minimum of one year including any setup and evaluation time, up to a maximum of two years.

### **How much money is available for each project?**

The maximum available for each project is £30,000, including all costs.

We would expect to see proportionate staff time built into the project to be spent on gathering evidence of the impact of the work, and to engage in sharing useful learning with others.

### **Will we be able to apply for further funding 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.

### **I already have funding from the Charity, can I apply for further funding?**

You are welcome to apply, we will consider evidence of your impact and learning and development of your previously funded work when your application is considered.

### **When is the closing date for applications?**

The closing date for applications is 4pm on May 12 2021

*We will not accept late or incomplete submissions.*

### **Can the funding cover our overhead costs?**

Funding may cover some overhead costs, these should 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, we are happy for you 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. 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 trustees and staff plus several experts by profession and experience, selected according to the nature of the applications under consideration. Applications may also be shared with and 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.

### **How often will we have contact with the Charity?**

We will arrange a set up meeting with you and keep in touch with you throughout the lifetime of your project. When we have our setup meeting, we will discuss when would be an appropriate next date for a catch-up depending on your activities. We also visit projects or attend existing meetings or events as a way of keeping in touch with your project and learning.

### **How should we approach evaluation of our project?**

We will look for you to show understanding of the context for your work, including whether similar work has been undertaken locally (or where relevant, nationally) now or in the past and what learning may be drawn from that within your project.

We will help you work through a suitable way to evaluate your project, to know whether you are making the difference you hope to, and to adjust delivery if there are areas that could improve. Your approach to evaluation should seek, above all, to measure the extent to which your project has achieved the outcomes you hoped for, progress made, and what you learned on your journey. The tools you use for these measurements may differ according to the nature and context of your project. We are able to provide some added and optional support in terms of Theory of Change methods to help you if you wish to take that offer up.

### **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 will offer you the following things to support your work:

- Contact calls with the team at Maudsley Charity – these can be used in different ways depending on your project needs.
- Connecting projects with each other and with relevant services
- Participation in dissemination and sharing events organised by the Charity
- Theory of Change development support to help develop your project impact measurement and delivery. Nb. If you would like to take up the Theory of Change support specifically then please ensure that you account for between 3-5 days of your staff time to this within your project budget.

If your question is not answered above please contact us at [grants@maudlseycharity.org](mailto:grants@maudlseycharity.org) in the first instance.