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Essential Information for Applicants - Living Well With Psychosis

The Living Well With Psychosis funding supports work that focuses on people affected by psychosis including those living with diagnoses like bipolar disorder, schizophrenia and schizoaffective disorder.

About the funding

We have committed to funding £10m between now and 2027 to help people live well with psychosis. The Living Well With Psychosis theme will fund initiatives and research to improve the treatment and support the recovery of people affected by psychotic disorders; support families and carers, and help to address inequalities in the experiences of racialised communities in relation to mental health services. We will support work that focuses on people affected by psychosis, including those living with diagnoses like bipolar disorder, schizophrenia and schizoaffective disorder.

As we collect and share ideas, evidence, and best practice, we aim not only to directly benefit people with experience of psychosis in South East London but also to inform and influence understanding and provision at both a national and an international level.

Eligibility

For this phase of the programme, we are only accepting bids that are led by teams at South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust or the Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology and Neuroscience (IoPPN) but we know that many of the best ideas and approaches are collaborative. We welcome bids that demonstrate collaboration with other organisations including national and local charities, other care providers and public bodies, or universities. Funding will be managed by the lead organisation but may include costs for partner organisations.

Criteria

- Applications must be led by South London and Maudsley or IoPPN - partnership bids between the organisations and/or with relevant third parties are encouraged

- Applications must be endorsed by the appropriate senior leadership within the organisations
- The main beneficiaries of the work must be people who have experienced psychosis
- Appropriate governance arrangements including safeguarding, risk management and ethical approvals if required, must be in place.
- Appropriate diversity and inclusion practices and procedures must be included in the design and delivery of the proposal
- The work must focus on at least one of our 8 priority areas of interest

Priority areas

1. People affected by psychosis having a greater voice and influence over their own care
2. Increased access to and engagement with high quality personalised and effective therapy and medication
3. Increased access to and engagement with high-quality, culturally appropriate peer and family support, information, and advice
4. The impact of racism and discrimination on access to appropriate care at the right time is addressed
5. Innovation leading to increased access to and engagement with help to avoid or reduce problematic cannabis use
6. People affected by psychosis have a better experience of crisis
7. Better use of data to understand risk and target care
8. Improved opportunities for employment and volunteering

Key dates

This fund will have a rolling deadline that is linked to our quarterly Grants advisory committee or Trustee meetings where full bids will be considered. We anticipate that the next phase of the fund will run throughout 2023 and potentially beyond into 2024-2025.

Process

The Charity team will review the information provided in the Expressions of Interest and assess fit with the programme, quality and suitability of the bid. If we would like to progress your proposal further, we will ask for additional information. We will speak with everyone progressing to full application.

Frequently Asked Questions

Background

Why are you focused on psychosis/people with experience of psychosis?

The Charity chose this theme having undertaken an extensive period of research and interviews.

The main drivers for our choice have been the high number of people in South East London who have experienced psychosis or have a psychotic illness, the gaps and inequalities that exist in service experience, quality and access in South London and nationally, and the lack of funds available that those doing good work in this area can apply for.

The Charity has networks and partnerships across the mental health community, where there is great expertise and thinking to build on. We are well placed therefore to draw upon the collective expertise and ambitions for change that exist in our NHS, university and community sector colleagues.

What is the purpose of the funding programme?

We know psychosis has a major impact on the lives of those who experience it and their families. Through the fund, we want to create a positive impact on the care, treatment and support available to people who experience psychosis in South East London. We also want to support projects that have the potential for national impact.

We are focussing on the things that people with lived experience say matter most to them. We have spoken to clinicians, community organisations, those with lived experience and researchers, and have identified 8 priority topic areas that we particularly want to achieve impact against.

Who is the programme intended to ultimately benefit?

We are looking to fund work that focuses on people affected by psychosis, including, but not limited to those living with diagnoses like bipolar disorder, schizophrenia and schizoaffective disorder.

We are interested in projects in both early intervention and improving the lives of people who have lived with a psychotic illness for a much longer time. We are also interested in work that improves support to carers and families as we know this in turn has a positive impact for people living with psychosis.

Given the location of our partners, we expect that many bids will directly involve and directly benefit people who live in Croydon, Lambeth, Lewisham or Southwark. We are also keen to achieve widespread national impact through this programme. Applicants should be clear in their applications about any potential for their project

to have an impact beyond the local area. Please see the list of 8 topic areas above developed with input from our stakeholders for more specific focus areas of interest.

Through our research, we know that race equality is an important dimension that has relevance to all of our topic areas and we will ensure that projects recognise and address this as appropriate in their work.

What kind of impact are you looking for from this programme?

Within this 5-year programme, we will be funding work which generates impact for people with experience of psychosis in different ways

- experimentation, pilots, innovation in care and research
- building sustainable capacity in the community and voluntary sector
- influencing system-wide change to improve the way the needs of people who are affected by psychosis are understood and met.

This phase of funding specifically relates to the first of these areas. We want to support people in South London and Maudsley and IoPPN who are committed to improving, innovating and building an evidence base for change to come forward with their ideas.

Eligibility

Why can't charities apply directly to this phase?

Significant funding will be awarded to community organisations in future phases. The level of funding available to community organisations, and the funding criteria and eligibility information will be available in late 2023. If you'd like to be kept up to date on our grants programme and schedule, please contact grants@maudsleycharity.org

This current phase of funding has a particular focus on driving innovation and scaling up improvements in the care, treatment, and support delivered by the NHS or in partnership. Charities and community organisations as well as other public bodies can be partners within a funding bid within this phase.

I work at South London and Maudsley and the funding for my project has ended. Can I apply to this programme to continue it?

This is not a continuation fund. We would expect successful funding bids to relate to new work, significantly build on or scale up existing work, or expand learning and impact in a meaningful way. If you are unsure, then we would encourage you to get in touch with the team to discuss the particular circumstances.

Making an application

Can I submit more than one Expression of Interest?

Yes, you can, though we suggest you prioritise the bid you believe is strongest and has the greatest potential for impact.

Can I change my proposal after I have submitted?

Once you have submitted your Expression of Interest you cannot change the concept fundamentally, but we expect ideas to be refined and developed throughout the process of applying.

What happens when you contact me after the EOI submission?

We do not want to direct applicants on what they submit but we do want to work with teams get to bids that are most likely to be successful both at getting funding and achieving the impact we want to see from the work

If we have identified any areas that could be strengthened then we will talk to you about the best way of doing this, for example, any evaluation support. If we have identified any potential overlaps between applications from different teams, we may raise the question of collaboration at this stage.

The full application will require a greater level of detail including more detailed costings, formal confirmation of your organisation and any partners' commitment to the project, your approach to evaluation and impact and your detailed timelines.

Larger and more complex proposals, or those that we feel need to be connected to other bids, may take some months to develop and assess, others may be approved or declined more quickly.

Is feedback available for a declined EOI?

As a very small team managing a number of funds, we are unable to provide each applicant with specific feedback on unsuccessful EOIs.

If you are invited to submit a full application and it is declined, we will provide individual feedback.

What approval do I need from within my organisation to apply?

We want to support projects that are aligned to an organisation's strategic goals and that have internal support. Therefore, when you submit your form, our system will ask you to confirm you have received the appropriate internal approvals.

If you are applying from KCL, you will need the approval of your head of department and the grants office before submitting a full application.

If you are submitting from South London and Maudsley you will need the approval of your departmental budget holder, and the relevant Clinical Director, and to confirm that you comply with South London and Maudsley's internal policies and procedures, including safeguarding and risk management. If you are unsure, please contact the team and we will be happy to help.

Note that we will share lists of bids at various stages of the process with South London and Maudsley and IoPPN. If they communicate that approvals have not been sought or given, this could lead to your bid being rejected.

What do I need to demonstrate in my full application?

As well as the basic eligibility requirements, we will be assessing proposals under the following criteria:

Delivery: Proposals that have a clear plan and detailed budget demonstrating what the need is and how activity responds to the need. They should have a strong, appropriately experienced team.

Inclusion: Projects should have a suitable approach to involving those who have lived experience and/or carers in their design and delivery. The approach should be appropriate and proportionate to the project delivery and aims.

Impact: Proposals should provide evidence and knowledge of the issues they are seeking address and potential to improve outcomes for people who have experienced psychosis.

Learning: Proposals should demonstrate the teams involved are learning-led and with a strong approach to monitoring, evaluation and sharing learning.

How much funding should I ask for?

This fund is ambitious in scale. We have chosen not to set minimum or maximum bid values as we know this can distort applications to meet these limits.

We want teams to be

- a) ambitious about impact and include the amount needed to deliver something well and
- b) realistic and honest about what resource that requires

We think that very few bids will fall under £50k p.a. or will be for less than 1 year. We expect to see a number of bids for much higher sums. We have allocated £10m to the programme as a whole and expect to commit at least half of that within the next two years.

We will ask reviewers to look at budgets in relation to whether they think the resources match what is needed to achieve the aims of the work so if teams under budget or include costs that are not needed, we will raise this as part of the assessment.

We are open to funding in stages and so we encourage applicants to be clear if there are stages within a large project. For example, if a smaller piece of work is needed initially to review existing evidence or to conduct proof of concept on a small scale – with further stages to follow if the case has been made.

We are looking for appropriateness in funding plans and aim to provide guidance and feedback on budget proposals and timelines at the full application stage of the process.

Do you provide overhead/indirect costs?

Yes, we do pay reasonable and appropriate overheads. You can download the detail of our overhead policy at the bottom of this page. This outlines what can and cannot be included in submitted budgets.

How important is diversity, equity and inclusion to my EOI or full application?

Diversity, equity and inclusion are fundamental components of all applications to this fund.

Maudsley Charity is committed to promoting diversity, equity and inclusion in all of its work, but this is especially relevant to our Living Well with Psychosis programme as someone's risk of becoming ill, access to, experience of, and outcomes from care may differ depending on ethnicity or social background. This was a key finding of our research and development when we spoke to our stakeholders.

We expect all applicants to have a good understanding of the relevant equalities aspects of the challenges they are responding to and to have reflected on these within their proposals.

We will ask a specific question on this area at the full application stage and will be looking for a high-quality and appropriate, proportionate response.

How long can a project last?

The project length should be a realistic and appropriate period to deliver the core objectives of the bid. We are unlikely to fund initiatives that last more than 4 years in this call.

Should we include evaluation in our bid?

Yes. We expect you to include the outputs/outcomes you expect from the work, how you will track and evaluate and how any learning will be shared in your bid. Your budget should include any costs required to do this and for any dissemination required at the end of the work.

The Charity may, at its discretion, commission an independent evaluation of the programme as a whole, or of specific projects, particularly those which are larger

and more complex. We expect teams to work with those conducting evaluation and will work with teams to ensure this evaluation is set up appropriately, does not create risks around data sharing, and does not create an undue burden on the project team.

Will I be able to speak to someone/ask questions before I submit?

Yes. We will be holding Q&A sessions where you will be able to ask the Charity teams any questions you may have about the programme or your application. In addition, you can get in touch with us by sending an email to grants@maudsleycharity.org and the team will be happy to help.

Who are the people on the review panel?

Reviewers will have a range of types of expertise. They include people who have lived experience as well as people with clinical and academic backgrounds. Applications at all stages must be written in accessible, inclusive, and respectful language.

How long will it take from a successful full application to the disbursement of funds?

Because we are keen to support potential applicants in the development of applications, we cannot give a definitive time for the whole process. The time for the whole process is likely to be a minimum of three months. This may be affected by:

- the scale and complexity of the bid
- the nature of the external review that is required
- the timing of the relevant Charity decision-making meeting

Is feedback available for a declined bid?

Yes. If full applications are declined, we will provide individual feedback.