

Mental Health Sustainability Fund | About the Fund



About the fund

The Mental Health Sustainability Programme is pleased to be able to provide small grants, from a pot of £100,000, to support sustainability in small-medium sized mental health voluntary, community, and social enterprise organisations.

Our vision is to create a more sustainable mental health sector from which people have access to opportunities, feel connected and included, and live healthy and fulfilling lives. To achieve this, we will provide small grants to mental health organisations to help them become more resilient and improve their ability to deliver, both during and after the Covid-19 crisis. This delivery element may be restarting previous activities safely or supporting you to switch to new ways of working.

This is a fund responding to emergent need; we must be able to see how this is going to be used in a way that is responding to the current phase of the pandemic. As funders, we want to be shown the impact of the funding 6-12 months after award.

Eligibility

Your organisation must meet **all** the following criteria:

Type of organisation	Registered charity, not for profit company limited by guarantee, CIC (Community Interest Company) or CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation)
Expressed purpose	Is to support individuals suffering from mental health issues or illnesses as evidenced by and stated in organisation's governing documents, as well as by a track record of previous mental health support provision
Supporting those with health inequalities exacerbated by Covid-19	Such as minoritised communities, LGBT+, children and young people, older people, new mothers, and those in contact with the criminal justice system etc.
Able to demonstrate	That this funding is required to support the sustainability of this organisation through the Covid-19 pandemic and beyond
Size of organization	Annual revenue of up to £250,000 in last full year accounts.
Location	Based in England, with majority of beneficiaries in England

Examples of need and use of grants

Examples of need and use for our grants are:

- Costs incurred as a result of digital service transition such as online video conferencing membership, or phone-line redirection costs;
- Costs incurred to increase capacity and skill across the pre-existing workforce such as accredited online courses;
- Costs incurred to deal with increasing workload and new ways of working, such as CRM platform fees;
- Costs incurred to improve access and advertising digitally such as for registered domain names for websites;
- Costs incurred to improve IT infrastructure such as cloud memberships;
- Costs incurred to support the workforce such as Employee Assistance Programmes;
- Costs incurred for other Coronavirus related adaptations or repairs.

Sustainability and its intersection with workforce costs

This is a fund for sustainability where it refers to investment in your future stability as an organisation to provide support to individuals suffering from mental health issues or illnesses. Therefore, this isn't about providing short-term cover for your ongoing overhead or day-to-day costs, but instead costs that are supporting your ability to survive through the pandemic by way of adapting digitally, supporting increased delivery to service users and more. Whilst each service provider will interpret and adapt differently, we ask you to consider this at length when making your application.

Small grants, and particularly those focussed on empowering organisations to become sustainable, are not well-suited to requests to cover staffing costs. For this grant, we feel that covering ongoing workforce costs will not contribute to the longevity and impact we could have across the sector. We ask that you consider whether funding to increase your workforce would make your organisation sustainable, and to consider alternative ways of reaching the same outcomes of sustainable service delivery when making your application. An alternative means of achieving extra capacity in workforce is to take advantage of the 'minutes' offer in the Mental Health Sustainability Programme.

Support during application process

We are a small Programme team and seek to keep administrative costs to a minimum to concentrate our resources on grant giving. Therefore, we are not able to discuss prospective applications or to give detailed pre-application advice. The best way for us to understand what you are aiming to achieve with our funding is for us to read your application. If in doubt, please read our FAQs and pay particular attention to the eligibility criteria before submitting applications that would fall short of any criteria.

The application process

We hope to have made the application process as simple as possible; we ask you to submit this application online by midday Friday 13th August.

What makes a good application?

For a good application, please make as relevant and brief as possible, using clear and concise, non-technical language, with a focus on your organisation's sustainability and impact.

Your application is likely to be declined if it does not consider impact and sustainability in the lifespan of your organisation and with regards to the use of this award.

Furthermore, we expect to see a breakdown of what funding will be used for with estimated costs. If this is not clearly outlined, your application will likely be declined.

You must also meet all eligibility criteria that you provide mental health service provision to individuals suffering from mental health issues or illnesses.

Assessment process

We are committed to being proportionate in terms of both speed and due process, and as such we have a short window within which applications can be received. We hope to review in the week beginning 16th August and make awards known in the latter part of week beginning 23rd August.

All applications will be shortlisted on their own merit and we ask that documents and comments beyond those asked for are not submitted in support to any application.

Ethical Fundraising policy

The Association of Mental Health Providers does not conduct its own fundraising activities but does accept grants and donations from private sector companies and individuals for programmes and projects. To understand further from which companies we accept donations and how we use funds, please read our Ethical Fundraising Policy which can be found within the webpages of the [Mental Health Sustainability Programme](#).

Data privacy statement

The Association of Mental Health Providers reserves the right to hold data related to grant applications in order to monitor and evaluate the impact of our programmes and funds.

Data on unsuccessful applications will be held for 3 years, whilst successful applications will be held for length of programme and 3 years further. For more information, please read our Privacy Notice which can be found within the webpages of the [Mental Health Sustainability Programme](#).

Safeguarding statement

If you are working with children, people with disabilities or any other vulnerable groups you must have a thorough policy of training and DBS-checking (where necessary) staff and volunteers. You will need to provide a copy of your Safeguarding Policy as part of your application and disclose any recent adverse issues.

Timeframes and further rounds

Applications open on Monday 26th July and close at midday on Friday 13th August. Applications received after this date will not be considered, nor taken over into the next awarding round.

Decisions will be communicated to all applicants in week of 23rd August, with awards being credited to organisations in/by week commencing 6th September. There is an expectation that a signed grant agreement will be returned before funds are released and support from the awarded organisation will be needed to meet this deadline.

Feedback

We regret that we cannot provide feedback to unsuccessful applicants, and we do not have an appeal process in place.

Reporting requirement

If your funding request is successful, we would like to know about how it has made a difference – we will email you asking for a supporting statement on the use of the grant money, if/how it has increased the number of beneficiaries reached or your income, and any impact statements and photos that are indicative of its use.

We will not ask for financial reports or receipts on the assumption that you will spend money where it has the biggest impact on your organisation's sustainability and response to the pandemic.

We have assistance from our evaluation partner in reporting on the impact that these small grants have; we ask in our application form for information on revenue, as well as the number of beneficiaries reached. We will repeat the request for this data at later intervals to measure the impact via these two criteria. Moreover, we have a short evaluation form that aims to capture how the fund has contributed to your operations and particularly your sustainability. Completing this form is a requirement of the funding.