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**FAQs from our ‘What’s Working?’ webinars**

**GENERAL**

1. **How do I apply?**You can submit an expression of interest form from 5th Feb until 8th March. The form will ask for your contact details, basic organisational details (reg numbers, income) and about 350 words and what you want to find out, why, and what outputs you’ll have at the end of the grant.
2. **Can we submit more than one application?**No.
3. **What is the total grant pot for this funding round? How many awards to you expect to make?** The total grants pot is £1 million, and we expect to make 5-8 grants.
4. **Who are your external advisors on this funding opportunity?**Kathryn Morley – Advisor, formerly Chief Executive, OnSide Youth Zones

Alban Stowe – Prince’s Trust

Wes Walton - Advisor

1. **You say NCVO will work with the stage two invitees and the successful grantees. If successful, do I have to work with NCVO?**Working with NCVO isn’t mandatory for successful grantees, as this is a support we have built into the programme. However, we would strongly encourage you to avail of the support and take part in any group sessions with other grantees.
2. **If successful grantees will be supported by NCVO in this round, does that mean we should not apply with too much detail or not appoint any evaluators before working with them?**  
   NCVO is a partner to support your planning, not to develop plans on your behalf. So as much detail as you already have is welcome.
3. **How much can I apply for?**We won’t consider request for less than £10k and are unlikely to award a grant of more than £200k. If you believe you have a strong proposal for £200k or more please get in touch (grants@theprudencetrust.org) with us before applying.
4. **When does the programme/evaluation need to start by?**Your project should be ready to start within a few months of the grant being awarded in June 2024.
5. **Why aren’t you funding programme delivery costs?**We have funded programme delivery costs in many of our other grants and will continue to do so in the future. This opportunity is for evaluation only, as this is often not funded.
6. **How many organisations do you expect to invite to stage 2?**  
   10-14.
7. **Does the evaluation have to run over a minimum length of time?**No, but the work should be significant enough to bring about some change and warrant a grant of more than £10,000.
8. **I can’t see the application link on your website, or I can’t submit the expression of interest!**

Please clear your cookie cache, refresh the page or try another browser. Please do get in touch with us if you are still having difficulties at [grants@theprudencetrust.org](mailto:grants@theprudencetrust.org).

**ORGANISATIONAL ELIGIBILITY**

1. **We already have a Prudence Trust grant, can we apply? Will this affect our likelihood of success?**You can apply even if you already hold a Prudence Trust grant. Your existing grant will be considered as part of the competitive assessment process.
2. **Are Community Interest Companies (CICs) eligible?**

Yes.

1. **Can new charities access funding?**

Unfortunately, new charities will not be able to apply as organisations must have a proven track record in supporting young people with their mental health for at least two years.

1. **Are there lower or upper size limits of applicant organisation as part of eligibility?**

Organisations must have a minimum income of £250,000. There is no upper limit.

1. **Our proposed project is very new so we can’t evidence a track record in mental health improvement – would that be a problem?**You must be able to show that your organisation has a track record of at least two years in supporting young people with their mental health. If your proposal is to evaluate a specific programme of delivery*, that programme* should be running for at least two years *prior to the application date*.
2. **Are exempted charities (e.g. museums) to apply for this programme?**If they meet the other criteria around delivering services, yes.
3. **Does the funding cover England only or can projects be UK-wide?**   
   Funding can cover any part of the UK.

**PARTNERSHIP WORKING**

1. **Are partnership/ consortium bids eligible to apply?**Partnership or consortium applications are welcome. The lead applicant must be the registered charity or CIC and have an income over £250,000.

**BENEFICIARIES**

1. **We support people of many ages, including many young people. Can we apply?**Our focus is on young people aged 11-25. The work you want to evaluate must be support mostly young people. I.e. we understand if your programme includes a small number on either side of that age range but the primary group supported should be young people.
2. **Should the young people being supported have a clinical diagnosis or just signs/symptoms of anxiety and/or depression?**The young people do not need a diagnosed mental health condition.
3. **Are you accepting applications from services which target specific groups of young people?**We will accept applications targeting specific group of young people, for example from particular demographics or neurodiverse young people, if their work is about mental health. We expect most of the grants will not be to support targeted groups.
4. **Our work is with young people experiencing diagnosed mental health conditions, e.g. bipolar. Can we apply?**Our focus is not on chronic, long term mental health conditions so we won’t accept applications supporting these conditions.
5. **Can we apply for an audience that is a sub-group of those suffering anxiety and depression i.e. young people who self-harm to deal with these conditions?**Yes, we will accept applications dealing with particular behaviour.
6. **What if some of our target beneficiaries fall outside of 11-25 years?**A significant proportion of beneficiaries reached must be 11-25 years.
7. **Does the project have to be for the whole age range?**No, the service does not need to be offered to the whole age range.
8. **Is there a minimum number of young people you expect services to work with over this period?**

The number needs to be meaningful from an evaluation point of view.

1. **You say this funding isn’t to support "chronic and long term" conditions - would your assessment criteria include autism in that?**   
   Our funding in this round is not focussed on chronic or long-term *mental health* conditions, such as bipolar. We don’t see autism as a *mental health* condition. Young people with autism may experience symptoms of anxiety or depression which would be eligible in this round.

**PROJECT TYPE**

1. **What kind of evaluation proposals are you looking for?**We are looking for projects which have clear research questions; that the organisation wants answers to; and where the leadership are prepared to act upon the outcomes.

We do not want you to repeat research that has already been done.

1. **Can I apply for service delivery costs?**No. This opportunity is for evaluation work only.
2. **What counts as high quality research?**When we say high quality research we are talking about systematic reviews from a respected organisation rather than one off studies. You might like to use the Wellcome’s ‘What science has shown can help young people with anxiety and depression’, the Mental Health Foundation reports, or the evidence briefings by the What Works for Wellbeing Centre.
3. **Can we evaluate our information providing/ sign posting services?**No. We are interested in evaluation of delivered support for young people mental health
4. **What does it mean that the work must have mental health as a primary outcome?**Improved mental health or prevention of mental ill health must be one of the main aims and measurable outcomes of the work you want to evaluate. For example, we know many activities offer benefits to young people including support to find jobs, training, sports or other social activities. Young people may have increased wellbeing as a secondary benefit of these activities, but improving mental health is not usually the main aim of those programmes.
5. **Can I apply for work that prevents poor mental health?**We wouldn’t make a grant to a project that was trying to prove an activity prevented poor mental ill health – that sort of research is very costly, needs a huge sample size and takes a long time. We are, however, interested in a project which uses existing high quality research on mental health in the context of understanding or changing your activities to align with that research.
6. **Do you have a preferred scale used for evaluating young peoples mental health / improvements in mental health?**We don’t have a preferred scale, organisations should use a scale that works for them, but you may find it helpful to use existing standard scales that allow for comparison.
7. **Do you have a preference for funding an external evaluation versus an internal team?**Whichever makes sense for your organisation.
8. **Does the evaluation have to focus on a project or can it span the charity as a whole?**  
   If your charity’s whole work is concerning supporting young people’s mental health it could span the whole charity.
9. **Will the Prudence Trust be providing the evaluator, or is that for the organisation to sort/cost?**   
   We will not be providing an evaluator. If you want to use an external evaluator this must be included in your project costs.
10. **Our project in is funded by Prudence Trust. Does this have to be the project evaluated with this grant?**   
    No.
11. **Can we have more than one question as part of this evaluation?**   
    Yes, but generally focussed evaluations re more effective, especially in a short space of time.

**FINANCIAL**

1. **Can we ask for overheads?** You should only include overheads that relate to the evaluation work, not the programme delivery.
2. **What counts as match-funding?** Match funding can be from any source – other funders or your own reserves. Please note match funding is not a requirement, however, will be viewed favourably.
3. **Are there limits on how much you can apply for as a percentage of the programme we want to evaluate?** The cost you spend onevaluation should be proportional to the cost of delivering the programme. We think spending up to 10% of the cost to deliver the programme is a reasonable cost for evaluation.



1. **When do funds have to be fully spent?**  
   Within 24 months of the grant period starting.
2. **Can we include cost of leadership time in application?**  
   Yes, but only for the time that relates to the evaluation work.
3. **Although the maximum ask amount is £200,000 is there an approximate level of funding organisations can expect be granted?**   
   This will vary greatly depending on the work you propose and the size of your organisation.
4. **Can we apply for some costs towards the development of monitoring and evaluation tools and systems?**   
   Yes.
5. **Would you consider funding costs for young adults as consultants (experts by experience) to be part of our research into our counselling and wellbeing M&E methods?**  
   Yes.

**FUTURE FUNDING**

1. **If our application to this round is unsuccessful, will we still be able to apply to future funding rounds this year / next year?**Yes.
2. **If we are not eligible for this round, how can we find out more about future rounds, and/or, can we send you an expression of interest if we fit your other aims?**   
   Sign up to our mailing list. We send emails very infrequently.
3. **Will you be funding preventative / early intervention work?**   
   Yes, we will.
4. **Will you provide funding beyond the UK in the future?**No. We are only able to offer grants to projects in the UK.

If your query has not answered above, please read the opportunity webpage or get in touch at [grants@theprudencetrust.org](mailto:grants@theprudencetrust.org).

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST IN APPLYING TO OUR FUNDING OPPORTUNITY:**  **‘WHAT’S WORKING FOR YOUNG PEOPLE’S MENTAL HEALTH?’**