**FAQs Mental Health Fund**

Fund closes 6th August, 1pm.

You can apply to the fund [here.](https://communityfoundationni.org/grants/mental-health-%e2%80%8cfund%e2%80%8c/)

Fund criteria can be found [here.](https://communityfoundationni.org/grants/mental-health-%e2%80%8cfund%e2%80%8c/)

Funding must be spent by March 2024, but can be spent within 12 months, 24 months, or by early March 2024.

Small (£5 - £30k) to medium (£30k - 50k) grants will open 20th September

**Questions asked during our online information workshop.**

1. **We need about £150,000 over three years. Can we apply now, or would we be considered to be a £50k application?**

Apply for the £150,000 as one grant. Even though you are spending £50,000 per year your total project costs are £150,000.

1. **Is there a limit to the number of applications/projects an organisation can be a partner/provider in?**

There is no limit however there can only be only one lead organization for the project. You can only be the lead organisation on one application form.

1. **Can the £500,000 be spent on a one year initiative or has it to be spent across 2-3 years?**

Yes, the project can be spent in one year if this is justified by project costs.

1. **Should qualified staff already be in place, or can we recruit based on a suitable person spec?**

You can recruit if this is what your project requires.

1. **Are projects based in the North that have a cross border audience/catchment eligible?**

No. Beneficiaries must be in Northern Ireland.

1. **Does this have to be a new project or can ongoing services be supported?**

This fund will support new and ongoing projects.

1. **If you're a UK-registered charity, do you have to be also registered as a charity in Northern Ireland or can you just show that you work here?**

You do not have to be registered in NI, providing you can show that you are working in Northern Ireland.

1. **We are a Crisis Café social enterprise community interest company working with young people/mental health. We are not a charity. Are we eligible?**

CICs are eligible providing you can prove you have charitable purposes and are not for private gain. You do not need to be registered as a charity to apply, however you must be a constituted organisation with charitable purposes.

1. **What if an application has been made to the Lottery People and Communities fund for a similar service/amount and waiting for a response which can take up to 4 months. Can you apply?**

You can still apply to the Foundation however you can not take funding from both organisations for the same costs associated with the same project.

1. **Are you excluding co-funding from another funder for a project?**

No. We are happy to joint fund a project with another funder providing you have justified the costs and the project meets the fund criteria.

1. **Are capital costs eligible?**

A small amount of capital costs are eligible. There is no cap on these costs, however the capital costs must be needed to provide direct support for the service user, and your application should clearly outline how this capital cost fits the fund criteria and supports the achievement of the fund outcomes. Your whole application cannot be focused on capital costs.

1. **Is there a limit to back office admin costs within the funding request? Eg 10%, 15%, 20% etc**

We are not being prescriptive around admin costs, however, we want to support projects that will directly support service users, and that clearly meet the fund outcomes. You can apply for any costs associated with delivering interventions in line with the criteria, and clearly show how these costs are needed to enable you to achieve what you would like to achieve.

1. **How many open funds can we have with the Foundation?**

You can have up to 4 live funds with the Foundation at one time.

1. **Can the lead charity work with subcontractors who aren't charities?**

Yes, the lead organisation applying must be a registered charity and operate in Northern Ireland.

1. **Can charities that support families around Special Educational Needs apply?**

Yes, your organization's sole purpose does not have to be focused on mental health. However the project you are applying for must have a mental health focus.

1. **Can this fund support sports activities?**

This fund will not support sports activities solely. This must be a part of a wider mental health support project.

**17. Can I apply to one of the other Health Funds (The Cancer Fund or the Carers Support Fund) at the same time?**

Yes, if the funds are open for applications and if they meet the specific criteria and are for different projects.

**18. Can organisations with religious purposes apply?**

Organisations whose purposes include advancement of religion, as detailed on their governing document and the Charity Commission website, if a registered charity, are not eligible to apply.

Any activities/projects that advance religion are also not eligible.

Organisations, however, that may be linked to religious organisations, for example a church, **are** eligible to apply, provided they are governed separately, and their governance does not have reference to advancement of religion in their purposes.

**19. Will CFNI help organisations with the applications?**

Any potential applicants who require any further guidance are encouraged to contact the Foundation for further guidance and clarity.