



Mental Health Award: improving cognitive and functional outcomes in people experiencing, or at risk of, psychosis

**Responses to queries
raised at our webinar**

(held on April 20th, 2022)

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This document is being emailed to all those who registered to attend our webinar on April 20th, 2022. A copy will also be posted on the 'useful documents' section of our funding page: [Improving cognitive and functional outcomes in psychosis | Grant Funding | Wellcome](#).

We have grouped the queries raised into themes, so your specific query should be answered by one or more of the responses below.

If you feel your query has not been addressed and you cannot find the answer on our funding page, please contact the mental health team at mentalhealth@wellcome.org and include the title of the call 'Improving cognitive and functional outcomes in people experiencing, or at risk of, psychosis' in the subject line.

If you missed the webinar, you may also want to watch a recording of it, [here](#).

General queries:

How many researchers are we funding in this call?

We do not have a specific number of projects we want to fund. This will depend on the quality of the proposals and the size of the projects put forward.

Will there be similar funding calls in the future?

Given Wellcome's new strategic focus on mental health, we will be launching many other collaborative and multidisciplinary funding calls, focused on improving understanding and/or intervention. However, the focus of these future calls will likely differ from this one. We are very open to new ideas for developing future calls.

Are there any other options besides checking Twitter or your website for announcements? What is the most effective way of staying informed?

There is a monthly Wellcome-wide research newsletter which you can sign-up to on our [mental health webpage](#), under 'research funding opportunities.' While the mental health page is the best way to stay informed, we do also share information on Twitter and LinkedIn.

Is there a limit to the number of preliminary applications that can be submitted per institution?

We will not be limiting application numbers by institution, meaning that any given institution can submit as many preliminary applications as they would like.

Team:

Can a PI submit more than one application?

A researcher can only be awarded one grant as Principal Applicant and one award as co-applicant. Researchers can submit more than one preliminary application as Principal Applicant or co-applicant and if both are shortlisted, we will be having a conversation with them and the team.

Will current Wellcome grant holders be able to apply as lead applicants to this Mental Health Award?

Yes, as described in the ['who can't apply'](#) section of our funding page (under 'eligibility and suitability'):

- An [early-career researcher](#) can be a lead applicant on one Wellcome award and a co-applicant on one other Wellcome award.
- A [mid-career researcher](#) can be a lead applicant on one Wellcome award and a co-applicant on two other Wellcome awards.
- An [established researcher](#) can be a lead applicant on two Wellcome awards, one as the sole applicant and one as lead applicant for a team, or both as the lead applicant for a team. They can also be a co-applicant on two other Wellcome awards.

The awards should be for different research projects, with no overlap in work packages. In addition, the researcher must be able to dedicate the required time to all projects, if funded.

Would we accept joint PIs?

For administrative purposes there can be only one PI and one host organisation. If you are proposing to have joint PIs lead the running and day to day of the project please explain the added benefit to the project of doing so, in your preliminary application.

Do you normally fund researchers in the UK, or do they need to partner with a researcher in the UK to apply for this grant?

Research team do not need to partner with UK researchers/organisations for this call. This call is open to

applicants anywhere in the world apart from mainland China and [sanctioned territories](#).

If co-applicants should be based in country where the research should be held, does it mean that lead applicants should not be based there?

Research applications should include applicants from the setting in which research is going to take place. This could either be the lead applicant or co-applicants.

Can applications include NGOs concerned with mental health as a partner? Can think tanks apply?

Yes, this funding call is open to applicants based at a range of organisations, including research institutes, non-academic organisations, and not-for-profit organisations, like NGOs. These organisations can be based anywhere in the world (apart from mainland China and [sanctioned territories](#)) but they must be able to sign up to [Wellcome's grant conditions](#) in order to apply.

Can I change the lead applicant from the preliminary to the full application stage?

No this is not permitted unless this has been agreed with Wellcome.

Lived Experience:

Is a lived experience person the same as a lived experience expert?

Yes, we use these terms interchangeably.

How many LE advisors can you have on a project application?

We are open to any method of involvement or number of lived experience experts on your project, so long as this is justified in your application. Key for us is that this is not tokenistic or a tick box exercise, and that the approaches and roles are appropriate for the research aims and stages of the project. For more information on different methods of involvement please see the call guidance on the funding page.

Could we clarify what the requirements are for a participant with LE to be included as a co-investigator?

The requirements for lived experience experts to be co-applicants on the award are the same for all co-applicants on your team. There are a broad range of organisations that we consider to be eligible for this call (e.g., higher education institutions, research institutes, non-academic organisations, not-for-profit organisations, companies). In addition, co-applicants do not need to have a permanent, open-ended, or long-term rolling contract, as long as their employing host

organisation can guarantee space and salary support (if they cannot get it from other sources) for the period of time that the co-applicant is working on the grant. If the lived experience experts you plan on working with do not meet these criteria, they could always be named as collaborators.

Can members of the research team identify as having lived experience themselves?

Yes, absolutely. We recognise that teams will have different methods of involving people with lived experience, depending on their project, and we are open to any method of involvement, so long as you justify this in your application. There are multiple methods of involvement including:

As lead applicants or co-applicants/co-researchers embedded within the research team (but please check they meet the eligibility criteria as listed on the systems (e.g., animal, cellular) as appropriate. Other methods, such as the ones you have highlighted would be considered as additional methods, so long as their added value was clearly justified. For example, there is scope for projects to incorporate a social science element in helping to determine why their proposed active ingredient(s) might work (or not work) in some contexts over others.

Pilot Data/Proof of Concept:

Can proof of concept or pilot data come from existing publications or does it have to be from the team that's applying?

Yes, pilot or proof of concept data from either existing publications or team data can be used to justify the proposed research.

Does proof of concept need to come from the setting or group from which it's proposed, or can it be for example an intervention that has been well established in other setting that is now being used in a new setting?

Pilot or proof of concept data does not need to originate from the particular setting or from the group applying. In the case of an intervention being evaluated in a new setting please articulate plans of you intend to evaluate and adapt the intervention to address the local needs and context.

Would you consider a qualitative study a useful proof of concept data despite not having quantitative data showing efficacy?

Yes, you do not need quantitative data showing efficacy in order to propose the development and evaluation of a new intervention. You should include the best or most appropriate evidence available to justify your proposed research plan.

Proposal:

Can a period of the grant be used for developing an intervention and then the rest of the grant be used for applying the intervention, or does the whole grant need to be used for applying a developed intervention?

Yes, the awards can be used flexibly to develop and evaluate interventions. This can include formative work, intervention development acceptability and feasibility work, pilot trials.

Intervention to improve cognition and function in people with psychosis for >5 years after onset, would that be too much supporting chronic management for the call?

This will depend on the proposed research. Applications should clearly articulate the value of research for early intervention.

Functional/cognitive measures or cognitive outcomes – examples of these?

These can include but are not limited to social and non-social outcomes such as: mental operations needed to perceive, interpret, and process information for adaptive social interactions emotion identification, mentalizing, social perception, and attributional bias, speed of processing, attention/vigilance, working memory, verbal learning and memory, visual learning and memory, reasoning and problem solving, and verbal comprehension.

Could cognitive outcomes include self-report measures of beliefs about self and others for example?

Yes, mentalizing as this refers to the ability to infer intentions, dispositions, emotions, and beliefs of others is within scope. We have not provided a definitive list of cognitive functioning which are in/out of remit instead look to researchers making a strong justification for these in their proposal.

Would we look at acceptability and feasibility trials less favourably?

No, we consider formative and pilot equally important for this call as fully powered evaluations of interventions.

Will psychopharmacological interventions be also considered with as much interest as psychosocial interventions?

We will not prioritise certain type of interventions over others in our assessment. In relation to the proposed intervention or markers of cognitive functioning specifically, decisions to shortlist and fund will be based on the main criteria outlined on our website: the unmet need and strength of evidence for the proposed work, the potential for impact and the proposed methodology. We will also be looking at the involvement of lived experience experts and at the full stage the team composition & expertise and research environment.

Are interventions delivered in field settings acceptable?

Yes, this would be acceptable.

My team and I are working on animal models – is this eligible?

This call is focused on research with human participants only.

Application Process:

Do you pay overheads?

You can find information on what we do and do not offer including indirect and overhead costs on our funding page, under '[what we offer](#),' including details on overheads. For any questions relating to overheads please contact email [grants info desk](#)

Where can I find the structure of the preliminary application and number of words required?

This information can be found on our website under the '[Eligibility and suitability](#) - Writing your preliminary application' section.

Can I include citations and references to justify the proposed approach?

You may provide citations or references if you wish. Citations embedded in the text will count towards your word limit but a list of references at the end or in any attachment will not count towards the word limit. Guidance on writing your preliminary application is included on our funding page, under the '[how to apply](#)' section.

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**Wellcome Trust, 215 Euston Road, London NW1 2BE, United Kingdom
T +44 (0)20 7611 8888, E contact@wellcome.ac.uk, wellcome.ac.uk**

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