



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Request for Proposal (RFP): Catalytic Environment Funding to drive progress in Digital Mental Health research

#	Supplier Question	Wellcome response
1	What is the relationship between a possible Wellcome-funded catalytic environment focused on digital mental health and the upcoming digital mental health funding call in 2024?	The deliverables from this RfP will be used alongside other information to help to shape the digital mental health funding call, which is expected to launch in mid-2024. This RfP is part of a series of projects that Wellcome is commissioning to ensure that the 2024 call is designed to achieve impacts aligned to our strategic goals.
2	Is the expectation for the prospective catalytic environment to equally support the design and development of interventions, as well as translation and evaluation/evidence generation?	Our initial plan is to view these different stages in the design and development pipeline equally.
3	Within the scope of this RFP, is Wellcome also interested in identifying any relevant best practices from programmes set up to support the development, evaluation, and scaling of digital health innovations that are not led by academic researchers?	<p>It is likely that academic-led research will be the priority. However, Wellcome can fund academic or commercial research and so we'd like to hear about catalytic environments, from either setting, that are likely to create transformative research.</p> <p>We'd like to understand the ways/models that Wellcome could provide funding to research groups, in a way that is most impactful in the digital mental health space. This will help us to formulate our plans for the kind of funding we could provide in the digital mental health funding call, which is expected to launch in mid-2024.</p>
4	How does Wellcome define digital therapeutics and mental health digital therapeutics? Are you primarily focused on	The primary goal would be to help Wellcome understand what kind of funding environments would be optimal to support the creation of digital mental health technologies that achieve



	<p>solutions that require a prescription by a licensed practitioner or are direct-to-consumer solutions also relevant?</p>	<p>positive impacts for patients, in alignment with Wellcome's strategic goals.</p> <p>This work is being commissioned to support Wellcome's mental health priority area. Therefore, we're interested in hearing specifically about how we can fund research on digital technologies that aim to improve mental health.</p> <p>We would anticipate that patient impacts may be achieved from technologies that are regulated as medical devices, as well as those that are out of remit for regulation (direct to consumer), and so we haven't stipulated a particular focus on one of these over the other.</p>
5	<p>Is there a particular group of people with lived experience that you are interested in prioritising for this research and for a future catalytic environment? The Wellcome Mental Health strategy prioritises young people with lived experience of mental health challenges.</p>	<p>Wellcome's mental health lived experience advisors represent a globally diverse group of people. For some projects it may be more appropriate for lived experience to focus on young people, but in general we aim for a more balanced group of people to represent a range of views.</p>
6	<p>What is your available budget for this research project?</p>	<p>The budget for this work is a maximum of £100,000 inclusive of VAT. Although overseas suppliers cannot charge Wellcome VAT, Wellcome will need to self-account for the same amount (20%) and should not be charged any local taxes. Therefore, all suppliers should cost their proposal to allow for 20% to be added on and remain within £100,000</p>
7	<p>Does Wellcome have fixed points or milestones throughout this project that we should keep in mind when we consider the approach and delivery plan, beyond a 15th April 2024 deadline?</p>	<p>Yes, there will be milestones throughout this project, and these will be finalized with the supplier after they are appointed. These will likely be linked to the deliverables described in the RfP.</p>



<p>8</p>	<p>In the RfP, you mention our budget should include allocation of funds for at least two senior academic consultants. Do you have specific preferences around the role they play and engagement model already or should we put a proposal forward?</p>	<p>We expect that the supplier will engage with academic consultants throughout the project. We would anticipate that these academic consultants would help to shape the direction of the report (such as through describing some of the key barriers to translation), provide contacts and case studies, and review and comment on the final report. In their proposal, the supplier should describe the engagement model they intend to use.</p>
<p>9</p>	<p>We assume Wellcome will have an internal working team – what is the expectation on level and model of engagement between Wellcome's internal team and our team?</p>	<p>We would expect the supplier and Wellcome's internal working group to have regular virtual or in-person meetings throughout the project. This is designed to enable sharing between teams and to allow Wellcome to help shape the project to meet our needs. The cadence of these meetings may be proposed by the supplier and can be discussed and fixed at the kickoff meeting after the supplier is appointed.</p>
<p>10</p>	<p>Do you have a view on whether we should prioritise either academic-led vs for-profit research (given the latter is more likely to be concentrated in high-income geographies)?</p>	<p>It is likely that academic-led research will be the priority. However, Wellcome can fund academic or commercial research and so we'd like to hear about catalytic environments, from either setting, that are likely to create transformative research.</p> <p>We know that some of the digital mental health tools produced in academia are likely to be licensed to commercial companies or spun out into for-profit companies. This is still within scope as academic-led research.</p>
<p>11</p>	<p>The RfP talks about challenges along the value chain (design, translation, and evaluation pathway) – are there preferences at Wellcome about which part of the value chain Wellcome would like to focus its support or should the focus be across</p>	<p>We had not planned to focus efforts on one particular part of the value chain, rather to support every/multiple parts of the chain. The focus should be on creating the right kind of funding</p>



	the value chain? Similarly, are you open to initiatives supporting multiple parts of the value chain, depending on the lessons from the landscaping exercise?	environment to maximise progress towards positive health impacts in digital mental health.
12	Are there already KPIs / a vision for what success looks like, for Wellcome's acceleration of digital mental health research? Similarly, is there a specific example (eg. In the ones you list in your RfP) of catalytic environment that you think would be worth looking at more closely as part of this effort?	We don't currently have a vision for success or specific KPIs around digital mental health research specifically. Instead, we're interested in how we can best support digital mental health research to enable progress in this field, to move towards Wellcome's vision of a world where no one is held back by mental health problems.
13	Who is the intended primary audience(s) for the final report? Are you able to share any additional details on the final report at this stage?	The intended primary audience for the final report will be Wellcome's mental health team. The contents of the final report will help the mental health team to shape the planned funding call around digital mental health, which is due to launch in mid-2024.
14	What is the estimated budget range for this project? This will help us refine our approach.	Please see question 6.
15	Is the scoping on a global scale rather than just UK?	Yes the scope for this RfP is global. We'd like to hear about catalytic environments for digital mental health around the world, and understand what Wellcome can learn from these for our future funding in the digital mental health space.
16	Why only diagnostics and therapeutics? How about uses for health system strengthening, incl. healthcare workforce training, referrals	<p>The focus of this RfP is on how Wellcome can best support digital mental health research to enable progress in this field of diagnostics and therapeutics, to move towards Wellcome's vision of a world where no one is held back by mental health problems.</p> <p>In this RfP we are interested in digital tools that have the potential to directly impact patients, and so we are excluding workforce training and system support tools from this particular piece of work.</p>



17	Can the supplier suggest the timeline for delivery is extended?	No, we are not planning to extend the delivery timeline for this RfP. The outcomes of the RfP need to be available in good time to feed into the design of Wellcome's digital mental health funding call, which is due to launch in mid-2024.
18	Are Wellcome interested in translation to be able to consult non-English speaking stakeholders?	We expect suppliers to make their own arrangements for language translation if/when this is needed.