



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Request for Proposal (RFP): Innovative approaches to lived experience in mental health science

#	Supplier Question	Wellcome response
1. Scope and terminology		
1a	What drives Wellcome's interest in anxiety, depression, and psychosis? Is the scope limited to these areas?	<p>These are the priority areas outlined in Wellcome's Mental Health strategy. See https://wellcome.org/what-we-do/mental-health for more information). Wellcome invests in research to create a step change in early intervention for anxiety, depression, and psychosis. We expect the research we fund to meaningfully involved lived experience expertise.</p> <p>For this commission, we are looking to fund projects to advance practice for lived experience involvement in research in these areas to benefit the wider research community.</p> <p>We take anxiety, depression, and psychosis as broadly defined categorisations to include all types of anxiety and depressive disorders (including obsessive compulsive disorders and post-traumatic stress disorder), and all forms of psychotic disorders (including schizophrenia, postpartum psychosis and bipolar disorder).</p>



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1b	Would Wellcome consider a project looking at a specific condition, group or population that isn't primarily focused on anxiety, depression or psychosis?	<p>The primary focus of proposed projects must be on advancing lived experience involvement in mental health research on anxiety, depression and/or psychosis (as defined above) as aligned with our strategy. However, are aware that these conditions and experiences co-exist with other conditions and experiences.</p> <p>For this commission, we are looking for proposals that advance lived experience involvement in mental health research which address one or more of the aims described in the RfP:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Developing new and sustainable methods and models of embedding lived experience in areas where such practice is less well established (for example, lab-based, aetiological, 'basic' science).2) Expanding, strengthening, and developing culturally and contextually appropriate methods and models for innovative lived experience partnerships across Low- and Middle-Income Countries (for example, equitable partnerships between High Income and Low- and Middle-Income Countries).3) Developing new approaches to advance lived experience leadership in mental health research (for example, global lived experience networks for



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		<p>mental health research, career development infrastructure specific to lived experience).</p> <p>We are launching this commission because we know that lived experience practice is less well established in these three areas. We want to advance lived experience involvement in research in these areas to benefit mental health science, and to advance our strategy.</p>
1c	What do you mean by 'mental health science' / 'mental health research'?	That which enhances understanding of how biological, psychological, and social factors interact in the development and resolution of depression, anxiety, and psychosis, and finding new and improved ways to predict, identify and intervene as early as possible.
1d	How is 'early intervention' defined?	Finding new and improved ways to predict, identify and intervene as early as possible.
1e	What do you mean by 'business as usual', 'sustainability', and 'wider implications for the field'?	We are interested in funding projects that advance lived experience involvement in mental health research (as described above) and which leave a legacy and have impact beyond the funded projects, e.g., developing a model that could be shared widely to inspire others. We want the projects we fund to benefit and help develop



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		lived experience practice in mental health science (not just benefitting the organisations involved in the projects).
2. Lived Experience		
2a	What underpins Wellcome's interest in lived experience?	The Mental Health Team at Wellcome believes that lived experience expertise is essential to the development of mental health science. More information about our strategy is available https://wellcome.org/what-we-do/mental-health Further information is available in the pre-recorded webinar link (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X6I6UmclGRQ).
2b	What do you mean by 'lived experience expert'?	<p>We define this as someone who has the knowledge, insight and expertise that comes from having first-hand experience of mental health challenges, either now or in the past. Lived experience experts should self-identify as having lived experience. They do not need to have been diagnosed by professionals or have accessed formal mental health services, and we recognise it may not always be safe or possible to do so.</p> <p>General information about the Mental Health team's approach to Lived Experience involvement is available on our website (https://wellcome.org/grant-</p>



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		funding/guidance/embedding-lived-experience-expertise-mental-health-research).
2c	Do the people with lived experience need minimum qualifications and/or levels of professional, research or employment experience?	No, there are no minimum or specified requirements. However, we will be keen to see that there are equitable partnerships and that projects are meaningfully led or co-led by people with lived experience.
2d	Are you interested in projects that work to help academic researchers with lived experience to tap into their own expertise and better integrate their experiential knowledge into their work?	Yes, this would be in scope.
2e	Do parental/indirect, carer experiences count?	Lived experience of mental health problems is different from the experiences of carers, family members or support workers of people with mental health challenges. These experiences are another important form of knowledge and expertise, which may be relevant to include when shaping projects, but are separate to people with lived experiences of mental health challenges.
2f	Is it required to disclose partnership agreements with lived experience experts?	Yes, we would expect lived experience experts to be involved in the leadership of the application and would expect this to be clearly demonstrated.



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2g	Can successful organisations be supported to identify people with lived experience to work in partnership with and to co-lead the project?	Wellcome cannot support applicants to identify partners. Applications that do not include lived experience partnerships to lead or co-lead projects are out of scope.
2h	How will the '(Wellcome) Lived Experienced Advisors' be involved in the project?	Wellcome Lived Experience Advisors have been involved in the development of this opportunity and will be involved in assessing proposals. They will be involved on a programme steering group as Wellcome representatives. However, they will not be involved in the projects delivered by Suppliers.
3. Methodology and approach		
3a	Do you have preferred approaches about methodology, approach, outputs, or deliverables?	<p>No. Suppliers should choose the methodology/approach and propose outputs and deliverables that suit the aims of their project.</p> <p>We encourage suppliers to demonstrate how their approach addresses one of more of the aims listed in the RfP document:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Developing new and sustainable methods and models of embedding lived experience in areas where such practice is less well established. 2) Expanding, strengthening and developing culturally and contextually appropriate methods and models



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		<p>for innovative lived experience partnerships across Low- and Middle-Income countries.</p> <p>3) Developing new approaches to advance lived experience leadership in mental health research.</p>
3b	Is there space to co-design, pilot and test certain elements?	Yes
3c	Primary data collection might entail seeking approval from the Independent Review Board or Ethics Committee. Do you have any suggestions for this?	Projects that involve primary data collection for research purposes may require going through such processes. However, collecting primary data for research purposes is not a requirement of this commission.
4. Assessment		
4a	How will Wellcome evaluate proposals?	Assessment criteria are outlined in the RfP and discussed in pre-recorded webinar.
4b	How will Wellcome evaluate the relevance and depth of lived experience alongside professional qualifications in proposals.	We emphasise the importance of equitable and meaningful partnerships, which are central to this commission. All projects must be led or co-led by people with lived experience and this must be clearly demonstrated. Information about partnerships is provided in the pre-recorded webinar.



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4c	The RFP specified three aims. Can you further specify the priority among them?	The aims are equal priority.
5. Application process		
5a	Do you have a specific time the proposal is due at or any time on July 9th?	The deadline is 00:00 midnight at the end of Tuesday, 9th July BST, via the online Expression of Interest form here (https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=Wmd6O8gfg0mhAMxSt2R3N4P0ODMbKsBGiiOZpbmohZUNkdPSIFPWkhTR0FJN0Y2VzdZSzhPTkNMOCQIQCN0PWcu)
5b	Would you consider applications from anywhere in the World?	Yes, except for UK Government sanctioned countries.
5c	Can organisations within different countries work in collaboration for this RFP?	Yes.
5d	Do you have any specific LMICs in mind? Are some countries more priority than others?	No.
5e	Do supplier teams need to be led by a university, or by research/academic staff?	No.



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5f	Could a university/research group apply?	Yes, in partnership with at least one other organisation, and if the project is led or co-led by people with lived experience.
5g	Is there a limit to the number of proposals accepted from the one organisation?	No.
5h	Is it permissible for an organization to be part of multiple consortia?	Yes.
5i	What are the requirements and expectations regarding research capacity and expertise within the tendering organisations?	There are no requirements for suppliers to have this research capacity and expertise, but project outputs should be useful to the future of lived experience expertise in mental health research.
5j	Is it possible to advise/discuss our project idea/approach?	No. In the interests of transparency, we are unable to advise applicants about their projects. The Expression of Interest form is your chance to describe the idea to us. The timelines are longer than usual for Wellcome RfP processes, to allow time for ideas and partnerships to form.
5k	Could you match existing mental health forums to other groups globally?	No, not for this commission.



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5l	What will be the nature of the contract - a cost reimbursable contract or a milestone-based contract?	A milestone-based contract. Suppliers will be asked to suggest possible milestones at the Full Proposal stage, if invited to submit a Full Proposal.
5m	Are there limitations or expectations as to what can be included in the appendix to the Full Proposal?	At the Full Proposal stage, suppliers should cover the areas outlined in the RfP in a maximum of 10 pages. Suppliers may also include references and images as part of an appendix. Supplier teams can submit other documentation to the appendix, but it will not be considered when assessing the application.
5n	What is the nature and number of partnerships/collaborations expected through this assignment?	In theory, there is no upper limit on the number of partners/collaborators. In practice, the limit is likely to depend on your budget (we expect that all partners to be costed appropriately).
5o	If invited to Full Proposal stage, will Wellcome offer feedback on our Expression of Interest?	General, not individualised, feedback will be provided to all applicants invited to full proposal stage.
6. Budget		
6a	Is £75,000-£200,000 the amount for one project per supplier?	Yes, this amount per year, per supplier contract (maximum 30 months). A project lasting 30 months could



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		request a maximum budget of £500,000. This budget is in £ Sterling inclusive of UK VAT @20%.
6b	Could you provide more details on the budget range of £75,000 to £200,000 per year? Are there specific factors or criteria influencing budget allocation within this range?	Suppliers should estimate their budget based on the scope of their project. This budget is in £ Sterling inclusive of UK VAT @20%.
6c	Would the lead contracting organisation be able to include costs incurred by other partner organisations/parties?	Yes, please include all costs of partners in your application (an overall non-binding cost estimate is all that is required at the Expression of Interest stage).
6d	Is there a budget for indirect costs, overheads, and cost-sharing?	Budgets may include reasonable indirect costs/overheads for all organisations within the supplier team.
6e	Is there a preferred budget template?	Yes, the budget template will be shared with applicants who are invited to submit Full Proposals. An overall cost estimate (non-binding) is all that is required at the Expression of Interest stage.
6f	Does Wellcome intend to bring funded projects together as part of a cohort, and does this need to be considered in the budget?	Wellcome may bring funded projects together for occasional cohort activities (some of which might be in person). If any cohort activity requires additional costs (such as travel and accommodation), these would be paid



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		<p>by Wellcome separately and would not need to be covered in supplier's project costs.</p> <p>However, applicants invited to submit a Full Proposal should cost for the time it takes to engage in cohort building activities.</p> <p>More information about this will be available to applicants at the Full Proposal stage.</p>
6g	<p>Are we permitted to apply for additional funding from other agencies to support the entire series, or would this conflict with funding rules under this RFP?</p>	<p>This is a contract rather than a grant award. Therefore, additional funding from other agencies could potentially conflict with Wellcome's contract terms and conditions. This would need to be discussed with successful suppliers at the contracting stage.</p>
<p>7. Project practicalities</p>		
7a	<p>What are the next steps for funded projects? How will Wellcome Trust engage with suppliers throughout the project implementation?</p>	<p>Wellcome would assign a contract manager to manage all contracts with successful suppliers. This person would be the main point of contact for suppliers throughout. The contract manager would sign-off on the proposed milestones and deliverables, with support from the Wellcome Procurement team.</p>



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7b	How should we frame the timeline/milestones/end-date for delivering this programme?	We encourage you to frame these within the context of your proposed project. The maximum length of project is 30 months.
7c	Are there any stipulations for suppliers when publishing and disseminating what they have learnt?	<p>Wellcome would expect to use project outputs created by suppliers internally and externally. We expect the outputs to be of wider benefit and applicability when promoting lived experience practice in mental health research.</p> <p>Suppliers can propose their own approach to dissemination at Full Proposal stage. Wellcome has branded templates for certain types of project outputs but would be happy to work with suppliers to agree the format of any final output.</p>
7d	All funded projects must “Adhere to Wellcome’s accessibility standards”. Can you please confirm which standards and policies would fall into this requirement? E.g., Open access, website accessibility, etc.	<p>For funded projects, all documents, such as PDFs, must be tagged, have a logical reading order assigned, be bookmarked, include suitable alt-text for any images, have the default language set and meet colour contrast standards.</p> <p>A thorough review for accessibility of the document must take place before delivery to Wellcome. This review must be done in accordance with best industry practice, which may include, but shall not be limited to checks through</p>



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		<p>keyboard-only manual testing and screen reader manual testing (for example VoiceOver on Mac).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- WCAG PDF accessibility guidance: https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG20-TECHS/pdf- Adobe accessibility check guidance: https://helpx.adobe.com/acrobat/using/create-verify-pdf-accessibility.html <p>Templates and brand guidance can be found on the Wellcome Brand Book here (https://brand.wellcome.org/d/pnL18cW1oLsC/wellcome-brand-book#/reports-c98/creating-reports-for-wellcome-p366)</p>