

Improving youth mental health

Application guidance

The Berkeley
Foundation

This initiative

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Introduction to the Berkeley Foundation

The Berkeley Foundation is an independent registered charity established by Berkeley Group in 2011. We support young people, their families and their communities across London and the South of England.

We work in partnership with the voluntary sector across four areas:

- Homes – helping people to access and sustain good quality housing
- Jobs – reducing barriers to work
- Skills – developing young people’s talents
- Care – opportunity regardless of illness or disability

Our funding comes from two main sources. The Berkeley Group provides core funding, and Berkeley staff raise money with the help of family, friends and subcontractors. Berkeley Group matches all staff fundraising and covers the Foundation’s overheads, so that every penny raised is spent on charitable activity

Find out more on our website: www.berkeleyfoundation.org.uk

Our approach

We launched our updated strategy in January 2017. This sets out ten clear priorities for our work going forward, accompanied by a set of targets for the period to April 2018, which will be renewed on a rolling basis.

Our strategy forms the basis for our approach to grant making. We aim to:

- Provide targeted support to those in our society who face the greatest barriers
- Increase the level of funding we commit each year
- Engage as many Berkeley staff in our work as possible
- Champion innovative projects that model new solutions to social issues
- Work in a way that builds the capacity of our charity partners and the wider sector
- Create true partnerships, which add real value to both organisations.

You can read our strategy here:

<http://www.berkeleyfoundation.org.uk/our-strategy>

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Improving youth mental health

The Berkeley Foundation is launching **Improving youth mental health**, a funding round which will support the improved mental health, wellbeing and resilience of young people aged 11-18 in the communities in which we work.

Adolescence is a time of rapid change and development – physically, socially and emotionally. Many young people will also experience changes in their mental health during this period: 50% of mental health issues are established by age 14 and 75% by age 24. Despite this, just a quarter of young people with a mental health issue get the right professional help.

This funding round aims to engage young people who have an increased risk of developing a mental health issue, and those who are experiencing early symptoms, in activities which will promote positive mental health. We want to prevent young people developing serious mental health issues, and give them the tools and resilience to cope and to thrive.

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A young person's chances of developing a mental health problem may be impacted by a broad range of interconnected factors, including socio-economic background, gender, ethnicity, disability, and relationships with family and peers.

We are seeking proposals from voluntary sector organisations providing targeted support to those young people aged 11-18 who are at most at risk of developing a mental health problem, and those who are showing early symptoms.

We are particularly keen to support projects which:

- Put young people at the centre of service design and delivery
- Target young people who can't or don't usually access support services
- Show a clear understanding of the needs and barriers faced by their beneficiaries
- Take an innovative approach to prevention and early intervention

We are not likely to support 'business as usual' approaches or core costs through this fund. We are looking for organisations who are looking to expand or improve their service, reach new beneficiaries, and contribute to furthering the sector's understanding of this issue.

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All funded projects need to be working towards one or more of the following outcomes:

- Young people have improved mental health and wellbeing
- Young people feel more informed about their mental health
- Young people have improved relationships with family and friends
- Young people are better able to manage their mental health and lead a full life

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Funding available

There is £250,000 of funding available through the programme, split across two funding pots:

Small grants

£50,000 will be reserved for smaller grants to voluntary sector organisations with a turnover of less than £1m. We are seeking applications up to £15,000 from charities of this size, for up to two years' work.

Medium-sized grants

The remaining £200,000 will be available for grants to voluntary sector organisations of any size, including small organisations. We welcome applications between £40,000 and £70,000, for up to two years' work.

Successful organisations will also have the opportunity to apply for additional support through the Foundation's Capacity Building Fund.

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Eligibility for funding

We welcome applications from registered charities. We will also support community interest companies, providing the funding is restricted and used in its entirety for charitable delivery.

We only support work which is being delivered within the following areas: Greater London, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Hertfordshire, Oxfordshire, Surrey, Kent, Hampshire, West Sussex, and Birmingham. If you are a national organisation, please only apply for funding to cover delivery within one or more of these areas. We do not fund any work outside of the UK.

We don't fund Local Authorities, although we expect that many of our charitable partners will be working in close partnership with their local council.

We are not able to provide grants to individuals.

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Funding timelines

Improving youth mental health will be open for applications from 8 August 2017 until midnight on 29 September 2017.

Applications will be reviewed and shortlisted by the Foundation team and we will aim to notify and meet with shortlisted applicants during October 2017.

Funding decisions will be made by our Finance, Audit and Risk Committee during November 2017 and we will inform all applicants before the end of December 2017.

To apply, please use the application form on our website:

<http://www.berkeleyfoundation.org.uk/grants/apply-for-funding>

Questions? Contact Sally Dickinson, Senior Grants and Impact Manager:
sally.dickinson@berkeleyfoundation.org.uk, 07919 211 468