



Emerging Minds Network Funding Call Briefing September 2021

1. Introduction to the Emerging Minds network

[Emerging Minds](#) is a research network funded by UK Research & Innovation (UKRI) which aims to facilitate research with the potential to reduce the prevalence of mental health problems experienced by children and young people (0 – 25 years).

We are working across sectors and disciplines to tackle [4 Research Challenges](#).

In 2021/22, we are focusing particularly on our '[Big Question Research challenge](#)' which was identified as a priority in our original [consultation workshops with stakeholders](#).

In particular, we will be aiming to encourage and support our network to answer the following research questions:

- How can we enable decision makers to better understand, use and allocate resources for research and evidence in practice?
- How can research evidence be co-adapted to meet local and specific needs in practice?

How can we enable decision makers to better understand, use and allocate resources for research and evidence in practice?

We would encourage applicants to:

- Watch back the presentations made at the funding call launch webinar on the 27th of September.
- Consider how their proposal could also help address the wider goals of our [Big Question research challenge](#).

Key dates & deadlines

<p>Finding out more</p>	<p>27 September 11am - 1pm</p>	<p>We hosted a virtual funding call launch.</p> <p>The recordings and information shared during this session can be found on the Emerging Minds website: https://emergingminds.org.uk/funding-call-3</p>
<p>Expressing interest</p>	<p>29 October 2021 9am</p>	<p>You can express interest using the simple form on our website.</p> <p>Expressing interest is optional! You can still submit a full application without having expressed interest at this stage.</p> <p>This is a chance to tell us about your project idea and/or the experience and expertise that you can offer.</p> <p>We will review all expressions of interest and provide feedback to you by 8 November. We may also be able to introduce you to potential collaborators if that is helpful to you.</p>
<p>Submitting your final application</p>	<p>16 December 2021 9am</p>	<p>You can find the application form and guidance on how to apply on our website and in this document: (including important financial guidance on putting together your budget)</p> <p>https://emergingminds.org.uk/funding-call-3</p>
<p>Interviews with shortlisted research teams</p>	<p>February 2022</p>	<p>These will be conducted via Zoom with nominated members of the funding call review panel.</p> <p>We will not require formal presentations and will send you an outline of the topics for discussion ahead of these interviews.</p>

Funding Call Overview

- Funded projects will need to be delivered within 6 months beginning by April 2021, and completed by October 2022 at the latest.
- The total funding available that we anticipate sharing in this funding call is £140,000. We anticipate that this will fund two projects with up to £70,000 each or one project with up to £140,000.
- We want to fund projects that are **collaborations across disciplines and sectors** and we strongly encourage collaborations with the voluntary and community sector, public sector and/ or lived experience led groups.
- We would like to support projects which offer opportunities for **early career researchers**.
- However, consistent with UKRI guidelines, **the project lead or one of the co-leads must be based at a UK Higher Education Institution** (HEI) as the funding can only be directly transferred to a UK HEI.
- Each individual can be a lead applicant on just one application in this funding round although an individual or organisation can get involved in the project teams of an unlimited number of proposed projects.

Criteria for assessment of applications

Impact

- To what extent is this project likely to make a significant contribution to the priorities identified by stakeholders as well as addressing our Big Question research challenge.
- To what extent will the outputs of this project be useful for and shared with those that can best use them, e.g. young people, family members, practitioners, commissioners and/ or policy makers?
- What is the potential for the research to be sustained and/ or developed? (e.g.: accelerating the pace of research and practice in this area, likely to secure more substantial funding to achieve further impacts, where applicable, etc.)

Collaboration and involvement

- Does the project include non- HEI partners in substantive and meaningful ways?
- To what extent are young people, family members and other stakeholders meaningfully involved in each aspect of the project, including design, delivery and dissemination?
- Does the project offer opportunities for early career researchers?
- To what extent does this project make the most of opportunities for collaboration across disciplines to maximise potential impact?

Research excellence & planning

- Is there a clear rationale for this study, justified with reference to the existing research literature?
- Will the proposed methods achieve the research aims?
- To what extent can the proposed project be realistically implemented in the proposed timeframe?
- Does the project team have the relevant abilities, commitment and support to implement the project?
- Do the funds requested represent value for money in relation to the planned work and the outcomes likely to be achievable? (E.g. by effectively using existing data and research, minimising overheads requested etc.).
- Will risks be mitigated and managed appropriately (e.g. safeguarding, ethical, governance, information security and intellectual property)?
- Is there evidence of a commitment to reproducible research practices? (E.g. publishing protocols, open access to data, etc.)

Support for Proposal Development

- At any time, we can try to help you to find suitable collaborators by introducing you to organisations and researchers interested in similar areas. You may find this particularly helpful when considering how to expand your collaborations across sectors and disciplines. Please do get in touch with us info@emergingminds.org.uk
- We held an information session on **Monday 27 September 2021 11am – 1pm**. Recordings of the presentations and Frequently Asked Questions are available on our website.
- If you would like to receive feedback on a project idea or your developing proposal or are looking for collaborators please do submit a brief 'expression of interest' using our simple online form by **9am 29 October 2021**. We will provide feedback (usually by email) to everyone who expresses interest by **8 November**.

**The final deadline for applications is 9am 16 December 2021.
Please submit your application as 1 pdf to
info@emergingminds.org.uk**

Contracting between partners across sectors and organisations can be time-consuming. We have a simple draft contract that we will require the lead HEI applicant to agree to if your funding application is successful. This can be downloaded from our website

<https://emergingminds.org.uk/emerging-minds-third-funding-call/>

Please do have an early conversation with your business development/contract team before you apply, to ensure that if you are successful the start of your project is not delayed.

2. What We Will Ask From You If You Receive Funding?

- Play an active role along with other teams funded by the Emerging Minds network to share insights and learn from each other across the year and beyond. This will include participating in review workshops, where the focus will be working with peers to identify any barriers and enablers and maximise success of all projects.
- Help us share your progress and final findings and outputs with the Emerging Minds Network and beyond. This will include presenting at network events or conferences, writing summaries of your findings for key audiences (e.g. policy makers, commissioners), producing blog posts and participating in short films or podcasts.
- You'll need to formally report back on your actual expenditure in relation to your planned budget.
- At the end of the project, you'll need to let us know how you have shared your findings and outputs. This is expected to include reports in academic journals as appropriate but also wider dissemination to other key stakeholders.

3. How We Will Make Funding Decisions

Each application will be reviewed and assessed against the criteria outlined above (impact, collaboration & involvement, research excellence & planning) by members of Review Panel. Our shortlisting for interview will be informed by panel member's scoring.

Each of the three key criteria will be scored on a 1-6 scale:

- 6** Outstanding
- 5** Excellent
- 4** Good
- 3** Moderate
- 2** Weak
- 1** Very weak

A small number of shortlisted applicants will be invited to participate in a short interview with nominated review panel members via Zoom in

February 2022. The assessment criteria for the interviews will be the same for the expression of interest application form.

The Review Panel will then meet to share their individual assessments and reach a collective assessment of each application and agree what should be funded.

The Review Panel will consist of:

- Members of the [Emerging Minds Network leadership team](#) and Advisory group.
- Lived experience experts and other stakeholders

Conflict of interest

Review panel members should not be involved in funding decisions related to applicants from their own institutions and/or applicants they are actively collaborating with/ recently collaborated with (<5 years) on a funded research project and/ or publication.

In these situations, the panel member would need to declare the conflict of interest, it would be minuted and they would remove themselves from discussions related to that application.

Anyone who is a named applicant on a bid cannot participate in any element of the review process for that Research Challenge funding call.

4. Applicant Feedback and Next Steps if Unsuccessful

We will provide short written qualitative feedback on each application we receive.

Future funding calls

Unfortunately this is the final funding call from the Emerging Minds network. Do consider [signing up to receive our monthly email newsletter](#) where we share any mental health research funding opportunities or following us on twitter <https://twitter.com/EmergingMindsUK>

5. Financial considerations

As we are funded by UK Research & Innovation (UKRI) will be adhering to the following conditions of funding

Who can apply?

Applications must be led or co-led by a UK Higher Education Institution (HEI) and all funding will be transferred to and managed by the HEI. Projects co-led by HEI in partnership with non-academic groupings are also strongly encouraged. However, due to UKRI funding requirements, projects must have a HEI lead or co-lead applicant.

- HEIs – The Emerging Minds Network will cover 80% of the total project cost (consistent with UKRI research funding guidelines). To put this simply, if you were to apply for £100, you would be funded £80 of that and would be expected to contribute £20 from your organisation and/or relevant partner(s). Please bear this in mind when you are costing your project.

For example:

- To receive a grant of £35,000 at 80% funding, your permitted project costs that would need to be outlined in your project budget at 100% FEC would be £43,750.
- To receive a grant from us of £70,000 at 80% funding, your total project costs that would need to be outlined in your project budget at 100% FEC would be £87,500.
- Non-academic partners (such as charities, businesses and public sector bodies) can claim 100% of their justified costs. But importantly, this can only be up to a maximum of 30% of total funds.
- Value for money of each application will be considered in our assessment criteria (as part of research excellence and management) and we are keen that any requested overheads are carefully considered given the potential 'pump priming' function of the awards. See below for further details.

What can be funded?

Funding may be sought to cover the direct expenses incurred in planning, conducting, and developing the research, including:

- Project planning and development costs.
- Research expenses, including participant reimbursement, transcription.
- Consumables, including the purchase of datasets, photocopies, microfilms, etc., and any other minor items that will be used up during the course of the project.
- Short-term consultancy or salary costs for expert staff, or short periods of research assistance (includes VAT unless consultant is VAT exempt).
- Travel and subsistence.
- Investigators' time - the costs of principal and co-investigators working directly on a project. Investigator time, not cost, must be justified in the application.

Administrative costs (including estates and indirect costs) may be included in the application but should be carefully considered and must not constitute more than 20% of the total application cost. Businesses and public sector bodies may not claim overheads or other indirect costs.

- Estates
 - These costs may include building and premises costs, basic services and utilities, and any clerical staff and equipment maintenance or operational costs that have not been included under other cost headings. They will be calculated by the research organisation and a single figure will be required at time of application.
- Indirect costs
 - The Indirect costs will be calculated by the research organisation according to the Transparent Approach to Costing (TRAC) and should be declared as a single figure on the proposal form, with no need for information about its derivation or justification

What cannot be funded?

The following items are *not* currently eligible for funding:

- Computer hardware including laptops, electronic notebooks, digital cameras, etc.
- Books and other permanent resources;
- Publication costs – UKRI provides the following guidance: article processing charges (APCs) and other publication charges relating to peer-reviewed research articles and conference proceedings cannot be included in research grant proposals. The payment of APCs and other publication charges related to UKRI-funded research are supported through UKRI open access block grants that are provided to eligible research organisations.

For further information, see the open access information:

<https://www.ukri.org/funding/information-for-awardholders/open-access/open-access-policy>

Awards will not be made retrospectively: this means that the work for which support is requested must not have commenced before the award is announced.

We recommend that all potential applicants review our template grant funding award letter and discuss with your business development or research services team, as we will ask successful applicants to agree to these terms and conditions

<https://emergingminds.org.uk/funding-call-2/>

How can I apply?

You will need to complete our Emerging Minds Network application form including a breakdown of your proposed expenditure and email as one pdf document to info@emergingminds.org.uk by **9am 16 December 2021**.

If you have any questions you can contact us at info@emergingminds.org.uk

Frequently Asked Questions

What will be the contractual obligations for my organisation?

We have a standard terms and conditions for these awards which is available on our website.

Awardees will receive a simple offer of award letter asking them to respond to confirm that they agree to the published terms and conditions. Key features of the terms and conditions will include:

- Details of reporting requirements
- Payment of the grant will be based on actual spend in arrears

Can researchers who are not UK based apply?

- a. The lead applicant must be UK based
- b. The grant project awarded must ultimately benefit the UK
- c. Non-UK co-investigators can be included although normal guidelines would apply regarding international costs which can be found here: <https://esrc.ukri.org/funding/guidance-for-applicants/inclusion-of-international-co-investigators-on-proposals/>

How does the Emerging Minds Network define an 'early career researcher'?

We use the term 'early career researcher' in the broadest possible sense. We are interested in supporting those who are developing research that can make a difference to children and young people's mental health whatever their experience, career path, chosen sector and discipline.

However, for the purposes of those eligible to lead or co-lead applications for this funding call the project lead or co-lead will be a researcher based in a UK HEI from any discipline who is within 8 years of submitting a PhD thesis (or equivalent taking into account part-time working, career breaks for any reason). In some disciplines, researchers do not necessarily require PhDs; these applicants will be eligible unless they already have a track record of leading major research grants.