

Call for Projects: “Addressing the medium- and long-term impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the mental health of young people from the most vulnerable communities, including racial and ethnic minorities, refugees and asylum seekers, those with disabilities and certain health conditions¹, those facing difficulties due to sexual orientation, gender identity and expression and those who are socio-economically disadvantaged”

1. What is the UCB Community Health Fund?

The mission of the UCB Community Health Fund is to address health disparities among vulnerable populations, starting by contributing to understand and reduce the medium- and long-term impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on their physical and mental health, and social well-being. More specifically, the Fund wants to support vulnerable people, including racial and ethnic minorities, children, older people, socio-economically disadvantaged persons, un(der)insured or those with certain medical conditions unrelated to therapeutic areas nor assets of UCB, in the communities where UCB has an office .

With the UCB Community Health Fund, UCB aims to start addressing important issues that have an impact on the health of vulnerable groups and are outside of the scope of UCB’s regular business.

2. What type of projects will be supported?

This second Call for Projects aims to understand and reduce the medium- and long-term impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on **the mental health of vulnerable young people** (15-24 years old)¹. Concretely, we intend to support programs and services with a focus on young people from the most vulnerable communities including racial and ethnic minorities, refugees and asylum seekers, those with disabilities and certain health conditions, those facing difficulties due to sexual orientation, gender identity and expression and those who are socio-economically disadvantaged. The coronavirus pandemic and the unprecedented measures that were taken to contain its spread disrupt nearly every aspect of young people’s lives: health, social interactions, ability to study and work, financial resources, food insecurity and their protection from violence and abuse.²

Through this Call for Projects, **we want to dedicate resources to support the mental health of vulnerable young people in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic in the communities where UCB has an office**. More specifically, we will provide funding to organizations that design, implement and evaluate impact-driven projects and initiatives to improve the mental health of young people from the most vulnerable communities including racial and ethnic minorities, refugees and asylum seekers, those with disabilities and certain health conditions, those facing difficulties due to sexual orientation, gender identity and expression and those who are socio-economically disadvantaged. This may include projects and initiatives that aim to address one or more intervention areas.

¹ International Labor Organization; Starting right: [Decent work for young people](#): Geneva (2004)

² See, for example, the UK Youth Movement (<https://www.ukyouth.org/covid-19/>) and the Johns Hopkins University (<https://hub.jhu.edu/2020/05/11/covid-19-and-adolescents/>).

This Call for Projects targets existing programs and services, as well as new projects and initiatives, outside of UCB's therapeutic areas and within the geographic areas where UCB has an office (see: <https://www.ucb.com/worldwide>) which address the medium- and long-term needs of vulnerable young people due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Grants should be used within 12 months upon award of funding.

3. What is the amount of the grant?

The total budget available for this Call for Projects is in the range of **€ 2 million**. Voluntary contributions from the donation campaign will be added to this budget. Support projects may apply for funding between € 30.000 and €50.000.

The funding will be allocated by **independent selection committees** with broad geographical representation.

The selection committee maintains the right to award the full budget providing there are sufficient high-quality applications. The selection committee may decide to award only part of the available budget.

Each grantee will be asked to report at the end of the project on the use of the funding, the output (activities, beneficiaries, ...) and the outcome of the project.

4. Who can apply for this Call for Projects?

The Call for Projects is intended for organizations only (local, national or international organizations applying for support of local initiatives), i.e. individuals cannot apply for funding.

There are no specific requirements in terms of the type of organizations that qualify for funding. The selection committee is keen to receive applications from organizations that explicitly include young people in the design and implementation of programs and services (i.e. co-creation).

For-profit, commercial organizations, hospitals and public bodies are excluded from funding.

The grant is not just a financial tool for organizations to bridge this difficult period. We will not provide a budget for organizations to guarantee their pre-COVID activities or to buy protective gear.

5. What are the start and end dates of this Call for Projects?

This Call for Projects will be launched on May 15 2021.

The **deadline for submission of applications** is July 15 2021.

Notifications of funding will happen in November 2021.

6. What are the eligibility and selection criteria?

All applications must meet the **eligibility criteria**. More specifically:

- The project addresses mental health issues of vulnerable young people (15-24 years old) in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Applicants must make use of the designated **application form** (available in Dutch, English and French).
- Applicants must ensure **complete and timely submission** of the application form.

- For-profit, commercial organizations, hospitals and public bodies are excluded.
- Projects covers geographic areas where UCB has an office (see: <https://www.ucb.com/worldwide>).
- The requested amount is between €30.000 and €50.000.

The following differentiating criteria will be taken into account by the selection committee members for selecting the best projects:

- The project targets mainly young people in the 15-24 age category;
- The project specifically addresses the needs of the most vulnerable communities including racial and ethnic minorities, refugees and asylum seekers, those with disabilities and certain health conditions, those facing difficulties due to sexual orientation, gender identity and expression and those who are socio-economically disadvantaged;
- The project specifically addresses issues linked or exacerbated by COVID-19;
- The project has a potential for scaling/replication, i.e. reaching more young people;
- The project uses financial means efficiently, the outcome is proportional to the means invested;
- The project is co-created with the beneficiaries.

7. What are the different steps in the selection process?

The selection of projects will take place in three steps:

Step 1: Preselection³

The KBF will designate individuals, who are not formally appointed as selection committee members, to make a preselection of all applications on the basis of the eligibility and selection criteria (see question 6). The pre-selection is carried out by region.

Applications will be scored as follows:

- 8-10: good (to select)
- 5-7: average (to be discussed by the pre-selectors)
- 0-4: poor and/or not eligible (to refuse)
- Abstention: pre-selectors will abstain from scoring applications with which they have a personal or professional connection.

Selection committee members will receive an overview of applications that did not pass the preselection, including the supporting motivation. In the event a selection committee member finds an application was unfairly eliminated, said selection committee member can request inclusion of the application during the final selection committee deliberation.

Step 2: Selection of applications

The preselected applications will be distributed to the selection committee members for individual evaluation.

³ All applications will be treated confidentially. No applications will be made public prior to, during or after the selection process. The grantees will be made public.

Every selection committee member will award a score to each application considering the selection criteria:

- 8-10: good (to select)
- 5-7: average (to discuss)
- 0-4: poor and/or not eligible (to refuse)
- Abstention: selection committee members will abstain from scoring applications with which they have a personal or professional connection.

Every selection committee member is invited to motivate his/her scoring of each application (positive and negative aspects).

Local UCB ambassadors will be part of selection committee for projects.

Step 3: Final selection committee deliberation

Based on the evaluations of the individual selection committee members, KBF representative will draft a comparative table for the purpose of the final selection committee deliberation.

The table will identify three groups:

- A: *a priori* accepted applications (average > 7)
- B: *a priori* refused applications (average < 5)
- C: to be discussed applications (average ≥ 5 and ≤ 7)

The selection committee deliberation will be led by the chair of the selection committee. The following considerations will be used:

- Group A (*a priori accepted applications*) are treated first: Are all selection committee members in agreement with the selection? Which applications require further discussion and will, hence, be moved to Group C (*to be discussed applications*)? The amount of required funding will be checked against the preliminary selected applications.
- Group B (*a priori refused applications*) are treated next: Are all selection committee members in agreement with the refusal? Which applications require further discussion and will, hence, be moved to Groups C (*to be discussed applications*)? The selection committee concludes to refuse a number of applications.
- Group C (*to be discussed applications*): the deliberation ends with the positive or negative evaluation, including awarded funds, of Group C applications by the selection committee.

Upon deliberation of Groups A, B, and C, the selection committee confirms its decision and drafts the definitive overview of selected applications and the awarded funds (of which the total cannot exceed the total budget of the Call for Projects).

The selection committee makes its decision by consensus or by simple majority voting in the event of no consensus. The vote of the chair is decisive. The selection committee deliberation is confidential, and its result cannot be challenged.

8. How will the funding be disbursed?

Funding will be disbursed in accordance with the grant agreement signed between the King Baudouin Foundation and the applicant(s). Projects with a maximum duration of 1 year and a grant of

maximum €50,000 will receive full financial support at the start of the project. They acquire this amount definitively upon receipt and approval of a final report.

9. What is eligible for funding and what is not?

The grant can be used to finance all types of expenditures, e.g. personnel, materials, supplies, infrastructure, service costs.

10. Contact for further information

Please contact the KBF Contact Center for general information and technical questions (contactcenter@kbs-frb.be; +32-2-500 4 555) or Anne-Catherine Chevalier for specific information related to this call (chevalier.a@mandate.kbs-frb.be; +32-2-511 52 21).