**Frontline Fund: Mental Health and Homelessness**

**Deadline 5pm, Friday 17th February 2023**

St Martin-in-the-Fields Charity is committed to ensuring everyone has a safe place to call home and the support they need.

This funding programme has been designed in direct response to [evidence](https://frontlinenetwork.org.uk/media/2693/smt13994-annual-frontline-worker-survey-2021-full-report-v4-repro_3.pdf) and insights from organisations and frontline workers identifying challenges and gaps in provision for people experiencing homelessness accessing mental health support.

We are inviting proposals from organisations to provide targeted mental health support outside of healthcare settings for people who are struggling with their mental health and addiction or the effects of trauma and are at critical transition points in their housing journey.

**Who we are**

St Martin-In-The-Fields Charity exists so that homelessness is prevented. And that if it does occur, people receive the best possible support that enables them to secure and keep a safe place to live.

**What we do**

We offer funding, for both [individuals](https://frontlinenetwork.org.uk/vicars-relief-fund/) (through the VRF) and [organisations](https://www.smitfc.org/the-frontline-fund/) (through the Frontline Fund), to help people access suitable accommodation and keep it.

We work directly with thousands of frontline workers every year to provide the best support possible for people facing homelessness.

We share experiences and insights with local and national decision makers – amplifying the voices of frontline workers and the people they support.

**How we do it**

We invest in emerging and promising solutions to homelessness around the UK, and ​​scale these up where evidence shows they work.

We collaborate with, and invest in, frontline workers in the homelessness sector. And bring frontline workers together creating more opportunities for them to share their insights and expertise about what works best to support people experiencing homelessness.

We share what we learn from our work to encourage greater support for solutions to homelessness.

We engage the public to improve understanding of what homelessness is, how it happens and what we can do to address it. We work with funders, sharing what we know so that they can support effective solutions to homelessness. And we work with decision makers, local and national, to inform the policies and services that address homelessness in the UK.

**Our funding strategy**

To support our goal that homelessness is prevented, and that if it does occur, people receive the best possible support that enables them to secure and keep a safe place to live, we have three outcome areas that we are looking to support through our funding:

* The identification of emerging practice
* Ensuring promising practice has the opportunity to be tested properly
* Supporting evidence-based practice to scale

**Background to the Frontline Fund: Mental Health and Homelessness**

Over the past six years St Martin-in-the-Fields Charity have undertaken an annual Frontline Worker Survey to identify and address gaps in support for people experiencing homelessness and the frontline workers that provide support. We have consistently heard that there is a need to improve access to mental health support for people experiencing homelessness, in order to help people secure and keep a safe place to live.

In our [2021 Survey](https://www.frontlinenetwork.org.uk/media/2693/smt13994-annual-frontline-worker-survey-2021-full-report-v4-repro_3.pdf), 83% of frontline workers reported having seen an increase in people presenting with mental health needs, as well as housing needs, over the previous 12 months. At the same time, staff saw substantial challenges in accessing relevant support for people they worked alongside, with 79% of frontline workers describing accessing mental health support as ‘difficult’ or ‘very difficult’. This level of difficulty in accessing mental health support was echoed in our 2022 frontline worker survey where 75% of frontline workers described accessing mental health support for people they worked with as ‘difficult’ or ‘very difficult’.

To respond to the reported rise in need and challenge in people experiencing homelessness accessing mental health services we issued a call for further insights about this issue and what works when addressing it.

This fund is in direct response to what people told us is needed and what would make a difference. With limited funding we have focused this funding programme on reoccurring and persistent themes in the evidence provided. We are committed to reflecting on the learning that emerges to develop future funding priorities.

### **Funding criteria**

The St Martin-in-the-Fields Charity has made available £600,000 over three years to fund projects that provide:

* targeted mental health support outside of healthcare settings for people who are struggling with their mental health and addiction OR the effects of trauma who face multiple barriers in accessing mainstream mental health services;
* *and* are at a critical transition point in their housing journey e.g., moving from the street into accommodation, moving from supported accommodation into more permanent accommodation, moving from an institutional setting into independent accommodation.

We anticipate awarding multiyear funding (up to 3 years) to between 2-4 organisations dependant on the quality and scale of applications. We are intentionally not including guidance on budget expectations as we want to be guided by your expertise on the cost of delivery of what’s needed. However, given the size of the fund it is unlikely that any one grant will exceed £100,000 per annum.

This funding fits into our promising practice outcome area that seeks to fund work that has the opportunity to be tested properly and has built in mechanisms for capturing learning (both what has worked and what hasn’t) to be shared more widely to influence good practice.

We are therefore particularly interested to fund projects that want to test an approach that has shown promise but needs more testing to understand its impact or has been tested elsewhere and you want to test in a new setting / location.

### **Ways of working**

Learning from existing work and experiences of the issue, we are also keen to see the following ways of working embedded in any proposal:

* a relational approach – support that builds trusting relationships and provides a holistic, person led service based on individual need
* flexibility – understanding and mitigating the practical barriers people experiencing homelessness face in accessing support. Creating the right conditions for people to engage in spaces and places people feel comfortable in
* advocacy and support to link into and navigate mainstream mental health services
* collaborative working - establishing good relationships and links with other voluntary, public, statutory sectors and peer networks for the benefit of the people you work with
* involvement of people with experience of homelessness in the review, design and delivery of services to improve your offer.

### **Who we will fund**

We recognise that there are many charities who would benefit from our support but, like any funder, we have a limit to the resources we have available. We want to be open and transparent with charities and make best use of time by being clear in advance which charities and areas we will fund.

We welcome applications from all parts of the UK. All applicants will need to:

* Be a registered charity (this can be as a CIO)
* Have a Board of at least three unrelated Trustees
* Have its own bank account
* Have free reserves of less than 12 months’ operating costs
* Have at least one set of annual accounts published on the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, Charity Commission for England and Wales, Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator websites, having been delivering services for more than a year in the UK
* Have a track record of working with people experiencing homelessness
* Have a safeguarding policy in place – see below.

Please note that we will not fund:

* Services that are not free at the point of access
* Work that has already taken place.

We want to tell your story and would look to include stories of your work in our communications and fundraising activity.

### **Our approach to safeguarding**

St Martin-in-the-Fields Charity is committed to promoting the safety of everyone that uses the services of the charities we fund and so will review your safeguarding arrangements and practice as part of our assessment. We recognise and take seriously our responsibility to promote the welfare of adults at risk and children, where we become aware of any safeguarding concerns.

St Martin-in-the-Fields Charity has in place a safeguarding policy and internal processes of our own, to ensure that reported incidents are effectively managed, and our staff are kept safe. Therefore, not only must your charity have a safeguarding policy in place, but we will also assess your understanding of this policy as well as the approach to safeguarding across your organisation.

### **Next steps**

Please complete the application form on pages 5 to 8 of this document, ensuring to include all relevant detail around the questions being asked.

We are working to the following timeframe. Please note that this may be subject to minor changes.

**1st February 2023 - 9.30am-10.30am - Information session for potential applicants** to clarify funding criteria, talk through the process and answer any questions. Please click [here](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/frontline-fund-mental-health-and-homelessness-information-session-tickets-523492418917) to register to attend this session.

**17th February 2023 at 5pm. – Closing date for applicants**. Unfortunately, late applications will not be considered.

**21st February - 24th March. – Review and shortlisting of applications**. Shortlisted applicants will be invited to meet with us via an online meeting to hear more about the proposed work.

**12th May 2023 – Final decisions** made by St Martin-in-the-Fields Charity trustees and successful and unsuccessful applicants notified.

If you have any questions on this opportunity, please do not hesitate to contact with Nikki Wimborne at nikki.wimborne@stmartinscharity.org.uk

**Frontline Fund: Mental Health and Homelessness**

**Application Form**

**(Deadline 5pm, Friday 17th February 2023)**

**Key information**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Organisation name** |  |
| **Address** |  |
| **Website** |  |
| **Lead contact name and job title** |  |
| **Email** |  |
| **Contact telephone number** |  |
| **Charity registration number** |  |
| **Year your organisation was established** |  |
| **How many people benefited from your organisations work in the last 12 months?** |  |
| **What was your organisation’s annual income in the last financial year?** |  |
| **How many full and part time staff do you employ?**  |  |
| **Who completed this application?** List the team names and roles of the people who completed this application |  |

**About your organisation**

Please tell us about your experience of working with people experiencing homelessness.

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| --- |
| 150 words |

How would you summarise the strengths of your organisation?

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| --- |
| 150 words |

Please describe your organisation’s approach to safeguarding and risk management including the relevant insurance cover you have in place.

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| --- |
| 150 words |

**About your project / work**

Project title

Dates you would like funding to commence and end.

Please describe the work / project that you are requesting funding for.

*Please be specific about what you will deliver, when, where and who and how many people will benefit. Please also tell us how this idea came about and if / how it was informed and developed by frontline staff and / or people experiencing homelessness. Please also explain how you are testing promising practice (please refer to our funding criteria for an explanation of what we mean by promising practice).*

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| --- |
| 450 words |

What evidence do you have that there is a need for this work?

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| --- |
| 150 words |

Who will you work and partner with to deliver the work / project?

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| --- |
| 150 words |

Please identify any barriers and challenges you can foresee that could impact on delivery.

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| --- |
| 150 words |

£

Total budget for the work proposed

£

Amount requested from St Martin-in-the-Fields Charity

**The difference you will make**

What do you want to achieve with this funding? Please list up to 3 main objectives. Objectives should be goals that are ambitious but also achievable.

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What is the change (outcome) you want to bring about? Please list the main outcomes you hope to achieve for each objective listed above.

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Please list the main activities you will undertake to achieve your desired outcomes.

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What would you hope to be the legacy of this programme if funded?

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| --- |
| 150 words |

**Monitoring, evaluation and learning**

Please describe how you will monitor and evaluate this work, to capture and measure outcomes.

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| --- |
| 450 words |

How will you capture learning (both what has worked and what hasn’t) and how and with whom will you share this learning?

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| --- |
| 200 words |

**We want to tell your story**

St Martin-in-the-Fields Charity is keen where possible to raise awareness of homelessness, how it happens and what we can do to address it. We also seek to amplify the voices of frontline workers and showcase and evidence good practice. Highlighting the impact of our funding through telling people’s stories is also vital to our ability to fundraise. Please tell us how you will work with us to identify compelling stories we can use for these purposes.

|  |
| --- |
| 200 words |

**Attachments**

**Please attach the following documents before submitting.**

* A budget breakdown – this should include a full breakdown of anticipated costs
* A set of your most recent annual accounts
* A copy of your organisations safeguarding policy

Please send completed applications to Nikki Wimborne at nikki.wimborne@stmartinscharity.org.uk

**Thank you for completing this application form.**