



## Selection Criteria 2023

The UCB Community Health Fund aims to address health disparities amongst vulnerable populations.

This Call will target organizations that make a positive change in the health of vulnerable young people (ages 15 to 24) with a special attention to those suffering from mental health disorders.

### Eligibility criteria:

- The organization needs to be located **within the countries where UCB has an office**. Please check the enclosed list for countries where UCB is active. We will only consider projects from those countries.
- The activities the organisation proposes need to take place in its home country.
- The activities need to address the **issues of mental health of young people** as defined below. Existing programs and services, as well as new projects and initiatives are welcome.
- The Call for Projects is intended **for non-profit organizations only**. Individuals, public bodies, hospitals, for profit and commercial organizations cannot apply for funding.
- The organizations need to be active **outside of UCB's therapeutic areas**.
- Files can be submitted in French (Belgium, France and Suisse), in Dutch (Belgium and the Netherlands) and in English (all other countries). Would you have an issue with writing your file in English, we suggest you use [www.deepl.com](http://www.deepl.com) or contact us. We will not be able to consider files introduced in other languages.
- The required amount needs to be **between €30,000 and €50,000**.
- Research grants are explicitly excluded from this Call for Projects.

Specifically, we invite applications in the following areas of impact:

- Projects that promote, detect, protect and care for young people's mental health, for example:
  - *Prevention and promotion*: Projects that aim to respond proactively to reducing adversities that are known to harm the mental health of young people.
  - *Peer support*: Projects that enable young people to support each other, based on their own experience, their own ambition, and with support and training from mental health and social care professionals.
  - *Community action*: Community-based initiatives that seek to strengthen social cohesion and reduce loneliness, for example by supporting activities that help isolated young people stay connected.
  - *Substance abuse prevention*: Projects that build the capacity of community mental health and addiction recovery organizations to respond to and prevent future youth substance use
  
- Projects that ensure availability of mental health and psychosocial support, for example:
  - *Accessibility and destigmatizing mental health care*: The landscape of psychological help and mental health services is complicated for many people to navigate, but even more so for young people. Young people need resources that are 'comfortable' and close to them to tell their story in confidence and find the help they need, whatever it may be (relationships, financial resources, housing, work, education, etc.).
  - *Home care and outreach*: Projects that enable mental health interventions to be delivered remotely, for example through quality-assured tele-counselling and digital media. Additionally, initiatives that aim to engage hard-to-reach youth and foster meaningful engagement on the topic of mental health and social well-being.
  
- Projects that work towards building and implementing efficient mental health services for young people, for example:
  - *Delivery platforms*: Initiatives that combine various delivery platforms, such as digital media, health and social care setting, schools and educational settings, leisure facilities.
  - *Capacity*: Interventions that aim to build new / additional human resource capacity to deliver mental health and social care, for example among community workers or athletic coaches so that they can provide support.
  - *Co-design*: Initiatives that actively involve young people who lived the experience in the design, implementation and monitoring of mental health and well-being services.

The 5 following differentiating criteria will be taken into account by the selection committee members for selecting the best projects:

1. The project targets mainly young people in the 15-24 age category;
2. The project specifically addresses the needs of the most vulnerable communities including young people displaced due to conflicts, racial and ethnic minorities, refugees and asylum seekers, those with disabilities and certain health conditions, and those who are socio-economically disadvantaged;
3. The project has a potential for scaling/replication, i.e. reaching more young people;
4. The project uses financial means efficiently, the outcome is proportional to the means invested;
5. The project is co-created with the beneficiaries.