

# Emotion Coaching Umbrella Delivery Partner: Call for Proposals

## Purpose

The Youth Endowment Fund is seeking to appoint an umbrella delivery partner to support an efficacy randomised controlled trial of the Emotion Coaching programme.

## Emotion Coaching

Emotion Coaching is a 12-week group-based programme designed for non-abusive mothers and children who have been exposed to **domestic violence and abuse**. The programme aims to reduce children's externalising (behavioural) difficulties, strengthen emotion regulation in both mothers and children, develop mothers' emotion coaching skills, reduce harsh parenting behaviours, and foster stronger emotional connections between mothers and children. It was originally developed by Dr Lynn Katz at the University of Washington for delivery in community settings in the United States.

## Prior evaluation (feasibility study)

YEF and partners have previously adapted the Emotion Coaching programme for delivery in UK refuge settings, as part of a [feasibility study](#). The study reported promising findings on the feasibility of implementing and evaluating Emotion Coaching, but also identified that the transient population of refuge accommodation presented a challenge to scalability for an impact evaluation.

## Future evaluation (impact evaluation/ efficacy study)

To address these challenges, YEF now intends to **evaluate the programme in community settings across the UK**. This will include adapting Emotion Coaching for delivery within community settings delivering the programme at the scale required for an impact evaluation and designing and implementing a robust evaluation framework.

## Opportunity

YEF are looking to appoint an **umbrella delivery partner** to play a key role in this next phase. They will work with an **independent evaluator and the intervention developer (Dr Lynn Katz)** to:

- Revise and adapt the delivery and evaluation model for community-based implementation
- Oversee the delivery of Emotion Coaching across multiple locations and with multiple delivery organisations

- Work with the evaluator, delivery sites and intervention developer to design and implement a robust impact evaluation of this intervention.

The umbrella delivery partner will be involved in planning and co-design activities from January to June 2026 and, **subject to our Grants and Evaluation Committee approval**, the setup, delivery and evaluation would be expected to begin in **August 2026**.

### **Delivery Partner Expressions of Interest**

This call is **only open to organisations applying to be the umbrella partner**.

Organisations that wish to be considered as delivery partners, rather than as the umbrella partner, should complete the Expression of Interest (EOI): Emotion Coaching Delivery Partner form. Delivery partners will be funded and supported to deliver Emotion Coaching in their communities, overseen by the umbrella partner. We would expect delivery partners to have prior experience of delivering domestic abuse programmes to non-abusive mothers and/or their children.

- This EOI is for consideration only and does not constitute a funding application.
- Completed EOIs will be shared with the appointed umbrella partner, who will decide which organisations to recruit as delivery partners. The umbrella partner may develop an additional tendering process for delivery partners
- Delivery partners will work under the umbrella partner, following the delivery, fidelity, and evaluation requirements established for the programme.

EOI forms and instructions can be found in the application pack on the main YEF website or requested by contacting [fardawza.ahmed@youthendowmentfund.org.uk](mailto:fardawza.ahmed@youthendowmentfund.org.uk) with the subject line *Emotion Coaching Delivery Partner EOI*.

## About the funder

The Youth Endowment Fund (YEF) is a charity with a mission that matters. We exist to prevent children and young people becoming involved in violence. We do this by finding out what works and building a movement to put this knowledge into practice. Children and young people at risk of becoming involved in violence deserve services that give them the best chance of a positive future. To make sure that happens, we fund promising projects and then use the very best evaluation to find out what works. Just as we benefit from robust trials in medicine, children and young people deserve support grounded in the evidence. We build that knowledge through the programmes and evaluations that we fund. Our strategy sets out how we will achieve our mission.

## About Emotion Coaching

### ***Background***

Emotion Coaching is a 12-week group-based skills programme designed for non-abusive mothers and children who have been exposed to domestic violence and abuse. The programme aims to reduce children's externalising (behavioural) difficulties, strengthen emotion regulation in both parents and children, develop parents' emotion coaching skills, reduce harsh or punitive parenting behaviours, and foster stronger emotional connections between mothers and children who have experienced intimate partner violence (IPV). It was originally developed by Dr Lynn Katz at the University of Washington for delivery in community settings in the United States.

Each session lasts around two hours and uses a range of techniques, including didactic presentations, case studies, modelling and role-playing, and group discussions. Videotaped examples are used to illustrate both effective emotion coaching behaviours (such as validation, "feeling talk," and emotional scaffolding) and less effective parental responses (such as criticism, minimisation, or punitive reactions).

Eight of the 12 sessions are delivered exclusively with mothers, in small groups of around 5–8 participants, while four sessions include both the mother and child together to allow for live practice, observation, and feedback.

### ***Developing the model for the UK***

YEF has tested the Emotion Coaching model in a UK refuge setting for mothers and children aged 6–14, but findings indicated that this environment presents significant barriers to scalability – primarily due to the transient nature of refuge accommodation and the need for multiple domestic abuse providers to meet the sample size for a well-powered evaluation. As a result, YEF is now exploring the delivery of Emotion Coaching in community settings as part of an efficacy randomised controlled trial (RCT).

The community-based model has not yet been tested in the UK and will require the recruitment and training of new facilitators, and developing robust plans for participant safety and practical support (venue hire, implementing childcare and travel assistance, etc.) The approach could target women transitioning from Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (IDVA) or floating support services. Delivery could take place in a variety of accessible community venues where outreach support is available, including family hubs, community centres, libraries, or children's centres. Delivery partners must have proven experience already delivering in a group setting for families affected by domestic abuse.

## Aims of the fund and the Efficacy Study

### ***Existing evidence***

Given the evidence gap on the impact of Emotion Coaching within the UK, the YEF believe there is significant value in funding an **Efficacy Randomised Controlled Trial (RCT) and Implementation and Process evaluation of Emotion Coaching** involving non-abusive mothers and children aged 6-14 who have been exposed to domestic abuse.

While a community-based model of Emotion Coaching has not yet been tested in the UK, findings from the feasibility study, alongside YEF's commitment to robust, high-quality evaluations, highlight strong potential to generate valuable evidence on both impact and implementation. Our approach has been informed by scoping work recently undertaken by Cordis Bright on behalf of YEF and consultation with Solace Women's Aid, Refuge, the intervention developer and Women's Aid.

### ***Delivery partner already in place – Solace Women's Aid***

YEF has already commissioned Solace Women's Aid to deliver Emotion Coaching in a refuge setting as part of the feasibility study. Given their prior experience and existing capacity, they are expected to play a role in the next phase of the efficacy study as a recruited delivery partner. Solace Women's Aid is a London-based domestic abuse charity that operates across all London boroughs. More information about their work is available on their [website](#).

Please note that while Solace Women's Aid is likely to be one delivery partner, YEF expect the umbrella partner to identify and recruit for an additional ~2 delivery partners – either within their own organisation or through established networks – to ensure that we reach the required sample size for a well-powered evaluation. These partners will be responsible for delivering Emotion Coaching and referring eligible families into the programme.

### ***Intervention Developer***

*Emotion Coaching* was developed by Dr Lynn Katz at the University of Washington, who retains ownership of the programme. Dr Katz will play a central role in supporting the

implementation of the intervention in the UK by training local delivery staff through a five-day, in-person training programme. Every effort will be made to ensure that the training is delivered locally, where possible, though facilitators may need to travel within England and Wales to attend. Dr Katz will also work closely with the umbrella partner to ensure that the programme is delivered in line with the programme manual and will provide ongoing supervision to delivery staff.

Any proposed adaptations to the manual or delivery model will require approval from the intervention developer. The specific roles, responsibilities, and collaboration arrangements between the umbrella partner, Dr Katz and the evaluator will be agreed and formalised during the co-design phase.

### ***Next Steps: Efficacy Study***

Building on the learning from the feasibility study, YEF would like to progress towards an efficacy study of the Emotion Coaching intervention in community settings. The specific **eligibility criteria** will be refined during co-design but are expected to include **mothers who have experienced domestic abuse in the last 12 months, no longer live with their perpetrator and are emotionally ready to engage with the programme**.

The study will likely take the form of an **RCT involving up to 850 families across multiple locations**, supported by established referral pathways and coordinated delivery by the umbrella partner. Families will be randomised equally between intervention and control groups. An accompanying implementation and process evaluation will capture contextual learning and examine the mechanisms of change driving outcomes.

## **Programme design for this fund**

We are now looking to appoint an umbrella partner who will work with the intervention developer and delivery partners to ensure the programme is adapted for community implementation, delivered with fidelity, and, pending approval, oversee delivery and completion of the study. This would be conducted in collaboration with teams from the intervention developer, recruited local delivery partners (including Solace Women's Aid), and the independent evaluator (appointed by YEF).

Being a YEF umbrella partner is a big commitment. This entails coordinating and overseeing the delivery partners to be able to manage the expectations and requirements of a YEF evaluation. It's important that you're aware of what we'll need from you to make the partnership work for everyone – find out more about [what to expect](#). If your application is successful, YEF and your assigned evaluator will work with you to co-design the best possible evaluation to find out if, how and why Emotion Coaching works to reduce behavioural difficulties (and its impact on other relevant outcomes). We'll be working as a team to ensure that you're supported throughout the evaluation process. To find out more about the process you can watch this video explaining our [approach to evaluation](#) and

read through our [guidance](#) explaining the relationship with the evaluator and your role and responsibilities.

Please note that we don't expect successful applicants to have any technical expertise or knowledge of evaluation techniques. We only expect that you'll commit to the independent evaluation of Emotion Coaching and work closely with the evaluator throughout the project, including set-up and design stage, delivery, data collection and reporting.

**The roles and responsibilities of the umbrella partner would be to:**

- **Recruit and onboard** ~2 delivery partners (more information on the eligibility in the 'role' section) in England and Wales who have a proven track record of delivering programmes to families affected by domestic abuse.
- **Provide overall project management and coordination** for the project across all delivery partners.
- **Collaborate** with delivery partners, the intervention developer and the independent evaluator to co-create a shared blueprint detailing how the programme will be implemented (set-up and delivery activities).
- **Work with the appointed independent evaluator** to develop a robust infrastructure and mechanisms for collecting high-quality monitoring data.
- **Acts as a single point of contact** for the independent evaluators and the YEF.
- **Effectively manage and disburse YEF funds** to delivery partners, and the intervention developer.
- **Oversee delivery** alongside the intervention developer, ensuring delivery is on-track, as intended, consistent and quality assured.
- **Support delivery partners** to mitigate risks, overcome challenges and share learning.
- **Consolidate and submit** monitoring data and quarterly reports for the YEF.
- **Work closely with the evaluator** to support the delivery of a high-quality evaluation.
- **Translate evaluation activities** into practical steps for delivery partners, ensuring the evaluation is understood and on-track.
- **Champion the YEF's evaluation approach** and uphold evaluation deadlines.
- **Work in partnership with the YEF and the evaluators** to keep them informed of progress, successes and challenges.
- **Provide shared learning opportunities** across delivery teams/partners.

***Who should apply***

*Eligibility criteria*

1. **Location:** your organisation must be planning to deliver in England and/or Wales.
2. **Your organisation:** your organisation must be a registered charity, company, statutory body or CIC.
3. **Willingness to engage in an independent evaluation:** the YEF exists to better understand what works to prevent children and young people becoming involved in violence. To help us achieve this, you will need to work with an evaluation partner throughout your project. There are certain evaluation tools and approaches that we employ that you must agree to utilise if in receipt of our funding – in particular, you'd be agreeing to take part in a randomised control trial (RCT). Please find further details about RCTs in the 'Evaluation design' section.
4. **Our approach to archiving data:** We're passionate about understanding what works to change things for children in the long-term. We want to avoid promoting work that looks great but doesn't make a long-term difference. To avoid this, it's a requirement for YEF funded projects to agree to our approach to collecting and storing data to enable long-term follow-up through our data archive. The data archive means we'll be able to learn more about what does and doesn't work to reduce violence over the long-term. You will not be able to progress with our funding unless you, your organisation(s) and where appropriate project partners have read, understood and agreed to our data archive. Please read the information on our [website](#) and watch our video explainer.
5. **Our approach to evaluation tools:** YEF are interested in measuring wider behavioural outcomes for more upstream interventions like Emotion Coaching. For this reason, we require projects to use Strength and Difficulties questionnaires (SDQs) as the common measurement of outcome wherever possible to maximise learning across the fund. evaluation tool. Please read more about the SDQ on our [website](#).
6. **Our approach to randomisation in RCTs:** We are committed to young people getting the best possible support at the right time. This means we strive to conduct the most robust types of research; in evaluations, RCTs are widely considered the gold standard. In this study, this involves randomly assigning mothers (with at least one child aged 6-14) to either a treatment group (who receive the Emotion Coaching intervention) or a control group (who receive business as usual), but for whom outcomes are still measured. Randomisation (at the family level) must be something you and recruited delivery partners agree to and facilitate, as a condition of receiving this funding.
7. **Scale:** to support a robust and meaningful evaluation we require projects to be able to reach a certain number of participating families during the project lifetime. For this fund, the number that would need to be recruited to the evaluation is around up to 850 mothers (each with at least one child aged 6-14), over a 1.5-year recruitment period. The Emotion Coaching intervention would be delivered to around half of these.

### ***What are we looking for from an umbrella delivery partner***

The umbrella delivery partner will be responsible for coordinating and managing a network of delivery partners to deliver the Emotion Coaching programme to non-abusive mothers and children affected by domestic abuse.

The umbrella organisation may either:

- Act solely as a coordinating body, recruiting and supporting other organisations to deliver the programme; or
- Adopt a hybrid model, in which it delivers the programme directly in one or more locations in addition to managing other delivery partners.

Regardless of model, the umbrella partner must demonstrate the capacity, infrastructure, and experience to oversee high-quality delivery across all sites.

At a minimum, applicants should meet the following criteria (either as a single organisation or as part of a consortium):

- **Strong recruitment and partnership capacity:** Ability to identify, recruit, and onboard ~2 delivery partners through existing networks and relationships. These delivery partners should include staff experienced in supporting families affected by domestic abuse and trained in safeguarding, risk management, and safety planning.
- **Relevant delivery experience:** Proven experience in delivering, supporting or managing the delivery of programmes for domestic abuse survivors.
- **Robust project management:** Demonstrate ability to plan, coordinate, and manage multiple delivery partners across different locations, ensuring consistency and quality.
- **Collaborative working:** Willingness and capacity to work closely with an independent evaluator, who will lead the design and delivery of the evaluation.
- **Commitment to robust evaluation methods:** Be supportive of the idea of randomisation in evaluation and be willing and able to explain the value of this approach to others.
- **Knowledge of referral routes for domestic abuse services:** Hold a deep understanding of how families affected by domestic abuse are referred into, and engage with, support services.

Applicants should also think about practicalities surrounding overseeing delivery of multiple teams spread across various regions, bearing in mind the needs of the local areas they operate within and what this means for delivery.

We need applicants to demonstrate they have the right connections and relationships in place with delivery partners and be able to suggest where/who they would recruit. An indication of commitment to engage would be desirable but not essential at this stage

### ***What are we looking for from the recruited delivery partners***

The delivery partners, recruited and managed by the umbrella organisation, will be responsible for the direct delivery of the Emotion Coaching programme to mothers and children.

Delivery partners may include a range of organisations, such as:

- Voluntary and community sector organisations (e.g. domestic abuse charities, family support hubs).
- Local authority or statutory services delivering early help or family support.
- Children's centres, housing associations, or other organisations with established community reach.

**Note:** Refuge accommodation organisations are not eligible, as this evaluation will focus on **community-based delivery**.

**Delivery partners should:**

- Be focused on direct delivery of the Emotion Coaching programme to mothers and children, in line with the programme manual.
- Have experience running programmes for families affected by domestic abuse, operating as a community-facing service with trusted relationships with local families.
- Have established referral pathways to identify, recruit, and engage eligible mothers and children who have experienced domestic abuse, drawing on networks such as Local Authorities, IDVAs, IRIS advocates or floating support services.
- Have staff who are appropriately trained and experienced in safeguarding, risk management, and trauma-informed practice.
- Be able to hire and manage venues for group sessions and coordinate childcare and travel assistance as needed.
- Commit to completing five days of in-person training on the Emotion Coaching model, delivered by the intervention developer and work within the parameters of the programme manual and evaluation design (including randomisation).

***Role of the appointed evaluator***

The independent evaluator appointed by YEF will work with YEF, the umbrella partner, the intervention developer and the delivery partners to co-design the programme delivery and the evaluation, agreeing an approach to key issues such as how families are recruited, randomised and consented into the evaluation, alongside how data will be collected. The evaluator will lead a series of workshops with the delivery partner, intervention developer and YEF as part of the co-design process, to support the umbrella partner to produce a high-quality delivery plan which is in line with the best available evidence. The evaluator will also lead on producing a comprehensive evaluation plan and producing a full evaluation report at the end of delivery.

## Design overview

As noted above, the design of Emotion Coaching intervention will follow the manual used previously in the feasibility study (owned by the intervention developer), with minor adaptations to make it relevant for community setting and articulated in the theory of change. The co-design phase will consist of the review of the programme manual – in delivery, and in evaluation design, with recommendations from the delivery partners and evaluator coming together to update the study design.

### Participant eligibility

Eligibility criteria will be refined and finalised during co-design, but indicative participants for the Emotion Coaching programme are expected to include:

1. Mothers who have experienced domestic abuse in the last 12 months
2. Mothers who no longer live with their perpetrator
3. Mothers who are emotionally ready to engage with the programme
4. Mothers with at least one child aged 6-14 who can participate in the programme
5. Both mother and child consent to take part in Emotion Coaching.
6. Both mother and child consent to take part in the evaluation – *understanding that they may be allocated to the control group, but must still participate in data collection activities.*

### Race equity, diversity and inclusion

While domestic abuse affects families across all communities, women from Mixed ethnicity report domestic abuse at almost twice the rate of White women (7.9% vs. 4.7%, CSEW, 2023<sup>1</sup>). Evidence also shows that racially minoritised groups – particularly Black, Asian and Mixed-ethnicity women – are more likely to experience repeated and more severe abuse, and to face barriers to seeking help (ONS, 2023<sup>2</sup>). These barriers extend into family support services, where families can encounter poor treatment, limited access to culturally appropriate services, and, in some cases, adverse outcomes (EIF, 2022<sup>3</sup>). Through the evaluation of Emotion Coaching, we therefore want to make sure that we are reaching a

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<sup>1</sup> Crime Survey for England and Wales, 2023 – <https://www.ethnicity-facts-figures.service.gov.uk/crime-justice-and-the-law/crime-and-reoffending/domestic-abuse-victims/latest/>

<sup>2</sup> Office for National Statistics, 2023 – <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/articles/domesticabusevictimcharacteristicsenglandandwales/yearendingmarch2023>

<sup>3</sup> Early Intervention Foundation, 2022 – <https://www.eif.org.uk/report/improving-the-way-family-support-services-work-for-minority-ethnic-families>

diverse range of young people. It is essential for race equity, diversity and inclusion considerations to be embedded into the design and delivery of the programme. The umbrella partner, delivery partners and evaluation team may work with one of YEF's Race Equity Associates in the co-design period who can advise on specific elements of programme design, but we would expect applicants to demonstrate initial thinking around this in their application.

## Estimated timeline

If there are any updates to the timeline this will be provided when we invite shortlisted candidate to interview.

|                                                                                           |                                           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Call for proposals published                                                              | 15 <sup>th</sup> October 2025             |
| Deadline for full proposal submission                                                     | <b>5pm, 14<sup>th</sup> November 2025</b> |
| Proposals scored and shortlisted                                                          | 18 <sup>th</sup> November 2025            |
| Interviews with shortlisted applications                                                  | 24–25 <sup>th</sup> November 2025         |
| Umbrella partner appointment                                                              | 26 <sup>th</sup> November 2025            |
| <b>YEF Grants and Evaluation Committee – Decision point</b>                               | <b>16<sup>th</sup> December 2025</b>      |
| Pre-meets with umbrella partner, Solace Women's Aid, intervention developer and evaluator | w/c 12 <sup>th</sup> January 2026         |
| Co-design                                                                                 | January – June 2026                       |
| <b>Grants and Evaluation Committee – Decision point</b>                                   | <b>July 2026</b>                          |

*The below timeline is subject to our Grants and Evaluation Committee approval – we would also encourage applicants to tell us whether this seems reasonable/achievable.*

| <b>Estimated timeline</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <b>By when?</b>            |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Set-up and mobilisation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recruitment</li> <li>• DSA/MOU signing</li> <li>• Evaluation ethics approval</li> <li>• Developing data monitoring tools and processes</li> <li>• Training</li> <li>• Any other preparatory activities</li> </ul> | August 2026 – January 2027 |
| Recruitment, delivery and data collection                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | February 2027 – March 2029 |
| Evaluation analysis and reporting                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | By Mid-2029                |

## Budget

Applicants should include in their budget costs for the umbrella partner to effectively manage the development and delivery aspect of this trial. We expect this to cover core day to day project management, being a point of contact for all delivery partners recruited, working with the intervention developer to oversee fidelity, and the independent evaluator, quality assuring delivery and reporting to YEF as required.

We expect the budget to cover delivery management from August 2026 through to supporting data collection up until March 2029. These are estimated timelines and budgets can be revisited/finalised through the co-design period. The co-design period (January – June 2026) will be funded by a separate grant of £20-£30k – *we will ask the appointed umbrella organisation to submit a proposal for funding their co-design activities, but we **are not** requesting this information as part of the application.*

We recognise that taking part in an evaluation requires additional staff time for overseeing and monitoring the delivery partners implementation and supporting risk management and troubleshooting where possible. Applicants should, therefore, include such costs in their proposed budgets.

*Please note, applicants must provide at least 20% of the budget from supplementary and/or in-kind support. These sources of funding can include other grants, contributions you make through your own unrestricted funding, or in-kind and pro-bono support your organisation receives for the activities. More details can be found [here](#).*

## APPLICATION GUIDANCE

### Application process

An umbrella partner will be appointed by competitive tendering process. This will involve submission of a full proposal, followed by interviews for shortlisted applicants only.

Proposal forms should be downloaded here and completed in Word Format. It is critical that you adhere to the word limits provided. Alongside the proposal form, you should also submit a budget (links to YEF templates included in the proposal form and [here](#)).

### Deadline & submission

The deadline for submitting proposals will be **5pm, Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2025**

### **Submissions should include:**

- Completed proposal form (including eligibility check)
- Completed project budget – *we anticipate that this will be a first draft and subject to change*

Full proposals should be sent to [grants@youthendowmentfund.org.uk](mailto:grants@youthendowmentfund.org.uk). Please ensure the title in the subject line of your email is: **Emotion Coaching\_Umbrella Partner Proposal**

### *Partnership applications*

To ensure we deliver the best evidence about what works for children and young people, we require projects to reach a high number of children and young people. The YEF is interested in proposals from single organisations and from consortia with complementary expertise, and where the consortium can demonstrate that they will work well together to ensure the delivery is well-integrated. It's key that consortia applications have a lead organisation and work as one entity. The lead organisation will act as the YEF point of contact (and overall project manager who takes ultimate responsibility for adhering to the terms of the grant if successful).

### *Our commitment to equality*

While domestic abuse affects families across all communities, women of Mixed ethnicity experience it at almost twice the rate of White women. Mothers and children from racially minoritised backgrounds may also face additional barriers to accessing family support services and achieving positive outcomes. If we truly are going to make a difference, we need to make sure that our funding is used in a way that reaches and represents the children we are here to serve.

We're particularly interested in receiving proposals from organisations that are either led by leaders from Black, Asian or other minority backgrounds, and/or whose work has a particular focus on ultimately benefitting young people from Black, Asian and other minority backgrounds through their own work or through their partnerships with other relevant organisations and agencies (e.g., consortium members, employers).

### **How we'll assess your application**

We'll have a team of assessors who'll review your proposal and score it based on the criteria in Appendix 1. We'll use these scores to shortlist applicants and **invite only shortlisted applicants to interview w/c 24<sup>th</sup> November.**

It will help us to assess your application if you provide explanation and rationale for the suggestions you've made in your proposed approach.

## **Data and privacy**

If you want to know how we store and use the data in your form, you can read our [data privacy policy](#). If you want to learn more about data sharing between grantees and evaluators, you can read the [guidance on our secure data archive](#).

## **Get in touch**

If you have any further questions, please get in touch. Email [far dawza.ahmed@youthendowmentfund.org.uk](mailto:far dawza.ahmed@youthendowmentfund.org.uk), specifying 'Emotion Coaching\_query' in the subject line of your email.

## **What happens next**

### ***Step one: Assessment & interview***

We'll begin assessing applications as soon as they are received. We therefore encourage you to submit your application as soon as you're ready, rather than waiting until the deadline. Our assessment team will be tasked with developing a shortlist of applications, and shortlisted applicants will be invited to interview. We may come back to you outside of this schedule to request more information to support our decision if necessary. After all interviews, an internal decision meeting will be held to decide on the successful applicant.

### ***Step two: Matching you with an evaluator***

We'll then match the successful umbrella partner with an evaluator from our evaluator panel. This panel is made up of approximately 35 research organisations and universities that have the knowledge, skills and expertise to conduct rigorous evaluations of the implementation and impact of the projects we fund. Each organisation will competitively bid to be partnered with you. Evaluators will be matched based on a range of considerations, including the strength and quality of their bid, their skills and experience in the evaluation methods that are appropriate for your project, their subject specific

knowledge and experience of conducting research with the children and young people your project supports.

### **Step three (subject to our Grants and Evaluation Committee approval): Co-design**

Once you're paired with an evaluator, the umbrella partner, Solace Women's Aid and intervention developer will be expected to be available for a series of intensive co-design workshops.

These are likely to run from January 2026 to June 2026, and you will need to be available to attend a minimum of six 2–3-hour, co-design workshops before the end of June 2026. These will mostly be virtual meetings with in-person meetings scheduled where needed. Additional work will be required outside of these meetings to complete tasks/relevant outputs (e.g. Theory of Change, detailed delivery plan, budget, timeline, and risk register). Further information on the required outputs will be provided prior to co-design commencing.

The purpose of co-design is for the umbrella partner, representatives from the delivery partners, intervention developer and the appointed evaluator to work together to further refine and develop a clear, joint project and evaluation proposal to take to YEF's Grants and Evaluation Committee for final approval.

There will be budget provided to support some of the costs of engagement in the co-design period and produce the relevant outputs listed below. This shouldn't be included in the budget you submit as part of this application.

### **Step three (in parallel) – Confirmed delivery partners**

In parallel with the co-design phase, we expect the umbrella partner to confirm the appointment of the recruited delivery partners. Ideally, this should be completed early in the co-design process (by **mid-February 2026** at the latest).

Once we receive Expressions of Interest (EOIs) from prospective delivery partners, we'll share these with the appointed umbrella partner. The umbrella partner will then review the EOIs and follow their procurement process to formally appoint the two additional delivery partners.

Securing delivery partners early in the co-design phase will be vital to ensure that their insights and operational perspectives help shape the design, delivery plan, and evaluation approach from the outset.

### **Step four. Final proposals**

Once you submit your final proposal, which has been co-designed with your evaluator, delivery partners and intervention developer, we will present it to our Grant and Evaluation Committee who will make the final decision on whether or not to award the grant and the evaluation. The length of time this 'co-design' phase will last is 6-months.

### **Time**

It's important to be aware that from the time you submit the first part of your application to the point you hear the final outcome (i.e. whether or not YEF will be award the grant and the evaluation) is likely to be from around 7 months. We believe that this amount of time working with our team and your paired evaluator is critical. Together, it will help you develop a strong foundation to find out what works to prevent children and young people becoming involved in violence.

## **Appendix 1: Assessment Criteria**

### **1. Ability to deliver as planned**

We're asking ourselves three main things:

- Have you demonstrated an excellent understanding for what the set up and delivery of Emotion Coaching intervention will entail, with a clear strategy of how your organisation will successfully coordinate and oversee delivery within delivery partners (recruitment of ~2 local partners – in addition to Solace Women's Aid).
- How likely it is you'll be able to work with local partners to deliver in the given timeframe. To do this, we'll look at your previous experience, expertise, and existing networks with local domestic abuse providers and how you plan to use these to successfully promote and set up delivery.
- Whether sufficient consideration has been given to the possible risks to set up and delivery of the project, and whether mitigations proposed are adequate.

### **2. Ability to deliver at the required scale**

We're trying to assess whether you have a strong understanding of how local delivery partners refer and engage in group work and how the required sample size will be met within the 1.5 years of recruitment period.

It's important for us to be able to assess whether your proposed approach, including selection of delivery partners in which they deliver, will enable the sample size to be met.

### **3. Ability to successfully recruit and onboard delivery partners**

We're trying to assess whether you have prior experience of working with delivery partners, who have suitable facilitators on staff that have proven experience working with families affected by domestic abuse in a group setting as well as your strategy for recruiting and onboarding them into the trial.

We also want to understand any potential risks involved with recruiting and onboarding local partners into the evaluation and what approach you will take to mitigating these risks.

### **4. Ability to appropriately consider race, equality, diversity and inclusion issues**

While domestic abuse affects families across all communities, women of Mixed ethnicity experience it at almost twice the rate of White women. Mothers and children from racially minoritised backgrounds may also face additional barriers to accessing family support services and achieving positive outcomes.

We are trying to assess whether you have given adequate consideration to how race equity, diversity and inclusion considerations will be embedded into the design and delivery of the programme.

To do this we will want to see that you have considered how you will ensure reaching children and young people from marginalised backgrounds and how these families will continue to be supported during and after the programme.

| <b>Scoring</b> |                                                                     |
|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 0              | Totally fails to meet the requirement - information not available   |
| 1              | Meets some of the requirements with limited supporting information  |
| 2              | Meets some of the requirements with reasonable explanation          |
| 3              | Fully meets the requirements with detailed explanation and evidence |

|   |                                                                  |
|---|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 4 | Exceeds the requirements with extensive explanation and evidence |
|---|------------------------------------------------------------------|