

Request for Proposal: Developing support for occupational therapists through the COVID-19 epidemic

*Funded through the Elizabeth Casson Trust Innovation Award
(Issued 4 May 2020)*

1. Introduction and Purpose

COVID-19 disease has brought about unparalleled pressures on health and care services across the UK: services are having to respond in ways for which they may not feel equipped and for which practitioners may feel less familiar or prepared. Occupational therapists have been among the care professionals who have adopted new roles/ routines/ tasks in the workplace at pace to support the cover effort during this crisis and the Elizabeth Casson Trust recognises how difficult this may have been and how professional support could be welcomed. Nonetheless such extraordinary experiences can also herald change as they can challenge accepted thinking, knowledge and attitudes and create the seeds of fresh ideas. These processes however often require bespoke space, time and guidance if practitioners are to make the most of offers of support and to constructively reflect on their experiences. It is during such a process that new ways of thinking and doing can emerge.

In response and by way of thanks, the Trust would like to invest back into these individuals and the profession through a programme of support, underpinned and guided through reflection, to help process events and experiences and make sense of the challenges that have occurred to their thinking, knowledge and practice during this time.

The Trust wishes to commission several projects to meet this objective and is making available a number of grants for this purpose; we invite you to consider submitting a proposal. We do not want to be prescriptive and encourage you to be innovative, potentially delivering through partnerships that could include education, practice, clinical psychologists, information technologists and/or researchers. We encourage you to recognise the time, travel and social distancing constraints individuals may still be under and acknowledge preferred learning styles when you consider delivery modes. We wish to offer the support to occupational therapists across the UK and in a full range of practice contexts.

We envisage the support will include attention to, though may not be exclusive, the following two areas:

- i/ help individuals process experiences and emotions so they are resilient to move forward through the course of the epidemic, and
- ii/ review how experiences may have impacted on their professional reasoning and consider if there are potentially new practices and learnings that individuals can take into their future/ return to former practice post COVID-19

2. What's Available

The Elizabeth Casson Trust is offering **up to £15,000** to deliver a programme of professional support and reflection to help occupational therapists navigate the COVID-19 epidemic We aim for this support to be available to as many occupational therapists as possible.

3. Proposals

We would like to run an expedient and streamlined application process so please adopt the following headings for your proposal:

- i. Project name
- ii. Lead organisation and any partners
- iii. Programme plan/ offering (indicative, recognising final arrangements would need to be made)
- iv. Method: clearly state the activities/ stages required to deliver your project (bullets acceptable)

- v. Marketing and communications: state how you plan to make occupational therapists aware of the offering and register
- vi. Evaluation: indicate how you will evaluate the effectiveness and impact of your offering
- vii. Dissemination plans: summarise how any learning from the project can be made available to the wider occupational therapy community
- viii. Timescales: provide a milestone GANTT chart against the activities/ stages noted above (iv & v)
- ix. Budget: state the amount you are requesting and provide a breakdown of costs (staff costs can be included)
- x. Capacity: provide a confirmation from your line manager/ institution that the project timeframes can be met (email confirmation is acceptable)
- xi. Capability: provide a CV for the project lead and/ or key individuals that shows experience of similar work and/ or demonstrates the skills required to undertake the project

4. Submission

Please submit your proposal (3-4 pages of A4 using the headings in the section 3, above, to structure your document) no later than **11 June 2020** to Pam Anderson at secretary@elizabethcasson.org.uk. If you have enquiries, please email Pam.

5. Award

Applicants will be notified by 25 June 2020 with funds immediately available upon signed agreement.