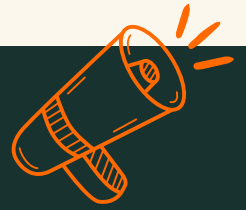


Call for Youth Advisors and People With Lived Experience Advisors!



- Are you a youth-led group or People With Lived Experience (PWLE)-led group focused on mental health and wellbeing?
- Do you believe in inclusive and participatory decision making?
- Be a part of Being's first Youth Advisory and PWLE Advisory Groups! Bring your expertise and knowledge to influence how mental health is promoted and addressed in your community and beyond!
- Review the summary below to determine if you're interested and eligible!

Being is an international mental health initiative, working toward a world where young people feel well and thrive. It is hosted by **Grand Challenges Canada** in partnership with **Fondation Botnar**, **United for Global Mental Health**, **Global Affairs Canada** and the UK's Department of Health and Social Care, through the **National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR)**. Being is working with young people to improve their mental wellbeing through research and innovative youth-focused approaches to create positive, lasting change in local communities and beyond.

A core objective of Being is to engage young people and People With Lived Experience (PWLE) as partners, in an equitable and collaborative manner. We believe the voices, perspectives and experiences of PWLE as well as young people, especially young people with lived experience, should be centered at all stages of the initiative to ensure their needs are prioritized in support of all the objectives and related workstreams of Being.

Being's Approach to Meaningful Engagement of Young People and People With Lived Experience (PWLE)

Guided by the following values:

- **Inclusion, Diversity, Equity & Accessibility** – We recognize there are many ways of knowing and being, and that there is power in diversity. We commit to ensuring that a diverse representation of young people's and PWLE's voices and experiences, from Being's priority countries, are incorporated into Being. Accommodations will be made where required to ensure participation and accessibility.
- **Respect** – Honouring and centering the non-traditional expertise that young people and PWLE bring to the table, grounded in the recognition that young people and PWLE have a fundamental right to meaningfully engage in matters that affect their lives.
- **Openness** – We will remain open to continuous and adaptive learning throughout Being as new findings on how to meaningfully engage young people and PWLE are surfaced.
- **Safeguarding** – Ensuring the physical and psychological safety of young people and PWLE. All adults and those in positions of authority working directly or indirectly with young people, including young people with lived experience, have a responsibility to take every reasonable precaution to minimize the risk of violence, exploitation, tokenism, or any other negative consequence of young people's or PWLE's participation.

The Call for Advisors

We are seeking to recruit **two distinct advisory groups** for Being – one for youth and one for PWLE.

- **One diverse group of Youth-led** (majority of leadership aged 18 to 30) global mental health sector organizations, networks, coalitions, dedicated to representing the voices of young people (ages 10-24); and
- **One diverse group of PWLE-led** global mental health sector organizations, networks, coalitions, dedicated to representing PWLE, including young people with lived experience.

Groups and networks that represent a diversity of young people and PWLE in one or more of 13 priority countries will be prioritized for participation, including Colombia, Ecuador, Egypt, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Morocco, Pakistan, Romania, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, and Vietnam. National-level groups and grassroots organizations are strongly encouraged to apply.

We are looking to recruit a diversity of organizational experiences to form the advisory group, spanning policy advocacy, the arts, youth mental health service delivery, students, and other relevant groups.

Responsibilities of advisors will include the following:

- Attend one 2-hour quarterly meeting. Please note that the Youth Advisory Group will be managed and led by Grand Challenges Canada and the PWLE Advisory group will be managed and led by Being's partner, United for Global Mental Health. Each advisor can expect to commit a maximum of 10-15 hours of time per year to Being.
- Discuss and review key components of Being, such as the Youth Engagement and PWLE Engagement Plans, and other communication and advocacy initiatives as appropriate.
- Provide input into structuring new mental health research and/or innovation funding calls, as well as providing guidance on strengthening GCC's funding, evaluation and learning processes to ensure they are youth-friendly and PWLE-friendly in service of funding and scaling innovative and youth-led approaches while promoting sustainability.
- Participate as reviewers, providing comments on prospective Being research and innovation funding applications at the screening stage to ensure community-based, youth-led, and other approaches that address the drivers of mental health, supports prevention and early detection of mental health challenges and encourage mental health and wellbeing promotion are prioritized for funding.
- Serve as ambassadors of Being by amplifying key messages and communications including supporting youth-specific outreach to circulating funding opportunities, reports and key findings (for example, findings from the forthcoming context analysis of the local mental health and wellbeing needs of young people being carried out in 13 priority countries).

Advisors will be compensated for their contributions to Being. Advisors will have terms of no longer than two (2) years each. However, each term may be renewed once for an additional maximum two (2) year term.

- For the **Youth Advisory Group**, please complete [the online application form](#) no later than **Thursday, December 8th, 2022, by 5:00 p.m. EST.**
- For the **PWLE advisory group**, please complete [the online application form](#) no later than **Thursday, December 8th, 2022, by 5:00 p.m. EST.**



We thank all of those who apply and look forward to reviewing your applications soon! If you have any questions please get in touch:
info@being-initiative.org.

*Please note that applying to be a Youth or PWLE Advisor to Being does not preclude your organization from applying for funding opportunities under Being (any relevant conflicts of interest would however need to be declared as appropriate).

**Any organizations applying that represent minors (10-17) would be required to demonstrate that requisite safeguarding practices are in place.