

International Society for Infectious Disease and Pfizer Independent Grants for Learning & Change Global Request for Proposals (RFP)

Adult Immunization in Low- and Middle-Income Countries

I. Background

Pfizer and the International Society for Infectious Disease (ISID) are collaborating to offer a new grant opportunity focused on decreasing health disparities by supporting projects aiming to improve adult access to and use of vaccinations in places of great need.

The mission of Pfizer Independent Grants for Learning & Change (IGL&C) is to accelerate the adoption of evidence-based innovations that align the mutual interests of healthcare professionals, patients, and Pfizer, through support of independent professional education activities. “Independent” means the projects funded by Pfizer are the full responsibility of the recipient organization. Pfizer has no influence over any aspect of the projects, and only asks for reports about the results and impact of the projects in order to share them publicly.

The International Society for Infectious Diseases (ISID) is a non-profit organization with more than 50,000 members worldwide committed to improving the care of patients with infectious diseases, the training of clinicians and researchers in infectious diseases and microbiology, and the control of infectious diseases around the world. ISID will lead the grant application evaluation process and oversee a proposal review committee that will make funding decisions.

The intent of this document is to encourage researchers, public health officials, physicians and organizations with a focus in healthcare-professional education and/or quality improvement to submit letters of intent (LOIs) in response to a Request for Proposal (RFP) that is related to research or education in a specific disease state, therapeutic area, or broader area of educational need. The RFP model is a two stage process. Stage 1 is the submission of the LOI. After review of the LOI, you may be invited to submit a Full Grant Proposal. Stage 2 is the submission of the Full Grant Proposal.

When a RFP is issued, it is posted on the Pfizer IGL&C website (www.pfizer.com/independentgrants) and is sent via e-mail to all registered organizations and users in our grants system. Some RFPs may also be posted on the websites of other relevant organizations as deemed appropriate.

II. Eligibility

Geographic Scope:	<input type="checkbox"/> United States Only <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> International Grant proposals may be submitted from anywhere in the world, including the United States and Europe, but the proposals should focus on low- and middle-income countries, as described in the World Bank list of economies.
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Applicant Eligibility Criteria:	<p>The following may apply: medical, dental, nursing, allied health and/or pharmacy professional schools; healthcare institutions (both large and small); professional associations; and other not-for-profit entities with a mission related to healthcare improvement.</p> <p>Collaborations within institutions (e.g., between departments and/or inter-professional), as well as between different institutions/organizations/associations, are encouraged. Please note all partners must have a relevant role and the requesting organization must have a key role in the project.</p>
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III. Requirements

Date RFP Issued:	June 5, 2014
Clinical Area:	Adult Immunization
Specific Area of Interest for this RFP:	<p>It is our intent to support projects that focus on increasing adult access to or use of vaccinations, individually and at a population level. The review process will prioritize funding programs focusing on disparate care resulting from the geographic distribution of healthcare services. Programs should focus on adult immunization in general. Programs limited to a focus on one vaccine will not be eligible for consideration.</p> <p>Projects will be evidence-based (research, education and/or quality improvement) and the proposed research/evaluation will follow generally accepted scientific principles. During review, the intended outcome of the project is given careful consideration. Projects with the maximum likelihood to directly impact the life and health of individuals and the population may be given high priority.</p> <p>Grant funds cannot be used to purchase vaccines or any other therapeutic agents (prescription or non-prescription).</p>
Target Audience:	Healthcare providers working to immunize the population. Applications targeting underserved populations will be given priority.
Disease Burden Overview:	The burden of vaccine-preventable disease in adults is substantial. The benefits of prevention can extend beyond prevention of infection to the prevention of other clinically significant conditions that may develop post-infection. ¹

<p>Recommendations and Target Metrics:</p>	<p>Related Guidelines and Recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Health Organization Recommendations for Routine Immunization² http://www.who.int/immunization/policy/immunization_tables/en/. • WHO Global Vaccine Action Plan³ http://www.who.int/immunization/global_vaccine_action_plan/DoV_GVAP_2012_2020/en/ • Centers for Disease Control’s Adult Immunization Schedules⁴ http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/hcp/adult.html • Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) General Recommendations on Immunization⁵ http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr6002a1.htm?s_cid=rr6002a1_w
<p>Gaps Between Actual and Target, Possible Reasons for Gaps:</p>	<p>It may take decades for new vaccines in high-income countries to become available in low- and middle-income countries. The WHO’s Global Vaccine Action Plan notes that a “life-course” approach is necessary to ensure vaccinations benefit those at risk in every age group. It is noted this involves creating strategies for reaching individuals throughout their life, and developing plans for the systems that will monitor and track progress.³</p>
<p>Barriers:</p>	<p>One of the WHO’s strategic objectives is to ensure the benefits of immunization are equitably extended to all people. To do this, efforts must be made to reach every community.³</p> <p>Barriers to access and use of vaccinations must be understood at the community level. In addition these barriers must be factored into district and community plans to ensure they are overcome.³</p> <p>Funding for immunization varies across the globe and lack of funding can be a barrier in some areas. When examining government funding of routine immunization, as of 2007, 60% of countries (115) covered 100% of costs, 10% of countries (20) covered between 50% and 100%, 17% (33) covered less than 50% and 13% (25) did not provide funding.⁶</p>
<p>Expected Approximate Monetary Range of Grant Applications:</p>	<p>Individual grants requesting up to \$300,000 will be considered. The total available budget related to this RFP is \$1,000,000.</p> <p>The amount awarded will depend upon the external review panel’s evaluation of the proposal and costs involved and will be clearly stated in the grant approval notification.</p>

<p>Key Dates:</p>	<p>RFP release date: 6/5/2014</p> <p>Letter of Intent due date: 7/18/2014</p> <p>Review of LOIs by External Review Panel: Aug 2014</p> <p>Anticipated LOI Notification Date: 8/29/2014</p> <p>Full Proposal Deadline: *9/30/2014 *Only accepted LOIs will be invited to submit full proposals</p> <p>Review of Full Proposals by External Review Panel: Oct 2014</p> <p>Anticipated Full Proposal Notification Date: 11/28/2014</p> <p>Anticipated award delivered following execution of fully signed Letter of Agreement</p> <p>Period of Performance: December 2014 to July 2017</p>
<p>How to Submit:</p>	<p>Please go to the website at www.pfizer.com/independentgrants and click on the button "Go to the Grant System."</p> <p>If this is your first time visiting this site you will be prompted to take the Eligibility Quiz to determine the type of support you are seeking. Please ensure you identify yourself as a first-time user.</p> <p>Select the following Area of Interest: Adult Immunization in Low- and Middle-Income Countries</p> <p>Requirements for submission: Complete all required sections of the online application and upload the completed LOI template (see Appendix).</p> <p>If you encounter any technical difficulties with the website, please click the "Need Support?" link at the bottom of the page</p>
<p>Questions:</p>	<p>If you have questions regarding this RFP, please direct them in writing to the Grant Officer, Susan B. Connelly, at susan.connelly@pfizer.com, with a copy to the ISID Program Coordinator at ImmunizationGrant@isid.org. Use subject line "Adult Immunization in Low- and Middle-Income Countries 6-6-14."</p>
<p>Mechanism by which Applicants will be Notified:</p>	<p>All applicants will be notified via email by the dates noted above.</p> <p>Applicants may be asked for additional clarification or to make a summary presentation during the review period.</p>

References:

1. US Department of Health and Human Services. Healthy People 2020 objectives. Available at: <http://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topicsobjectives2020/pdfs/Immunization.pdf>. Accessed February 25, 2014.
2. WHO Recommendations for Routine Immunization. World Health Organization. Available at: http://www.who.int/immunization/policy/immunization_tables/en/. Accessed February 25, 2014.
3. WHO. Global Vaccine Action Plan 2011-2020. Strategic Objectives. Geneva, World Health Organization, 2013. Available at: http://www.who.int/immunization/global_vaccine_action_plan/GVAP_Strategic_Objective_1-6.pdf?ua=1. Accessed February 25, 2014.
4. CDC's Adult Immunization Schedules Available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/hcp/adult.html>. Accessed February 25, 2014.
5. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. General Recommendations on Immunization: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep. 2011 Jan 28;60(RR02):1-60.
6. WHO, UNICEF, World Bank. State of the world's vaccines and immunization, 3rd ed. Geneva, World Health Organization, 2009. Available at: http://www.unicef.org/media/files/SOWVI_full_report_english_LR1.pdf. Accessed February 25, 2014.

IV. Terms and Conditions

1. This RFP does not commit Pfizer or its partners to award a grant or a grant of any particular size if one is awarded, nor to pay any costs incurred in the preparation of a response to this request.
2. Pfizer and ISID jointly reserve the right to accept or reject any or all applications received as a result of this request, or to cancel this RFP in part or in its entirety, if it determines it is in the best interest of Pfizer and ISID to do so.
3. For compliance reasons and in fairness to all applicants, all communications about the RFP must come exclusively to Pfizer Independent Grants for Learning & Change and ISID. Failure to comply will disqualify applicants.
4. Consistent with its commitment to openness and transparency, Pfizer reports education grants provided to medical, scientific and patient organizations in the United States. Pfizer reserves the right to announce the details of successful grant application(s) by whatever means insures transparency, such as on the Pfizer website, in presentations, and/or in other public media. In the case of this RFP, a list of all LOIs selected to move forward may be publicly disclosed. In addition, all approved full proposals, as well as all resulting materials (e.g., status updates, outcomes reports, etc.) may be posted on the IGL&C website and/or any other Pfizer document or site.
5. Pfizer reserves the right to share with organizations that may be interested in contacting you for further information (e.g., possible collaborations) the title of your proposed project, and the name, address, telephone number and e-mail address of the applicant for the requesting organization.
6. To comply with section 6002 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (“Sunshine Act”), Provider (sponsor) must provide names and other required information for the US-licensed physicians and US teaching hospitals (“Covered Recipients,” as defined by Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services) to whom the Provider (sponsor) furnished payments or other transfers of value stemming from the original independent grant awarded by Pfizer. This includes compensation, reimbursement for expenses, and meals provided to faculty (planners, speakers, investigators, project leads, etc.) and “items of value” (items that possess a value on the open market, such as textbooks) provided to faculty and participants, if such faculty and/or participants meet the definition of Covered Recipient. Such required information is to be submitted during the reconciliation process or earlier upon Pfizer’s request in order to meet certain Sunshine Act reporting commitments. Be advised Pfizer will not make any payments to any individuals; grant funding shall be paid directly to Provider (sponsor).
7. No portion of a Pfizer independent grant may be used for food and/or beverages for learners and/or participants in any capacity. Provider (sponsor) will be required to certify during final grant reconciliation that the funds were not used for food and/or beverages for learners and/or participants.

8. In the performance of all activities related to an independent grant, the Provider (sponsor) and all participants must comply with all applicable Global Trade Control Laws. “Global Trade Control Laws” include, but are not limited to, U.S. Export Administration Regulations; the International Traffic in Arms Regulations; EU export controls on dual-use goods and technology; Financial Sanctions Laws and Restrictive Measures imposed within the framework of the CFSP - Treaty on European Union; and the economic sanctions rules and regulations administered by the U.S. Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control.

Appendix: Letter of Intent Submission Guidance

LOIs should be single-spaced using Calibri 12-point font and 1-inch margins. Note there is a 3-page limit in the main section of the LOI. ***LOIs not meeting these standards will not be reviewed.***

LOIs should include the following sections

Main Section (not to exceed 3 pages):

- A. Title
- B. Goal
 1. Briefly state the overall goal of the project. Describe how this goal aligns with the focus of the RFP, the goals of the applicant, and the proposed project.
- C. Objectives
 1. List the *overall* objectives you plan to meet with your project both in terms of learning and expected outcomes. Do not include individual activity objectives.
 - Objectives should describe the population as well as the outcomes you expect to achieve as a result of conducting the project.
- D. Assessment of Need for the Project
 1. Please include quantitative baseline data summary, initial metrics (e.g., quality measures), or project starting point (please cite data on gap analyses or relevant patient-level data that informs the stated objectives) in *your* target area. Describe the source and method used to collect the data. Describe how the data was analyzed to determine that a gap existed. The RFP includes a global assessment of the need for the project. Please do not repeat this information within the LOI (you may reference the RFP, if necessary). Only include information that impacts your specific project, linking regional or local needs to those identified on the global basis, if appropriate.
 2. Describe the primary audience(s) targeted for this project. Also indicate whom you believe will directly benefit from the project outcomes. Describe the overall population size as well as the size of your sample population.
- E. Project Design and Methods
 1. Describe the planned project and the way it addresses the established need.
 - If your methods include educational activities, please describe succinctly the topic(s) and format of those activities.
- F. Innovation
 1. Explain what measures you have taken to assure that this project idea is original and does not duplicate other projects or materials already developed.
 2. Describe how this project builds upon existing work, pilot projects, or ongoing projects, developed either by your institution or other institutions related to this project.
- G. Design of Outcomes Evaluation

1. In terms of the metrics used for the needs assessment, describe how you will determine if the practice gap was addressed for the target group.
 - Identify the sources of data you anticipate using to make the determination.
 - Describe how you expect to collect and analyze the data.
 - Explain the method used to control for other factors outside this project (e.g., use of a control group and comparison with baseline data).
2. Quantify the amount of change expected from this project in terms of your target audience.
3. Describe how you will determine if the target audience was fully engaged in the project.
4. Describe how the project outcomes might be broadly disseminated.

H. Project Timeline

I. Requested Budget

1. A total amount requested is the only information needed at this time.
2. The budget amount requested must be in U.S. dollars (USD).
3. While estimating your budget please keep the following items in mind:
 - Institutional overhead and indirect costs may be included within the grant request. Examples include human resources department costs, payroll processing and accounting costs, janitorial services, utilities, property taxes, property and liability insurance, and building maintenance as well as additional project expenses such as costs for publication, IRB / IEC review fees, software license fees, and travel. Please note: Pfizer does not provide funding for capital equipment.
 - It should be noted that grants awarded through IGLC cannot be used to purchase therapeutic agents (prescription or non-prescription).
 - Pfizer maintains a company-wide, maximum allowed overhead rate of 28% for independent studies and projects.

J. Additional Information

1. If there is any additional information you feel Pfizer should be aware of concerning the importance of this project, please summarize it in within the page limitations.

Organizational Detail (not to exceed 1 page)

Describe the attributes of the institutions/organizations/associations that will support and facilitate the execution of the project and the leadership of the proposed project. Articulate the specific role of each partner in the proposed project.

LOIs should be single-spaced using Calibri 12-point font and 1-inch margins. There is a 3-page limit for the main section and a 1-page limit for organizational detail. If extensive, references may be included on 1 additional page. **Final submissions should not exceed 5 pages in total** (3 pages for the main section, 1 page for organizational detail, and 1 page for references).

Make every effort to submit as **few** documents as possible—you are encouraged to include all required sections in one document. There is no need to submit the organization detail or references in a separate document from the main section of the LOI.

*Please note the formatting and page limit for the LOI. The LOI is inclusive of additional information of any kind. A submission exceeding the page limit **WILL BE REJECTED** and **RETURNED UNREVIEWED**.*