

Global Bridges/Pfizer GMG AntiMicrobial Stewardship FAQ

Updated 10 November 2021

- 1. Is the \$50,000 - \$100,000 award given yearly, or is it just a lump sum?** Funding is disbursed in one lump sum at the beginning of the project. Most projects last two years, although some are shorter at the applicants' discretion.
- 2. In terms of budget, to what extent should we define the projects' expenses?** The online application contains a format/template for budget information. The "Budget Narrative" section of your uploaded application document should include explanations for the line items in your budget.
- 3. Is this grant opportunity a one time thing (just for 2021), or will there be further rounds of grants in say, 2022, 2023?** At this time, we can't comment on plans for future rounds.
- 4. Can "dissemination" be publishing of outcome data?** Yes! Publications, presentations and posters at conferences, and workshops are all excellent elements of your dissemination plan.
- 5. Is there an application draft model for the proposals?** The best way to get a sense of the proposal format is to access CyberGrants, create a profile if you are a first-time user, and scroll through the application fields. Note that you will need to upload a narrative document (limit 10 page) as well as filling out all required sections of the online form.
- 6. How is the evaluation of proposals conducted? Do you define classifications for specific topics (team merit, network, methodology... etc) or do you provide an overall evaluation?** Proposals are scored by independent expert reviewers on five categories: Strategic Alignment to RFP, Innovation/Uniqueness, Methodology, Organizational Capability, and Feasibility. Overall Strengths and Weaknesses are also recorded. Please refer to the RFP for criteria specific to this funding opportunity, which will be taken into account by the reviewers. Each applicant, whether or not the proposal is funded, will receive a written summary of reviewer scores and comments.
- 7. Does the veteran population, for instance patients in a veterans' hospital, fall within the scope of the grant? Does a nursing home setting fit the scope of the grant?** Yes, patients in a veterans' hospital or in a nursing home would both fall within the scope of the RFP, which focuses on inpatient settings. Please note the other requirements of this

RFP, including 1) your proposal must provide data to establish an inequity resulting in poorer access to AMS programs for the patient population; 2) the setting for your proposed intervention fits the description of a resource-limited center (defined in Q10 below); and 3) the proposing institution must be part of a network to ensure dissemination of learning and achieve the broadest impact.

- 8. Would a center in Curaçao, a small Caribbean island which is a constituent state within the kingdom of the Netherlands, be within the Geographic scope for this opportunity?** Yes, territories of countries/regions listed in the RFP are within the geographic scope of this funding opportunity.
- 9. Does the funding for this grant come from Mayo Clinic or from Pfizer? Accepting funds from for-profit institutions may affect my other grants/loans.** Our program is funded by Pfizer Global Medical Grants, and managed by Global Bridges, at Mayo Clinic. Grantees whose application is approved for funding sign a contract with Pfizer, and the grant funds come directly from Pfizer. However, the grant projects are managed independently and Pfizer is not involved in directing any aspect of the projects.

If you are in doubt about how receiving this grant may impact your other funding arrangements, please discuss this with the grant officer or responsible contact person for the program of concern.

10. What is the definition of “Resource-Limited Setting”?

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) defines a resource-limited setting as one that has insufficient individual or societal resources—human, financial, or technological—to support a robust public healthcare system.¹

The lack of resources can lead to one or all of the following: Limited access to medication, equipment, supplies, devices; Less-developed infrastructure (electrical power, transportation, controlled environment/buildings); Fewer or inadequately-trained personnel; Limited access to maintenance and parts; Limited availability of equipment, supplies, & medication. As a result, it can be especially challenging to implement antibiotic stewardship programs recommended by global or local public health agencies in these environments.

It is important to note that resource limitations may occur even in high-income countries.

¹ https://www.cdc.gov/hai/prevent/resource-limited/definitions.html#anchor_1585235417353, accessed 23 July 2021

11. What would need to be demonstrated to assure you the institution is part of a 'network'?

Dissemination of learning is an important objective of this RFP. If your organization is not part of a formal network of hospitals or institutions, you may still be eligible if your application describes another mechanism for dissemination of learning, such as through collaborations or a regional hub system.

12. May multiple institutions apply together for a grant project to be conducted as a partnership?

We welcome applications from collaborative groups. If your project involves multiple departments within an institution and/or multiple institutions, all institutions/departments must have a significant and relevant role in the project.

13. Can you help our institution find a partner institution in the USA for a collaborative application?

You would be very welcome to apply for a grant in collaboration with a partner institution, but we cannot help you find that partner. Our team needs to remain independent of the applications themselves.

14. Should indirect costs be included as part of the total funding requested?

Yes, your institution's indirect costs must be included as part of the total funding you request for the project. Pfizer's limit on indirect costs is 28%.

15. In terms of eligibility, could the proposing organization be a medical/nursing/public health university linked with teaching hospitals, or would, in this specific case, the host organization need to be the (teaching) hospital network itself?

Yes, as long as the interventions are happening in a hospital setting (where the disparities have been identified). Other collaborators such as the university could, for instance, play a role in dissemination of learning. Each collaborating institution must have a significant role in the project.

16. Is it a requirement to have local baseline data? Can I put forward a project in a resource limited setting if there is no good baseline data and lack of established stewardship programs?

The proposals we expect to be the strongest will find a way to collect baseline data from the home institution to document an existing inequity, and propose an intervention to alleviate the inequity. Proposals that reference national or regional baseline data will be considered, but applicants will need to provide a rationale for why that baseline data is relevant for their institution and how the proposed intervention will seek to address specific inequities.

- 17. Can research be centered in outpatient clinics within hospitals? Can the project address outpatient stewardship?** These types of proposals would be out of scope. For this funding opportunity, we are looking for interventions to address inequities in the hospital setting.
- 18. Can the intervention happen in a single large hospital?** Yes, but there needs to be a strong dissemination plan to ensure sharing of learning with a broader network.
- 19. How many hospitals should be there in a network?** There is no precise requirement for number of hospitals in the network. Your proposal should describe clearly how learning will be disseminated.
- 20. How should we handle references within our submission?** Include references in the proposal document that you upload to CyberGrants (this is separate from the fields that have character limits). References will NOT be counted in the 10 page limit.
- 21. Can we get a budget breakdown format/examples of budget line items required?** The online submission fields in CyberGrants include specific line items which are required in your budget proposal. We suggest you create a profile and explore the online application early so that you are aware of what is required. In the proposal document that you upload, the budget section should provide a brief narrative/rationale for the budget numbers you have entered in the online fields.
- 22. Please elaborate on what is meant by inequity in a hospital setting?** We are looking for situations in which an inequity (related to race, gender, poverty, age) has been documented to be limiting care in a specific hospital or network. There are many factors that could lead to this situation.
- 23. May a masters holder Pharmacist/assistant professor be named as Principal Investigator?**
Yes
- 24. Can we include an attachment with Gantt charts, CVs, in addition to references?**
Yes. The Organizational Detail section of the online application requires information on the Principal Investigator/Project Lead, but applicants may include timeplans and CVs of other significant contributors in their uploaded document, exclusive of the 10 page limit.
- 25. Can the application involve a collaboration between an academic institution in a developed country and hospitals/academic institution in a different country? in that case would the host organisation need to be the academic institution/ hospital in the country where the intervention will be taking place?**

Collaborations are welcome, provided that each participating organization has a meaningful role in the proposed project.

The lead proposing organization (which will contract with and receive funding directly from Pfizer) does not need to be in the country where the intervention is taking place. However, the intervention needs to take place in one of the countries/regions listed on the RFP. If the project is funded, the lead proposing organization will be responsible for transferring funds to all partner organizations named in the proposal.

26. Can a host organization submit more than 1 application? Yes!

27. Can we schedule a telephone conversation to discuss our planned proposal? In order to ensure a fair and equitable application process for everyone, we are unable to provide direct feedback or guidance on proposal content, or to engage in interactions that could be perceived as coaching or guiding submissions. We are only able to answer questions about whether your proposal would be in or out of scope.

Please consult the RFP and accompanying FAQ document to see if your question is answered there. If not, please send your question to Katie Kemper and/or Jessica Romano via email.

28. Are proposals that address stewardship practices within Emergency Departments considered acceptable? Projects in Emergency Departments that are directed towards patients that will be admitted and treated as inpatients, e.g. sepsis, would be in scope. Projects that involve homegoing antibiotic prescriptions for patients treated and released from the Emergency Departments are akin to outpatients, and would be out of scope.