

Global Bridges Oncology RFP FAQ
Updated 11 July 2022

1. By “Oncology”, do you mean only solid tumors or do you also include hematologic malignancies (ie the realm of “Hematology”)? Can I apply for a project related to CML?

RESPONSE: There is no restriction in our RFP to solid tumors only, and your proposed project may include heme malignancies if your assessment indicates that this is appropriate.

2. Can we use grant funds to cover the costs of diagnostic tests and therapies for patients? Many patients cannot afford care, particularly the more advanced and recent drugs.

RESPONSE: Grant funding may not be used to purchase therapeutic or diagnostic agents. If these are an essential component of your proposed project, they would need to be an in-kind contribution from a collaborator, or funded from a different source.

3. You mention that the proposed program should not be redundant with other programs or initiatives in the country. Our institution has ongoing collaborations with several institutions abroad, and a number of initiatives that build on prior work. How will you determine whether a proposal is “redundant” and therefore potentially disqualified from consideration, versus a potentially productive extension of prior or ongoing work? Is the concern about redundancy primarily with respect to therapy support which might conflict with Pfizer’s interests?

RESPONSE: The decision on redundancy will be strongly influenced by the expertise of our Review Panel, which includes representatives from throughout the region. It will not be based on a conflict with Pfizer’s interests (as our reviewers are independent experts), but rather on whether the proposed project will make a unique and valuable contribution to patient care in your target area. Also, since we have a two-stage review process, some guidance may be provided to applicants who are invited to submit a full proposal if redundancy is seen to be a potential concern.

4. What would the approximate reasonable expectation for funds be? You mention there is one million USD available, but I presume that will be split into multiple awards with smaller amounts.

RESPONSE: Per section 7 of the RFP (page 4), the typical average grant amount is expected to be between \$30-80K USD. We are expecting to award between 15-20 projects, whose duration may be up to 24 months.

5. Are you accepting applications from organizations outside of Africa?

RESPONSE: this funding opportunity is only for proponents from Sub-Saharan Africa, although international collaborators may be involved as long as the project benefits patients in Africa.

6. Is the grant also available for ongoing projects with similar areas of focus?

RESPONSE: These grants are not intended to provide incremental support for projects which are already in progress. However, you may propose a NEW project which builds on prior work.

7. Can project funds be used to pay and train project staff?

RESPONSE: YES, you may use grant funds for project staff payment and staff training. Note that for the first step (Letter of Intent) which is to be submitted in August, only a total budget figure is required; a more detailed, line item budget will be included in the full proposal if your application is selected.

8. If our project requires technical support from outside, will that be covered by the grant provided to the institution or will that be part of the support?

RESPONSE: While the funded projects will be managed independently by the proposing organization, there will be some technical support included as part of this program, but its specific nature will be determined in part by which proposals are finally funded. For now, you should propose a project that your organization can manage independently, and also clearly describe the external support you may need. This will help the reviewers provide guidance to the overall program.

NOTE: sometimes external organizations/collaborators provide technical support to grantees on a no-cost or reduced-cost basis; I encourage you to explore this route as well.

9. Is it possible to have more than one application from one institution with different project topics?

RESPONSE: Yes, multiple applications from one institution will be accepted.

10. Can topics about improving the cancer registry system or palliative care be included under your specifically mentioned focus of cancer diagnosis and treatment project plan?

RESPONSE: Yes, these are both acceptable topics to address in an LOI.

11. Can grant funds be used for capital expenses, such as building a clinic for patients?

RESPONSE: Capital expenditures are excluded from these grants, so a building project would be out of scope. You could, however, consider renting physical space to conduct a patient-care improvement initiative. In that case, your proposal would need to include a plan for sustainability once the grant runs out.