Pfizer Announces a Quality Improvement Grant RFP

Innovative Digital Health Projects in Oncology

Competitive Grant Program – using Expert Review Panel

I. Background

Pfizer Global Medical Grants (GMG) supports the global healthcare community's independent initiatives (e.g., research, quality improvement or education) to improve patient outcomes in areas of unmet medical need that are aligned with Pfizer's medical and/or scientific strategies.

Pfizer's GMG competitive grant program involves a publicly posted Request for Proposal (RFP) that provides detail regarding a specific area of interest, sets timelines for review and approval, and uses an expert review panel (ERP) to make final grant decisions. Organizations are invited to submit an application addressing the specific gaps in practice as outlined in the specific RFP.

For all quality improvement grants, the grant requester (and ultimately the grantee) is responsible for the design, implementation, and conduct of the independent initiative supported by the grant. Pfizer must not be involved in any aspect of project development, nor the conduct or monitoring of the quality improvement program.

II. Eligibility

Geographic Scope:	Italy
Applicant Eligibility Criteria	- Only organizations are eligible to receive grants, not individuals or medical practice groups. - The following may apply: public healthcare bodies (hospitals, Aziende Sanitarie Locali [ASLs], universities, Istituto di Ricovero e Cura a Carattere Scientifico [IRCCS} or accredited private hospitals that are involved in the care of oncological and onco-hematological patients.

III. Requirements

Date RFP Issued	10 January 2022
Clinical Area	Oncology, Onco-Hematology
Specific Area of Interest for this RFP:	- It is our intent to support quality improvement projects in the field of digital health and healthcare, with the aim of enhancing the management of patients with cancer. - The COVID-19 pandemic had resulted in massive disruption within Italian Healthcare and accelerated implementation of telehealth and digital solutions in Oncology. There is an urgent need to incorporate innovative approaches into future oncology practice that will meet the new challenges in healthcare delivery. This requires a critical look at current practice patterns and at the development of new algorithms and work processes. - There will be 2 different types of digital projects that will be considered: 1) digital projects aimed at improving patient care (for example patient management and telehealth programmes.) 2) digital projects aimed at healthcare professional (HCP) decision-making support (for example diagnosis and patient management). Existing digital projects that are looking to expand or scale-up into substantial new phases or stages of the project can be considered. - Multi-disciplinary collaborations, are encouraged when appropriate, but all partners must have a relevant role. - It is expected that projects will be evidence-based (education and/or quality improvement) and the proposal will follow generally accepted scientific principles. During review the intended outcome of the project is given careful consideration and, if appropriate based on the project

	goal, projects with the maximum likelihood to directly impact patient care will be given high priority. Projects including an educational element can find more information on principals of learning and behavior change for health professionals at https://pfe-pfizercom-prod.s3.amazonaws.com/HealthProfessionalsLearningandBehaviorChange_AFewPrinciples.pdf. • There is a considerable amount of interest in receiving responses from projects that utilize system-based changes. Although educational efforts for HCP and patients may be entirely appropriate components in responses to this RFP, projects that include an overt description of system changes will be given high priority. • *It is not our intent to support clinical research projects. Projects evaluating the efficacy of therapeutic or diagnostic agents will not be considered.*
Target Audience:	• Oncological and Onco-Hematological patients. • HCPs involved in Oncological and Onco-Hematological treatment and management.
Expected Approximate Monetary Range of Grant Applications:	• Expected approximate range of grant awards: 20,000 to 80,000 EUR. Large-scale and or multi-institution collaborative projects may request grants of up to 150000 EUR. The total available budget related to this RFP is 300000 EUR. • The amount of the grant Pfizer will be prepared to fund for any project will depend upon the external review panel's evaluation of the proposal and costs involved and will be stated clearly in the approval notification.
Key Dates:	• RFP release date: 10 January 2022 • Full Proposal Deadline: 7 April 2022 Please note the deadline is 23:59 Eastern Time (New York, GMT -5). • Review of Full Proposals by External Review Panel: May 2022 • Anticipated Full Proposal Notification Date: July 2022 • Grants distributed following execution of fully signed Letter of Agreement • Anticipated Project Start and End Dates: from December 2022 or January 2023, with a project duration of up to 2 years.

How to Submit:	- Please go to www.cybergrants.com/pfizer/QI and sign in. First-time users should click "REGISTER NOW". *[Note: there are individual portals for each grant application type (e.g., knowledge, LOI, research full proposal, and QI full proposal). Please be sure to use the URL above.]* - Click the "Start A New Quality Improvement Application" button. - For the question "Competitive Grant?" select Yes - Select the following Competitive Grant Program Name: 2022 Onc IT: Innovative Digital Health Projects in Oncology - Requirements for submission: Complete all required sections of the online application and upload the completed full proposal (see Appendix). - If you encounter any technical difficulties with the website, please click the "Technical Questions" link at the bottom of the page. **IMPORTANT:** Be advised applications submitted through the wrong application type and/or submitted after the due date will not be reviewed by the committee.
Questions:	If you have questions regarding this RFP, please direct them in writing to the Grant Officer, Ai Ping Lee (AiPing.Lee@pfizer.com), with the subject line "2022 Onc IT: Innovative Digital Health Projects in Oncology, January 2022."
Grant Agreements:	- If your grant is approved, your institution will be required to enter into a written grant agreement with Pfizer. Please click here to view the core terms of the agreement. - Pfizer has drafted the terms of these agreements to be balanced and reasonable and to further the goals of both parties. Negotiating grant agreements requires significant resources, so please ensure that your institution (including your legal department) is able and willing to abide by these terms before proceeding with submission of your application as they will need to be accepted in their entirety.
Review and Approval Process	- A specific grant program RFP uses an expert review panel (ERP) to make final grant decisions. - The panels are comprised of professionals from the medical community with advanced degrees and expertise in particular clinical areas, or specific needs of a geographic region/learner group, or expertise in research, continuing professional development or quality improvement
Mechanism by which Applicants will be Notified:	- All applicants will be notified via email by the dates noted above. - Applicants may be asked for additional clarification during the review period.

Appendix A

Full Proposal Requirements

The Full Proposal will be accepted via the online application. When answering the Full Proposal questions in the application please keep the following in mind:

Goals and Objectives	• Briefly state the overall goal of the project. Also describe how this goal aligns with the focus of the RFP and the goals of the applicant organization(s). • List the *overall* objectives you plan to meet with your project both in terms of learning and expected outcomes. Objectives should describe the target population as well as the outcomes you expect to achieve as a result of conducting the project.
Assessment of Need for the Project	• Please include a quantitative baseline data summary, initial metrics (e.g., quality measures), or a 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. If a full analysis has not yet been conducted, please include a description of your plan to obtain this information.
Target Audience	• 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
Project Design and Methods	• 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
Innovation	• Explain what measures you have taken to assure that this project idea is original and does not duplicate other projects or materials already developed. • 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.
Evaluation and Outcomes	• 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. Describe how you expect to collect and analyze the data. • Quantify the amount of change expected from this project in terms of your target audience.

	• Describe how the project outcomes will be broadly disseminated.
Anticipated Project Timeline	• Provide an anticipated timeline for your project including project start/end dates
Additional Information	• If there is any additional information you feel Pfizer should be aware of concerning the importance of this project, please summarize here
Organization Detail	• Describe the attributes of the institutions / organizations 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. Letters of support from partner organizations will be required at the Full Proposal stage.

Budget Detail	• The budget amount requested must be in EUR.
	
	• While estimating your budget please keep the following items in mind:
	
	   o Institutional overhead and indirect costs may be included within the grant request. Examples include costs for publication, IRB / IEC review fees, software license fees, and travel. Please note: Pfizer does not provide funding for capital equipment.
	
	   o The inclusion of these costs cannot cause the amount requested to exceed the budget limit set forth in the RFP.
	
	   o It should be noted that grants awarded through GMG 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