



**Pfizer and ICOSEP Announce a [Quality Improvement Grant RFP](#)**

***Improving the Care of Patients with Disorders of Impaired Growth***

***Competitive Grant Program***

## **I. Background**

The **International Coalition of Organizations Supporting Endocrine Patients (ICOSEP)** and **Pfizer Global Medical Grants (Pfizer)** are collaborating to offer a new grant opportunity seeking proposals to improve the care of patients with disorders of impaired growth.

**ICOSEP's** mission is to unite all types of endocrine groups, associations, societies and online entities, into one comprehensive and cooperative global network. This centralized unification, hosted and coordinated by ICOSEP shall, promote, facilitate and transparently share information among all endocrine groups with the goal of uniting our voices regardless of the specific focus held by any one unique organization. This consolidated umbrella of groups, shall enable rare endocrine voices to unite as a cohesive presence and when necessary, take action for the improved care, health, and quality of life for all patients with endocrine related health concerns. Endocrine united.

**Pfizer Global Medical Grants (GMG)** mission is to support the global healthcare community's independent initiatives to improve patient outcomes in areas of unmet medical need that are aligned with Pfizer's medical and/or scientific strategies.

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

<b>Geographic Scope:</b>	Global
<b>Applicant Eligibility Criteria</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Only organizations are eligible to receive grants, not individuals or medical practice groups.</li> <li>• The following may apply: medical, dental, nursing, allied health, and/or pharmacy professional schools; healthcare institutions (both large and small); professional associations; government agencies; and other entities with a mission related to healthcare improvement.</li> <li>• Pfizer believes that every person deserves to be seen, heard, and cared for, and we work to further this goal by encouraging grant requestors with different backgrounds, perspectives, and experiences to apply.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• For programs offering education credit, the requesting organization must be the accredited grantee.</li> </ul>

## III. Requirements

<b>Date RFP Issued</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• June 1, 2022</li> </ul>
<b>Clinical Area</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disorders of impaired growth</li> </ul>
<b>Specific Area of Interest for this RFP:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is our intent to support projects that focus on direct patient care to improve patient outcomes for those with pediatric disorders of impaired growth. These may include quality improvement projects focusing on appropriate diagnosis, treatment, management, and comprehensive care of these patients. Proposals that include digital tools and eHealth are welcome.</li> <li>• Support the development of multidisciplinary care teams to ensure health equity and address health care disparities for pediatric patients with disorders of impaired growth.</li> <li>• Multi-disciplinary collaborations are encouraged when appropriate, but all partners must have a relevant role.</li> <li>• It is expected that projects will be evidence-based (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 and, if appropriate</li> </ul>

	<p>based on the project goal, projects with the maximum likelihood to directly impact patient care will be given high priority.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a considerable amount of interest in receiving responses from projects that utilize system-based changes. Although educational efforts for grantees 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.</li> </ul> <p><i>It is not our intent to support clinical or fundamental research projects. Projects evaluating the efficacy of therapeutic or diagnostic agents will not be considered. Projects to support existing registries or creation of new registries are also out of scope.</i></p>
<p><b>Target Audience:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pediatric patients with disorders of impaired growth and the professionals/multi-disciplinary teams that care for them.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Disease Burden Overview:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Substantial health care burden is associated with impaired growth in the pediatric population<sup>1</sup></li> <li>• Impaired growth impacts multiple aspects of daily life for children with the condition including their social and emotional well-being<sup>2, 3</sup></li> </ul>
<p><b>Recommendations and Target Metrics:</b></p>	<p>Related Guidelines and Recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consensus Guidelines for the Diagnosis and Treatment of Growth Hormone (GH) Deficiency in Childhood and Adolescence: Summary Statement of the GH Research Society<sup>4</sup></li> <li>• Diagnosis, Genetics, and Therapy of Short Stature in Children: A Growth Hormone Research Society International Perspective.<sup>5</sup></li> <li>• Clinical practice guidelines for the care of girls and women with Turner syndrome: proceedings from the 2016 Cincinnati International Turner Syndrome Meeting<sup>6</sup></li> <li>• Growth Hormone Research Society workshop summary: consensus guidelines for recombinant human growth hormone therapy in Prader-Willi syndrome<sup>7</sup></li> <li>• Management of growth failure and other endocrine aspects in patients with Noonan syndrome across Europe: A sub-analysis of a European clinical practice survey<sup>8</sup></li> <li>• Causes of Disruptions in Children’s Growth: <a href="https://icosep.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/7-9-19-ICOSEP-Final-Compilation.docx">https://icosep.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/7-9-19-ICOSEP-Final-Compilation.docx</a></li> </ul>

<p><b>Gaps Between Actual and Target, Possible Reasons for Gaps:</b></p>	<p>Gaps in diagnosis and management of disorders of impaired growth:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children with short stature may be evaluated inadequately</li> <li>• Late diagnosis of treatable growth disorders<sup>9</sup></li> <li>• Suboptimal referral of children with growth disorders<sup>10</sup></li> <li>• Poor recognition<sup>10</sup></li> <li>• Lack of proper training and education of physicians regarding growth disorders<sup>10</sup></li> <li>• Issues with long-term patient adherence to therapy<sup>11</sup></li> <li>• Lack of communication and collaboration between healthcare providers/centers and patient advocacy organizations, to better inform and accompany patients<sup>12</sup></li> <li>• Increase visibility and existence of patient advocacy organizations and stimulate collaboration with medical societies<sup>12</sup></li> <li>• Gap in general/large public information (schools etc), regular growth curve measurements allowing early detection<sup>12</sup></li> <li>• Demographic differences in diagnosis and treatment rate and treatment delay<sup>13</sup></li> <li>• Transitional care between pediatric and adult care<sup>15</sup></li> </ul>
<p><b>Expected Approximate Monetary Range of Grant Applications:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individual projects requesting up to \$75,000 will be considered. The total available budget related to this RFP is \$300,000.</li> <li>• The amount of the grant Pfizer will be prepared to fund for any project will depend upon the expert review panel’s evaluation of the proposal and costs involved and will be stated clearly in the grant agreement.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Key Dates:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RFP release date: June 1, 2022</li> <li>• Full Proposal Deadline: August 3, 2022</li> <li>• Review of Full Proposals by External Review Panel: September 2022</li> <li>• Anticipated Full Proposal Notification Date: October 2022</li> <li>• Anticipated Project Start Date: December 2022/January 2023</li> </ul>
<p><b>How to Submit:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please go to <a href="http://www.cybergrants.com/pfizer/QI">www.cybergrants.com/pfizer/QI</a> and sign in. First-time users should click “REGISTER NOW”. [Note: there are individual portals for each grant application type. Please be sure to use the URL above.]</li> <li>• Click the “Start A New Quality Improvement Application” button.</li> <li>• For the question “Competitive Grant?” select Yes</li> <li>• Select the following Competitive Grant Program Name: <b>2022 RD Global</b></li> </ul>

	<p><b>Pediatric Disorders of Impaired Growth QI Initiative</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requirements for submission: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete all required sections of the online application (see Appendix).</li> </ul> </li> <li>If you encounter any technical difficulties with the website, please click the “Technical Questions” link at the bottom of the page.</li> </ul> <p><b>IMPORTANT:</b> Be advised applications submitted through the wrong application type and/or submitted after the due date will not be reviewed by the committee.</p>
<p><b>Questions:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If you have questions regarding this RFP, please direct them in writing to the Amanda Stein [<a href="mailto:amanda.j.stein@pfizer.com">amanda.j.stein@pfizer.com</a>] (Grant Officer, Pfizer), and with the subject line “2022 RD Global Pediatric Disorders of Impaired Growth QI Initiative”</li> </ul>
<p><b>Grant Agreements:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If your grant is approved, your institution will be required to enter into a written grant agreement with Pfizer. Please click <a href="#">here</a> to view the core terms of the agreement.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Review and Approval Process</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A specific grant program RFP uses an expert review panel (ERP) to make final grant decisions.</li> <li>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</li> </ul>
<p><b>Mechanism by which Applicants will be Notified:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All applicants will be notified via email by the dates noted above.</li> <li>Applicants may be asked for additional clarification during the review period.</li> </ul>

**References:**

1. Economic burden of growth hormone deficiency in a US pediatric population Paul Kaplowitz, Janna Manjelienskaia, Lorena Lopez-Gonzalez, Cynthia D Morrow, Pisit Pitukcheewanont, and Alden Smith Journal of Managed Care & Specialty Pharmacy 2021 27:8, 1118-1128.
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3. Philippe Backeljauw, Marco Cappa, Wieland Kiess, Lisa Law, Charlotte Cookson, Caroline Sert, John Whalen, Mehul T. Dattani, Impact of short stature on quality of life: A systematic literature review,

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5. Collett-Solberg P, F, Ambler G, Backeljauw P, F, Bidlingmaier M, Biller B, M, K, Boguszewski M, C, S, Cheung P, T, Choong C, S, Y, Cohen L, E, Cohen P, Dauber A, Deal C, L, Gong C, Hasegawa Y, Hoffman A, R, Hofman P, L, Horikawa R, Jorge A, A, L, Juul A, Kamenický P, Khadilkar V, Kopchick J, J, Kriström B, Lopes M, d, L, A, Luo X, Miller B, S, Misra M, Netchine I, Radovick S, Ranke M, B, Rogol A, D, Rosenfeld R, G, Saenger P, Wit J, M, Woelfle J: Diagnosis, Genetics, and Therapy of Short Stature in Children: A Growth Hormone Research Society International Perspective. *Horm Res Paediatr* 2019;92:1-14. doi: 10.1159/000502231
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7. Deal CL, Tony M, Höybye C, et al. GrowthHormone Research Society workshop summary: consensus guidelines for recombinant human growth hormone therapy in Prader-Willi syndrome. *J Clin Endocrinol Metab*. 2013;98(6):E1072-E1087. doi:10.1210/jc.2012-3888
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10. John M, Koledova E, Kumar KM, Chaudhari H. Challenges in the Diagnosis and Management of Growth Hormone Deficiency in India. *Int J Endocrinol*. 2016;2016:2967578. doi:10.1155/2016/2967578
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## Appendix A

### Proposal Requirements

<p><b>Goals and Objectives</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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).</li> <li>• List the <i>overall</i> 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.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Assessment of Need for the Project</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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 <i>your</i> 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. Include regional or local needs related to your project.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Target Audience</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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/age limits of your sample population</li> </ul>
<p><b>Project Design and Methods</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe the planned project and the way it addresses the established need.</li> <li>• If your methods include educational activities, please describe succinctly the topic(s) and format of those activities</li> <li>• Please describe how the project submitted supports diversity, equity, and inclusion either through the study population targeted or through the project team that is directly involved</li> </ul>
<p><b>Innovation</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explain what measures you have taken to assure that this project idea is original and does not duplicate other projects or materials already developed.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Evaluation and Outcomes</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quantify the amount of change expected from this project in terms of your target audience.</li> <li>• Describe how the project outcomes will be broadly disseminated and applicable to different centers.</li> </ul>
<b>Anticipated Project Timeline</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide an anticipated timeline and milestones for your project including project start/end dates</li> </ul>
<b>Additional Information</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If there is any additional information you feel Pfizer should be aware of concerning the importance of this project, please summarize here</li> </ul>
<b>Organization Detail</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe the attributes of the institutions / organizations / associations that will support and facilitate the execution of the project and the leadership and coordination of the proposed project. Articulate the specific role of each partner in the proposed project. Letters of support from partner organizations.</li> </ul>
<b>Budget Detail</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• While estimating your budget please keep the following items in mind:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ General organizational running costs such as insurances, heating, lighting, rent, building maintenance may be included. Pfizer does not provide funding for capital purchases (infrastructure expenses such as equipment, purchases of software or software licenses, technology or bricks and mortar). Equipment hire/leasing is acceptable and may be included in project budget. The inclusion of these costs cannot cause the amount requested to exceed the budget limit set forth in the RFP.</li> <li>○ The inclusion of these costs cannot cause the amount requested to exceed the budget limit set forth in the RFP.</li> <li>○ It should be noted that grants awarded through GMG cannot be used to purchase Pfizer therapeutic agents (prescription or non-prescription).</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Pfizer maintains a company-wide, maximum allowed overhead rate of 28% for independent studies and projects. Please <a href="#">click here</a> for details.</li> </ul>