

Japanese Society of Clinical Oncology and Pfizer Quality Improvement RFP

Projects for Enhancing Regional Cancer Treatment

Competitive Grant Program – using Expert Review Panel



Overview

The Basic Plan to Promote Cancer Control Programs aims to create a society in which all cancer patients can receive equitable, secure, and acceptable cancer treatment and support services regardless of where they live. This goal is predicated upon the enhancement of regional cancer treatment in Japan, and to promote the provision of high-quality cancer treatment tailored to the actual conditions existing in each region, the Japan Society of Clinical Oncology, in collaboration with Pfizer, is inviting healthcare professionals to apply for grant projects.



Geographic Scope/Location of Project

Japan



Project Types and Area of Interest

The theme for these projects is "enhancing regional cancer treatment." This Request for Proposals aims to encourage efforts to enhance cancer treatment in every region of Japan. In particular, the grants are intended to support educational projects and social implementation projects that endeavor to fill knowledge gaps and practice gaps by focusing on activities that are rooted in each region and based on its characteristics, or that aim to raise the standard of regional medical treatment by utilizing digital technologies.



Key Milestones

- Application submission deadline: June 25, 2024
- Anticipated decision notification date: October 31, 2024
- Anticipated project start date: January 1, 2025



Funding Range and Project Length

- Individual projects requesting up to 5,000,000 JPY will be considered.
- Anticipated Projects Start and End Dates: January 2024 - December 2027

I. Eligibility

Geographic Scope/Location of Project:

- Japan

Applicant Eligibility Criteria

- The following may apply: medical, dental, nursing, allied health, and/or pharmacy professional schools; healthcare institutions (both large and small); professional organizations; government agencies; and other entities with a mission related to healthcare improvement.
- Only organizations are eligible to receive grants, not individuals or medical practice groups (i.e., an independent group of physicians not affiliated with a hospital, academic institution, or professional society).
- 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.
- The applicant must be the Project Lead/Principal Investigator (PI) or an authorized designee of such individual (e.g., Project Lead/PI's grant/research coordinator).
- The Project Lead/PI must be an employee or contractor of the requesting organization.
- Requesting organization must be legally able to receive award funding directly from Pfizer International LLC. We strongly recommend that applicants confirm this with their organization or institution prior to submitting an application. Grants awarded to organizations that are subsequently found to be unable to accept funding directly from Pfizer International LLC may be subject to rescission.

II. Requirements

Date RFP Issued

- April 10, 2024

Clinical Area

- Oncology

Specific Area of Interest for this RFP:

The Cancer Control Act has established the basic philosophy of "ensuring that cancer patients have equitable access to appropriate science-based cancer treatment regardless of where they live," and Phase 4 of the Basic Plan to Promote Cancer Control Programs has established the overall goal of "promoting cancer control programs that leave no one behind, so that every citizen can hope to overcome cancer".

However, the White Paper issued by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare in May 2023 pointed out that physicians are unevenly distributed between metropolitan and outlying areas, as well as among clinical departments. The White Paper identified this as a problem requiring urgent measures. In addition, the Basic Plan pointed out that not all regions and medical institutions are equitably staffed with specialists or equipped to respond to the new types of adverse reactions that have been associated with an increase in the number of elderly cancer patients at high risk for complications and the spread of new drug therapies. The Basic Plan then underscores the importance of effectively utilizing regional resources to make high-quality cancer control measures sustainable through the strengthening of role sharing and collaboration and the appropriate deployment of human resources.

The theme of this Request for Proposals is "enhancing regional cancer treatment," and it aims to encourage efforts to enhance cancer treatment in every region of Japan. In particular, the grants will support projects related to education and social implementation, focusing on activities that are rooted in the region and based on its characteristics, as well as activities that aim to raise the standard of regional medical care by utilizing digital technologies.

Specifically, this Request for Proposals aims to attract the following types of projects.

[Educational projects]

- Educational projects to train personnel who are responsible for clarifying the division of roles among medical institutions and developing a cooperative system for the provision of advanced cancer treatment such as precision oncology; projects for educating specialized healthcare professionals who are responsible for advanced cancer care
- Educational projects that promote the spread of digital technologies such as mobile devices and mobile applications to improve the quality of medical treatment and reduce the number of hospital visits, thereby reducing the burden on patients, their families, and healthcare professionals
- Educational projects aiming to correct regional disparities in consultation support and provision of information to cancer patients and their families.
- Educational projects that use real-world data (RWD) to clarify regional issues in cancer pharmacotherapy and promote improvement in the implementation rate of standard treatment.

[Social implementation projects (projects that diffuse advancements throughout society)]

- Social implementation projects to promote clarification of the division of roles among medical institutions and develop a system of collaboration for the provision of advanced cancer treatment such as precision oncology
- Social implementation projects for healthcare professionals that promote the spread of digital technologies such as mobile devices and mobile applications to improve the quality of medical treatment and reduce the number of hospital visits to reduce the burden on patients, their families, and healthcare professionals
- Social implementation projects to establish a high-quality consultation support system utilizing "Certified Cancer Network Navigators," etc., developed with the support of the Japan Society of Clinical Oncology

Attention: In all proposals, it will be essential to establish an outcome measure for the project.

Target Audience

- Healthcare professionals mainly involved in cancer treatment and care (e.g. institutions involved in medical care, nursing care, and welfare)
- It is acceptable to include non-healthcare professionals like patients as part of the target audience

Expected Approximate Monetary Range of Grant Applications:

- Individual projects requesting up to 5,000,000 JPY will be considered.
- Award amounts include direct costs, institutional overhead costs (capped at 28% per Pfizer policy), and indirect costs.
- 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.

Key Dates:

- RFP Release Date: April 10, 2024
- Due Date: June 25, 2024
 - Please note the deadline is 23:59 Eastern Standard Time (e.g., New York, GMT -5).
- Anticipated Full Proposal Notification Date: October 31, 2024
- Anticipated Projects Start and End Dates: January 2024 - December 2027
- Grants will be distributed following a fully executed agreement and submission of Final Protocol, documentation of IRB/IEC approval, regulatory approval (if applicable), exemption or waiver.

How to Submit:

Note: Please read this section carefully since applications submitted not following these instructions will not be accepted and will be cancelled.

- Please go to www.cybergrants.com/pfizer/QI and sign in. First-time users should click "Create your password".
- Click the "Start a New Quality Improvement Application" button.
- In the application:
 - For the question "Competitive Grant?" select Yes
- Select the following Competitive Grant Program Name: 2024 ONC JP JSCO Projects for Enhancing Regional Cancer Treatment QI
- Select the following Primary Area of Interest: Oncology – General/Non-specific/Other - QI
- Requirements for submission:

Complete all required sections of the online application and upload your project proposal (see Appendix) in the Full Proposal Submission field.
- 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 after the due date will not be reviewed.

Questions:

- If you have questions regarding this RFP, please direct them in writing to the Grant Officer, Akihiro Kamina (meg.japan@pfizer.com), with the subject line "2024 ONC JP JSCO Projects for Enhancing Regional Cancer Treatment QI."

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.
- Under Pfizer's competitive grant program, modifications to grant agreements will not be reviewed unless a genuine conflict exists as between applicable law and the terms of the relevant grant agreement. Applicant is encouraged to share the core terms with counsel for approval prior to submitting an application.
- Except where prohibited by applicable law and, in any case, subject to review by Pfizer Legal, payment of grant funding may only be paid to the grantee organization.
- This RFP is supported by Pfizer and, if approved, payment will be sent from the United States.

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.

About Japanese Society of Clinical Oncology and Pfizer Global Medical Grants

Japan Society of Clinical Oncology (JSCO) has signed a partnership agreement with Pfizer Japan Inc. (Pfizer) to implement innovative education and a transformation strategy.

The aims of JSCO are to facilitate communication, collaboration and promotion of research concerning cancer prevention, diagnosis and treatment and play an instrumental role in the progress and dissemination of cancer care, thereby contributing to academic (scientific) culture advancements and human well-being.

Pfizer aims to "reduce healthcare disparities" as one of the efforts required to achieve the corporate purpose. As Pfizer also promotes high-quality education and a change management project that would enable healthcare professionals to improve patient outcomes through the practice of appropriate standard treatments, the company has set the same goal as JSCO.

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 general Request for Proposal (RFP) that provides detail regarding a general 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 knowledge gaps as outlined in the specific RFP.

For all independent medical education 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 of the independent education program.

Appendix

Specific RFP Submission Requirements

Applications will be accepted via the online portal listed in the [How to Submit](#) section. Project Proposals/Protocols should be single-spaced using Calibri 12-point font and 1-inch margins. On the cover page of your application, specify whether your project is an "educational project" or a "social implementation project." Note there is a 10-page limit exclusive of references. When uploading your Full Proposal please ensure it addresses the following sections:

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 / 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.

Budget Detail

- The budget amount requested must be in Japanese YEN (JPY).
- While estimating your budget please keep the following items in mind:
 - General organizational running costs such as legal fees, insurance, heating, and lighting etc. should be included in an Institutional Overhead (if required). These costs are not specific to a grant request and therefore, should not appear as line items in budgets. However, costs that are specific to the study (e.g., some countries require insurance to be taken out on a per-study basis for clinical research) would be acceptable to be included as line items.
 - The inclusion of overhead costs cannot cause the amount requested to exceed the budget limit set forth in the RFP.
 - 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.
 - It should be noted that grants awarded through GMG cannot be used to purchase Pfizer therapeutic agents (prescription or non-prescription).
- Pfizer maintains a company-wide, maximum allowed overhead rate of 28% for independent studies and projects. Please [click here](#) for details.