



# Pfizer Quality Improvement Request for Proposals

## *Optimization of Health IT to support RSV Immunizations*

Competitive Grant Program – using Expert Review Panel



### Overview

This program aims to support health systems or integrated delivery networks on implementation of health IT (HIT) tools and workflows within the electronic health record (EHR) or population health management (PHM) to align with the most recent RSV immunization recommendations from the CDC. Initiatives will support vaccine providers by integrating these routine recommendations into daily practice and help transform immunization programs to improve vaccination coverage. This is open to all EHRs and PHMs.

<sup>1\*</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2024/s-0626-vaccination-adults.html>



### Geographic Scope/Location of Project

United States

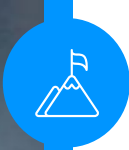


### Project Types and Area of Interest

Projects aimed at improving and measuring the effectiveness of integration of CDC recommended RSV immunizations by leveraging technology.

This may include:

- *Identify knowledge gaps and opportunities for system-level changes to help increase awareness of updated RSV immunization recommendations and address vaccination barriers.*
- *Develop best practices for clinical decision support (CDS) and/or Artificial Intelligence (AI)/Machine Learning implementation to reduce missed opportunities and improve vaccination rates.*
- *Increase HCP competency by incorporating recommendations through clinical pathways, clinical alerts, or GenAI.*
- *Develop strategies to utilize HIT to facilitate the identification of patients in need of vaccination with notifications and interventions.*
- *Systemic utilization of CDS and/or AI to identify immunization opportunities for patients who are at increased risk of severe RSV disease, such as patients with chronic lung or cardiovascular diseases.*



## Key Milestones

- Application submission deadline: **September 12, 2024**
- Anticipated decision notification date: **October 2024**
- Anticipated project start date: **November 2024**



## Funding Range and Project Length

Individual projects requesting up to \$30,000 will be considered.

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 approval notification

## I. Eligibility

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### Geographic Scope/Location of Project:

- United States

### 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 Inc.. 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 Inc. may be subject to rescission.
- For projects offering continuing education credit, the requesting organization must be accredited.

## II. Requirements

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### Date RFP Issued

- August 2, 2024

### Clinical Area

- Vaccines

### Specific Area of Interest for this RFP:

- It is our intent to support projects that focus on improving vaccination coverage.
- Multi-disciplinary collaborations, are encouraged when appropriate, but all partners must have a relevant role.

*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

- Vaccine providers, Quality measure/improvement champions, HCPs

### Disease Burden Overview

- Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) is a major cause of respiratory illness, particularly in young children and older adults. Globally, it leads to millions of infections and significant hospitalizations annually, with children under 5 and adults over 65 being the most affected. RSV follows a seasonal pattern, peaking in winter, though recent disruptions have altered this trend. The economic burden is substantial, with high medical costs due to hospitalizations and outpatient visits. Ongoing

surveillance and research are crucial to developing effective vaccines and treatments to reduce its impact.

## Recommendations and Target Metrics

- To improve and measure the effectiveness of integrating CDC-recommended RSV immunizations into HIT platforms such as EHRs and PHMs, leveraging technology for automated reminders and care gap alerts, and creating innovative workflows to enable seamless vaccine recommendations into a patient's care journey.
- Target metrics could include benchmarking towards improved vaccination coverage, performance data and workflow improvements secondary to automating vaccine eligibility identification, increasing patient engagement, increasing HCP awareness, and reducing clinician burnout.

## Gaps Between Actual and Target, Possible Reasons for Gaps

- Gaps between actual and target RSV vaccinations include lower vaccination rates due to limited awareness and vaccine hesitancy, incomplete data integration into EHRs because of technical limitations, low patient engagement with telehealth and mHealth solutions due to access and literacy barriers, and inconsistent use of automated reminders by healthcare providers due to variability in EHR capabilities and resistance to new technologies. Addressing these gaps requires targeted education, improved technological infrastructure, utilization of advanced CDS or AI, and enhanced support for both patients and providers.

## Barriers

- Limited awareness of new CDC guidelines and the importance of RSV vaccination.
- Inconsistent use of technology for tracking and reminding patients about vaccinations.
- Lack of systematic and evidence-based methods to determine patients who are at higher risk.
- Insufficient HIT support to automate identification of vaccine eligible patients.

## Current National Efforts to Reduce Gaps

- Advancement in interoperability between HIT platforms
- Improvement in bi-directional immunization information system capabilities

## Expected Approximate Monetary Range of Grant Applications:

- Individual projects requesting up to \$30,000 USD will be considered. The estimated total available budget related to this RFP is \$180,000 USD
- 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: **August 2, 2024**
- Full Proposal Due Date: **September 12, 2024**
  - Please note the deadline is 23:59 Eastern Standard Time (e.g., New York, GMT -5).
- Anticipated Full Proposal Notification Date: **October 2024**
- 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](http://www.cybergrants.com/pfizer/QI) and sign in. First-time users should click “Create your password”. [Note: there are individual portals for each grant application type. Please be sure to use the URL above.]
- Click the Choose an item. button.
- In the application:
  - For the question “Competitive Grant?” select **Yes**
- Select the following Competitive Grant Program Name: **2024 VAC US RSV Optimization of Health IT QI**
  - Select the following Primary Area of Interest: **VAV – RSV – Older Adults 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, Parth Patel ([Parth.Patel2@pfizer.com](mailto:Parth.Patel2@pfizer.com)), with the subject line **2024 VAC US RSV Optimization of Health IT 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.

## 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.

## References

- Bibliography of relevant references.

## About Pfizer Global Medical Grants

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.

## Appendix

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### 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. Note there is a 15-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 U.S. dollars (USD).
- 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.