

# Pfizer Independent Medical Education Grant Request for Proposals

Competitive Grant Program – Pfizer Internal Review Process

*Educational approaches to address immunization practice gaps and improve adult vaccination coverage in Switzerland*



## Overview

This competitive grant program aims to support educational initiatives to improve adult vaccination coverage in Switzerland.

There is a medical need to foster and improve vaccination coverage of eligible adults which is currently low<sup>1,2,3</sup> compared to the pediatric population in Switzerland.



## Geographic Scope/Location of Project

Switzerland



## Project Types and Area of Interest

Potential applicants are encouraged to identify and address the gap in implementation of adult vaccinations in Switzerland. Projects that will be considered will focus on safe and appropriate adult vaccination by addressing the following areas:

- Innovative solutions to identify immunization gaps, communicate needs according to local vaccination recommendations and encourage HCPs to monitor adult vaccination status.
- Educational strategies to increase awareness regarding vaccination recommendations of adults and to improve their implementation.
- Educational approaches or tools to establish a vaccine routine for adults, similarly to pediatric vaccination, to facilitate the implementation of national recommendations.



## Key Milestones



## Funding Range and Project Length

**Individual projects** requesting up to **CHF 60'000** will be considered. Maximum project length is 1 year.



# I. Eligibility

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## Geographic Scope/Location of Project/Study

- Switzerland

## 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/medical societies; medical education companies; and other entities with a mission related to healthcare professional education and/or 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).
- If the project involves multiple departments within an institution and/or between different institutions /organizations/associations, all institutions must have a relevant role and the requesting organization must have a key role in the project.
- The applicant must be the project/program lead or an authorized designee of such individual (e.g., project/program lead's grant coordinator).
- The project/program lead must be an employee or contractor of the requesting organization.
- For projects offering continuing education credit, the requesting organization must be accredited.
- 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.

# II. Requirements

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## Primary Area of Interest

- Vaccine Preventable Diseases

## General Area of Interest for this RFP

*It is not our intent to support clinical research projects. Projects evaluating the efficacy of therapeutic or diagnostic agents will not be considered.*

There is a medical need to foster and improve vaccination coverage of eligible adults, which is currently low<sup>1,2,3</sup> compared to the pediatric population in Switzerland. Potential applicants are encouraged to identify gaps and barriers in adult vaccination and describe how their project could lead to practice change and improve implementation of vaccination. The focus may be on adults in general or a specific adult population such as "adults above 65 years of age". Projects that will be considered will focus on safe and appropriate adult vaccination by addressing the following areas:

- Innovative solutions to identify immunization knowledge and practice gaps, communicate needs according to local vaccination recommendations and encourage HCPs to monitor adult vaccination status.
- Educational strategies to increase awareness regarding vaccination recommendations of adults and to improve their implementation.
- Educational approaches and/or tools to establish a vaccine routine for adults, similarly to pediatric vaccination, to facilitate the implementation of national recommendations.
- Increasing HCPs' competence by providing clear and accessible information to ensure they can effectively communicate the value of vaccination to their patients and communities.
- Projects inclusive of practice change and potential barriers assessment will be highly valued.

## Target Audience

Physicians, Pharmacists and other healthcare professionals involved in vaccination; healthcare professionals' networks; public health institutions; medical societies.

## Expected Approximate Monetary Range of Grant Applications:

- Individual projects requesting up to CHF 60'000 will be considered. The estimated total available budget related to this RFP is CHF 60'000.
- 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.

## Timeline



**IMPORTANT:** Be advised applications submitted after the due date will not be reviewed.

\* Please note the deadline is 23:59 Eastern Standard Time (e.g., New York, GMT -5).

## III. Submissions

### How to Submit

**IMPORTANT:** 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/IndependentMedEd](http://www.cybergrants.com/pfizer/IndependentMedEd) and sign in.
  - Note: there are individual portals for each grant application type. Please be sure to use the URL above.
  - First-time users should click "Create your password".
- Click the button "**Start a New Independent Medical Education Application**".
- Requirements for submission:
  - **Complete all required sections of the online application and upload your project proposal** (see [Appendix](#)) in the General RFP Submission field.
- If you encounter any technical difficulties with the website, please click the "Technical Questions" link at the bottom of the page.
- In the application:
  - For the question "**Competitive Grant?**" select "**Yes**"
  - Select the following **Primary Area of Interest:** "**VAV - Public Health/Vaccinology - IME**"
  - Select the following **Competitive Grant Program Name:** "**2025 VAC CH Immunization Practice Gaps Adults IME**"

## Questions

- If you encounter any technical difficulties with the website, please click [here](#) or the “Technical Questions” link at the bottom of the page in Cybergrants.
- Please click [here](#) to view “Frequently Asked Questions” regarding the Competitive Grant Program.
- If you have questions regarding this RFP, please direct them in writing to the Grant Officer, **Monika Sojewska (monika.sojewska@pfizer.com)**, with the subject line “2025 VAC CH Immunization Practice Gaps Adults IME”.

## 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.

## Review and Approval Process

- Grant requests received in response to a general RFP are reviewed by Pfizer to make final grant decisions.

## 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.

## About Pfizer Global Medical Grants & Partnerships

Pfizer Global Medical Grants & Partnerships (GMGP) 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 GMGP 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 internal Pfizer review process 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.

## References

- 1) Zens et al. Pneumococcal Vaccination Coverage and Uptake Among Adults in Switzerland: A Nationwide Cross-Sectional Study of Vaccination Records. *Front Public Health*. 2022 Jan 31;9:759602.doi: 10.3389/fpubh.2021.759602
- 2) BAG Jahresbericht zu den respiratorischen Viren 2023/2024 – BAG-Bulletin 40 vom 30. September 2024: [https://www.bag.admin.ch/dam/bag/de/dokumente/mt/k-und-i/aktuelle-ausbrueche-pandemien/respiratorische-viren/jahresbericht-respiratorischen-viren-2023\\_2024.pdf.download.pdf/de\\_BAG\\_Bulletin\\_40-24\\_online.pdf](https://www.bag.admin.ch/dam/bag/de/dokumente/mt/k-und-i/aktuelle-ausbrueche-pandemien/respiratorische-viren/jahresbericht-respiratorischen-viren-2023_2024.pdf.download.pdf/de_BAG_Bulletin_40-24_online.pdf), last accessed 04.12.2024
- 3) Baroutsou et al. Analysis of Tick-borne Encephalitis vaccination coverage and compliance in adults in Switzerland, 2018. *Vaccine* 2020 Nov 17;38(49):7825-7833. Doi:10.1016/j.vaccine.2020.10.022



# Appendix

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## IMPORTANT: RFP Submission Requirements

Applications will be accepted via the online portal listed in the [How to Submit](#) section. Project Proposals 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 Project Proposal please ensure it addresses the following sections:

### Goals and Objectives

- Briefly state the overall goal of the project.
- List the objectives you plan to meet with your project, in terms of learning and expected outcomes.

### Needs Assessment for the Project

- Include a description of your organization's needs assessment for this proposed project which may include a quantitative baseline data summary, initial metrics, 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.

### Target Audience

- Describe the primary audience(s) targeted for this project. 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, the educational approach, and the way the planned methods address the established need.

### Innovation

- Explain what measures you have taken to assure that this project 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.

### Evaluation and Outcomes

- In terms of the metrics used for the needs assessment, describe how your organization will determine if the gap was addressed for the target group. Identify the sources of data your organization anticipates using to make the determination. Describe how your organization is expected to collect and analyze the data. Explain the method used to control for other factors outside this project (e.g., use of a control group or comparison with baseline data). Quantify the amount of change expected from this project in terms the target audience. Describe how your organization will determine if the target audience was fully engaged in the project.

### Dissemination Plan

- Describe how the project may have extended benefit beyond the grant. Will the teaching materials be made available to others to use? Will there be tools or resources that are made publicly available beyond the initial project. Describe how the project outcomes might 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

- Please include a budget narrative that describes in greater detail the line items specified in the budget submitted within the application.
- While estimating your budget please keep the following items in mind:
  - Independent Medical Education Grants awarded by GMGP cannot be used to purchase therapeutic assets (prescription or non-prescription).
  - Overhead rates of up to 28% of the total proposed project budget may be supported by Pfizer. Please click [here](#) for details. 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.

## Required Documents

- Project Plan/Proposal or Meeting Agenda