



# Pfizer Quality Improvement Request for Proposals

## *Improving Vaccination Systems and Environments to Promote prevention of Respiratory Infections in Older Adults*

Competitive Grant Program – using Expert Review Panel



### Overview

To promote prevention of respiratory infections among older adults, this project supports initiatives aimed at establishing systems and improving environments to enhance vaccination accessibility.



### Geographic Scope

- Japan



### Project Types and Area of Interest

We support projects aimed at improving the environment and systems leading up to vaccination for the prevention of respiratory infections in older adults, including but not limited to the following projects

- Projects that establish accessible environments to ensure older adults can smoothly receive vaccinations.
- Projects that explore and implement vaccination methods that are specifically tailored to the living conditions and needs of older adults.
- Projects aimed at reducing and overcoming vaccine hesitancy among older adults.



### Key Milestones

- Application submission deadline: **July 4, 2025**
- Anticipated decision notification date: **August 31, 2025**
- Anticipated project start date: **January 1, 2026**



### Funding Range and Project Length

- Individual projects requesting up to 7,500,000 JPY will be considered.
- Project Execution Period: January 1, 2026 – December 31, 2027 (2 years)

## I. Eligibility

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### Geographic Scope:

- Japan

### Applicant Eligibility Criteria

- Only organizations are eligible to receive grants, not individuals or medical practice groups.  
[The following is basic criteria. Please review and change if your specific RFP has narrower criteria]
- 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.
- 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.
- For projects offering continuing education credit, the requesting organization must be accredited.

## II. Requirements

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### Date RFP Issued

- April 22, 2025

### Clinical Area

- Vaccine preventable respiratory diseases in older adults

### Specific Area of Interest for this RFP:

support for projects to improve the vaccination environments and systems for the prevention of respiratory infections in older adults.

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 proposed research/evaluation 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 [here](#).

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.

*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

- Physicians (regardless of specialty), pharmacists, nurses, and other healthcare professionals
- Municipality official

## Disease Burden Overview

Older adults are at high risk for severe respiratory infections, such as pneumococcal pneumonia, influenza, COVID-19, and RSV.

Many older adults suffer from respiratory infections every year. Respiratory infections in older adults can be severe and often lead to hospitalization and death.<sup>10-13</sup>

Even after they are recovery, older adults often experience long-term effects such as reduced physical strength, impaired mobility, frailty, or becoming bedridden, making it difficult to regain their previous quality of life.<sup>14-20</sup>

## Recommendations and Target Metrics

- Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare: Basic plan for vaccination  
[https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/kenkou\\_iryuu/kenkou/kekaku-kansenshou/kihonteki\\_keikaku/](https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/kenkou_iryuu/kenkou/kekaku-kansenshou/kihonteki_keikaku/)
- Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare : "September 24–30: Tuberculosis and Respiratory Infection Prevention Week"  
[https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/houdou\\_kouhou/kouhou\\_shuppan/magazine/202409\\_005.html](https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/houdou_kouhou/kouhou_shuppan/magazine/202409_005.html)
- Prime Minister's Office of Japan: Collection of Good Practices in Vaccination by Local Governments  
<https://www.kantei.go.jp/jp/headline/kansensho/jirei.html>

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

- Vaccination is one of the most effective ways to preventing respiratory infections and is recommended by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW) and various medical societies.<sup>1-4</sup>
- Particularly in Japan, where the super-aging, vaccination to prevent respiratory infections is crucial role in extending healthy life expectancy, Pneumococcal pneumonia vaccine for individuals aged 65<sup>5</sup> and COVID-19 vaccines for those aged 65 and older<sup>6</sup> are recommended as national immunization program (NIP). Additionally, the RSV vaccine is available as an optional vaccine since 2024<sup>7</sup>, more vaccines to prevent respiratory infections in older adults will be available in the future. However, even with NIP, the vaccination rates in older adults remain low<sup>8-9</sup>,

## Barriers

- There are several reasons behind vaccine hesitancy among older adults<sup>21-22</sup>. While insufficient knowledge or awareness contributes to the issue, environmental barriers significantly impede vaccination access.
- Key barriers include
  1. Difficulties accessing relevant information: Older adults often struggle to understand available vaccines, appropriate vaccination timing, or how to use booking systems.
  2. Lack of consultation opportunities: There are few chances to consult with healthcare professionals, and some people may feel hesitant to ask questions.
  3. Physical and motivational concerns: Some older adults lack sufficient physical or mental conditions and may lack support from family, friends or caregiver to attend vaccination appointments.
  4. Transportation and accessibility issues: Accessing vaccination sites can be difficult due to limited transportation and support.
- To address these barriers, we consider the following potential solutions :
  - Implementation of simple, user-friendly booking systems: Develop systems that allow older adults to easily identify required vaccines, receive timely notifications, confirm their vaccination history and upcoming schedules etc.

- Improvement of consultation service: older adults can easily consult with their home doctors and local governments about vaccination
- Implementing personalized vaccination services, including home visits and the combined administration of vaccines tailored to individual circumstances.
- Improving access to vaccination sites: appropriate locations within each community and innovative approaches to transportation and site accessibility.

Through this project, we aim to support emphasizing the establishment of systems and environments that significantly enhance vaccination access for older adults. These efforts seek to create conditions under which older adults can confidently and conveniently receive vaccinations.

### Expected Approximate Monetary Range of Grant Applications:

- Individual projects requesting up to 7,500,000 JPY 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

### Key Dates:

- RFP Release Date: 4/22/2025
- Full Proposal Due Date: 7/4/2025
- Please note the deadline is 23:59 Eastern Standard Time (e.g., New York, GMT -5).
- Anticipated Full Proposal Notification Date: 8/31/2025
- 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".
- 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: 2025 VAC Japan Improving Vaccination Systems/Environments to Promote Resp. Infection Prevention QI
- Select the following Primary Area of Interest: VAV-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 “Improving Vaccination Systems and Environments to Promote Respiratory Infection Prevention in Older Adults.”

## Grant Agreements:

- If your grant is approved, your institution will be required to enter into a written grant agreement with Pfizer International LLC. 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.
- This RFP is supported by Pfizer International LLC and, if approved, payment will be sent from the United States.
- Payment will only be made to requesting Institution.

## 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

- [1] Ministry of Health and Welfare: Vaccinations for Adults Aged 65 and Over.(Accessed April 1,2024)  
[https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/kenkou\\_iryoku/kenkou/kekkaku-kansenshou/yobousesshu/vaccine/years-65.html](https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/kenkou_iryoku/kenkou/kekkaku-kansenshou/yobousesshu/vaccine/years-65.html)
- [2] Japan Geriatrics Society. Recommended Vaccines for Adults Aged 65 and Over(Accessed April 1,2024)  
[https://jpn-geriat-soc.or.jp/tool/consider\\_vaccine.html](https://jpn-geriat-soc.or.jp/tool/consider_vaccine.html)
- [3] Joint Committee on Vaccination of the Japanese Respiratory Society, Japanese Association for Infectious Diseases, and Japanese Society for Vaccinology. Recommendations for Pneumococcal Vaccination in Adults Aged 65 and Over, 6<sup>th</sup> edition. (Accessed April 1,2024)  
[https://www.kansensho.or.jp/modules/guidelines/index.php?content\\_id=56](https://www.kansensho.or.jp/modules/guidelines/index.php?content_id=56)
- [4] Japanese Association for Infectious Diseases, Japanese Respiratory Society, Japanese Society for Vaccinology. Guidelines for Routine COVID-19 Vaccination in FY2024. (Accessed April 1,2024)  
<https://www.jsvac.jp/pdfs/20241017.pdf>
- [5] Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare. Information on Pneumococcal Vaccines. (Accessed April 1,2024)  
[https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/kenkou\\_iryoku/kenkou/kekkaku-kansenshou/yobousesshu/vaccine/pneumococcus-senior/index.html](https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/kenkou_iryoku/kenkou/kekkaku-kansenshou/yobousesshu/vaccine/pneumococcus-senior/index.html)
- [6] Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare. Information on COVID-19 Vaccination. (Accessed April 1,2024)  
[https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/vaccine\\_00184.html](https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/vaccine_00184.html)
- [7] Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare. RSV Infection (Accessed April 1,2024)  
[https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/kenkou\\_iryoku/kenkou/kekkaku-kansenshou/rsv.html](https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/kenkou_iryoku/kenkou/kekkaku-kansenshou/rsv.html)



- [8] Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare. Number of COVID-19 Vaccine Doses Administered  
[https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/kenkou\\_iryou/kenkou/kekkaku-kansenshou/yobou-sesshu/syukeihou\\_00002.html](https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/kenkou_iryou/kenkou/kekkaku-kansenshou/yobou-sesshu/syukeihou_00002.html)
- [9] Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare. Number of Routine Immunization Providers  
<https://www.mhlw.go.jp/topics/bcg/other/5.html>
- [10] Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare. Reference Document 2, 53rd Meeting of the Immunization and Vaccine Subcommittee, Health Science Council (Accessed April 1,2024)  
[001169806.pdf](#)
- [11] Morimoto K. et al., PLOS One, 2015 Mar 30;10(3)
- [12] Savic M. et al., Influenza other Respir Virues, 2023;17:e13031
- [13] Kurai D. et al., Influenza other Respir Viruses 2022;16:298-307
- [14] Glick HA. et al., Clin Infect Dis. 2021;73(2):283-290
- [15] Girard T.D. et al., J Gen Intern Med. 2018;33(6):929-935
- [16] Miyashita N. et al., Influenza Other Respir Virues. 2022;16(6):1197-1198
- [17] Ubaamadu E. et al., Infect Dis Ther. 2024;13(7):1399-1417
- [18] Xie Y. et al., JAMA 2023;329(19):1697-1699
- [19] Shrestha A, et al., Ageing Res Rev 2024;101:102448
- [20] Machida M. et al. Vaccine 2024;42(20):125985
- [21] MacDonald NE et al. Vaccine 2015;33(34):4161-4
- [22] Machida M, Inoue S. *Nihon Koshu Eisei Zasshi*. 2023;70(8):474-482. doi:10.11236/jph.23-004

## About Pfizer Global Medical Partnerships & Grants

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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 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 [adjust as necessary] 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

Full Budget is not required. This amount can be adjusted at the Full Proposal stage as applicable.

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 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.

It should be noted that grants awarded through GMGP 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.