Pfizer Research and Quality Improvement Grant Request for Proposals

Competitive Grant Program – using Expert Review Panel

Personalized monitoring and treatment for HR+, HER2- mBC patients treated with CDK4/6i: incorporating Patient complexity and risk factors

Overview

Pfizer is working on a new funding opportunity. This initiative seeks proposals for projects in one of two streams: Quality Improvement (QI) or Research. The goal is to support initiatives that investigate, establish, and/or implement strategies to measurably improve the quality of care for patients with hormone receptor-positive (HR+), human epidermal growth factor receptor 2-negative (HER2-) metastatic breast cancer (mBC) treated in the first line with cyclin-dependent kinase (CDK4/6) inhibitors, with a specific focus on patients aged 65 and older, or those who have comorbidities, are on polypharmacy, are frail, or present specific tumor characteristics.

Breast cancer remains the most common cancer worldwide in terms of incidence and cancer-related mortality. Nevertheless, scientific progress and pharmacological innovations over recent decades have significantly extended median survival for affected patients. The therapeutic landscape for HR+/HER2- tumors has been transformed by the introduction of CDK4/6 inhibitors, whose efficacy in combination with endocrine therapy is well established. At the same time, mBC is increasingly regarded as a “chronic” condition, with diagnosis initiating a complex treatment pathway that impacts multiple aspects of patients’ daily and professional lives. This underscores the need for comprehensive support that addresses psychosocial factors and prioritizes quality of life, including the integration into clinical practice of tools that capture patients’ subjective assessment of treatment impact[1].

Geographic Scope

Italy

Key Milestones

Submission Deadline	Anticipated Grant Award Notification	Anticipated Project Start Date
27 MAR 2026	MAY 2026	JUL 2026

Funding Range and Project Length

Individual projects requesting up to EUR 50,000.00 will be considered.

Maximum project length is 1 year.

I. Eligibility

Geographic Scope:

- Italy

Applicant Eligibility Criteria

- The institution and Principal Investigator (PI) must be based in Italy.
- 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 PI must have a medical or postdoctoral degree (MD, PhD, or equivalent), an advanced nursing degree (BSN with a MS/PhD), or a degree in Pharmacy, Physiotherapy, or Social Work.
- The applicant must be the PI or an authorized designee of such individual (e.g., PI's research coordinator).
- The PI must be an employee or contractor of the requesting organization.
- Requesting organization must be legally able to receive award funding directly from Pfizer 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 LLC may be subject to rescission.

II. Requirements

Primary Area of Interest:

- Oncology – Breast – QI

Specific Area of Interest for this RFP:

Healthcare professionals across Italy are invited to submit QI or General Research proposals aimed at improving therapy management for specific patient subgroups — such as individuals over 65 years old, those with comorbidities, on polypharmacy, frail patients, or those presenting specific tumor characteristics — receiving CDK4/6 inhibitors for HR+/HER2- mBC in clinical practice. Proposals might leverage innovative, AI-powered, and community-accessible approaches that can be seamlessly integrated into real-world clinical settings. These initiatives should focus on enhancing patient understanding of their condition and treatment, improving quality of life and adherence, supporting symptom monitoring and management, facilitating follow-up, and strengthening the collection and utilization of Patient Reported Outcomes (PROs). Projects must demonstrate measurable impact on patient outcomes and practical applicability in daily clinical practice.

Topics of highlighted interest include, but are not limited to:

- Digital tools that may ease patient monitoring (i.e. Apps) and /or monitor/ optimize concomitant medications.
- Multidisciplinary management: Primary Care Provider or General Practitioner engagement, oncology nurse consultations, call center, etc.
- Initiatives to improve patients' quality of life and enhance the collection and utilization of PROs.
- Optimization of elderly and frail patient management: for example, using tools such as G8 and DIALOG G-CODE to enhance geriatric assessment, personalize treatment, social support and engage caregiver to reduce the risk of drop-out and to improve outcomes.

- Implementing tools for sharing experiences between groups of patients and between patients and caregivers to optimize their diagnostic and/or therapeutic awareness and opportunities.
- Projects, including AI applications, that enable healthcare systems to be smarter, faster, and more efficient in delivering patient care.
- Increasing health literacy of mBC patients to self-manage and engage in shared clinical decision making.
- Existing digital projects that are looking to expand or scale-up into substantial new phases or stages of the project can be considered.

This RFP does not support projects aimed at focusing on a specific adverse event or on a specific drug and/or comparing different CDK4/6 inhibitors in terms of efficacy, tolerability, safety, and impact on quality of life. This competitive grant program involves a publicly posted Request for Proposal (RFP) that provides details regarding a specific area of interest, sets timelines for review and approval. Pfizer will select the Expert Review Panel (ERP) to make final grant decisions, create a community of practice for the selected Grantees and share existing knowledge and tools. Organizations are invited to submit an application addressing the knowledge gaps as outlined in the specific RFP.

Expected Approximate Monetary Range of Grant Applications

IMPORTANT: 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.

- **Individual projects** requesting **up to EUR 50,000.00** will be considered. The **estimated total available budget** related to this RFP is **EUR 150,000.00**.
- 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:

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)

How to Submit:

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

- For Quality Improvement projects:
  Please go to www.cybergrants.com/pfizer/QI and sign in

- For General Research projects:
  Please go to https://www.cybergrants.com/pfizer/Research and sign in.

  All the following sub-instructions are the same for Sponsored/General Research projects and Quality improvement projects:
  - 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 "Start a New Research Grant Application" or the “Start a New Quality Improvement Application” button.
- Requirements for submission:
  - Complete all required sections of the online application
  - **IMPORTANT: Upload proposal (see Appendix) in the Proposal/Protocol field.**
- In the application:
  - For the question “**Competitive Grant?**” select “**Yes**”
  - Select the following Primary Area of Interest: **Oncology – Breast – QI**
  - Select the following Competitive Grant Program Name: **2026 Onc Italy mBC QI/Res**

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, **Nicola Fenderico** (nicola.fenderico@pfizer.com), with the subject line “**2026 Onc Italy mBC QI/Res**”

Review and Approval Process

- Grant requests received in response to a specific RFP are reviewed by 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.
- For selected projects: Pfizer will support only those projects for which an executed copy of the Agreement, the Protocol, and documentation of IRB/IEC approval, regulatory approval (if applicable), exemption, or waiver have been received by 15 November 2026.

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.

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 International LLC and, if approved the payment will be issued by a Pfizer US based legal entity.

About Pfizer Grants

Pfizer 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 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 research gaps as outlined in the specific RFP.

For all Investigator Sponsored Research (ISRs), general research and quality improvement grants, the grant requester (and ultimately the grantee) is responsible for the design, implementation, sponsorship, and conduct of the independent initiative supported by the grant, including compliance with any regulatory requirements. Pfizer must not be involved in any aspect of study protocol or project development, nor the conduct or monitoring of the research program. An ISR grant request cannot be submitted for a study that has already commenced and was not originally supported by Pfizer.

About QI Grants

Quality improvement (QI) projects are systematic, data-guided, sustainable activities designed to bring about immediate, positive changes in the delivery of healthcare in particular settings[2,3]. Quality improvement seeks to standardize structure and processes to reduce variation, achieve predictable results, and improve outcomes for patients, healthcare systems, and organizations. Structure includes things like technology, culture, leadership, and physical capital. Process includes knowledge capital (e.g., standard operating procedures) or human capital (e.g., education and training)[4].

QI projects systematically apply what is already known into the local practice, intended to quickly improve patient care within a specific setting. The goal of QI projects is to close a gap in performance at a specific health care system. The "performance" is a standard in health care that is not efficiently/appropriately/ consistently being done[4]. For these reasons, QI focuses on translating existing knowledge into programs or practices to immediately improve the quality of services to individuals and populations within a local institution or setting[6]. The risk of participation in QI is the same as the risk of receiving standard clinical care6 since the standard of care remains the same for all patients.

In contrast, research projects use a systematic approach to discover something that is unknown. Research projects add new knowledge to what was previously unknown in literature through testing of a hypothesis or a scientific question[5]. Research aims to generate knowledge with broad applications, often through controlled studies. The subjects may or may not benefit directly from the knowledge gained. Research studies aim to evaluate an innovation, study something new, or analyze a process not yet rigorously studied[7].

References

1. AIOM Advanced Breast Cancer National Guidelines, last edition 2023
2. Baily MA, et al., Hastings Cent Rep, 2006
3. Lynn J, et al., Ann Intern Med, 2007
4. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Page Last Modified: 09/10/2024
5. Jackson C, Research Quality Manager, Office of Research and Scholarship University of Maryland, Baltimore School of Nursing
6. Columbia University Institutional Review Board Guidance for the Classification of Quality Improvement Activities Versus Research with human Subjects, 2023
7. Newhouse et al., J Nurs Adm, 2006

Appendix

IMPORTANT: 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

- Provide the main goal of the study and the study population (if applicable). Provide a detailed definition that is directly linked to the primary objective.

Assessment of Need for the Project

- This should reflect your study rationale. Provide a brief description of the medical/scientific question and the rationale of how this trial or study addresses the question.

Target Audience

- Describe the primary audience(s) targeted for this project. For Investigator Sponsored Clinical Trials, please specify the age, gender and other demographic information for trial population.
- 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 concisely the research design and methods for achieving the stated goals. For a clinical interventional study, include inclusion/exclusion criteria, treatment plan and statistical plan.

Innovation

- Explain what measures you have taken to assure that this project idea is original and does not duplicate other projects. 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

- Specify type and frequency of safety, efficacy, and/or outcome measures. Also indicate the method(s) used to assess measures.
- Provide a publication plan describing intended submission of abstracts to (a) congress(es) or intended submission of (a) publication(s) to peer-reviewed journals.

Anticipated Project Timeline

- Provide an anticipated timeline for your project including project start/end dates.
- An ISR grant request cannot be submitted for a study that has already commenced and was not originally supported by Pfizer.

Additional Information

- If there is any additional information you feel Pfizer should be aware of concerning the importance of this project, please summarize here.
- Early-career applicants: Letter(s) of support from mentor(s) and collaborators describing how the award will advance the applicant's career.

Organization Detail

- This information is used to assess the capability of the organizational resources available to perform the effort proposed. Identify the facilities to be used [laboratory, animal, clinical and "other"]. If appropriate, indicate their capacities, pertinent capabilities, relative proximity and extent of availability to the project.

Budget Detail

- The budget amount requested must be in EURO (EUR).

- 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 these 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 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.

Required Documents

- Project Plan or Proposal
- Initial Study Protocol