

Grand Challenges Explorations – Brazil: New Approaches to Characterize the Global Burden of Antimicrobial Resistance

Rules & Guidelines

Proposals due by May 28, 2018 at 11:30 AM US Pacific Daylight Time

I. Overview

Launched in 2012, Grand Challenges Brazil (GC Brazil) is a partnership framework for the Ministry of Health of Brazil, its National Council for Scientific and Technological Development (CNPq), and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (the “foundation”) to launch joint challenges aimed at catalyzing innovative health research within Brazil. The Brazilian National Council for the State Funding Agencies (CONFAP) is also a partner in this initiative. Earlier this month, we announced a new program under the Grand Challenges Brazil initiative: Grand Challenges Explorations – Brazil (“GCE-Brazil”). GCE grants are designed to support early-stage projects – including ideas that have never before been tested – and innovators from a wide range of disciplines. This second grant under the GCE-Brazil program, is titled *GCE-Brazil: New Approaches to Characterize the Global Burden of Antimicrobial Resistance*. Solutions developed through this program could have broad impact both within Brazil and beyond its borders.

Key features of this new GCE-Brazil program are:

- Only applicants from Brazil are eligible for this funding opportunity.
- A four-page application; two pages in English and two duplicate pages in Portuguese.
- Rapid turnaround time. We select projects within approximately five months of the proposal submission.
- Champion-based review process. Reviewers with a track record in identifying innovative ideas select the proposals they find most pioneering without need for consensus.
- Awards of up to \$100,000 USD will be made.
- The awards will be funded by the Ministry of Health/CNPq, with support from the foundation.
- Granted projects will be eligible to apply for additional funding provided by participating Research Foundation (FAPs).

Tips for Applicants

- Your proposal must demonstrate an innovative approach that complies with all restrictions and guidelines.
- In addition to subject matter experts, your proposal will be reviewed by a panel with broad expertise and a track record in identifying innovations – these reviewers may not be deep domain experts in your field. You must describe your idea in clear language without the use of jargon unique to your field.
- The work proposed in your application must include a clear set of key experiments or activities that test your idea in a way that could provide sufficient evidence to warrant funding. Proposals with vague descriptions or vague testing methodologies will not be funded.

II. Application Instructions

Schedule

Key dates and deadlines

Key Dates	Event
April 5, 2018	Application period opens
Monday, May 28, 2018, 11:30 a.m. US Pacific Daylight Time	Application deadline
July 2018	Proposal review completed
October 2018	Selections completed and notifications sent

How to Apply

Changes to the Rules and Guidelines will be posted on the Grand Challenges website (gcgh.grandchallenges.org), including any changes to the dates listed above.

Subject to the Gates foundation's [Website Terms of Use and Privacy and Information Policy](#), the foundation may share information you provide to us (either orally or in writing) with third parties, including external reviewers, key partners and co-funders.

Application Format

We encourage you to use the provided application form, which can be downloaded after clicking “Apply Now” on each application page and found in the Supporting Material on the Challenge page. You are required to submit either a Microsoft Word® or PDF document, no more than four pages in length (**two pages in English and two duplicate pages in Portuguese**). Please do not include a cover sheet with your proposal. A cover sheet will be automatically generated from your registration data.

Proposals must be submitted prior to the submission deadline of May 28, 2018.

During the application process you will be required to confirm that you have read and understand the [Website Terms of Use and Privacy and Information Policy](#) and these Rules and Guidelines, and acknowledge that any information that you provide to us (either orally or in writing) will be subject to and handled in accordance with such provisions.

Eligibility Criteria

The GCE-Brazil Request for Proposals is open exclusively to Brazilian researchers located in Brazilian organizations, including non-profit organizations, for-profit companies, international organizations, government agencies, and academic institutions.

Upon registration, applicants must provide information about the tax status of their organization as different terms and conditions may apply. You should confirm your organization's tax status with the appropriate person or group within your organization such as your grants or contracts department, finance, or office of sponsored research. Please select the tax status that most closely reflects your current organization's status. CNPq may request additional information regarding your tax status and other organizational information.

III. Review Process

The review of proposals is a critical element of the GCE-Brazil initiative - its goal is to filter and harness creative ideas. For each grant program, we advertise a set of challenges carefully defined to elicit innovative responses to critical barriers in global health and development.

Handling of Proposals

CNPq has put in place policies and procedures, exclusive to the initiative, intended to restrict public dissemination of application materials. These policies and procedures include, when possible, having external reviewers sign confidentiality agreements and requiring that reviewers destroy or return all copies of information acquired or created during the course of performing a review. In some instances, however, we are unable to put in place confidentiality agreements or to police the use of application materials.

CNPq also provide general descriptions of grants on its websites, in press releases, and in other marketing materials and is required by law to publish a list of its grants.

Review of Proposals

Due to the large number of proposals anticipated, applicants with proposals that are not selected for award will receive a notification of decline without specific feedback. Nonetheless, applicants are encouraged to submit ideas in future rounds.

The review process is executed in four steps:

1. The first step consists of screening submissions to evaluate whether proposals address the key needs described in the topic. We screen for responses that are completely unrelated or specifically excluded in the topic description. In addition, we will exclude proposals considered incremental advances, or avenues of inquiry we deem ill-suited to this initiative or from applicants who don't meet strict eligibility requirements. Applicants with proposals removed from consideration during the screening process will be notified that their proposals were declined but will not typically receive specific feedback. Reviews at this stage are "blind"; authors' names and institutions are not provided to reviewers.
2. In the second step, responsive proposals are reviewed. The reviews will be chaired by GCE-Brazil program leads and are conducted by reviewers both outside and within the organizations. Reviewers are selected from the world's leading innovative minds and comprise both experts in the topic area and experts in complementary areas with a track record of innovation. (Not all reviewers have deep expertise in the topic; please consider this information when drafting your proposal.) Unlike most grants initiatives, individual reviewers are empowered to make funding decisions about a portion of the portfolio, without consensus on selections.

In order of importance, the criteria considered in these reviews are:

- **Innovation**, including creativity of the project's approach and clear differentiation from existing approaches
 - **Scientific and technical excellence**, including a clear and rigorous conceptual framework for research activities
 - Potential to lead to substantially **impactful public health recommendations** that are data-driven and cost-effective
 - (Technical and human) **resources**, including investigator and organization capabilities and interdepartmental collaboration
 - **Value** in terms of appropriateness of the budget and timeline relative to project complexity, risk, and potential impact
3. In the third step, the Executive Committee validates and makes final selections of the proposals reviewed in the second step of the evaluation. The Executive Committee is chaired by GCE-Brazil partners program directors.
 4. The fourth and final step is a due diligence review to ensure that applicants are appropriate recipients of CNPq funds. Investigators will be contacted as part of the due diligence review.

Management of Conflict of Interest

To identify and avert conflicts of interest among reviewers, reviewers will not be permitted to review proposals from organizations with which the reviewer has self-identified a conflict of interest.

IV. Key Elements of Agreements for this GCE-Brazil Program

You may receive a grant from the Brazilian Ministry of Health/CNPq and Fiotec (Support Foundation to Oswaldo Cruz Foundation – Fiocruz). Sample agreements from CNPq can be found on CNPq’s Platform. Please note that these provisions are merely sample terms and are subject to change.

V. Ministry of Health and CNPq – Terms and Conditions

Awardees will submit the approved proposal to CNPq [Carlos Chagas Integrated Platform](#), to be funded by the Brazilian federal government. Funding resources from Ministry of Health will be available through CNPq. Funding resources from the Gates foundation will be available from Fiotec (Support Foundation to Oswaldo Cruz Foundation – Fiocruz). As soon as the results are released, CNPq and Fiotec will contact awardees to inform them on procedures to request this support.

Please be aware of:

1. Applicants must have their curriculum vitae registered and updated at Lattes Platform;
2. Applicants must be the coordinator of the proposals.

During the project development, awardees must provide information concerning their studies whenever requested by the Ministry of Health and/or CNPq for the track and evaluation process at all stages. At the end of 18 months term, coordinators must provide Ministry of Health and CNPq a Final Scientific and Financial Report.

CNPq provides in its [Normative Resolution 18/2011 website](#) the Agreement Sample Term, the General Conditions and, also, the Financial Resources Use and Report Manual.

VI. FAPs – Terms and Conditions

Through an agreement with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Brazilian State Research Foundations (FAPs) participating in this call will provide additional funding to granted projects lead by researchers from their state. The additional funding may vary as defined by each FAP. As soon as the results are out, the grantees should contact the Brazilian National Council for the State Funding Agencies (CONFAP) by the email flaviac.confap@gmail.com to receive information on participating FAPs, funding levels, eligibility and procedures to request the additional support.

Terms of Use, Privacy Notice and Information Security

This document and your application are subject to the Terms of Use and Privacy & Information Security Policy which are located at <https://gcgh.grandchallenges.org/privacy-policy-and-terms-use>

VII. Inquiries

Please direct all questions about this initiative, selection criteria, or application instructions by e-mail to the following addresses: cgsau@cnpq.br or GCEhelp@gatesfoundation.org.

