

A Grand Challenges Request for Proposals: Catalyzing Equitable Artificial Intelligence (AI) Use

Rules & Guidelines

Applications due no later than June 5, 2023, 11:30 a.m. U.S. Pacific Time

Supporting Materials

- 1) Full RFP – [Catalyzing Equitable Artificial Intelligence \(AI\) Use](#)
- 2) [Application Instructions](#)
- 3) [Application Addendum Template](#)
- 4) [Budget Template and Narrative](#)
- 5) [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\) Document](#)

Key Dates and Deadlines*

Key Dates	Event
May 22, 2023	Application period opens
June 5, 2023, 11:30 a.m. US PST	Application period closes, deadline to submit
June 2023	Proposal review completed
July 2023	Estimated start dates
October 2023	Awardees invited to Grand Challenges Annual Meeting

*Note, any changes to the Key Dates and Deadlines will be updated on the [Grand Challenges](#) website.

Eligibility Criteria

This initiative is open to organizations based in low-and-middle-income countries (LMIC¹), including nonprofit organizations, for-profit companies, international organizations, government agencies and academic institutions. Collaborations with global partners is acceptable, however, at least 80% of the funding needs to be awarded directly to organizations based in low-and-middle-income countries. Individuals and organizations classified as individuals for U.S. tax purposes are not eligible to receive an award from the foundation as part of this initiative.

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 advisor or entity within your organization such as your grants or contracts department, finance, or office of sponsored research. The foundation may request additional information regarding your tax status. For information about tax statuses, you may check with your own advisors and review information provided on the Internal Revenue Service web site at: www.irs.gov.

How to Apply

Please review the [Application Instructions](#) as you develop your proposal. You are required to submit either a Microsoft Word® or PDF document no more than two pages in length for your

¹ see [World Bank - Low Income Countries](#) for definitions.

Proposal Narrative. You will also upload a completed [Addendum](#) and [Budget Table](#) and Narrative, templates provided in the Application Instructions. Please do not include a cover sheet with your proposal. A cover sheet will be automatically generated from your registration data.

Changes to the Rules and Guidelines and to the [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#) document will be posted periodically, including any changes to the dates listed above. Please read the FAQ document before submitting any questions or concerns.

Proposals for the Catalyzing Equitable AI Use Grand Challenge must be submitted prior to the submission deadline of 11:30 a.m. Pacific Standard Time on June 5, 2023.

Awards

We will consider proposals for awards of up to USD \$100,000, and up to 3 months implementation period including indirect costs permitted under our [Indirect Cost Policy](#). If you are selected to receive a grant, your organization will be required to agree to the terms and conditions governing the grant award. If your organization requires material changes to the terms and conditions, the application may be blocked from moving forward for funding. Please see the terms and conditions linked below.

Following the review process, successful applicants will be invited to fill out a full proposal and budget document. Please note that due to the expedited timeline, completed documents will be due within 3 days upon receipt of the templates. Those that miss the deadline may be eliminated from funding considerations.

Review Process

Handling of Applications

When submitting materials to the Foundation please keep in mind that because we have a focus on achieving charitable outcomes, we view information that we obtain through our grantmaking as a public good. Subject to the [Foundation's Privacy Policy](#), the Foundation may also share information you provide to us (either orally or in writing) with third parties, including external reviewers, consultants, contingent workers, key partners and co-funders. **You should assume that nothing will be kept confidential and should not include any information in the proposal, budget, supplemental materials, or reports that you consider proprietary.**

Additionally, the foundation is required by the IRS to publish a list of its grants. The foundation also provides general descriptions of its grants on its web sites, in press releases, and in other marketing materials. These Rules and Guidelines are subject to these [Terms of Use](#).

Review of Applications

The Grand Challenges application review process is executed in four steps:

1. The first step consists of screening applications 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. Excluded responses encompass ideas related to the topic but that, for strategic reasons, we are not funding under the Grand Challenges initiative. In addition, we exclude proposals considered incremental advances, appropriate responses that are similar to work in which the foundation or other Grand Challenges programs are already investing, or avenues of inquiry we deem ill-suited to the Grand Challenges initiative. Applicants with proposals removed from consideration

during the screening process will be notified that their proposals were declined but will not receive specific feedback.

2. In the second step, reviews are chaired or co-chaired by technical leads from the foundation and, in some cases, other funding partners and are conducted by reviewers both outside and within the foundation. Reviewers are selected from the world's leading researchers and comprise both experts in the topic area and experts in complementary areas. Not all reviewers have deep expertise in the topic; please consider this information when drafting your proposal.

The criteria considered in these reviews are:

- Extent to which the proposal responds to the call in articulating the problem and potential AI enabled solution/s
 - Scientific and technical excellence including:
 - creativity of the project's approach and clear differentiation from existing approaches
 - a clear and rigorous methodology for the proof of concept
 - Feasibility to undertake the envisaged work
 - Access to data, where required
 - Access to relevant decision makers, organizations to test the concept
 - Ability to observe, document and explain the results of the proof of concept
 - Investigator and organization capabilities and potential for collaboration
 - Value in terms of appropriateness of the budget and timeline relative to project complexity, risk, and potential impact
 - Future potential
 - Extent to which the solution can be scaled up and potential impact extrapolated
 - Extent to which solution may be adapted for other use cases
3. The third step is the validation and final selection of the proposals to be funded by the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee may recommend the proposal be funded, subject to specific modifications which will be negotiated as part of the award process. Organizations invited to submit full proposals will be provided additional technical instructions at that time.
 4. The fourth and final step is a due diligence review and to directly discuss and negotiate any adjustments to the proposed project recommended by the Executive Committee. Investigators will be contacted as part of the due diligence review.

Management of Conflict of Interest

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

Eligibility and Notifications

Please review the [Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's sample terms and conditions](#). Please note that depending on the tax status of your organization, alternate terms and conditions may apply. Please carefully review the non-negotiable clause starting on page 3 of the [sample terms and conditions](#) that will be included in grant agreements if relevant to your project, as determined by the foundation. If you are applying from an organization based in India, please review the need for FCRA compliance as outlined further in our [India FAQ](#).

Please also review the [Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's standard Request for Proposal \(RFP\) Terms and Conditions](#).

Privacy Notice and Terms of Use

Our full privacy policy and terms of use are located at [Privacy and Terms of Use](#).

Representation

By providing any Submission Materials, the sender represents to the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation that he/she (i) has the authority to bind the named Applicant to the terms set forth above, without amendment, (ii) agrees to be bound by such terms; and (iii) has the right to provide the information submitted.

Inquiries

Please direct all questions about this initiative, selection criteria or application instructions by e-mail to the following address: grandchallenges@gatesfoundation.org.