

# Innovations in Cost-Disruptive Tools for Diagnosis and Screening

## Grand Challenges

### Application Instructions

#### **Information required for application**

Please refer to the following guidelines as you prepare your application to the RFP “Innovations in Cost-Disruptive Tools for Diagnosis and Screening”.

Your application includes:

- Applicant profile and information – completed via our application portal
- Proposal – uploaded as a Microsoft Word® or Adobe® PDF file
  - Maximum 3 pages
  - Figures and references are included in this page count
- Budget table and narrative (1 page) - uploaded as a Microsoft Word® or Adobe® PDF file

Please note that a template for the budget narrative and table can be found within the application portal within the corresponding upload task. Details on each section can be found below. Along with this application instructions document, we encourage you to reference the request for proposals overview document and the challenge rules and guidelines to ensure that your proposal responds to the challenge.

#### **Applicant Profile**

To begin your application, please click on the “Apply for this Opportunity” button at the top of the challenge page. Through this link, you will be able to access the “Innovations in Cost-Disruptive Tools for Diagnosis and Screening” program. Either create a new account or log-in to the system (if you have previously created an account) and begin your application by filling in the applicant profile.

#### **Proposal File**

##### ***Proposal Format***

Your proposal must be formatted as follows.

- No longer than 3 pages maximum
- 11-point font or larger
- At least 0.5” margins all around
- Single line spacing
- Standard character spacing (neither expanded nor condensed)
- Arial or Times New Roman font
- Microsoft Word® or Adobe® PDF filetype
- Entire file size of 3MB or less
- Please do not include a cover sheet with your proposal. A cover sheet will be automatically generated from your registration data.

**Applications that do not adhere to these restrictions may be blocked from submission and review.**

### ***Proposal Content***

Please include the following in your application (3 pages maximum overall; suggested lengths in parentheses):

1. Introductory information (½ page)
  - Provide a short description of the specific problem your proposal addresses
  - Indicate in one or two sentences **in bold** the essence of your idea for a solution
2. Proposal Information (1 page)
  - Clearly state the hypothesis and overall vision for the proposed work
  - Define the project objectives and key aims
  - Describe how the work will:
    - achieve target performance and outcomes, including alignment with the intended use case and Target Product Profile (if applicable).
    - meet functional requirements (e.g., time-to-result, ease of use, minimal infrastructure, specimen logistics, etc.).
    - be optimized for LMIC settings (e.g., power, cold chain, environmental tolerance, training, maintenance, connectivity, etc.).
3. Development Plan and Path to Impact (½ page)

*Applicants should complete only the subsection corresponding to the funding level requested (Option A, B, or C)*

- **Option A:** Define feasibility objectives, key experiments or engineering milestones, explicit go/no-go criteria, prototype outputs, and timeline.
- **Option B:** Describe prototype optimization, system integration, and analytical performance validation milestones. Outline a complete product development plan inclusive of clinical, regulatory, cost reduction activities, and manufacturing.
- **Option C:** Provide an analytical verification and regulatory-readiness plan aligned to relevant TPPs, including defined milestones toward clinical validation readiness, manufacturing scale-up, and field deployment.
- **All levels:** Include a concise Gantt or milestone table and explain key risks and mitigations.

If available, applicants should briefly summarize and/or cite relevant evidence within the proposal text to support the following areas as applicable:

- Regulatory status
  - Analytical performance data
  - Clinical performance data
  - Usability or deployment evidence
4. Cost and Manufacturing Plan (½ page)
    - State the target per-test and/or device price. If different from the current price, outline the pathway and key assumptions to achieve \$1-class or low incremental

- cost (e.g., materials, scale, reuse, amortization, business model, volume, regional production).
  - Describe supply-chain and manufacturability plan, including potential LMIC/regional manufacturing partners or strategies to scale to high volumes.
5. Team and Capacity (½ page)
- Briefly summarize the team’s relevant expertise, experience, and capacity to deliver the proposed project.  
Include co-applicants and collaborators if relevant (roles, affiliations, expertise, location)

**Budget Table and Narrative – 1 page maximum**

Please use the [budget template](#) (linked and on the application portal) to include a breakdown of allowable direct costs under the following categories.

- Personnel
- Subcontracts
- Subgrants
- Capital Assets/Equipment
- Travel
- Supplies
- Other Expenses
- Indirect Costs\*

*\*Please review the Gates Foundation [Indirect Cost Policy](#).*

Additionally, please provide a one (1) paragraph budget narrative to explain the major cost drivers and how costs relate to planned activities and target outcomes.

**Frequently Asked Questions**

Answers to many application questions can be found within the [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\) document](#).

**Inquiries**

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