

# Grand Challenges Annual Meeting 2021: Call-to-Action

## Rules & Guidelines

**Proposals due by Thursday, January 13, 2022, 11:30 a.m. U.S. Pacific Standard Time**

### I. Overview

This Call-to-Action provides an opportunity for Grand Challenges Annual Meeting participants to take action based on ideas they developed and people they met at the meeting. As noted by past applicants in their submitted proposals, the meeting provides diverse ways to combine expertise and perspectives to speed the impact of what would otherwise be separate work by individual investigators. The [grants awarded](#) for the 2018-2020 Call-to-Action show this. And we hope that interactive elements at this year's virtual meeting will still provide ways to catalyze collaborative projects that will yield a tangible solution to a key problem by the end of the grant.

### II. Application Instructions

#### *Schedule*

*Key dates and deadlines for the 2021 GCAM Call-to-Action*

Key Dates	Event
November 8, 2021	Application period opens (meeting attendees receive invitation via email)
Thursday January 13, 2022, <b>11:30 a.m. US Pacific Standard Time</b>	Application submission deadline
Mid-March 2022	Proposal review completed
By July 1, 2022	Award notifications and project start dates
October 2022	Awardees invited to attend GCAM 2022

#### *Eligibility Criteria*

Participants who registered for and attended the GCAM 2021 are eligible to apply as a Primary Applicant on behalf of an organization with which they are affiliated. Applications are permitted from both non-US and US organizations, including non-profit organizations, for-profit companies, international organizations, government agencies, and academic institutions. Employees, officers and directors of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation are not eligible Primary Applicants or collaborators for either type of proposal. Eligible applicants will receive further information via email.

Each proposal must list one eligible participant as Primary Applicant (PA). Each eligible participant may be listed only once as a PA and therefore must choose whether to apply as the PA for a *Collaborative Pilot* or *Pilot* application. While an eligible participant may apply only once as the PA, there is no limit to the number of collaborative pilot applications on which an eligible participant may be listed as a collaborator.

*Collaborative Pilot* and *Pilot* proposals are defined below.

Funding levels:

- \$200,000 USD for *Collaborative Pilot*: applications that involve two or more meeting participants from different institutions
- \$100,000 USD for *Pilot*: applications with only one meeting participant as the PA

Note that for *Collaborative Pilot* awards, applicants must include *at least two registered and attending meeting participants from different institutions*, one as the PA and at least one collaborator. A collaborative application counts as the sole application for the PA. Submit your best ideas.

### ***How to Apply***

All users will need to create an account and submit proposals through our [online portal](#).

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. The foundation may request additional information regarding your tax status and other organizational information. For information about tax statuses, you may check with your own advisors and refer to information provided on the Internal Revenue Service web site at: [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov).

Applicants planning to conduct project activities in India may be required to register with the Ministry of Home Affairs under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act of 2010 (FCRA). As part of the foundation's diligence, we may ask for a copy of your organization's registration under FCRA or a written certification that FCRA registration is not required. Failure to comply with the requirements of FCRA may subject your organization to financial and/or criminal penalties. You should consult with your own advisors to determine whether FCRA applies to your organization or project.

You will be asked to select the meeting track content with which your proposal best aligns. You may change this track assignment and edit your proposal any time before the application deadline. The track you select will be used to route your proposal for review, so please carefully review the [Request for Proposals](#) and the track information in the meeting agenda and choose the track that your proposal addresses.

### ***Application Format***

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 Proposal Narrative. You will also upload a completed Budget Table and Narrative, template provided in the [Application Instructions](#). If you are submitting a *Collaborative Pilot*, you will also be required to submit a one-page Collaborative Statement. Please do not include a cover sheet with your proposal. A cover sheet will be automatically generated from your registration data.

**Proposals for the Call-to-Action must be submitted prior to the submission deadline of 11:30 a.m. Pacific Standard Time on Thursday, January 13, 2022.**

### **III. Review Process**

For this Call-to-Action to successfully harness the energy and excitement of the meeting to test creative new ideas or new collaborations fostered by the meeting, a rapid turnaround is required. Applicants will be allocated approximately one month to develop and submit their proposals. The review and funding decisions will be made around the end of March and the foundation will aim to send award notices between April and May, after any necessary due diligence.

The review of proposals will be largely champion-based rather than consensus-based, with a panel of reviewers asked to select the top proposals from those relevant to the track content with which they are associated.

### ***Handling of Proposals***

The foundation has put in place policies and procedures, applicable to this Call-to-Action, intended to restrict public dissemination of application materials. These policies and procedures include, when possible, having external reviewers sign conflict of interest and confidentiality agreements and requiring that reviewers destroy or return to the foundation 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.

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. The foundation also provides general descriptions of its grants on its web sites, 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 rapid proposal and review timelines applicable to this Call-to-Action, applicants with proposals that are not selected for award may receive a notification of decline without specific feedback.

### ***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 GCAM Call-to-Action Agreements**

Detailed sample provisions for the foundation's standard Agreements, one for non-profit organizations and one for for-profit organizations, are accessible via the Eligibility and Notifications section of this document, on page 5. Please note that these provisions are merely sample terms. The terms in the agreements between the foundation and awardees are subject to change at the foundation's discretion.

The provisions **are not negotiable**. You are advised to ensure that your institution can accept the provisions of the relevant Agreement at the time of proposal submission. If your proposal is selected, you will have only a few weeks after notification of the award in which to have the appropriate institutional officer sign the Agreement and return it to the foundation.

1. Call-to-Action awards will be granted at two levels:
  - \$200,000 USD *Collaborative Pilot*
  - \$100,000 USD *Pilot*

These award levels are **total** costs for the award. All awards will have a term of approximately 18 months beginning on the project start date.

- You will be asked to complete a high-level budget with the below categories. Please review the foundation's [Indirect Cost Policy](#) as you develop your proposal.

	Estimated Budget
<i>Personnel (including salary, fringe benefits, tuition, or other direct compensation)</i>	\$
<i>Subcontracts, including your collaborator, if applicable. Please list separately if more than one.</i>	\$
<i>Subgrants, including your collaborator, if applicable. Please list separately if more than one.</i>	\$
<i>Capital Assets/Equipment</i>	\$
<i>Travel</i>	\$
<i>Supplies</i>	\$
<i>Other Expenses (please briefly describe in the narrative section)</i>	\$
<i>Indirect Costs</i>	\$
<i>Total</i>	\$

- Project funds may not be used to reimburse expenses incurred prior to the project start date.
- The applicant must return a fully executed agreement to the foundation no later than the date and time indicated by the Grants and Contracts Management team to receive the Call-to-Action award.
- The foundation imposes restrictions on the amount of indirect costs it will fund, please see the foundation's [indirect cost policy](#). The budget provided in your application should disclose the amount of indirect costs budgeted for your project and the indirect costs of any collaborators participating as subgrantees or subcontractors.
- For-profit non-US awardees are subject to restrictions on the amount of funds they may use for expenditures in the US (see sample agreement for for-profit organizations).
- Project funds may not be used to enroll human subjects in any research project subject to Institution Review Board (IRB) or Independent Ethics Committee (IEC) approval until such approval has been obtained for each site.
- Awardees must agree to conduct and manage the project and the products, services, processes, technologies, materials, software, data other innovations, and intellectual property resulting from the project (including modifications, improvements, and further developments to "Background Technology") in a manner that ensures "Global Access." See the Global Access Section of the Sample Agreements for more information about these obligations.
- Awardees must agree to abide by the foundation's [Open Access Policy](#) which requires all peer-reviewed published research, and underlying data sets resulting from foundation funded research to be immediately available upon publication. As noted in the Open Access Policy, the foundation is responsible for individual article processing charges and fees to the extent required to comply with the foundation's Open Access Policy. These fees should not be included in project budgets. Open access management and fees will be managed via Chronos, a service for foundation-funded

research. Chronos simplifies and manages the process of publishing under the foundation's Open Access Policy terms. Primary contacts will receive a Chronos account activation email 6 weeks after the agreement start date.

The Agreement and specific provisions that apply to a project depend on the tax status of the applicant. We strongly encourage you to share the Sample Agreements with the appropriate person or group within your organization such as your grants and contracts department, legal department, finance or office of sponsored research at the time you submit your proposal to ensure that your organization can agree to the relevant provisions.

## **V. Reporting**

All Call-to-Action awardees must prepare and submit a report on initial progress due before the 2021 Grand Challenges meeting and a Final Report due at the end of the grant term. Grantees subject to expenditure responsibility under US law (for-profit organizations and some non-profit organizations) may be required to submit additional reports. Awardees must submit the report electronically by the date described in the Reporting section of the Agreements. The reports should be cumulative, stand-alone documents that describe the work performed with the project funds during the lapsed portion of the project term. The scientific section of the report must include any technical data gathered, models developed, and summary conclusions as of the time of the report. The financial section of the report should include an account of the manner in which you spent the project funds as of the time of the report.

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

## **VII. 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.

## **VIII. 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).