

# 2023 Grand Challenges Annual Meeting Call-to-Action

## Rules & Guidelines

**Applications due no later than December 6, 2023, 11:30 a.m. U.S. Pacific Time**

### 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 past Call-to-Action opportunities show this, and we hope that this year's meeting will also provide ways to catalyze collaborative projects that yield a tangible solution to a key problem by the end of the grant.

### Supporting Materials

- 1) Full RFP – [2023 Grand Challenges Annual Meeting Call-to-Action](#)
- 2) [Application Instructions](#)
- 3) [Budget Template and Narrative](#)

### Key Dates and Deadlines\*

Key Date	Event
October 9, 2023	Application period opens
December 6, 2023, 11:30 a.m. US Pacific Time	Application submission deadline
March 2024	Proposal review completed
By July 1, 2024	Award notifications and project start dates

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

### Eligibility Criteria

Participants who registered for and attended the GCAM 2023 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. 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. 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 (either in-person or virtually) 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.

## **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](#). 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 Time on December 6, 2023.**

## **Review Process**

Applicants will be allocated approximately 8 weeks 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 Request for Proposals, 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 Request for Proposals, 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.

### **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](#).

### **Privacy Notice and Terms of Use**

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 & Cookies Notice](#), 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.

For more information, please review the [Grand Challenges Privacy and Terms of Use](#).

### **Representation**

By providing any Submission Materials, you represent to the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation that (i) you have the right to provide any personal information submitted; and (ii) you are a duly authorized representative of the Applicant and agree to be bound by the terms set forth above, without amendment.

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

Answers to many application questions can be found on 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).