

2026 Grand Challenges Annual Meeting Call-to-Action

Grand Challenges

Rules & Guidelines

Applications due no later than July 9, 2026, 11:30 a.m. U.S. Pacific Time

Supporting Materials

- 1) Full Request for Proposals (RFP) – [2026 Grand Challenges Annual Meeting \(GCAM\) Call-to-Action](#)
- 2) [Application Instructions](#)
- 3) [Budget Template and Narrative](#)
- 4) [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#)

Key Dates and Deadlines*

Key Dates	Event
June 18, 2026	Application period opens
July 9, 2026, 11:30 a.m. US PDT	Application submission deadline
By September 2026	Reviews completed and applicants notified of decisions. Finalists invited to submit proposals on our templates.
September - November 2026	Finalist iterations and due diligence. Those invited to submit proposals on our templates will receive further details on timelines at this time.
By end of 2026	Target grant start dates

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

Eligibility Criteria

- Participants registered for the 2026 GCAM may submit one application as the Primary Applicant (PA) on behalf of an eligible affiliated organization for either a Pilot project or a Collaborative pilot project. Participants may serve as collaborators on multiple applications.
- Collaborative pilot proposals must involve participants from multiple institutions, and all collaborators must be registered participants in the 2026 GCAM. Priority will be given to new or newly expanded collaborations.
- Applications are welcome from nonprofit organizations, for-profit companies, international organizations, government agencies, and academic institutions.
- Individuals, as well as organizations classified as individuals for U.S. tax purposes, are not eligible to receive funding under this initiative.
- We encourage proposals led by investigators based in low- and middle-income countries, as well as proposals led by women investigators and women-led 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 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 website at: www.irs.gov.

How to Apply

Please review the [Application Instructions](#) as you develop your proposal.

Awards

We will consider proposals for awards of up to \$100,000 USD for individual pilot projects, or \$200,000 for collaborative pilot projects, with a grant term of 18 months. Proposed budgets should be commensurate with the scale and complexity of the work. Indirect costs are allowable and must be included within the total requested funding, in accordance with the Gates Foundation's [indirect cost policy](#)).

Review Process

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.

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.

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 [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 [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 [Gates 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 Gates Foundation that (i) you have the right to provide any personal information submitted; (ii) you are a duly authorized representative of the Applicant and agree to be bound by the terms set forth above, without amendment and (iii) none of the information in your submission materials is confidential or proprietary.

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.