

# Estimating the Global Burden of Diarrheal Diseases

## Grand Challenges

### Rules & Guidelines

**Applications due no later than June 16, 2026, 11:30 a.m. U.S. Pacific Time**

#### Supporting Materials

- 1) [Full RFP – Estimating the Global Burden of Diarrheal Diseases](#)
- 2) [Application Instructions](#)
- 3) [Budget Template and Narrative](#)
- 4) [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\) Document](#)

#### Key dates and deadlines\*

Key Dates	Event
May 5, 2026	Application period opens
May 14, 2026, 8:00-9:00 a.m. US PST	Webinar
June 16, 2026, 11:30 a.m. US PST	Application period closes, deadline to submit
By end of August 2026	Applicants notified of decisions
Nov 2026	Estimated start dates

\*Any changes to the Key Dates and Deadlines will be updated on the Grand Challenges website.

#### Eligibility Criteria

This opportunity is open to research institutes, nonprofit organizations, for-profit companies, international organizations, government agencies, and academic institutions. with demonstrated expertise in disease burden estimation, epidemiology, biostatistics, and related quantitative methods.

We welcome proposals from:

- LMIC-based institutions
- Partnerships led by LMIC institutions
- Global consortia that include meaningful LMIC partner engagement and capacity development

Applications that pair high-quality analytic output with intentional LMIC capacity building are especially encouraged.

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](http://www.irs.gov).

### **How to Apply**

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

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

### **Funding Level and Duration**

We will consider applications requesting up to \$1.5 million USD per project, with a maximum grant duration of two years. Proposed budgets should be commensurate with the scale and complexity of the work (e.g. geographic scope, minimal vs. expanded outputs generated). 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**

#### *Handling of Applications*

When submitting materials to the Gates 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 Policy](#), the Gates 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. 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 that are 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:

- Technical merit and feasibility
  - Credibility of estimation methods
  - Relevance of proposed outputs to diarrheal and pathogen prioritization
  - Qualifications of the team and strength of partnerships
  - Plans for transparency, validation, and communication of results
  - Contribution to LMIC modeling capacity, where applicable
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 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 [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.**

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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 \(FAQs\)](#) 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).