

Strengthening Health and Disease Modeling for Public Health Decision Making in Africa

Rules & Guidelines

Applications due no later than October 23, 2023, 11:30 a.m. U.S. Pacific Time

Supporting Materials

- 1) Full RFP – [Strengthening Health and Disease Modeling for Public Health Decision Making in Africa](#)
- 2) [Application Instructions](#)
- 3) [Budget Template and Narrative](#)
- 4) [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#)

Key Dates and Deadlines*

Wellcome and Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	
Key Date	Event
Sep 19, 2023	Application period opens
Oct 23, 2023, 11:30 a.m. US PT	Application period closes, deadline to submit
Dec 2023	Proposal reviews completed

Wellcome		Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	
Key Date	Event	Key Date	Event
Dec 2023	Finalists invited to submit full proposals	Dec 2023	Additional information and/or interviews requested
Feb 20, 2024	Deadline for full proposals	Feb 2024	Finalists invited to submit full proposals
Apr 2024	Awardees confirmed	Feb–Apr 2024	Full proposal iterations
Jul-Aug 2024	Grants approved and signed (varies by grantee)	Jun-Jul 2024	Grants approved and signed (varies by grantee)

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

Eligibility Criteria (applicable to all applications)

- This initiative is open to organizations based in Africa (including nonprofit organizations, for-profit companies, international organizations, government agencies and academic institutions).
- The lead applicant/primary investigator must be based in Africa - we particularly encourage applications from women-led organizations and applications involving projects led by women.
- Proposals can include institutions in other geographies, including other low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) and high-income countries (HICs) provided they meet the criteria below on allocation of funding by region (please note, this differs for Wellcome and BMGF).
- This RFP is open to researchers at any career stage. Applications led by early- and mid-career investigators are encouraged.
- Applicants must have the experience needed to drive and lead a research program addressing the thematic area(s) of interest.
- Researchers may submit only one application as lead applicant through this RFP.
- Researchers may participate as co-applicants or collaborators on multiple applications. If researchers are co-applicants or collaborators on multiple proposals, they must be able to demonstrate that they can dedicate enough time and resources to all projects if all are funded.

Additional Eligibility Criteria – Wellcome (applicable to Option A)

- As mentioned above, the lead applicant must be based in Africa. Co-applicants can be based anywhere in the world (except in mainland China).
- Proposals must demonstrate that at least 70% of the funding is going to [low- and middle-income country \(LMIC\)](#) institutions with at least 50% of the funding going to African institutions. Proposals can include institutions in high-income countries (HICs). However, no more than 30% of the project budget can go to HIC institutions.
- Lead applicants and co-applicants must be able to contribute at least 20% of their time to this project.
- Proposals are limited to 8 co-applicants. There is no limit to the number of collaborators an application can have but the added value must be clear. There is no minimum time commitment for collaborators.
- Lead applicants must have a permanent, open-ended, or long-term rolling contract for the duration of the award.
- Co-applicants must have a guarantee of space from their host institution for the duration of their commitment to the award, but do not need to have a permanent, open-ended, or long-term rolling contract at their administering institution.
- You cannot apply if you intend to carry out activities that involve the transfer of grant funds into mainland China.
- There is a limit on the number of active Wellcome awards an individual can hold at one time (based on career stage): <https://wellcome.org/grant-funding/guidance/wellcome-funding-applicants#how-many-grants-you-can-apply-for,-or-hold,-at-the-same-time-07a2>.

Additional Eligibility Criteria – BMGF (applicable to Option B)

- Proposals must demonstrate that at least 80% of the funding is going to African institutions. Proposals can include institutions from other regions. However, no more than 20% of the project budget can go to institutions outside of Africa.
- 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.

How to Apply for Either Option A or Option B

Please review the Application Instructions (which are the same for both options) as you develop your proposal. You are required to submit either a Microsoft Word® or PDF document no more than 3 pages in length for your Proposal. You will also upload a completed Budget Table and Narrative (template provided in the Application Instructions), and Team Description. Please do not include a cover sheet with your proposal. A cover sheet will be automatically generated from your registration data.

Either funder may make changes to their own Rules and Guidelines and to the frequently asked questions (FAQ) document which will be posted periodically, including any changes to the dates listed above. Please read the FAQ document before submitting any questions or concerns.

Proposals must be submitted prior to the submission deadline of 11:30 a.m. Pacific Time on October 23, 2023.

Awards – Wellcome

Wellcome will consider proposals for awards of up to £3,000,000 GBP for a duration of 3-5 years. Application budgets should be commensurate with the scope of work proposed. Please refer to Wellcome's information on [what we offer](#) and the [Wellcome overheads policy](#).

Awards – Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation will consider proposals for awards of up to USD \$1,000,000, for a duration of 3-5 years. Application budgets should be commensurate with the scope of work proposed. Indirect costs will be considered, and should be included in the budget for the \$1,000,000 USD award (subject to the [Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's indirect cost policy](#)).

Review Process

The Grand Challenges application review process for either Option under this RFP will be executed in four steps:

1. The first step consists of screening applications to evaluate whether proposals address the key thematic areas described in the topic. BMGF and Wellcome will conduct this initial screening jointly and both will have access to all information (including any personal information such as name, contact information, etc.) submitted. We screen for responses that are completely unrelated or specifically excluded in the topic description. Excluded proposals may encompass ideas related to the topic but that, for strategic reasons, we are not funding under this RFP. In addition, we exclude proposals considered incremental advances, appropriate responses that are similar to work in which BMGF, Wellcome or other Grand Challenges programs are already investing, or avenues of inquiry 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 will be chaired or co-chaired by technical leads from BMGF and Wellcome. Not all reviewers will have deep expertise in the topic; please consider this information when drafting your proposal. To identify and avoid conflicts of interest among application reviewers, reviewers will not be permitted to review proposals from organizations with which the reviewer has self-identified conflicts of interest.

The criteria considered in these reviews for Option A or Option B are:

- Potential to lead to solutions with substantial impact related to the specific topic
 - Scientific and technical excellence & innovation, including:
 - creativity of the project's approach and clear differentiation from existing approaches
 - a clear and rigorous conceptual framework for the activities
 - Project Plan, including:
 - investigator and organization capabilities and potential for collaboration
 - value in terms of appropriateness of the budget and timeline relative to project complexity, risk, and potential impact
3. The third step is the validation and shortlisting of proposals to move on to the next stage in the review process. Shortlisted proposal applicants will be invited to submit additional information and/or invited to interview (Option B - BMGF) or will be invited to submit a full application (Option A - Wellcome).
 4. The fourth and final step, for selected finalists, is a due diligence review and to directly discuss any adjustments to the proposed project which will be conducted by the applicable funder.

Eligibility and Notifications – Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

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](#).

Eligibility and Notifications – Wellcome

The lead applicant must be based at an eligible administering organization that can sign up to Wellcome's [grant conditions](#) and [grant funding policies](#).

Privacy Notice and Terms of Use – Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

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. Submissions to this RFP will be shared with Wellcome (subject to [Wellcome's privacy and confidentiality information](#)) and may be shared with additional third parties. **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 – Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

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.

Inquiries

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