

Covid-19 Pathogen Genomic Sequencing (PGS) in Africa Application Instructions

Information Required for Application

Please refer to the following guidelines as you prepare your application to the Covid-19 Pathogen Genomic Sequencing (PGS) in Africa RFP.

Your application includes:

1. Applicant profile and information – completed via our [application portal](#)
2. Your Proposal (3 pages maximum) – uploaded as a Microsoft Word® or Adobe® PDF file
3. Budget table and narrative (1 page, use [template provided](#)) - uploaded as a Microsoft Word® or Adobe® PDF file

Please note that templates for the proposal and budget narrative and table can be found within the application portal within the corresponding upload task. Details on each section can be found below.

Application Portal

To begin your application, you will first need to create an account within our online application system, if you do not have one already. If you are new to the application site, you will receive an email from “**Gates Foundation – no reply**” inviting you to create an account using the email we have on file for you. If you do not receive the email, please check your spam or junk folder. If you have any challenges or need the invitation email re-sent, please reach out to grandchallenges@gatesfoundation.org. Once you have created an account (or if you already created on previously), you will be able to access the system through this link: <https://submit.gatesfoundation.org/>

Once you have logged into the system, you will be able to navigate to the [Covid-19 Pathogen Genomic Sequencing \(PGS\) in Africa](#) program and begin your application.

Proposal File – 3 pages maximum

Proposal Format

Your proposal must be formatted as follows.

- No longer than 3 pages maximum
- 11-point font or larger
- At least 0.5” margins all around
- Single line spacing
- Standard character spacing (neither expanded nor condensed)
- Arial or Times New Roman font
- Microsoft Word® or Adobe® PDF filetype
- Entire file size of 3MB or less
- Please do not include a cover sheet with your proposal. A cover sheet will be automatically generated from your registration data.

Applications that do not adhere to these restrictions may be blocked from submission and review.

Proposal Content

We encourage you to reference the [request for proposals document](#) along with this application instructions document to ensure that your proposal responds to the challenge. You are required to submit either a Microsoft Word® or PDF® document; no more than 3 pages in length describing your project as well as a one-page budget table and narrative. Please do not include a cover sheet with your proposal. A cover sheet will be automatically generated from your registration data. (Indicated page limits are guidelines only for individual sections.)

Section I: What is your idea and how will you test your hypothesis? (2 ½ pages)

1. Describe how your laboratory and staff can immediately put to use PGS technology at the site to respond to at least one of the challenges listed in the request for proposals document.
2. Given the fast-moving nature of the research field into SARS-CoV-2, how will you ensure that the results that your work produces are timely, and question being addressed is still relevant at the time when the results are available.
3. Work plan: Describe the sampling approach for obtaining specimens for genomic sequencing and how the sampling approach will be optimized to answer at least one of the challenges outlined above. In addition, describe how metadata and clinical, epidemiological, or other data will be collected and combined with the PGS data to answer at least one of the challenges listed in the request for proposals document.
4. Describe how the data generated from your project will be used to inform public health decision making in your country and/or region in a timely manner. How will you communicate your findings and engage with stakeholders to ensure uptake and use of your findings for these public health purposes?
5. Articulate how the capacity built through the proposed project will strengthen your institutions approach to using PGS for surveillance beyond the covid-19 pandemic.

Section II: Scaling Innovations through Partnerships (1/2 page)

We seek to encourage intra-Africa relationships across the continent. Use this section to describe how your project will either build on an existing partnership or start a new one.

Budget Table and Narrative – 1 page maximum

Please use the [budget template](#) (linked and on the application portal) to include a breakdown of allowable direct costs under the following categories.

- Personnel
- Subcontracts
- Subgrants
- Capital Assets/Equipment
- Travel
- Supplies
- Other Expenses
- Indirect Costs (please review the [Indirect Cost Policy](#))

Frequently Asked Questions

Answers to many application questions can be found on the [Frequently Asked Questions document](#).

Inquiries

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