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# FAQs

## for Applicants

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## of Grand Challenges Nigeria (GCNg) Project

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### **1. What are the eligibility criteria for applying for the funding?**

To be eligible for funding from GCNg, your project must align with the thematic areas specified in the call for proposals.

Applicants must be affiliated with recognized institutions such as private sector, universities, research organizations, NGOs, or government agencies. Collaborative proposals involving partnerships between multiple organizations are encouraged.

Additionally, applicants must demonstrate a commitment to ethical conduct and compliance with relevant regulatory requirements.

### **2. How do we make our application?**

All applications must be made through the GCNg Grants Management system.

### **3. What should we include in our proposal preparation?**

When preparing your proposal, it is important to follow the guidelines and instructions provided carefully.

Describe the novelty in the proposed solution and its practicality, scalability, adaptability, impacts, and sustainability. Identify specific metrics that will be used to measure the success and impact of the solution. In addition, the risk management plan for the proposed solution should be outlined.

Provide a detailed budget justification, including a breakdown of expenses and justification for each item.

Additionally, include a comprehensive work plan with timelines and milestones to demonstrate project feasibility and scalability.

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Finally, outline the monitoring, evaluation, learning, dissemination and amplification activities throughout the project implementation period and the potential impact and sustainability of your project beyond the grant period.

#### **4. How do we submit our application?**

You must submit your completed application form, and all required supporting documents through the online submission portal specified by GCNg.

Ensure that all required fields are filled out accurately, and all supporting documents are uploaded in the specified format. Ensure that your application is submitted before the stated deadline.

#### **5. Can we submit multiple proposals?**

While applicants may submit multiple ideas in partnership with collaborators, an individual Principal Investigator may lead the submission of only one proposal.

#### **6. How are proposals evaluated and selected for funding?**

All submitted proposals will undergo a review process by a panel of globally recognized experts. Accepted proposals will undergo a four-stage review process, including Administrative Review, Technical Review, Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Review, and Board Review. Proposals will be evaluated based on criteria such as originality and creativity, innovation, scientific and technical excellence, scalability, potential for impact, and alignment with the thematic areas of focus.

Shortlisted applicants may be invited to provide additional information or participate in interviews as part of the evaluation process.

#### **7. What is the funding level for this call for proposals?**

For the Seed Grant challenge, the funding level is up to NGN 60,000,000 (Sixty Million Naira) per grant, for a 12 to 15-month implementation period.

A minimum of eight (8) and a maximum of ten (10) grants will be awarded in the Seed call, with an overall funding ceiling of NGN 600,000,000.

Payment will be disbursed according to the agreed project phasing in each grantee contract.

Projects with strong implementation in the Seed challenge phase and potential to scale will be invited to apply for Scale-up grants.

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## **8. When will applicants be notified of the outcome of their grant application?**

All applicants will be notified of the outcome of their grant application via email by March 2025. The GCNg project reserves the right to adjust this timeline as may be necessary.

Successful applicants will receive detailed instructions regarding contracting, onboarding, grant administration, reporting requirements, and other relevant information. Awardees and their institutional signatories will complete a due diligence process, and sign contracts and financial documents required for the disbursement and retirement of funds, for institutional support, and for permissions for grantees to carry out their studies. Awardees must adhere to the terms and conditions outlined in the grant agreement.

Due to the high volume of proposals received, we will be unable to provide individual feedback on unsuccessful proposals.

## **9. What happens next if our proposal is deemed successful?**

Upon confirmation for the grant award, awardees will undergo a standard due diligence, contracting and onboarding process.

Awardees must adhere to the terms and conditions outlined in the grant agreement. Awardees are responsible for implementing the proposed project according to the approved work plan and budget. Regular reporting and monitoring mechanisms will be established to track project progress, expenditures, and outcomes.

## **10. Can individuals apply, or do I need to be part of an organization?**

GCNg welcomes applications from individuals as well as organizations. However, all lead applicants must be affiliated with registered and recognized institutions within Nigeria. Eligible organizations include registered non-government/profit organizations, private organizations (excluding sole proprietorships), private and public research institutions, private and public academic institutions, research centres, and social enterprises.

Individuals with institutional affiliation but who are not applying on behalf of their institution are eligible to apply directly but the project will prioritize funding for institution or organization applications or from a collaborative team or partnership.

Collaborative proposals involving partnerships between multiple organizations are encouraged.

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**11. Is there a specific focus area or thematic area that GCNg is interested in supporting?**

GCNg seeks innovative solutions to pressing challenges in Nigeria within specified thematic areas. There are six (6) thematic areas for this call, and the details can be found in the proposal request areas. Applicants should ensure that their proposed projects align with the thematic areas outlined in the call for proposals.

**12. Can I apply for funding if my project involves research or experimentation?**

Yes, GCNg supports projects that involve research, experimentation, and innovation. Applicants should clearly articulate the objectives, methodology, and expected outcomes of their proposed projects.

Additionally, applicants must demonstrate a commitment to ethical conduct and compliance with relevant regulatory requirements.

We have provided documentation on the difference between research and development innovations in the Definitions of Research or Development Projects document.

**13. Are there restrictions on the duration of implementation for funded projects?**

For the Seed Grant phase of the challenge, the duration of funded projects is 12 to 15-months of implementation. However, projects may differ in time requirements due to procurement needs, experimental duration, etc. and these must be clearly stated in the application proposal.

It is important for applicants to carefully consider project timelines and feasibility when preparing their proposals.

**14. What support does GCNg provide to grantees beyond funding?**

In addition to financial support, GCNg will provide mentorship, guidance, and networking opportunities to grantees throughout the duration of their projects. This support may include access to subject matter experts, capacity-building workshops, and networking events to help grantees maximize the impact of their innovations.

**15. Can I make changes to my proposal after submitting it to GCNg?**

Yes, applicants may change their topic and edit their proposals at any time before the application deadline. However, once the deadline has passed, no further changes can be made to the submitted proposals.

It is recommended that applicants carefully review and finalize their proposals before submission.

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**16. How will we know if our proposal is progressing through the review stages?**

As your proposal advances through the review stages, you will receive updates at each stage of the evaluation process. Please ensure you check your email regularly and other communication channels for updates from GCNg.

**17. Can I request feedback on my proposal if it is unsuccessful?**

Due to the high volume of applications that will be received, GCNg may be unable to provide individual feedback for unsuccessful proposals. However, applicants are encouraged to review the evaluation criteria and guidelines provided by GCNg to identify areas for improvement in future proposals.

**18. What are the reporting requirements for grantees funded by GCNg?**

Grantees are required to adhere to reporting requirements specified in their contract with GCNg throughout the grant period. This may include regular progress reports, financial reports, and other documentation as requested by GCNg. Awardees must comply with all reporting requirements and deadlines to maintain eligibility for funding.

**19. Where can I find resources and support to help me prepare my proposal for GCNg?**

In anticipation of the application process, GCNg will host two information sessions tailored for prospective applicants. During these sessions, attendees will receive essential information, resources, guidelines, and support aimed at assisting them in preparing their proposals. Please see the RFP Rules and Guidelines document for details of scheduled sessions.

These support resources may include submission guidelines, application templates, and frequently asked questions (FAQs) available on the GCNg website.

**20. Where can I find more information about GCNg and the application process?**

For more information about Grand Challenges Nigeria and the application process, please refer to the provided submission guidelines in the RFP Application Instructions document.

Additionally, you can contact the GCNg team for further assistance or clarification by sending an email to [info.gcng@nutritionnigeria.org](mailto:info.gcng@nutritionnigeria.org).