grand challenges nigeria

Advancing Innovative Solutions for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health

Request for Proposals (RFP)
Grand Challenges Nigeria (GCNg) Funding Opportunity

Rules & Guidelines

Applications due no later than January 31, 2025, 23:59 PM (WAT)

Refer to the following Supporting Materials

1. MNCH RFP document
2. RFP Application Instructions document
3. Budget Template document
4. Indirect Cost Policy document
5. FAQ for Applicants document
6. Definitions of Research and Development Projects document
7. Media Consent and Release Form document

Application Instructions

Key dates and deadlines*

Key Dates	Event
November 18, 2024	Request for proposal announcement
December 13, 2024	Information Session 1
January 13, 2025	Information Session 2
January 31, 2025	Proposal Submission Deadline
March 2025	Proposal Review completed
April 30, 2025	Selection Award Announcement
May 30, 2025	Due Diligence and Contracting

Note, any changes to the Key Dates or Events, to include the request for additional information, will be posted on the RFP webpage.

How to Apply

- To apply, eligible teams or organizations must submit a complete proposal package through the GCNg Grants Management System by the stated deadline.

- Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

- An applicant may participate in multiple applications in partnership with collaborators, but a lead applicant/Principal Investigator may lead the submission of only one application. You may change your topic and edit your proposal any time before the application deadline.

- GCNg reserves the right to request additional information or clarification from applicants during the review process. GCNg also reserves the right to modify the eligibility criteria or application process as needed.

We will consider proposals for awards of up to NGN 60,000,000 (Sixty Million Naira) per grant for a 12 to 15-month project implementation period. The final grant amount awarded will be determined based on the specific needs, scope, and proposed budget of the project. Applicants are encouraged to submit realistic budget proposals that reflect the actual costs required to achieve their project goals. A maximum of ten (10) projects will be funded. If you are selected to receive a grant, your organization will be required to agree to the terms and conditions governing the grant award.

For detailed information application instructions, please see the application instructions document.

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

Proposal Content

Along with this application instructions document, we encourage you to reference the request for proposals overview document and the challenge rules and guidelines to ensure that your proposal responds to the challenge.

Please include the following in your application: (suggested lengths in parentheses)
1. Applicant profile and information – completed via our Good Grants application portal
2. An online application through our Good Grants portal

3. A letter of support from your institution stating why the institution believes the project is important and how it aligns with the institution's mission or strategic goals.
4. A detailed compilation of your team's resumes/curriculum vitae, including past projects and publications.
5. Details of your organization's most recent Annual Financial Accounts (Annual income and Annual expenditure).
6. Evidence of previous grant awards or recognitions (if any).
7. Download and complete the Budget Narrative document. After completing the budget narrative form, please upload it in the upload section of the supporting document tab. Kindly refer to the GCNg Indirect Cost Policy document.

Budget Table and Narrative – 1 page maximum

Please use the budget template (linked to 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

Additionally, please provide a one (1) paragraph Budget Narrative to explain the major cost drivers and how costs relate to planned activities and target outcomes.

Proposals must be submitted prior to the deadline.

Awards

The funding level for the Advancing Innovative Solutions for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Project is a grant of up to NGN 60,000,000 (Sixty Million Naira) for a 12 to 15-month project implementation period. Application budgets should be commensurate with the scope of work proposed.

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for the Grand Challenges Nigeria (GCNg) Funding Opportunity, applicants must meet the following criteria:

1. The Lead applicants must be affiliated with a registered organization or institution that has been in existence for more than 2 years. Lead applicants' organizations must be legally registered to operate in Nigeria and be in good standing with relevant regulatory authorities.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. While local and international collaborations are encouraged, the lead applicant (or Principal Investigator) must be Nigerian and affiliated to a Nigerian organization or institution.

5. Applicants must have the necessary expertise, resources, team, and infrastructure to successfully implement their proposed project.

6. Applicants must have a proven record of accomplishment of working in the thematic area of their submitted proposal and of engaging with relevant stakeholders on the subject.

7. The proposed project must be implemented within Nigeria.

8. Teams or organizations that have received any Grand Challenges or other funding in the past are eligible to apply, but they must demonstrate how the proposed project differs from the previous work for which they have received funding.

9. Applicants must be willing to participate in monitoring, evaluation, learning, dissemination, and amplification activities throughout the project implementation period. See the **Open Access Guide** document.

Review Process

Handling of Applications

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 grant-making as a public good. The organization 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 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.

Review of Applications

All submitted proposals will be reviewed 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. Announcement of awards will be made by **April 2025**.

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 in the topic description. Excluded responses encompass ideas related to the topic but that, for strategic reasons, we are not funding under 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 organization and, in some cases, other funding partners and are conducted by reviewers both outside and within the organization. Reviewers are selected from the world's leading researchers and comprise both experts in the topic area and experts in complementary areas. 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.

3. **The third step** is the Monitoring and Evaluation review stage: In this phase, our Monitoring and Evaluation consultant assesses the applications that have been scored and chosen

by the panel of experts as the most outstanding submissions. The consultant evaluates various features, including the clarity of objectives, Sustainability and Long-Term Impact, Additionally, the consultant examines the applicant's capacity to effectively implement and manage the proposed project, ensuring that it meets the desired outcomes and contributes to the overall success of the initiative.

4. **The final selection stage of the proposals:** At this stage, the advisory and the Governing Boards of the organization based on their selection will recommend the proposal to be funded, subject to specific modifications which will be negotiated as part of the award process.

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.

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 Boards. Selected organizations invited will be contacted and will undergo a due diligence process.

Eligibility and Notifications

All applicants will be notified of the outcome of their grant application via email. Successful applicants will receive detailed instructions regarding due diligence, 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.

Implementation of awarded grants

All grants must be implemented within 12-15 months of contracting. Grantees are responsible for implementing the proposed project according to the approved work plan and budget. The GCNg Project team will conduct monthly check-in meetings with grantee teams. As may be required, the Project team will conduct site visits to grantee projects to directly observe project implementations.

Regular reporting and monitoring mechanisms will be established to track project progress, expenditures, and outcomes. Awardees must comply with all reporting requirements and deadlines specified by Grand Challenges Nigeria throughout the grant period.

Legal and Ethical Considerations

Grand Challenges Nigeria is committed to upholding the highest standards of legal and ethical conduct in all funded projects. All projects must comply with relevant local, national, and international laws, including regulations governing research, intellectual property, data protection, and environmental standards.

Proposals involving human or animal subjects must have approval from relevant ethics committees or institutional review boards before implementation. Projects involving human participants must ensure that informed consent is obtained transparently and respectfully, and all personal and sensitive data must be handled with the utmost confidentiality, adhering to applicable data protection laws, and ensuring participant privacy. Projects must respect local customs, traditions, and cultural norms, ensuring that interventions are contextually appropriate and do not cause harm to participants or communities and all participants should be treated equitably, with special consideration given to vulnerable and marginalized populations to ensure that benefits are distributed fairly.

Applicants must provide accurate and honest reporting on project activities, finances, and outcomes. They must be prepared to undergo audits or evaluations as requested by GCNg and must disclose any potential conflicts of interest that could affect the integrity or impartiality of the project. As non-compliance can damage the reputations of both the grantee and GCNg, undermining the credibility of the initiative and its stakeholders, failure to comply with legal and ethical standards may result in the termination of funding and potential legal action.

Also, as part of the GCNg funding process, successful applicants will be required to sign the Media Consent and Release Form, granting GCNg the right to use their names, likenesses, and project details in various promotional materials, including online platforms, social media, and printed publications. This ensures that GCNg can effectively promote its grantees' innovative work and achievements, both during and after the funding period.

For more information

Please refer to the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs for Applicants) document for answers to specific questions relating to this request for proposals.