

Innovations for Gram-Negative Antibiotic Discovery

Grand Challenges

Rules & Guidelines

Applications due no later than March 25, 2025, 11:30 a.m. U.S. Pacific Time

Supporting Materials

- 1) Full RFP – [Innovations for Gram-Negative Antibiotic Discovery](#)
- 2) [Application Instructions](#)
- 3) [Budget Template and Narrative](#)
- 4) [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#)

Key Dates and Deadlines*

Key Dates	Event
February 11, 2025	Application period opens
March 25, 2025, 11:30 a.m. US PT	Application period closes, deadline to submit
By end-June, 2025	Reviews complete and applicants notified of decisions. Finalists invited to submit full proposals
June – December, 2025	Full proposal selection, iterations, and due diligence. Those invited to submit full proposals will receive further details on timelines at this time.
Early 2026	Award start dates

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

Eligibility Criteria

- This initiative is open to nonprofit organizations, for-profit companies, international organizations, government agencies, and academic institutions.
- Only individuals who are applying through a legally recognized corporate entity are eligible.
- We particularly encourage applications from institutions based in LMICs and projects led by women and other groups that are historically underrepresented in the drug discovery field. All applications received will then be reviewed on their merits.
- Lead applicants must be able to demonstrate the experience needed to drive and lead a project and to deliver on the objectives.
- Applications can be from multi- and inter-disciplinary teams, and we encourage lead applicants to put together diverse teams, promoting a diverse, inclusive, and supportive research environment.
- Researchers may participate as co-applicants or collaborators on multiple proposals but may submit only one application as a lead applicant to this RFP. 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 the projects they are involved in are funded.
- Applicants must be able to sign up to the terms and conditions of at least one of the funders to be eligible to apply.

Upon registration, applicants must provide information about the tax status of their organization as different terms and conditions may apply under the applicable tax laws. 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. Any of the funders may request additional information regarding your tax status. It may not be applicable depending on the funder, but it is a required field in the system so please fill it out to the best of your ability. For information about tax status, you may check with your own advisors and review information on the applicable tax requirements.

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.

Proposals must be submitted prior to the deadline of March 25, 2025, 11:30 a.m. U.S. Pacific Time

Awards

Projects with a duration of up to three years and a maximum requested budget of \$5,000,000 USD are eligible for funding. Exploratory projects with shorter durations or lower budgets that focus on high-risk, innovative areas are strongly encouraged and will be given priority. Budgets should be commensurate with the proposed scope of work. Indirect costs will be considered by some funders and should be included within the total budget of up to \$5,000,000 USD. Indirect/overheard cost policies vary by funder, please refer to the application instructions document for specific details. Projects with secured co-funding are eligible to apply, provided they fully comply with the Gr-ADI collaborative ways of working and funding conditions, as if entirely funded by Gr-ADI.

Review Process

The Grand Challenges application review process for this RFP will be executed in five steps:

1. The first step consists of screening applications to evaluate whether proposals address 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. In addition, we exclude proposals that are considered incremental advances, appropriate responses that are similar to work in which the foundations 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 will be conducted by reviewers both internal and external to Wellcome, the Novo Nordisk Foundation, and the Gates Foundation as well as by the technical leads from the funders. 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 evaluation criteria are:

- Potential to lead to innovative solutions with clear outcomes that meet the objectives of the RFP
 - Innovation, technical excellence and feasibility, including:
 - creativity of the project's approach and clear differentiation from existing approaches
 - a clear and rigorous conceptual framework for the objectives, approach, and methods
 - A clear, realistic 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 process. Shortlisted proposal applicants may be asked to submit additional information at this stage of the process.
 4. The fourth step is the initial selection of the proposals by the review committee to proceed to full evaluation by either the Gates Foundation, Wellcome Trust or Novo Nordisk Foundation. The review committee may recommend specific technical and/or budget modifications at this stage. Finalist organizations will be invited to fill out either Wellcome, the Novo Nordisk Foundation, or the Gates Foundation official proposal templates and additional instructions will be provided at that time.
 5. The fifth and final step for the applicants invited to submit full applications will be managed by either the Gates Foundation, Wellcome Trust or Novo Nordisk Foundation and may include external peer review, due diligence review and/or direct negotiation of any adjustments to the proposed project.

Eligibility and Notifications – Wellcome

Please review the Wellcome: [specific information](#), [grant conditions](#) and [grant funding policies](#). Please also note that:

- Lead applicants applying for Wellcome funding must have a permanent, open-ended, or long-term rolling contract for the duration of the award in order to be eligible.
- Each applicant must commit at least 20% of their research time to the project.
- The lead and co-applicants must all be based at eligible organizations that can sign up to our grant conditions and grant funding policies.
- All researchers and organizations we fund are responsible for making sure that no one working on the grant is the subject of international sanctions. [International sanctions: how they can affect grants - Grant Funding | Wellcome](#)

Eligibility and Notifications – Novo Nordisk Foundation

Please review the [Novo Nordisk Foundation's example terms and conditions](#). However, please note that the final terms and conditions for NNF grants made under this RFP will have additional conditions to align with Wellcome and Gates Foundation, as well as conditions specific to Gr-ADI grants. Further information will be provided to applicants invited to submit full applications.

Please also review the [Novo Nordisk Foundation Rules of Eligibility](#), which specify ineligibility for applying for or receiving grants from the Novo Nordisk Foundation.

Eligibility and Notifications – Gates Foundation

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 – 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 [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. Submissions to this RFP will be shared with Wellcome (subject to [Wellcome's privacy and confidentiality information](#)) and the Novo Nordisk Foundation (subject to the [Novo Nordisk Foundation'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 Gates foundation is required by the IRS to publish a list of its grants. The Gates 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

By providing any Submission Materials, you represent to Wellcome, the Novo Nordisk Foundation, and 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.