



Pfizer, Lung Health Foundation, Lung Cancer Canada, and the Quebec Lung Association

Improving the care and outcomes of residents of Canada living with metastatic NSCLC

Request for Proposals (RFP)

27 February 2024

Introduction

Pfizer, Lung Health Foundation (LHF), Lung Cancer Canada (LCC), and the Quebec Lung Association (QLA) are collaborating to offer a new grant opportunity seeking proposals for quality improvement initiatives focused on improving the care of outcomes of residents of Canada living with metastatic non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) with special focus on improving health equity in this setting.

Lung Health Foundation

The [Lung Health Foundation \(LHF\)](#) is dedicated to improving the lung health of all Canadians. As a national leader, LHF supports and empowers individuals living with lung disease across Canada. Through our range of community initiatives, educational programs, research, and advocacy efforts, we elevate awareness and foster a compassionate environment for those touched by lung conditions, including their caregivers.

Lung Cancer Canada

[Lung Cancer Canada \(LCC\)](#) is a registered national charity that serves as Canada's leading resource for lung cancer education, patient support, research and advocacy. Based in Toronto, Ontario, LCC has a wide reach that includes both regional and pan-Canadian initiatives. LCC is a member of the Global Lung Cancer Coalition and is the only organization in Canada focused exclusively on lung cancer.

Quebec Lung Association

Founded in 1938, the [Quebec Lung Association \(QLA\)](#) is the only non-profit organization committed to promoting respiratory health and fighting lung disease through research, education and services to support those affected by lung disease as well as the general population.

Pfizer

Pfizer's [Global Medical Grants \(GMG\)](#) program supports the global healthcare community's independent initiatives, e.g., research, quality improvement or education, to improve patient outcomes in areas of unmet medical need that are aligned with Pfizer's medical and/or scientific strategies.

Pfizer, LHF, LCC and QLA ('the collaborators') are jointly issuing this Request for Proposal (RFP). Grant funding and general oversight of the funded projects will be provided directly from Pfizer on behalf of Pfizer and the collaborators.

For all grants, the grant requester (and ultimately the grantee) is responsible for the design, implementation, sponsorship and conduct of the independent initiative supported by the grant, including compliance with any regulatory requirements. As the commercial supporter, Pfizer must not be involved in any aspect of study protocol or project development, nor the conduct or monitoring of the project.

Grants will be awarded in support of organizations/institutions working to improve the competence and performance of both the healthcare professionals and healthcare systems in which they work with the goal of optimizing the care and outcomes of metastatic NSCLC patients with special focus on addressing health equity for this population.

Background

Lung cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer and the leading cause of cancer deaths in Canada. Non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) is the most common subtype of lung cancer, accounting for approximately 85% of all lung cancer cases. In Canada, disparities exist in the access to timely and equitable care, access to treatments, as well as outcomes for different populations of individuals living with NSCLC. There are several factors that contribute to these disparities, including differences in socio-economic status, age, race, gender, and geography. As such, the collaborators aim, via this competitive grant program, to support projects to address these inequities to improve outcomes of residents of Canada living with NSCLC.

Eligibility

Geographic Scope:

- Canada (proposed projects do not have to be national in scope but must be conducted in a local, regional, provincial/territorial area within Canada)

Applicant Criteria:

- Only organizations are eligible to receive grants, not individuals or medical practice groups.
- The following may apply: medical, nursing, allied health, and/or pharmacy professional schools; healthcare institutions (both large and small); professional associations; government agencies; and other entities with a mission related to healthcare improvement.
- Collaborations within institutions (e.g., between departments and/or inter-professional), as well as between different institutions / organizations / associations, are encouraged. Please note all partners must have a relevant role and the requesting organization must have a central role in the project.

Scope

Clinical Area

- Metastatic non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC)

Specific Area of Interest for this RFP:

- Topic of interest:
 - Improving health equity for residents of Canada living with metastatic NSCLC by addressing challenges such as, but not limited to:
 - Disparities linked to age, race, geography, income or other factors
 - Implementation of value-based healthcare to improve quality of care for individuals living with NSCLC
 - Encouraging the use of multidisciplinary care models (e.g., nurse navigator, palliative care, psychological/mental health support)
 - Approaches to optimize care throughout the cancer experience of individuals living with NSCLC, including optimal access to clinical trials and evidence-based treatment

- Multi-disciplinary collaborations are encouraged when appropriate, but all partners must have a relevant role in the project.
- It is expected that projects will be evidence-based, and the proposed research/evaluation will follow generally accepted scientific principles. The intended outcome of the project will be given careful consideration and projects with the maximum likelihood of directly impacting the care of individuals living with lung cancer will be given priority. Projects with a proposed educational element should incorporate principles of learning and behavior change for health professionals⁵.
- There is a considerable amount of interest in receiving responses from projects that utilize system-based changes. Although educational efforts for grantees and individuals living with lung cancer may be entirely appropriate components in responses to this RFP, projects that include an overt description of system changes will be given high priority.
- It is not our intent to support clinical research projects. Projects evaluating the efficacy of therapeutic or diagnostic agents will not be considered.

Selection Criteria:

Submitted projects will be evaluated based on the criteria below. Eligible projects must be aimed at addressing health equity issues in metastatic NSCLC.

- Must address health equity issue for metastatic NSCLC
- Integration of input from individuals impacted by lung cancer
- Innovation & uniqueness
- Impact
- Methodology
- Feasibility (Capacity, leadership, sustainability & budget consideration)

Intended Audience

- Healthcare professionals providing care to residents of Canada living with metastatic NSCLC, including but not limited to medical oncologists, pathologists, radiologists and radiation oncologists, nurses, pulmonologists
- Healthcare system administrators involved in oversight of care delivery for residents of Canada living with metastatic NSCLC

Expected Approximate Monetary Range of Grant Applications:

- Individual projects requesting up to \$100,000 CAD will be considered. The estimated total available budget related to this RFP is \$200,000 CAD.
- The amount of the grant Pfizer will be prepared to fund for any project will depend upon the expert review panel's evaluation of the proposal and the costs involved and will be stated clearly in the grant agreement.

Key Dates:

- RFP Release Date: 27 February 2024
- Proposal Due Date: 30 April 2024
 - Please note the deadline is 23:59 Eastern Time, i.e., New York, GMT – 5.
- Review of proposals by review panel: May – July 2024
- Anticipated award notification date: 1 August 2024
- Grants will be distributed following a fully executed agreement and documentation of IRB/IEC approval, exemption or waiver.

Application Process

How to Submit:

- Note: Please read this section carefully since applications submitted not following these instructions will not be accepted and will be cancelled
- Please go to <http://www.cybergrants.com/pfizer/QI> and sign in. First-time users should click “Create your password”. *[Note: there are individual portals for each grant application type. Please be sure to use the URL above.]*
- Click the “Start a New Quality Improvement Application” option.
- In the application:
 - For the question “Competitive Grant?” select Yes
 - Select the following Competitive Grant Program Name: **2024 Oncology CAN LHF/LCC/QLA Lung QI**
 - Select the following Primary Area of Interest: Oncology – Lung – QI
- Requirements for submission:
 - Complete all required sections of the online application and upload your project proposal (see **Appendix**) in the Full Proposal Submission field.
- If you encounter any technical difficulties with the website, please click the “Technical Questions” link at the bottom of the page.

IMPORTANT: Be advised applications submitted after the due date will not be reviewed.

Questions:

- If you have questions regarding this RFP, please direct them in writing to the Grant Officer, Don Rodriguez (Don.Rodriguez@pfizer.com), with the subject line “2024 Oncology CAN LHF/LCC/QLA Lung QI.”

Grant Agreements:

- If your grant is approved, your institution will be required to enter into a written grant agreement with Pfizer. Please click [here](#) to view the core terms of the agreement.
- Pfizer has drafted the terms of these agreements to be balanced and reasonable and to further the goals of both parties. Negotiating grant agreements requires significant resources, so please ensure that your institution (including your legal department) is able and willing to abide by these terms before proceeding with submission of your application as they will need to be accepted in their entirety.
- Payment will only be made to requesting Institution.

Review and Approval Process:

- A specific grant program RFP uses an expert review panel (ERP) to make final grant decisions.
- The ERP is comprised of professionals from the medical community with expertise in NSCLC and the specific needs of residents of Canada living with metastatic NSCLC.

Mechanism by which Applicants will be Notified:

- All applicants will be notified via email by the dates noted above.
- Applicants may be asked for additional clarification during the review period.

References:

1. Brenner DR, et al. CMAJ May 02, 2022 194 (17) E601-E607; DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1503/cmaj.212097>
2. MacPhail C., Snow S. Curr Oncol. 2022 Mar 17;29(3):2064-2072. doi: 10.3390/curroncol29030166.
3. Hajizadeh M, et al. Public Health. 2020 Aug;185:189-195. doi: 10.1016/j.puhe.2020.04.023. Epub 2020 Jul 6.
4. Shah BD, et al. Cancer Treat Res Commun. 2021;29:100495. doi: 10.1016/j.ctarc.2021.100495. Epub 2021 Nov 26.
5. Moore DE, Green JS, Gallis HA. Achieving desired results and improved outcomes: integrating planning and assessment throughout learning activities. *J Contin Educ Health Prof.* 2009; 29(1): 1-15.

Appendix – Specific RFP Submission Requirements

Applications will be accepted via the online portal listed in the How to Submit section of the RFP. Project Proposals/Protocols should be single-spaced using Calibri 12-point font and 1-inch margins. Note there is a 15-page limit exclusive of references. Additionally, 2-page summary of the proposal as well as short (up to 1-page) plain language summary to outline the project to people outside of a specific scientific area is required for each submission. When uploading your Full Proposal please ensure it addresses the following sections:

Summary of the proposal (2-page) & plain language summary (up to 1-page)

- Please provide a 2-page summary of the proposal that provides context and briefly summarizes the objective, project design, methodology, innovation & uniqueness, impact, and feasibility (Capacity, leadership, Sustainability & budget consideration).
- Please provide up to 1-page plain language summary to outline the project to people outside of a specific scientific area.

Goals and Objectives

- Briefly state the overall goal of the project. Also describe how this goal aligns with the focus of the RFP and the goals of the applicant organization(s).
- List the overall objectives you plan to meet with your project both in terms of learning and expected outcomes. Objectives should describe the target population as well as the outcomes you expect to achieve as a result of conducting the project.

Assessment of Need for the Project

- Please include a quantitative baseline data summary, initial metrics (e.g., quality measures), or a project starting point (please cite data on gap analyses or relevant patient-level data that informs the stated objectives) in your target area. Describe the source and method used to collect the data. Describe how the data was analyzed to determine that a gap existed. If a full analysis has not yet been conducted, please include a description of your plan to obtain this information.

Target Audience

- Describe the primary audience(s) targeted for this project. Also indicate whom you believe will directly benefit from the project outcomes. Describe the overall population size as well as the size of your sample population.

Project Design and Methods

- Describe the planned project and the way it addresses the established need.
- If your methods include educational activities, please describe succinctly the topic(s) and format of those activities

Innovation

- Explain what measures you have taken to assure that this project idea is original and does not duplicate other projects or materials already developed.
- Describe how this project builds upon existing work, pilot projects, or ongoing projects developed either by your institution or other institutions related to this project.

Evaluation and Outcomes

- In terms of the metrics used for the needs assessment, describe how you will determine if the practice gap was addressed for the target group. Describe how you expect to collect and analyze the data.
- Quantify the amount of change expected from this project in terms of your target audience.
- Describe how the project outcomes will be broadly disseminated.

Anticipated Project Timeline

- Provide an anticipated timeline for your project including project start/end dates.

Additional Information

- If there is any additional information you feel the collaborators should be aware of concerning the importance of this project, please summarize here.

Organization Detail

- Describe the attributes of the institutions / organizations / associations that will support and facilitate the execution of the project and the leadership of the proposed project. Articulate the specific role of each partner in the proposed project.

Budget Detail

- The budget amount requested must be in Canadian dollars (CAD).
- While estimating your budget please keep the following items in mind:
 - General organizational running costs such as legal fees, insurance, heating, and lighting, etc. should be included as Institutional Overhead (if required by requesting organization). These costs are not specific to a grant request and therefore, should not appear as line items in budgets. However, costs that are specific to the study would be acceptable to be included as line items.
 - The inclusion of overhead costs cannot cause the amount requested to exceed the budget limit set forth in the RFP.
 - Pfizer does not provide funding for capital purchases (infrastructure expenses such as equipment, purchases of software or software licenses, technology or bricks and mortar). Equipment hire/leasing is acceptable and may be included in project budget.
 - It should be noted that grants awarded through GMG cannot be used to purchase therapeutic agents (prescription or non-prescription).
- Pfizer maintains a company-wide, maximum allowed overhead rate of 28% for independent studies and projects. Please [click here](#) for details.