From the Office of Foundation Relations

Below you will find information on a call for proposals for the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's grant programs.

Please forward to anyone who might be interested.

NOTE: The Office of Foundation Relations would be pleased to provide assistance to anyone applying for a grant from this program. It would also be helpful for us to know if someone has applied, whether or not we assist him/her. For more information, including a list of recently issued RFPs, please visit our website (http://foundations.mit.edu/for-grant-seekers/rfp-information/rfps-mit-only/). Thank you!

NOTE: All proposals must be routed through the Office of Sponsored Programs prior to submission.

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Grand Challenges Explorations Round 12
Deadline: November 12, 2013
Note: Award does not include indirect costs—it will incur underrecovery

Grand Challenges Explorations, an initiative to encourage innovative and unconventional global health and development solutions, is now accepting grant proposals for its latest application round. Applicants can be at any experience level; in any discipline; and from any organization, including colleges and universities, government laboratories, research institutions, non-profit organizations and for-profit companies.

Proposals are being accepted online until November 12, 2013 on the following topics:

- Innovations in Feedback & Accountability Systems for Agricultural Development
- Inciting Health Behaviors: nudge, leapfrog, disrupt, reach
- Novel Enabling Tools and Models Supporting the Development of Interventions for Severe Diarrhea and Enteric Dysfunction
- Develop the Next Generation of Condom
- The "One Health" Concept: Bringing Together Human and Animal Health

Initial grants will be $100,000 each and projects showing promise will have the opportunity to receive additional funding of up to $1 million. Full descriptions of the new topics and application instructions are available at: www.grandchallenges.org/explorations.

Records for Life: A design contest that can save lives
Deadline: October 31, 2013

This new grant opportunity seeks individuals or teams to re-examine the current child health record and design new ways to accurately track vaccine doses, increase ease of interpretation and use, and incite behavior change to make the record a valued asset for health professionals and families alike.

Details on how to apply for a grant can be found at http://www.gatesfoundation.org/How-We-Work/General-Information/Grant-Opportunities/Records-for-Life-RFP.
What is the relationship between Grand Challenges Explorations and the Grand Challenges in Global Health initiative? How are they different?

A. Grand Challenges Explorations is an extension of the Grand Challenges in Global Health initiative. Both initiatives focus on encouraging innovation in global health and development research, although the Explorations grants target smaller projects that are at an earlier stage of discovery. The initiative is funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Will Explorations grants fit under the 16 Grand Challenges?

A. The Explorations topics address many of the same challenges defined in the 16 Grand Challenges, in addition to new areas.

How much are the Grand Challenges Explorations grants?

A. Phase I grants will be for $100,000 USD. Phase I projects that show promise in the first year will be eligible for follow-on funding.

How many awards will be funded?

A. We anticipate funding approximately eighty awards each round although this number is dependent on the quality of proposals received. Promising first-year projects will be eligible for additional follow-on funding.

What is the anticipated schedule for awards?

A. The planned schedule is located in the Rules & Guidelines document.

When is the next round scheduled?

A. Round 12 is currently open and applications will be accepted until November 12, 2013 at 11:30 a.m. Pacific Standard Time. Please sign up to receive updates here.

About Grand Challenges Explorations

Topics

What topics does the initiative address?

A. The current Grand Challenges Explorations topics can be viewed on the Topic Descriptions page. Future rounds of Explorations may address different topics. Please sign up to receive updates here.
**Who can I contact if I have a question about a particular topic?**

Please submit your topic-related questions to GCEhelp@gatesfoundation.org. Questions will be routed to the appropriate foundation staff and answers will be posted regularly. Due to the volume of requests we will not be able to respond to individual questions.

**Can I submit multiple proposals for the same topic?**

At this time only one proposal can be submitted per applicant so please submit your best idea.

**Where can I find a list of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation’s disease priorities?**

A list of the foundation’s disease priorities can be found at our website.

**Are the current topics the only ones under consideration at this time?**

The topics for a current round are listed here. These are the only topics under consideration at that time. Future rounds of GCE may repeat topics or have new topics available.

**Will you provide guidance on an application before I submit it?**

We cannot provide individual guidance on ideas either before or after submission. An applicant should decide if it is worth submitting their idea under one of the available topics.

### Application Process

**Is there a specific format for the application?**

Yes, please download and use the Application Form for your proposal submission.

**Am I able to edit my profile and proposal once submitted?**

Yes, you may edit and resubmit proposal content at any time prior to the close of the round.

**When will the notification of awards be made?**

We expect proposals to be reviewed rapidly and award notifications to be sent out approximately five months after the submission deadline.

**What feedback can I expect if my proposal is not selected?**

We cannot provide feedback specific to the technical content of each proposal. We will, however, communicate with applicants once a decision has been reached.

**Are awarded grantees announced publicly?**

We publicly announce winners approximately six months after a round closes.

**Do I have to submit my proposal using the Online Application Tool?**

Yes, all applications must be submitted through the Online Application Tool. Under exceptional circumstances, we will consider accepting submissions from those unable to use the online tool. Please read the Rules & Guidelines for further details.

**Do you allow multiple submissions from the same institution?**

Yes, multiple submissions from an institution are allowed.

**Do you allow multiple submissions from a single laboratory?**

Yes, multiple submissions from a single laboratory are allowed.
A. Yes, multiple submissions from a single laboratory are allowed. Each submission, however, must be associated with a different primary contact and propose a different idea or experiment.

Q. Is it possible to have multiple applicants on a proposal?

A. Teaming and collaboration are welcome within a single application. However, applicants need to elect one primary contact per team. If awarded, the grant will be made to the Primary Investigator.

Q. I submitted my proposal but did not receive a confirmation. How would I know if my proposal went through?

A. Our system automatically sends an email when you submit your proposal. Please check your junk mail folder.

Review Process

Q. What are the criteria for selection?

A. Reviewers will be encouraged to champion proposals according to the following criteria:
• Topic Responsiveness – Does the proposal address the problems described in the topic? (Please note the types of research that will not be funded are listed in each topic description.)
• Innovative Approach – Does the idea offer an unconventional or creative approach to the problem outlined in the topic? Does it demonstrate application of a new or pioneering approach? Does the proposal describe how the project varies from current approaches, offers new premises or hypotheses to test, and does it provide a rational basis for expecting success?

Q. What is the review process?

A. The review process will be done in three steps:
1. An initial screening for responsiveness to the problem described in the topic;
2. Evaluation by two groups of reviewers -- one with significant expertise in program management specific to each topic, and another group of individuals with a history of identifying creative solutions to difficult scientific problems. In each case, reviewers will be encouraged to champion a small number of ideas they consider to be both uniquely innovative and testable;
3. A series of due diligence activities to ensure a legal and financial capacity to perform work described in the proposal.

Q. How will you ensure due diligence in reviewing proposals on a “fast-track” basis?

A. Although we use a rapid-review process, we closely review grant proposals to ensure that the applicant can be a legitimate recipient of charitable contributions.

Q. Will my idea be treated as confidential during the review process?

A. The foundation has put in place policies and procedures to restrict public dissemination of grant application materials including, when possible, having external reviewers sign confidentiality agreements and requiring that reviewers destroy or return to the foundation all copies of information acquired or created during the course of performing a review. In some instances, we are unable to put in place confidentiality agreements or to police the use of grant application materials. An example of this would be in providing materials to others who may wish to fund future grants related to the GCE initiative.

Grant Terms and Conditions

Q. Do you publish or publicly disseminate proposals or grant applications materials?

A. The foundation does not publicly disseminate or “publish” proposals or supporting information related to a grant application. For IRS compliance reasons we are required to publish a list of
related to a grant application. For IRS compliance reasons we are required to publish a list of grants that we have made. We do not publish the full proposal or any supporting materials, however, we provide a general description of the grant on our web sites including at gatesfoundation.org and grandchallenges.org. These brief descriptions are also made available in press releases and other marketing materials.

Q. Am I eligible to apply if I work for the private sector?

A. Yes, we are accepting applications from individuals at both private and public organizations.

Q. What is the process once selected for potential award?

A. Once selected for a potential award, proposals will be reviewed and should pass some minor due diligence criteria. Details can be found in the Rules and Guidelines.

Q. Who will own the rights to technologies created by the grants? What is being done to ensure access for developing countries?

A. In general, the investigators will own the rights to any technologies they invent. They are, however, required to use these rights to help ensure that any tools or knowledge created will be made available and affordable in the developing world. Agreement to this principle is a condition of receiving a grant.

Q. Who signs the grant agreement?

A. During the application process, you are required to provide your Institutional Officer’s information. The Institutional Officer is the person authorized to sign the grant agreement on behalf of your organization. If awarded, all relevant due diligence questionnaires and the grant agreement will be sent to this person. We strongly encourage applicants to provide accurate contact information.

Q. How is intellectual property handled?

A. We respect the intellectual property of our grantees, but we ask them to structure their IP in a way that allows the developing world to access their drugs, vaccines, diagnostics, or any other health interventions at an affordable price. Our Global Access Objectives aspire to ensure that the poorest of the poor have access to any knowledge or products that we fund. We don’t provide a blueprint for exactly how this should be done, we leave that to our partners. Please see Rules and Guidelines for a full description of the Global Access Objectives.

Q. What are the reporting requirements for these grants?

A. A Final Financial and Scientific Progress Report will be prepared by the grantee. This report is due no later than eighteen (18) months from the date of grant award offer. Detailed instructions for the reporting format, including the format for the optional Phase II proposal will be provided post award. Please see Rules & Guidelines for a full description of the reporting requirements.

Q. Should we budget for final report production and/or travel to brief our results?

A. All anticipated expenses will be included in the grant award.

Q. What are the restrictions for what the $100,000 can be used to purchase?

A. The full terms and conditions of the grant award are detailed in the Rules & Guidelines.

Q. Is the Explorations initiative open to applicants from outside the United States?

A. There is no geographical restriction for applicants. We encourage scientists worldwide to submit their ideas.

Q. I am not presently employed by any organization. May I still apply?

A. In order to apply, you must be affiliated with an organization.
Help/Contact

Q. Who can I contact if I have a question about a particular topic?
A. Please submit your topic-related questions to GCEhelp@gatesfoundation.org. Questions will be routed to appropriate foundation staff and answers will be posted regularly. Due to the volume of requests we cannot respond to individual questions.

Technical Support

Q. Where do I go for website related issues?
A. Please contact the webmaster for questions and issues with using this site.

Q. I can't log in. Where do I get my temporary password?
A. When you first create an account, a temporary password is sent to the email address you have provided. If the email does not appear in your inbox please check your "Junk Mail" folder or with your system administrator. Sometimes emails are blocked by an enterprise level spam filter. When you first log in using your temporary password, you will be prompted to change your password.

Q. What if I forget my password?
A. If you forget your password, click on the "I forgot my password" link on the Grand Challenges login-in page, and you will be asked the security question you supplied when you first created your account. When you answer the question correctly, a temporary password will be emailed to you. Sign in with this password and then create a new one.

Q. What if I forgot the answer to the security question, can I request the password for my account to be reset?
A. If you forgot the answer to the security question, you can send an email to GCEhelp@gatesfoundation.org requesting the reset of the password of your external account. Provide the user email address to which the temporary password will be sent.

Q. What if I forgot the answer to the security question, can I request the answer for the security question to be changed?
A. If you forgot the answer to the security question, you can send an email to GCEhelp@gatesfoundation.org requesting the change of your security question. Sign in to the Grand Challenges site, click Profile change your security question and answer.

Q. The application tool is not loading for me. What can I do to fix this?
A. If other websites load normally, it is likely that a large number of users are currently accessing the system. Wait at least one hour and try the site again. If the issue persists, please email the specifics of your problem to GCEhelp@gatesfoundation.org.

Q. Will my data be lost if I navigate away from this site?
A. In order to make sure your data is saved, click the Save or Submit button prior to navigating away from the site. Please note that you will be automatically logged out after one hour of inactivity.

Q. Where can I report broken links?
A. Please notify GCEhelp@gatesfoundation.org so we can repair them.

Q. How do I edit a previously submitted proposal?
A. 1. Login to the GCE Application tool at https://gce.gatesfoundation.org/_layouts/GCE/Pages/login.aspx.
   2. Click on “Proposal” on the left hand navigation.
   3. Fill in all required fields.
   4. Upload your updated file and click “Submit.”
   5. Your proposal will be resubmitted and you will see a page thanking you for your submission.
   You will also receive a confirmation email.
   6. You have successfully updated your proposal.

Q. 1. I’m having trouble uploading my application file. What should I do?

A. Your document must be saved with one of the following extensions: *.pdf, *.doc, or *.docx.
Otherwise, try recreating your document using Microsoft Word, Adobe Acrobat, or Word Pad and uploading again.

Q. 1. I’m asked to log in when opening the Application Form.

A. This is an issue with some versions of Microsoft Office. Click Cancel and the application form will open for you.

Selection Criteria

Q. 1. Why wasn’t my proposal selected?

A. Given the size and nature of the program, we are not able to provide individualized feedback to each applicant. Generally, applications are not funded due to one of the following reasons:
1. It presents an idea that is explicitly excluded from consideration for funding. For more information, please see the topic descriptions.
2. It does not directly address the topics for that round.
3. It is not complete. Applications that do not contain a coherent idea, design or description of the work to be performed are not considered for funding.
4. It does not describe how the idea offers a creative approach to the problem and how it varies from current or conventional approaches.
5. It does not clearly outline or describe the specific objective(s) to be accomplished within the time period of the initial award.
RFP Summary

RFP Number: SOL1093111

Open Date: June 4, 2013

Proposals Due: October 31, 2013

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is seeking help to redesign the look and feel of child health records.

A redesigned health record will not only increase accuracy but also make medical records easier to interpret and use.
Context

Child health records serve at least five functions in a health system:

1. A unique identifier that is intimately connected to the child
2. A source of critical information for health workers about the child’s health and vaccination status, and what the child needs at each point of contact with the health system
3. A source of critical information for families, such as date of next visit for vaccination
4. A source of critical information for household surveys, which many countries and policymakers rely on to validate coverage levels obtained from administrative data systems
5. An educational tool for families to learn more about health interventions

However, child health records may fail to serve these functions for a variety of reasons. Many families never receive health records for their children, or, if they do receive them, they can be easily lost. In many cases, records are not accurately filled out because they are designed in a confusing way.

Accurate and accessible records are needed to maintain accurate health histories for children, identify those who need to be immunized, and those who have missed immunizations or are off schedule. When the record is unclear, inaccessible or unused, it’s harder to reach children with life-saving vaccines.

The foundation will recognize the top entries - selected by a panel including Melinda Gates (co-chair, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation), Robert Fabricant (Vice President, Frog Design), Dr. Margaret Chan (Director General, World Health Organization), Tony Lake (Executive Director, UNICEF), and Dr. Walt Orenstein (Professor of Medicine, Emory University) — with awards of up to $50,000. Top designs may be piloted in as many as ten countries by 2018. We are looking for innovative ideas that will:

- improve the child health record;
- strengthen information systems; and
- empower health workers and families to protect children from vaccine-preventable diseases and ultimately save lives.

The Contest

Please read the detailed rules and guidelines for additional information.

The Records for Life contest will run through October 31, 2013. Winners will be announced in early 2014.
The contest is open to all individuals from all sectors (for-profits, Non-Governmental Organizations, governments, universities, etc.) and all levels of expertise (students, professors, frontline workers, CEOs, etc.). Submissions can come from individuals or teams of individuals.

Submissions must include a cover letter, a prototype of the redesigned child health record and an accompanying narrative that articulates how the prototype design would help ensure that the child health record fulfills the five functions as described above.

The submissions will be evaluated by a judging panel of design and immunization experts, as well as parents and health workers in a series of focus groups. The evaluation will be based on the following characteristics:

- Clarity of the design
- Adaptability of the card
- Perceived value to caregivers
- Perceived value to health workers
- Durability of the card

There will also be recognition in three additional categories that seek to address some specific design challenges with current child health records:

- Ease of adding new information to the card
- Digital transition: Visualizing data
- Digital transition: Retroactive data entry

Read the detailed contest rules and guidelines here.

Submit your idea here.

More Information

For additional information about this contest, please contact:
recordsforlife@gatesfoundation.org.

Frequently Asked Questions
**Question:** Can two entries can be submitted from the same organization?

**Answer:** Yes, we will accept multiple entries from the same organization if they are submitted by different lead people (i.e. designer, investigator, etc.).

**Question:** Is this contest solving for a specific geography or targeting a specific culture?

**Answer:** Because the problems in the design of the child health record are global in scope, this contest is not restricted to focus on a particular country or set of countries. You have the option of noting a specific country you would like to focus on and articulating that in the narrative, and you can submit a record in any language as long as you submit the record in English as well (as noted in the minimum requirements). We are most interested in ideas and innovations that can be applied broadly - though understand that in many cases local adaptations are necessary.

We can direct you to this immunization card repository that has cards from multiple countries. We recommend looking through this to get ideas about what current cards look like and then you can either chose to re-design one of these cards, please note which you chose, or you can begin from scratch and design a card with a completely new and innovative approach. Please follow-up if you need additional clarification on this.

**Question:** What can we assume about the existing infrastructure in places where these child health records will be used?

**Answer:** We will be most interested in broadly applicable solutions that can be used even in very remote communities with minimal access to electricity, roads and other forms of infrastructure.

**Question:** Can the design solution be digital?

**Answer:** The design solution can be a combination (digital and paper-based) or paper-based. If you are pursuing a combination solution, it will be important to consider the extent to which you can apply the solution broadly. Because the problems in the design of the child health record are global in scope, this contest is not restricted to focus on a particular country or set of countries and we want to make sure that countries with little infrastructure can implement the solution. Related to that, swapping one style of paper for another has next to no cost for the country - a combination solution may bring additional cost. While we do not want cost to be a restricting factor that impedes innovation during this contest, it's important to note that many countries currently spend ~$0.10/child to print the health records, and solutions that
cost many orders of magnitude greater than that will be hard to implement broadly (per earlier point).

**Question:** Are there any size restrictions to the record?

**Answer:** In terms of size restrictions, there are none, but to take either extreme- a record that’s way too small might struggle with the *Clarity* criteria, and a record that’s way too big might struggle in terms of *Durability* (e.g. difficult to store) and *Value to health workers* and *Value to caregivers* (e.g. unwieldy to handle, read and understand).

**Question:** Would an actual printed out copy of the design be worth sending as well as an electronic version?

**Answer:** If you feel that an electronic version does not adequately convey your submission, then you should send a printed copy. But we do not require a printed copy for submission. If you would like to submit a physical component, please send this to 1432 Elliott Avenue West, Seattle, WA 98119 and mark it as Attention: Records for Life contest.

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**ABOUT THE FOUNDATION**

Guided by the belief that every life has equal value, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation aspires to help all people lead healthy, productive lives. We are dedicated to discovering and disseminating innovative approaches to addressing extreme poverty and poor health in developing countries and improving the U.S. education system. Because our financial resources, while significant, represent a small fraction of what’s needed to address these challenges, we work in partnership with governments, the private sector, and other donors and organizations to achieve the greatest possible impact. [www.gatesfoundation.org](http://www.gatesfoundation.org)