



RFP/CFG No: CFG-23-001

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Introduction

Introduction

'Merck ("Company") is dedicated to the identification of new opportunities to meet the learning needs of Healthcare Professionals, to endorse the highest standards in medical education, and to promote lifelong learning.'

The aim of this Call for Grants (CFG) is to identify organizations capable of providing excellent, scientific and ethical medical education programs targeting healthcare professionals (HCPs). Educational activities should address evidence-based gaps in knowledge, competence and/or performance, incorporating opportunities for participants to address how they will apply what they have learnt to actual in clinical or scientific practice. The Company will favor medical education program proposal that receive co-funding from multiple third-party industry supporters. Applicant organizations must provide high-level information for lack of additional support. Selected medical education programs must be independent and non-promotional. Applicant organizations should have a firm understanding of medical education accreditation criteria, a track record in delivering high quality medical education activities, as well as an excellent reputation and proven reliability. It is a requirement that medical education providers evaluate the educational outcomes with a learning effectiveness measurement system. The Company will not influence the contents of projects resulting from this CFG but requires a final report about the results and impact of the projects on clinical practice, as well as a financial reconciliation about how the funds were effectively used.

General Information

The Company is continuously committed to help patients & consumers live a better life. For this reason, we are interested to receive and assess applications for Medical Education activities that enable us to make progress towards achieving such goals beyond the specific "Requests for Proposals" included in each Therapeutic Area page. If your organization is seeking potential funding for activities in Independent and Continuous Medical Education (IME and CME), Continuous Professional Development (CPD), R&D Fellowships, or the development of publication of Treatment Guidelines, please use 'Call for Grants' to submit your proposal. While we cannot assure that all applications received will be funded, we will follow up on those that enable us to take steps towards becoming a global, specialty innovator. Please note that we will only consider proposals that fall within the Company's areas of interest as detailed on the Medical Education Grant (MEG) System's website.



II. Requirements

Submission Instructions

Proposals for Independent Medical Education (IME), Continuing Medical Education (CME), R&D Fellowships, or the development of publication of Treatment Guidelines with a global or regional focus, written in English language can be submitted via the Company's Global Medical Education Grant (MEG) System. While the system is open worldwide for legal reasons it is required that proposals for medical education programs originating in, or taking place in the United States of America (USA) are submitted via the dedicated EMD Serono Medical Education Grant System.

The Company's global medical education grant application process consists out of two steps. First, medical education provider organizations are required to enter detailed information about the proposed medical education program into the Company's Medical Education Grant System. After reviewing all received proposals, the Company will either tentatively accept a proposed medical education program, pending the signature of a Medical Education Funding Agreement, or reject the program. Only once a Medical Education Funding Agreement has been signed by both, the provider organization and the Company, does the Company commit to provide medical education funding.

Organizations will be informed of the grant proposal status via their Company Medical Education Grant System account and via e-mail.

Learner Audience

Medical education programs proposed in response to this CFG should address the learning needs of HCPs.

Geographic Scope

Medical education programs submitted via the Company's Medical Education Grant System should generally have a global or regional scope. When responding to this specific CFG, a particular focus should be put on HCPs in the following geographical regions: Global, taking into account region-specific professional practice gaps and unmet medical needs.

Educational Approach

Medical education programs submitted in response to this CFG should meet the educational needs of the stated target audience and address evidence-based professional practice gaps in HCPs' knowledge, skills and/or performance. Provider organizations should clearly state which precise learning formats shall be applied to address each specific professional practice gap identified. If healthcare teams are targeted, providers should clarify how they will approach this setting and have a clearly outlined educational needs and subsequent outcomes strategies to evaluate the effectiveness of the interprofessional education. Whenever possible, provider organizations are encouraged to integrate their programs into a curriculum-based strategy for life-long learning.



Outcome Measurement

The Company will only support medical education provider organizations capable of performing outcome measurements to assess the learning effectiveness of their programs. A minimum of level 4, preferably level 5, on the Moore's scale is expected [1]. In the proposal, provider organizations should clearly specify how and to which level they plan to measure learning effectiveness for each identified professional practice gap. If a multidisciplinary audience is targeted, provider organizations should specify how they will measure learning effectiveness across the multidisciplinary team. Provider organization will be requested to submit learning effectiveness outcomes in the Medical Education Grant System provided forms.

Eligibility

In response to this CFG, public and private independent medical education providers, universities, hospitals, publicly funded non-profit research centers, professional associations and medical societies based outside the United States of America are encouraged to apply for global medical education funding via the Company's Medical Education Grant System. The Company will only provide funding to organizations and not to individuals. Provider organizations should have knowledge of and experience in the various, country-specific accreditation processes. Requests for financial support of medical education programs must be submitted in English language and via the Company's Medical Education Grant System. If you are unsure if your organization is eligible for medical education funding, please contact the Company using the e-mail address provided below.

Budget

There is no predefined budget allocated to this CFG. During the proposal application process, provider organizations will have the opportunity to provide budget breakdown and can also attach files with additional information. A more detailed budget breakdown, particularly in the case of any kind of transfers of value, directly or indirectly, to HCPs is required (e.g., direct or indirect benefits for scientific organizers/chairs/speakers). This, despite Company's utmost consideration and respect for the decision-making and organizational independence of the provider, it does not exempt the Company from implications directly and indirectly encounter through the initiatives the Company support and on whose effectiveness it trusts. The Company will favor support medical education programs that are co-funded by other funding bodies over otherwise equally scored mono-funded program proposals. If co-funding is anticipated, please provide information during the submission of your grant proposal. If blended programs are proposed, the Company may decide to support one or more components of the program, due to budget limitations.

Key Dates

There is no deadline for the submission of proposals in response to this CFG. The Company will aim to review all proposals regularly. Please note, that our review times will depend on the number of proposals received.



The Merck Global Medical Unit
Medical Education
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Questions

Please address any questions associated to this CFG as well as the grant submission and approval process to the Company, using the following e-mail address grants@merckgroup.com

We look forward to receiving your organization's medical education proposals!



III. Terms and Conditions

Terms and Conditions

This Call for Grants (CFG) does not commit the Company to award any funding, or to pay any costs incurred in the preparation of a response to this request. Only the execution and formal signing of an official Medical Education Funding Agreement by both the provider organization and the Company will obligate both parties in accordance with the terms and conditions contained in the Medical Education Funding Agreement. The Company reserves itself the right to accept or reject any or all proposals received in response to this CFG. The Company may amend or terminate this CFG at any time and for any reason and has the right to not support any of the submitted proposals. Only when both steps of the grant submission process (proposal and the formal signing of a Medical Education Funding Agreement by both the provider organization and the Company) have been approved, does the Company commit to provide medical education funding.

Proposals for Independent Medical Education (IME), Continuing Medical Education (CME), R&D Fellowships, or the development of publication of Treatment Guidelines with a global or regional focus, written in English language can be submitted via the Company's Medical Education Grant System. While the system is open worldwide, for legal reasons it is required that proposals for medical education programs originating in, or taking place in the United States of America (USA) are submitted via the dedicated EMD Serono Medical Education Grant System. Proposals submitted in response to this CFG will only be considered, if they are limited to legitimate, balanced and scientific activities addressing identified gaps in disease management. Activities must be non-promotional, not related to a specific product and designed in an ethical and transparent manner, in compliance with all applicable laws, guidelines and codes, including those of the Company. In case of a conflict between different applicable rules, the more restrictive shall be applied.

Medical education funding shall never be granted to reward, or in exchange for, recommending, prescribing, dispensing, purchasing, supplying, selling, administering, referring, arranging for, or ordering pharmaceutical products, or to induce recommending, prescribing, dispensing, purchasing, supplying, selling, administering, referring, arranging for, or ordering of pharmaceutical products in the future. Medical education funding shall only be provided to organizations and not to individuals. Medical education funding shall be awarded in a manner that strictly separates decisions about providing financial support from commercial functions at the Company. Commercial personnel or agents shall not be involved in the review of, discussion of, or decision to award medical education funding.

Any funds provided must only be used for the specific activities described in the signed Medical Education Funding Agreement, and funds that remain unused after completion of a funded activity shall be returned to the Company. The Company may be recognized as a grantor, as appropriate, of the educational activity as long as the recognition is incidental to the primary purpose of the financial support, or is required to fulfill transparency requirements under the provider's guidelines or under Applicable Laws and Codes. However, the Funding Recipient and the Company shall not separately promote, publicize, or otherwise take advantage of any opportunity for the Company to be identified as the sponsor of a meal (or other activities not related to education) at any educational event, or to be recognized at a particular level of support.

The Company shall not exercise any control over or influence the educational program's organization, operation, content, materials, faculty, speakers, presenters, moderators, audience, or venue. The Funding Recipient is



responsible for and shall maintain control over the identification of educational needs; determination of educational objectives; selection of content, faculty or other persons and organizations that will be in a position to control the content of the activity, educational methods, materials, target audience, and venue; evaluations; and presentation of content.

If required to fulfill transparency requirements under the provider's guidelines or under Applicable Laws and Codes, Funding Recipients shall be required to disclose that financial support was received from the Company in invitations, brochures, advertisements, and other written communications related to the educational activity. In addition, if required to fulfill transparency requirements under the provider's guidelines or under Applicable Laws and Codes, Funding Recipients shall be required to disclose the following information to attendees at the start of the educational activity: (1) the Company's financial support for the activity; (2) any financial relationships between the Funding Recipients, faculty, presenters, moderators, or any other person who is in a position to control the content of the educational activity and the Company; and (3) whether any unapproved uses of the Company pharmaceutical products will be discussed. To ensure adequate independence of the Funding Recipient, the Company shall not provide Medical Education Funding for an activity if the grant requestor or an educational partner (including a parent or sister company) is conducting or could potentially conduct any Company promotional activities, unless an adequate system to prevent improper influence is in place (firewalls). On request the grant requestor is obliged to provide a description of the elements of implemented firewalls (including but not limited to separation of (1) Employees and Functions, (2) additional Contractors, (3) Legal Entity/Subsidiaries/Affiliates, (4) Policies, (5) Workflows (incl. trainings and audits), and (6) IT systems and tools.). Medical education activities must be primarily dedicated, in both time and effort, to disseminating objective scientific and educational activity and discussion. The primary purpose of bringing attendees together shall be to further increase attendees' knowledge on the topics being presented. The content and format of a medical education activity and related materials shall focus on improvements of quality in healthcare, not on a specific proprietary business interest of the Company. Any time devoted to meals shall be clearly subordinate to the time for education. All meals in connection with medical education activities must be modest. Following completion of educational activities, the Company requests the submission of a complete financial reconciliation.



IV. References

References

- [1] Moore DE, Green JS, Gallis HA. Achieving desired results and improved outcomes: integrating planning and assessment throughout learning activities. J Continuing Educ Health Prof. 2009: 29(1):1-14