

APPLICATION DEADLINE

2nd May 2018 (11:30am US PST)

BACKGROUND

Immunization represents one of public health's most valuable and cost-effective interventions, and delivers positive health, social, and economic benefits. Globally, an estimated 2-3 million child deaths and 600,000 adult deaths are prevented by vaccination on an annual basis. Vaccination has been shown to contribute to improved childhood physical development, higher educational outcomes, reduced poverty and household spending, and enhances equity (Deogaonkar et al. 2015; Verguet et al 2013). Furthermore, the return on investment (ROI) of money invested in immunization programs is significant: recent research has demonstrated that every USD \$1 invested in immunization results in at least USD \$16 in net health and economic benefits; when accounting for the economic benefits of living longer, healthier lives, this figure increases to \$44 of net benefit (Ozawa, et al, 2016).

Despite these successes, considerable gaps remain in our ability to fully harness the potential value of immunization data in informing program management. As health care systems—and immunization systems in particular—evolve, we see an increasing opportunity to take lessons learned from other sectors to improve the efficiency of data-driven vaccination systems. High-quality and timely immunization data are vital to inform decisions at local, national, and global levels. This includes decisions about how to better reach children, successfully introduce new vaccines, document impact, monitor and improve immunization system program performance, prioritize resources and activities, and engage in performance improvement. Recently, the WHO Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) on immunization highlighted the importance of the availability and use of high quality data for performance improvement and monitoring; data helps managers and health workers to take timely actions to optimize the performance and impact of programs. We believe that greater use of immunization data will result in positive gains in immunization coverage, equity, and program efficiency and effectiveness.

An important complement to improving the collection, culture, and use of better quality data is to utilize that data to improve process efficiency to improve the service delivery experience (for both healthcare workers and caregivers) and, ultimately, increase demand.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Within this call to promote the effective use of timely and relevant data to drive programmatic performance, and thus increase the number of children vaccinated globally, **we are looking for innovative ideas in the following specific areas:**

- Innovative ideas for improving the measurement approaches for immunization data (e.g., process, equity, coverage indicators) with a focus on data use by program managers, triangulation across data sources, and methods to measure and quantify data use.
- Novel approaches for improving process efficiency that will lead to improved quality of service delivery.

What we will consider funding:

- Innovative ideas for improving measurement of coverage and equity data for use by program staff and managers.
- Innovations in process efficiency toward improved service delivery. These may stem from lean healthcare, or other approaches, but should have the end goal of improving the experience of healthcare workers, caregivers, or both.

Note: The effectiveness of the proposed approach on process efficiency/quality of care should be evaluated in Phase I, and a clear plan for the impact of the approach on client outcomes should be evaluated in Phase 2 if subsequent funding is awarded.

Additionally, we will consider proposals in low-income countries that:

- Consider user needs, do not increase burden upon frontline health workers
- Minimize perverse incentives (including incentives for falsification)
- Minimize human and system errors in data collection/analysis/use
- Are relevant in multiple developing country settings

- Data types of interest: all immunization system indicators, e.g., supervision, planning, finance, supply chain, management, demand, coverage, dropout
 - Include innovations that involve building on, disrupting, or adapting existing systems. Successful proposals will describe how their approach would work within existing health systems or what change would need to occur within health systems for their approach to be effective; and,
 - Constitute transformative rather than incremental improvements and are deliverable and scalable in low-income countries.
- No additional preference will be given to proposals that address both data and quality of care.**

IMPORTANT DOCUMENTATION & WEB PAGES:

For more information, please visit the main page of this call, or consult the following web pages or documents:

- [Application instructions](#) (web page)
- [Application form](#) (MS Word document)
- [How grants are selected](#) (web page)
- [FAQs](#) (web page)
- [Tips for applicants](#) (document)
- [Rules and guidelines](#) (document)

HOW TO APPLY

[Application forms](#) (MS Word document) are available, which are then to be **submitted** on the [online submission system](#). Please read through the call's [Rules and Guidelines document](#) and the [application instructions](#) for further information regarding the application details.

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