



MSD UK 2023 GRANTS PROGRAMME

External Briefing Document

MSD UK is proud to launch Phase 1 of our 2023 Grants Programme for healthcare organisations to address health inequalities and support the elimination of public health threats in the HIV, cancer and vaccines therapy areas. This programme will provide funding for projects designed to inform and empower patients, address health inequalities, and deliver improvements in patient outcomes and experience in the UK.

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2023 MSD HIV GRANTS PROGRAMME

Background

Today, we recognise that successful outcomes for people living with HIV are broader than viral suppression alone. Thanks to decades of clinical research, innovation and cross-sector collaboration, HIV has largely become a chronic condition in the UK. The UK has led the way in achieving the UNAIDS targets of 95% of people living with HIV knowing their HIV status, 95% of those receiving treatment, and 95% of those having an undetectable viral load.

The progress which has been made through improvements in testing and treatment has been remarkable, and new diagnoses of HIV continue to decrease in the UK as we collectively drive towards the Government target of zero new HIV transmissions by 2030. However, as the story for those impacted by HIV continues to evolve, new or additional challenges for holistic care are brought into focus for people living with HIV, as well as new challenges in the prevention of HIV.

Goals of the 2023 HIV Grants Programme

Our aspiration is to support activities which enable people living with HIV to live well, across the entirety of their lifespan, and minimise the risk of onward transmission.

We aim to fund projects designed to:

1. *Drive improvements in the quality of life of people living with HIV, or;*
2. *Support the empowerment of people living with HIV, or;*
3. *Either directly or indirectly, further one or more of the objectives of a national HIV action plan*

Programme Scope for 2023

MSD have established a dialogue with HIV community groups and professional organisations on the theme of 'Whole Person Care'. This partnership work has established areas of priority which MSD has sought to reflect within this Grants programme.

For projects to be considered they must align with one or more Goals of the programme, plus one or more of the below themes:

- **Stigma & Self Stigma**
Working towards parity of esteem for people living with HIV from all those they interact with – free from discrimination based on HIV status
- **Person-Centred Care**
Seeking ongoing improvement in the way services are connected and coordinated over time in a way that suits the needs of the individual
- **Self-Management**
Empowering people to gain knowledge of their care, treatment and health status, to the extent each person wishes for it, encouraging engagement with their care and health choices in a way that suits them best
- **Equity of Care**
Ensuring quality of services and outcomes are not subject to inequity based on factors such as geographic location, community background or ethnicity, age, gender, sexuality, etc.

In addition, to support projects which are aligned to areas of greatest need, we will be taking into consideration whether projects have a focus on those communities disproportionately affected by HIV or facing the greatest unmet needs.

These communities can be characterised as:

- Women
- Those who are older (aged 50+)
- Children
- Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic
- LGBTQ+

We are looking for innovative projects from organisations that seek to address either of the Goals of the programme.

Our UK Grants programme is focused on putting people living with HIV and service users at its centre. This includes, but is not limited to, health literacy, advocacy, peer support, healthcare service design, pathway mapping or education-related activities.

With regards to HIV prevention, these must be projects that are focused on prevention in the broader sense, such as public awareness or those that promote equitable access to prevention. Projects must not be centered on or focused solely on the provision or uptake of medication.

2023 MSD CANCER GRANTS PROGRAMME

Background

MSD's commitment to oncology goes beyond its medicines. We believe that we can help improve the experience of patients by engaging effectively with national and local systems and sharing solutions which can overcome issues which impact patients, such as health inequalities. In recent years, both the NHS, the Government, and the local health system cancer plans have acknowledged the need and taken steps forward to improve cancer outcomes and tackling health inequalities¹²³⁴. However, support from the wider healthcare community is essential if we are to address these challenges.

MSD therefore believes that its ability to support non-product, non-promotional activities represent an important contribution to the cancer community in the UK and to patient outcomes and experience. Part of that contribution is the funding of appropriate third-party organisation activities, based on grant requests – activities in which MSD exercises no direct control but in which it has provided funding.

Goals of the 2023 Cancer Grants Programme:

Our aspiration is to support activities which enable patients living with and beyond cancer to receive the best possible care, both in relation to their outcomes and their experience.

Our goal is to fund projects designed to support:

1. Effective engagement with patients, the public, the NHS, healthcare professionals and/or policymakers to deliver improvements across the cancer patient pathway, and;
2. Either directly or indirectly, further the aims of the NHS Long Term Plan or local health system cancer plan, where this relates to improving care for cancer patients, and/or;
3. Either directly or indirectly, support the aims of a country or local level cancer services recovery plan.

Programme Scope for 2023

The cancer grants programme is available for projects designed to address health inequalities and variation where it relates to cancer care and outcomes.

For projects to be considered they must align with one or more goals of the programme, plus one or more of the below themes:

1. Cancer inequalities across populations and communities
 - *E.g. Generally, populations with higher deprivation have higher prevalence of cancer risk factors, are less aware of symptoms of cancer and report more barriers to seeking help*
2. Cancer screening/earlier diagnosis inequalities
 - *E.g. Lower uptake toward national cancer screening programmes within certain population groups, or reduced awareness of symptoms amongst deprived groups*
3. Cancer outcome inequalities

¹ NHS England. The NHS Long Term Plan. 2019. Available from: <https://www.longtermplan.nhs.uk/publication/nhs-long-term-plan/>

² Department for Levelling up, Housing and Communities. Levelling Up the United Kingdom. 2022. Available from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/levelling-up-the-united-kingdom> Fpa

³ Cancer Strategy for Northern Ireland, Department of Health, Northern Ireland. 2022. Available from: <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/publications/cancer-strategy-northern-ireland-2022-2032#:~:text=The%20new%20Cancer%20Strategy%20for,for%20the%20next%2010%20years.>

⁴ National Cancer Plan, Scottish Government. 2022. Available from: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scotlands-national-cancer-plan-report-progress-actions-31-august-2022/pages/4/>

- *E.g. Having been diagnosed, variation in treatment decisions and outcomes between people with similar patient and disease characteristics from more and less deprived groups*

2023 MSD VACCINES GRANTS PROGRAMME

Background

MSD is the one of the largest suppliers of vaccines to the UK national immunisation programme, helping to protect the public from infancy to adulthood. However, MSD's commitment to prevention goes

beyond supplying its vaccines – recognising that in order to successfully reduce the burden and eliminate vaccine preventable diseases, an effective strategy is needed. Through a number of activities, MSD is committed to supporting the local and national health system to strengthen the UK’s response across vaccine-preventable diseases, by reducing inequalities in access to immunisation programmes.

The wider health system and environment has a significant influence on the UK’s ability to reduce vaccine preventable disease, which includes but is not limited to; the public and healthcare professional’s understanding of vaccines and the diseases they are used to protect, improving access and equity to immunisation services and the impact of local and national policies on determining service set up and delivery.

MSD believes that its support for non-product, non-promotional activities represent an important contribution to reducing the burden of vaccine preventable diseases and to improving public experience and care. Part of that contribution is the funding of third-party organisation activities in an unrestricted way, based on grant requests – activities in which MSD exercised no direct control but in which it has provided funding.

Goals of the 2023 Vaccines Grants Programme

That vaccine preventable diseases are reduced and as a result, population-wide health is improved in the UK – through supporting increased understanding and education of vaccines and vaccine preventable disease awareness, ensuring equity and access and through the improvement of services to achieve this ambition.

Programme Scope for 2023

Our UK grants programme is centred around the healthcare needs of the public and patients which includes, but is not limited; to disease awareness, advocacy, patient education and peer support. In a broad sense it will be limited to healthcare, research or education-related activities. MSD has been working with the vaccine community for a number of years and has identified the following areas of priority for the community. These provide areas of focus that can act as grant-making criteria in respect of the goals and content of a grant proposal:

- *Public education and information on vaccine preventable diseases*
Working with the public to ensure accurate and reliable information and protecting against vaccine preventable deaths with a focus on HPV, MMR, Pneumococcal disease awareness and prevention.
- *Recovery of national immunisation programmes post-pandemic*
Supporting the recovery of the national immunisation programme through ongoing improvements to the way services are delivered (i.e. national immunisation programme awareness, public information, infrastructure and data optimisation).
- *Equity of access and care*
Ensuring quality of service delivery and outcomes are not subject to inequity on the basis of subjective factors such as geographic location, community background or ethnicity, age, gender, sexuality, etc.
- *Advocacy for national ambitions relevant to reducing vaccine preventable diseases*

Advocacy activities calling for key national/Government ambitions to be set, such as HPV elimination and measles free status.

Funding Availability

- Individual grant proposals for healthcare organisations must be for a minimum of £20,000 and can be for a maximum of £50,000. Subject to meeting the criteria, we hope to be able to make between 5-8 grants available within this programme.

How to Apply

If you have any questions about the programme please send an email to: GrantsCommittee@msd.com. To apply for the programme please find details of the eligibility criteria and a template application form [HERE](#)

