



May 28, 2021

To Whom It May Concern,

Subject: Call for Proposals—Canada to Zero

Despite the continued advancement in and the availability of effective HIV biomedical interventions, Canada still sees a significant number of new HIV cases in Canada. The Public Health Agency of Canada reported that there were 2,122 new HIV infection cases in 2019¹. Although the number of new cases decreased slightly compared to 2018, there has been a 4% increase in new HIV diagnoses over the past five years². There are multiple types and levels of HIV prevention efforts, including biomedical- and community-based, that are available. However, the benefits of HIV prevention efforts are not fully realized here in Canada due to multiple barriers and health disparities.

To advance Canada's efforts to reach the UNAIDS 95-95-95 goals by 2030, Gilead Sciences Canada, Inc. is launching the **Canada to Zero** program. This program will support well-defined community-based research (CBR) projects that aim to advance HIV prevention efforts in Canada, utilizing the concept of undetectable=untransmittable (U=U). Gilead welcomes innovative project proposals on U=U that aim to:

- **reduce the new HIV infections in priority populations;**
- **improve the cascade of care in Canada**

Up to \$30,000 CAD will be awarded per project, with an estimated goal of 10 projects to be funded under the **Canada to Zero** program.

Eligibility:

- Applicant's organization must be classified as a not-for-profit, including but not limited to providing health or social services, education or advocacy for populations affected by HIV.
- Proposals should intend to positively impact specific HIV communities within Canada.
- The proposed budget is ≤ \$30,000 CAD.
- The proposed project design will not take longer than 12 months to complete.

Gilead Sciences Canada, Inc. will consider support for project proposals that address any of the following, but is not limited to:

- Exploration of innovative partnership models to deliver U=U education for HIV prevention
- Development and implementation of innovative peer-based models and strategies—including the use of peer navigators—to improve the cascade of care, using the concept of U=U
- Characterizing facilitators and barriers to implementing U=U-based HIV prevention strategies and interventions
- Adapting U=U-based information strategies to develop a unique, localized HIV prevention intervention model

- Development and evaluation of digital engagement strategies to increase the U=U messaging uptake for HIV prevention
- Characterizing the experience of consuming U=U-based information for HIV prevention in rural/remote areas

Proposals should adhere to the following format:

- Cover page (one page)
 - A cover page should include the title of the proposed project and information regarding the applicant including a brief description of the organization, contact person, and contact information.
- Project Proposal (up to three pages, single-spaced)
 - The rationale, research question, and objectives should align with the overall purpose of the **Canada to Zero** program. The rationale must provide persuasive background and demonstrates the needs for the proposed project. A research question needs to be narrow and focused, and objectives must be concise, brief, interrelated, realistic, and reasonable. A comprehensive plan must include clear details on what types of data will be collected and how, as well as the description of how they will be analyzed and by whom. Project proposals must highlight expected outcomes and benefits to the relevant community and a clear knowledge translation and dissemination plan following the completion of the study. Results of projects can inform policy, change practice, and improve conditions in the community.
- Community-Based Research Principles Summary (one page, single-spaced)
 - The community relevant to the proposed project should be described. A summary clearly explaining the demonstration of CBR principles in all stages of the project process—from identifying a research question to knowledge translation and exchange activities—must be included. Information regarding the applicant’s current organizational capacity or plan to increase the capacity to implement the proposed project should be clearly outlined. Where appropriate, include a list of potential collaborators and partners that will involve in or support the implementation of the proposed project as an appendix. A description of how the proposed project may increase the capacity of the community and partners involved throughout the process should be included.
- Project Timeline (one page)
 - Proposals must have a timeline for completion of up to, but no more than 12 months. Projects of shorter duration accompanied with a smaller budget will also be considered. This document may be formatted accordingly to fit all the contents on a single page.
- Budget (one page)
 - Proposal requests should be proportional to the scope, complexity, and impact of the study, while reflecting reasonable, good faith estimates of the true operational costs related to the project. This document may be formatted accordingly to fit all the contents on a single page.

Where appropriate, please prepare documents using 1” margin, a commonly used font style, and the font size 12 to maximize readability.

Key Dates:

- Gilead Sciences Canada, Inc. will evaluate project proposals based on the following timelines:
 - **June 1, 2021:** submission window opens

- **July 31, 2021:** submission window closes
- All submissions will be reviewed, prior to judging, for completeness and to ensure the quality of applications. If further clarity is sought on an application, the applicant will be notified and, if needed, a re-submission before the closing date.
- After the closing date, a review committee—consisting of Gilead staff, a healthcare provider, and HIV community representatives—will evaluate and rank all proposals. Applicants will be notified of final outcomes by the end of **September 2021**.

Program Specifics:

- Projects must be led by a community-based organization, not by healthcare providers or academic researchers.
- Recipients will receive funding for a maximum period of 12 months.
- Funding will not be provided for marketing or advertising of an organization's services, or for routine operational activities.
- Proposals must be complete and include all requested information before they can be considered. Incomplete applications may be delayed and/or returned for additional information.
- Project proposals limited to chart review or EMR database searches will not be considered.
- Gilead Sciences Canada, Inc. reserves the right to approve or disapprove any application with or without any reasons. Gilead Sciences Canada, Inc. may amend or withdraw the Call for Proposals at any time. Award of a previous funding does not improve the chances of qualifying or receiving a subsequent funding without further application and approval.
- Application to Gilead Sciences Canada's **Canada to Zero** program is not a promise of funding. Gilead Sciences Canada, Inc. will not pay any costs incurred in the preparation of the funding application.
- Funding requests for activities that have already started or are in progress, and/or activities that are already funded by Gilead Sciences Canada, Inc. or any other funders, will not be accepted.
- All communications about the **Canada to Zero** program must come exclusively from Gilead Sciences Canada, Inc.
- Consistent with its commitment to openness and transparency, Gilead Sciences Canada, Inc. reports funding provided to medical, scientific, and patient organizations in Canada. Gilead Sciences Canada, Inc. reserves the right to announce the details of a successful funding application(s) by whatever means ensure transparency, such as on the Gilead website, in presentations, and/or in other public media.
- To ensure compliance with applicable local laws, Gilead Sciences Canada, Inc. may publicly disclose the support it provides. Gilead Sciences Canada, Inc. may disclose in any lawful manner the terms of the agreement, the support or funding provided, and any other related information, to the extent necessary for Gilead Sciences Canada, Inc. to meet its obligations under those laws, regulations and industry codes.
- Gilead will require any unused research funds to be returned at the end of the project and has the right to request reasonable and appropriate documentation from the successful applicants in relation to the research activities.
- Gilead Sciences Canada, Inc. reserves the right to share with organizations that may be interested in contacting the requesting organization for further information (e.g., possible collaborations) the title of the proposed project and the name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address of the applicant from the requesting organization.
- Gilead cannot support proposals requesting medication or the purchasing of medication.
- Funding cannot be utilized to support existing financial deficits within an organization.
- Funding cannot be used for clinical research or clinical trials on antiretroviral therapy, or other medicines.

- Funding cannot be used for government lobbying activities.
- Gilead will not support organizations that discriminate based on race, colour, gender, religion, disability, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression.

Complete application package or questions about the **Canada to Zero** program should be submitted to Community_CA_RFP@gilead.com. Gilead Sciences Canada, Inc. reserves the right to approve or decline any application.

About Gilead Sciences

Gilead Sciences, Inc. is a research-based biopharmaceutical company that discovers, develops and commercializes innovative therapeutics in areas of unmet medical need. The company strives to transform and simplify care for people with life-threatening illnesses around the world. Gilead has operations in more than 35 countries worldwide, with headquarters in Foster City, California.

References

1. Haddad, N., Weeks, A., Robert, A., & Totten, S. (2021). HIV Surveillance Report 2019. *CCDR*, 47(1).
2. Challacombe, L. (2021). The epidemiology of HIV in Canada. Retrieved April 12, 2021, from <https://www.catie.ca/en/fact-sheets/epidemiology/epidemiology-hiv-canada>

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