

Gilead Canada Grants - HCV Micro-Elimination Guidance

In recent years, Gilead Sciences, Inc. (Gilead) has helped transform the treatment of chronic Hepatitis C (HCV) infection and has contributed to the global fight against viral hepatitis. Gilead recognizes that it will take more than science to eliminate the burden of HCV on patients, our healthcare system and the Canadian society as a whole. Gilead is committed to going beyond the medicines and working together with key stakeholders to make the elimination of HCV a reality in Canada by 2030. To this end, we are pleased to advise you that Gilead Sciences Canada, Inc. (Gilead Canada) is launching a new initiative, **Gilead Canada Grants – HCV Micro-Elimination**.

Aim of the Program

This program aims to support micro-elimination¹ projects that break down the national World Health Organization (WHO) elimination targets into smaller, focused and practical goals for specific population segments that can be delivered locally.

Selection Criteria

In 2017, a total of \$500,000 will be available and this is expected to be awarded to 10-14 applicants whose proposals best demonstrate a plan to deliver new local micro-elimination projects focused on **targeted, integrated and locally based initiatives, in high prevalence areas or settings, that increase HCV screening, diagnosis and linkage to care**.

Definitions:

Screening: To perform an HCV Antibody test to determine the presence of HCV antibodies in the blood

Diagnosis: To conduct a PCR (Polymerase Chain Reaction) test (and possibly viral load and genotype tests) to determine the presence of HCV RNA in the blood

Linkage to Care: The process of referring and engaging newly screened (AB+) or diagnosed (RN+) HCV-infected persons with their first medical appointment with an experienced HCV treater

Priority Areas include:

1. Identify individuals who have been diagnosed with HCV and appropriately link them to care
2. Establish routine HCV screening, diagnosis and linkage to care that is integrated into normal clinic workflow in high prevalence HCV *clinical settings*, such as addictions centres, primary care clinics, prisons, HIV clinics, STI clinics, harm reduction services, emergency departments, and other clinical settings
3. Establish HCV screening, diagnosis and linkage to care in *non-clinical settings* frequently visited by high risk populations

Priority will be given to applications which outline the following:

- How the proposed initiative will address one or more of the priority areas listed above;
- How the proposed initiative will address and measure one or more of the WHO Hepatitis elimination targets;
- How the results and learnings from the project will be disseminated;
- How each proposed initiative will sustain itself beyond the initial grant; and
- How each proposed initiative could be scaled up and expanded across a defined population or geography.

Eligibility

- Organizations should be classified as a not-for-profit and located in Canada. Financial grants will be awarded to community health organizations or groups of healthcare providers within a locality, including, but not limited to, hospital clinics, medical groups and patient organizations. However, grants will not be provided to individuals or hospitals or clinics where 5 or fewer healthcare professionals are employed
- The funding awarded is contingent on projects being completed by December 2018, which is 12 months from the award date
- Grantees will be invited to take part in an event in late 2018 to share, review and present their project results and learnings with other grant recipients, interested colleagues and community partners
- Upon completion of a project funded through the Gilead Canada Micro-Elimination Grants Program, grant recipients will be expected to complete a Full Final Report on the outcomes of the project funded by the micro-elimination grant. The report will be due 60 days upon the completion of the project
- All screening and diagnosis activities MUST be accompanied with a linkage to care pathway

Funding cannot be used for the following:

- To pay the cost of staff conducting routine clinic duties or normal clinic overhead expenses
- To cover activities that are part of the HCP's standard of care or activities which are covered as part of the healthcare system's reimbursement process

Application Process

Applications will be accepted until **November 20th, 2017**.

To apply:

- Please ensure that your organization meets the above eligibility criteria
- Complete the Gilead Canada Grants – HCV Micro-Elimination Application Form. Note: an electronic version of the application form can be obtained by emailing Canada.HCveliminationgrants@gilead.com. All applications will be limited to 1,000 words and must be type-written
- Questions about the application process should be submitted to Canada.HCveliminationgrants@gilead.com
- All submissions will be reviewed prior to judging for completeness and to ensure quality of applications. If for any reason, further clarity is sought on an application, an email will be sent to the applicant to seek clarification and, if needed, a re-submission before the closing date
- We anticipate a decision on grant recipients to be made by December 4th, 2017

Program Specifics

- Recipients will receive funding for a period of one year
- Application to Gilead Canada's HCV Micro-Elimination Grants program is not a promise of funding
- Gilead reserves the right to approve or disapprove any application. Award of a previous grant does not improve the chances of qualifying or receiving a subsequent grant without further application and approval

About Gilead Sciences

Gilead Sciences, Inc. (Gilead) is a biopharmaceutical company that discovers, develops and commercializes innovative therapeutics in areas of unmet medical need. The company's mission is to advance the care of patients suffering from life-threatening diseases. Gilead has operations in more than 30 countries worldwide, with headquarters in Foster City, California. Gilead Sciences Canada, Inc. is the Canadian affiliate of Gilead Sciences, Inc. and was established in Mississauga, Ontario, in 2006.

¹ Lazarus, et al. 2017. Micro-elimination – A path to global elimination of hepatitis C. Journal of Hepatology. [http://www.journal-of-hepatology.eu/article/S0168-8278\(17\)32141-4/fulltext](http://www.journal-of-hepatology.eu/article/S0168-8278(17)32141-4/fulltext)

² WHO Global Hepatitis Report 2017. http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/255016/1/9789241565455_eng.pdf?ua=1