

# CRUK HPV Vaccination Grants Programme 2025

## FAQs

### General Programme Information

#### **How many projects will you fund?**

We are aiming to fund 2 to 3 projects, each with a grant value between £100,000 and £200,000 and a duration of 18 to 30 months.

#### **What is the aim of the HPV Vaccination Grants Programme?**

To increase HPV vaccination coverage among adolescent girls in LMICs to prevent cervical cancer, in alignment with WHO's global strategy to eliminate cervical cancer as a public health problem.

#### **Who is funding this programme?**

Cancer Research UK (CRUK) is funding this programme through its International Cancer Prevention (ICP) programme, which sits within CRUK's Global Policy team.

#### **Can funding be used to support an existing programme of work?**

Yes, funding may be used to expand or continue an existing project where funding is lacking or to support new initiatives.

#### **When is the submission deadline for Expressions of Interest?**

The submission deadline for an Expression of interest is **9.00 AM BST on Monday 8th September 2025**. Late submissions will not be accepted.

### Lead applicants and coalitions

#### **Can an organisation submit more than one application?**

Organisations may submit one application as the lead applicant. They may participate in additional applications as part of a coalition led by another organisation. If successful, only one grant will be awarded per organisation, regardless of the number of applications submitted.

**If applying as a coalition, can an organisation be based in a high-income country, or do all participating organisations need to be based in an LMIC?**

For coalitions, the lead organisation must be based in an eligible low- or middle-income country (LMIC). Organisations in a high-income country may support as co-applicants if their role is clearly justified and the application demonstrates that the majority of funds will be mobilised in the target LMIC.

### **Is it mandatory for the lead organisation in a coalition to be a cancer organisation?**

It is not mandatory for the lead organisation of an applying coalition to be a cancer organisation. However, preference will be given to applications that include at least one cancer organisation in the coalition.

### **What is considered a ‘cancer organisation’?**

An entity dedicated to reducing the burden of cancer through education, research and advocacy, prevention, treatment and care, and patient and family support, as specified in their organisational mission or vision. These may include nonprofits, research institutes, community organisations, advocacy groups, and more.

## **Organisational eligibility**

### **Are multilateral organisations, such as WHO country offices and UN agencies, eligible to apply?**

Yes, if their country office is registered in an eligible LMIC. Expression of Interest applications should justify why your organisation is best placed to deliver impact in that country. Your application will be strengthened if you can demonstrate that you will be working with other advocacy organisations in that country.

### **Are for-profit companies eligible to apply?**

For-profit organisations are not eligible to apply as lead applicants. They may apply as part of a coalition if they are best placed to deliver a specific component of the project and there is a clear rationale for the for-profit organisation’s involvement. Please note that CRUK cannot grant fund for-profit entities directly.

### **Are international organisations with headquarters in a high-income country allowed to apply through a country office?**

Yes, if the country office is registered in an eligible LMIC. It is not necessary for the organisation to be headquartered in the LMIC, but the applying organisation must be registered in that LMIC. If funds cannot be directly administered to the country office, the application must provide a clear explanation of this and describe how funds will be managed.

**Can governmental organisations, such as a Ministry of Health or health agency, apply?**

Government departments including Ministries of Health or governmental health agencies are not eligible to apply for funding. They may be included as key stakeholders in a project. Independent research institutes or organisations that have been established by governments may be eligible to apply, if applications can clearly demonstrate that funds will not be utilised by governments.

**Can organisations that have previously received funding from CRUK apply?**

Yes.

**Can a university apply as a lead organisation?**

Yes.

**Can NGOs and CSOs apply?**

Yes.

**Can organisations without prior experience in HPV vaccination apply?**

Yes, organisations without prior experience working in HPV vaccination are encouraged to apply.

**Can organisations that have not managed grants of over £75, 000 apply?**

Yes, although preference will be given to applicants who can demonstrate experience of managing a grant of this size. Organisations who have not managed grants of over £75, 000 may apply as part of a coalition where the lead organisation has this experience. Organisational capacity and experience will be assessed during the review of EOIs.

## Country eligibility

**Are there any exclusion countries?**

Organisations based in Afghanistan, Central African Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Republic of Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Iran, Iraq, Libya, Lebanon, Mali, Myanmar, Palestine, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen are not eligible to apply. Please see the EOI brief for more information.

**Are there any country-specific eligibility requirements?**

Eligible countries must have an existing government-supported HPV vaccination programme or a demonstrable commitment to introduce one by the end of 2026.

### **Why are countries from the Pacific or Latin America not eligible to apply?**

Countries from these regions are not included within the scope of eligible regions for this funding opportunity. This is to maintain a clear scope for the call and focus on regions with limited support from other high-income country funders.

## **Scope**

### **What types of activities will be funded?**

Activities may include: 1) Policy, implementation, or advocacy research, 2) Implementation of evidence-based interventions, 3) Capacity building (e.g., training, technical assistance) and 4) Peer learning and collaboration.

### **What are priority objectives for projects?**

The four priority objectives are:

1. Support the introduction of a government-supported HPV vaccination programme at the national, state, or provincial level
2. Sustain or scale up existing HPV vaccination programmes, including routinisation and multi-age catchups, potentially through school-based delivery
3. Advance integration of HPV vaccination with other public health interventions (e.g. cancer, sexual and reproductive health, nutrition, menstrual hygiene, routine immunisation, adolescent health, or HIV)
4. Reach underserved populations, such as out-of-school girls or immunosuppressed adolescent girls who lack equitable access to public health services.

### **Can my application include more than one of the target objectives? Does it have to include all four objectives?**

Your project must address at least one objective. You may include multiple objectives, but you are not required to include all four.

### **Can my application include more than one target country?**

Yes, if each country meets the eligibility criteria and the project is feasible within the time and budget constraints.

### **Does my project have to address HPV vaccination at the country level or can it be at the sub-national level?**

No, projects may operate at the national, state or provincial level.

### **How do you define ‘adolescent girls’?**

In alignment with the WHO targets for cervical cancer elimination by 2030. The priority of the call is for the target group of girls aged 9 to 14, but older adolescent girls aged 15-19 may also be included if eligible for catch-up vaccination.

### **Can this funding be used to support vaccination of adolescent boys?**

No, the primary objective of this funding opportunity is to increase HPV vaccination coverage for adolescent girls in LMICs. However, funding may be used to support the engagement of boys in advocacy, peer engagement and community mobilisation activities which aim to improve vaccination outcomes for girls.

## **Funding**

### **Are sub-awards allowed?**

Yes. The lead applicant must be registered in an eligible LMIC and demonstrate that most grant-funded activities and spend will be utilised in that country. The lead organisation should also include prior experience of having managed sub-awards in their application. Sub-awardees outside of an LMIC may be permitted if their role is clearly justified and the proposal shows strong value for money and alignment with programme objectives.

### **Are co-funding contributions mandatory or optional?**

Co-funding contributions are optional. Please indicate any co-funding in your EOI application.

### **Can funding be used for vaccine procurement and distribution?**

This funding does not cover vaccine supply, procurement or distribution. It is aimed at supporting policy-relevant research, advocacy and implementation to improve access, acceptance and uptake of HPV vaccination in LMICs.

### **Do all project funds need to be mobilised in the target LMIC, or can they be used to fund activities in high-income countries?**

The significant proportion of funding should be mobilised in an eligible LMIC. Activities in high-income countries may be supported if essential and clearly justified in the EOI. Indirect costs in high-income countries will not be covered.

### **Can part of the budget be used to cover costs such as conference attendance and dissemination activities?**

Yes.

**Are overheads or indirect costs allowed?**

A maximum of 10% of the budget can be allocated to indirect costs. This does not include costs for staff or direct project delivery.

**Can grant funds be used for staff salaries or consultants?**

Yes, staff salaries or personnel costs are expected to be included in the budget.

**Can funding be used to fund an MSc or PHD project?**

No, funds cannot be used to support academic degrees or qualifications.

## Reporting and Compliance

**What are the reporting requirements?**

Successful applicants will be required to submit progress reports, financial reports and a final project report. Templates will be provided before a grant agreement is signed. We aim to keep our reporting processes streamlined and proportionate.

**What if my organisation does not have the full list of policies required at the proposal stage?**

As part of our due diligence processes, we are required to review key organisational policies and documents (see EOI brief for full list). If you anticipate challenges with providing these, please contact CRUK's Global Policy team at [global@cancer.org.uk](mailto:global@cancer.org.uk).

## Application Process

**How do I submit an Expression of Interest (EOI)?**

You must submit your EOI via the [online application form](#). Before applying, please read the Expression of Interest brief (PDF) for detailed guidance. This can be found on our [website](#).

**When will I know whether my application has been successful?**

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to submit a proposal by the start of October. Applicants will be informed of whether they have been recommended for funding by January 2026.

### **How is the funding decision made?**

EOIs will be reviewed by the CRUK Global Policy team, using the selection criteria outlined in the EOI brief. Shortlisted applications will be invited to submit a full proposal (template provided upon shortlisting). This will be assessed by the Global Policy team and members of our International Advisory Prevention Group. 2-3 projects will be recommended for funding. Final funding decisions are subject to organisations fulfilling CRUK's due diligence requirements.

### **How many Expressions of Interest applications do you expect to shortlist to submit a full proposal?**

Between 6-8 EOIs, depending on submission volume and quality.

### **Will unsuccessful applicants be informed of the outcome?**

No, only shortlisted EOI applicants will be informed. Applicants who are invited to submit a full proposal but who are not recommended for funding will be informed and provided with feedback.

### **What is the timeline after the Expression of Interest submission window closes?**

- EOI deadline: 9.00AM BST on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2025.
- Proposal invitations: early October
- Proposal deadline: late October (there will be a 4-week window to complete proposal)
- Proposal funding recommendations: December
- Agreements signed: March 2026
- Payments issued: May 2026

## **Technical and administrative**

### **Can we make changes to our application after submission?**

No. Applications cannot be modified once submitted.

If you have any further queries, please email CRUK's Global Policy team at [global@cancer.org.uk](mailto:global@cancer.org.uk).