



THE ViiV HEALTHCARE POSITIVE ACTION FUND

Call for Proposals Round 1 – 2020 HIV Stigma Criteria

Please read this document carefully: it explains the ViiV Healthcare's Positive Action Fund application criteria and what you should include in your application. Please check that your application clearly reflects this guidance.

Round 1 Call for Proposals – HIV related stigma

The 2020 Round 1 Call for Proposals falls within the Innovator Grants and is open to applications of between £30, 000 - £50,000 per year over two years (about £80 – 100 over the two-year period.).

Positive Action invites applications to the Round 1 funding window from 07 June 2020 (00:01 GMT) to 19 July 2020 (23:59 GMT) 2020. Applications will be reviewed by the Technical Review Committee at their meeting in August 2020.

Specific application deadlines for other funding rounds are available on the online application system.

Positive Action online grant management system.

Please submit your application via our cybergrant online application system

Please do not email applications to ViiV Healthcare or Positive Action staff members or Positive Action mailboxes. We will only accept Concept Notes via the online application system. If you have any problems accessing the online system please review Appendix 2, the FAQs in this document and/or contact the Positive Action mailbox.

WW.PositiveAction@viivhealthcare.com

Completing Your Application

The application form requires you to outline the intervention that your organisation is trying to implement, how you will address this issue, what it is that you are trying to understand and your capabilities to respond. It will also require completion of a detailed budget, selection of indicators and an outline of a workplan. Please ensure you complete this form in full and ensure that it meets our application criteria.

Concept Notes that are not well aligned to our criteria will not be taken further.

Deadline: All applications must be received by **23:59 GMT** 19 July 2020 to be considered by the Technical Review Committee in August. . Please remember to upload all required attachments including the completed letter of declaration, contact details of your trustees, proof of your organisation's registered status and a copy of your last set of audited accounts.

Should your application be successful, the content will be shared with our partner the Charities Aid Foundation, who will carry out the due diligence and eventual payment. As part of their due diligence, they may require additional information. You will be contacted if this is required. As part of this you will be asked to sign up to CAF's terms and conditions.

Charities Aid Foundation undertakes due diligence on all the grants made through the ViiV Healthcare Positive Action Fund and will need to contact you regarding your application. The data collected in the Application Form will be provided to them.

How Proposals for 2020 Round 1 Should Be Targeted

The Positive Action 2020 Round 1 Call for Proposals is focused on innovator grants which address HIV stigma and has two themes.

1. HIV Self stigma (global call)
2. Addressing HIV stigma in Middle East and North Africa (MENA) – (closed call only to eligible countries in MENA)

Stigma and discrimination are terms that are often used interchangeably, but discrimination focuses on behaviour (treating people differently) while stigma is an attribute or fear (perceiving people as different). Stigma is referred to as a social process, closely linked to social inequality. It plays a key role in producing and reproducing relations of power and control and operates in relation to difference

HIV self-stigma

Self-stigma among people living with and affected by HIV is a global public health threat because it hampers use of healthcare services, as well as uptake of and adherence to life-saving antiretroviral treatment (ART). Little is known about what works to reduce self-stigma, particularly in low-income and middle-income countries where specialised psychological and psychiatric support services are scarce¹

Self-stigma is a mindset of negative beliefs, thoughts, and behaviours about HIV, which manifests as shame, guilt, feelings of contamination, self-loathing, and self-rejection. Whilst external stigma causes others to deny

¹ Pantelic M, Steinert JI, Park J, et al. 'Management of a spoiled identity': systematic review of interventions to address self-stigma among people living with and affected by HIV. *BMJ Glob Health* 2019;4:e001285. doi:10.1136/bmjgh-2018-001285

care or assistance to an individual, self-stigma means individuals hold themselves back from seeking care, engaging with society, and undertaking life opportunities².

Some examples of the manifestations of self-stigma:

Shame, embarrassment, guilt, self-blame, negative perceptions of what other people are thinking, isolation, and negative coping.

Self-stigma can lead to people not seeking care; higher levels of depression; lower levels of disclosure; lower quality of life; low self-esteem; reduced self-efficacy; anger and resentment and lower treatment adherence

Positive Action is therefore interested in funding community-based interventions which are effective or have the potential of being effective in addressing self-stigma.

1. Topic Areas

Your application should be specific in describing how the interventions that you want to implement is going to contribute to addressing self-stigma and/or HIV-related stigma. Applicants should also be cognisant that interventions can focus on individual, family, community and structural level or any combination of levels.

Specific intervention areas for HIV self-stigma:

1. Support and peer groups and activities specifically focussing on interventions to address self-stigma including creating awareness on what self-stigma is.
2. Wellbeing and mental health programmes and services that increase self-esteem, self-worth, self-efficacy, coping skills and reduce self-stigma.
3. Structural interventions such as social empowerment and ART roll-out, economic strengthening which demonstrate a clear theory on how it will reduce self-stigma.
4. Leadership empowerment to support people living with and affected by HIV to increase resilience and meaningfully influence, advocate and engage in responses to HIV

Please note: Focused initiatives that demonstrate real impact in one or two topic areas are most frequently the strongest proposals. Please provide a strong rationale if you want to focus on more than one focus areas.

² Ferris France N, Macdonald SH-F, Conroy RR, ChiroroP, Ni Cheallaigh D, Nyamucheta M, et al. (2019) 'We are the change' - An innovative community-based response to address selfstigma: A pilot study focusing on people living with HIV in Zimbabwe. PLoS ONE 14(2): e0210152. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0210152>

HIV-related stigma:

HIV related stigma refers to the negative beliefs, feelings and attitudes towards people living with HIV, groups associated with people living with HIV (e.g. the families of people living with HIV) and other key populations at higher risk of HIV infection, such as people who inject drugs, sex workers, men who have sex with men and transgender people.

HIV related discrimination refers to the unfair and unjust treatment (by act or omission) of an individual based on his or her real or perceived HIV status. Discrimination in the context of HIV also includes the unfair treatment of other key populations, such as women, sex workers, people who inject drugs, men who have sex with men, transgender people, people in prisons and other closed settings and, in some social contexts, women, young people, migrants, refugees and internally displaced people. HIV related discrimination is usually based on stigmatising attitudes and beliefs about populations, behaviours, practices, sex, illness and death. Discrimination can be institutionalised through existing laws, policies and practices that negatively focus on people living with HIV and marginalised groups, including criminalised populations.

Positive Action is therefore interested in funding community-based interventions which are proven to be effective in addressing HIV-related stigma in various settings (institutions, community, structural, societal, etc.)

Specific intervention areas of HIV related stigma and discrimination:

These are suggested examples taken from the UNAIDS minimum packages of interventions to eliminate all forms of HIV related stigma and discrimination.

1. **Individual, community or household settings;** Increasing the number and accessibility of support and peer groups for people living with HIV, key populations, and women and girls. Providing accurate and timely information to enable priority populations to know and assert their rights; Building capacity and providing spaces for meaningful engagement, influencing, advocacy and engagement etc.
2. **Workplace settings;** Supporting and advocating for the adoption or positive revision of HIV non-discriminatory national laws and regulations; Ensuring no discrimination on the basis of real or perceived HIV status in workplace programmes or policies etc.
3. **Education settings;** Developing and enforcing education sector-wide zero tolerance policy on HIV-related stigma and discrimination; Delivering good quality, comprehensive HIV and sexuality; including comprehensive HIV and sexuality education in pre- and Inservice teacher training programmes, and capacity-development and training for education sector staff and school employee
4. **Healthcare settings;** Training and educating the health workforce to develop human rights and medical ethics competencies related to HIV for all layers of the health workforce including non-clinical staff; ensure

individuals and communities understand their rights and quality standards in accessing services and discrimination-free health care; Engage people living with HIV in the design, implementation and evaluation of services to ensure services: are acceptable, accessible and of quality

5. **Justice settings** - Monitor, review, and reform laws, regulations and policies relating to HIV; Provide and increase access to HIV-related legal services such as legal information and referrals; Deliver legal literacy programs; Engage with and support the leadership of people living with HIV
6. **Emergency and humanitarian settings**; Support the needs of people living with HIV in conflict and crisis through providing safe access to care and treatment and Strengthen the capacity of community health workers and build community interventions, ensuring appropriate linkages between communities and formal health systems in emergency settings

Funding criteria:

2. Who can apply?

Non-governmental and community-based organisations that can deliver change at a community level through their links with or representation of the communities affected especially adolescents, young people, gay men and other men who have sex with men, people who use drugs, sex workers and transgender men and women.

3. New Project

Your project must consist of **new work** that has not been previously funded. It can include projects transferred to a new location(s) and/or include the expansion of a recently evaluated model or pilot. It may not be a continuation of a previously funded activity/service.

4. Community Focus

Positive Action believes that engaging local communities is critical to addressing the drivers of health and life inequalities, it therefore seeks to promote community responses that work at the level of changing beliefs, attitudes and behaviours to improve health and rights at the community level.

Community engagement, participation and/or leadership are mandatory requirements for all Positive Action grants: your proposal must demonstrate how your work will engage, involve and empower and benefit affected communities.

Timelines

The Positive Action application, review and grant process can take up to three months to complete. The following table outlines the review process for the 2020 Call for Proposals.

Positive Action Funding Rounds and themes announced	
Funding Round 1 opens	07 June 2020
Funding Round 1 closes	19 July 2020
Technical Review Committee meets	Week commencing 03 August 2020
Recommended applications pass through validation	Week commencing 10 August 2020
Additional information and documentation may be requested	Week commencing 24 August 2020
Final decision and contracting	14 September onwards

Please note that these dates are a guide.

General Guidance

Your Organisation

Positive Action is targeted at helping communities affected by HIV and AIDS. Any properly registered not-for-profit organisation that represents, or is working with or for, affected communities is eligible to submit a proposal.

The Size and Period of the Grant

The maximum funding available is £30,000 - £50,000 per year over two years.

Geography

There are no geographical restrictions on applications for the self-stigma component. Some geographies do require more stringent validation processes.

The Middle East and North Africa proposal is only limited to applications from this region.

Outline Budget

The online application system will require you to enter a detailed budget. This should show spending for each year of the project against lines including any capital costs, staffing, travel, training, monitoring and evaluation, and communications.

Please follow the budget template in the application form.

Please note the following:

- The total grant amount cannot account for more than **25%** of an organisation's overall income;
- **85%** of project budgets must be spent in country; and
- Overheads over **15%** of the total project budget will not be accepted.
- **Budgets will be strictly adhered to** – do not request more than the allowable amount as you will not be able to submit your application.

We request that all budgets are submitted in both local currency and Pound Sterling (at the prevailing rate of exchange). **You must include an annual and total budget for your project in Pound Sterling to be considered for funding.**

Monitoring and Evaluation

Program monitoring and evaluation is highly recommended. Please review the Positive Action results framework to ensure that your indicators are aligned and ensure that you select up to X indicators prior to submission. Please note that relevant indicators are pre-selected for this thematic area.

Attachments

Your Concept Note should be submitted with the following four attachments:

- a letter of declaration (see **Appendix I**)
- a list of your trustees with contact details
- proof of your organisation's registration
- copy of your latest audited accounts
- CAF post donation reporting requirements

The letter of declaration should be printed on your official headed paper and signed by a legal representative of your organisation. A false statement will render your proposal inadmissible and any grant obtained by it will be forfeit. If your proposal is a partnership or consortium we will require a letter of declaration from each of the participating organisations. Please note that each of these partners will also be required to be verified. Please note that if your proposal is a partnership or consortium, then each partner organisation will also need to be validated.

References and Validation

References are required. References should have knowledge of your organisation's work and should include a named contact with phone number and email.

If your funding is approved by the Board, validation of your organisation's charitable status is required before funding is made available. Validation will be undertaken by the Charities Aid Foundation (CAF). Please see the FAQs for more details on Validation.

Multiple Proposals

As a rule Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) should not apply for more than one grant in this call for proposals. However, we will consider applications from different country offices of the same organisation.

Designating a Primary Contact

We require that all international organisations with a country office where the project will be located provide a contact in-country. A secondary contact out of country may also be included.