



GATHER AND LISTEN 2026 – Request for Proposals

Viral hepatitis and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) remain major global health challenges, with overlapping risk factors, co-infection patterns, and barriers to care. Despite advancements, significant gaps persist in access to screening, linkage to treatment, integration of care models, and addressing gender-based disparities in healthcare. The World Health Organization (WHO) has set a goal to eliminate viral hepatitis and HIV as public health threats by 2030, but achieving this requires innovative, evidence-based interventions to ensure equitable healthcare delivery. Studies have shown that gender disparity exists in viral hepatitis care.¹ Effective, gender-inclusive models must be developed and best practices for interventions replicated as part of a global commitment to achieve health equity.²

To better understand key challenges at the intersection of viral hepatitis (HBV, HCV, HDV) and HIV prevention and treatment, Gilead is launching the 2026 GATHER AND LISTEN RFP, with a focus on health equity, gender disparities, and optimizing provider and system-level practices across virology.

The GATHER AND LISTEN Request for Proposal (RFP) represents the merging of two previous initiatives – GATHER, which focused on integrating viral hepatitis and HIV care, and LISTEN, which aimed to advance gender-equitable healthcare strategies for viral hepatitis.

RFP Research Topics

Gilead will evaluate and support select proposals that target the following research questions:

Implementation of Integrated HIV & Hepatitis Care Models

- What are the real-world outcomes of implementing viral hepatitis (HBV, HCV, HDV) screening and treatment to existing HIV care and prevention care in community-based or non-traditional settings (e.g. harm reduction programs, correctional facilities, MOUD¹ clinics) and how can these models be scaled and sustained?
 - What are the barriers and facilitators in these models?
 - What gender barriers exist in these care models?
- What are the facilitators of implementing and scaling successful test-and-treat models of care across HIV and viral hepatitis to other settings?
 - What key operational, clinical, and system-level barriers limit broader implementation and scalability?
- How can technology and telehealth be leveraged to improve linkage to care for individuals in underserved (e.g., rural communities, American Indian/Alaska Native populations) areas? Does gender influence access or engagement?

¹ MOUD – medications for opioid use disorder

Addressing Social & Structural Barriers to Care

- Assess the feasibility and impact of implementing shared decision-making models used for HIV for those people living with viral hepatitis.
- What interventions can be implemented that address barriers to access, engagement, and retention in viral hepatitis and HIV care for women, people who inject drugs, sex workers, people with mental health conditions, unhoused individuals, and other underserved populations, and how can these be effectively addressed?
- What gender-specific and culturally appropriate models of care improve screening, diagnosis, engagement, and linkage to care, including treatment and/or prevention services for HIV (e.g., pre-exposure prophylaxis or PrEP) and viral hepatitis?

Gilead supports these research efforts based on the validity of the scientific question that the study will address, and whether the results will fill a data gap of interest and do not duplicate previous studies/data conclusions already available. Successful projects will demonstrate a clear scientific question, defined timelines, a comprehensive operational plan, and propose data that has relevance to the medical community and policy makers.

RFP Application Criteria

- Both investigator-initiated research (IIR) study proposals and Collaborative research study proposals (developed in conjunction with Gilead) will be considered ([link](#) to additional information on IIR vs Collaborative studies)
- This RFP does not aim to seek studies that focus on specific treatment outcomes. To the extent that treatments are used or measured as part of the proposed interventions, such treatments must have been approved by the relevant regulatory authorities and be commercially available. Gilead will not provide any medicinal product to conduct any research proposal related to this RFP
- Proposed research endpoints should be based on sound scientific hypotheses and generalizable across countries/regions
- Research proposals should include a comprehensive publication plan to present study results at scientific forums and to publish results in peer reviewed journals
- The proposed budget should be appropriately proportional with the study's scope
- The proposed budget should include overhead costs and applicable taxes; overhead costs should not exceed 30% of the total budget
- The proposed study design should be feasibly executed within a reasonable timeframe proportional to the study's follow-up duration
- There must be no more than one sponsor for contract negotiations and/or Institutional Review Board (IRB) review
- As the study sponsor, the Principal Investigator will be responsible for compliance with all laws and regulations applicable to research sponsors, including satisfying local requirements and obtaining all necessary regulatory and ethical approvals before beginning the study

RFP Application Process

To apply for consideration for funding under the GATHER AND LISTEN RFP Program, you will need to submit an LOI* that is no longer than two pages, contains a concise overview of the proposed project and includes the total estimated budget. Applicants should submit the LOI application in the [Gilead OPTICS portal](#).

How to Submit an LOI in Gilead OPTICS for the GATHER AND LISTEN RFP:

- Create an account, or login to your existing account in G. OPTICS
- Select “New Letter of Interest (LOI)”
- Select “GATHER AND LISTEN 2026” from the list of active RFPs
- Complete the required fields
- Submit the LOI

Gilead will evaluate and rank all Letters of Interest (LOIs) received on a rolling basis until funds are exhausted.

- Submission window opens May 25, 2026, at 12:00 AM PST
- Submission window closes July 12, 2026, at 23:59 PM PST

Questions about the RFP or the application process can be submitted to your local Gilead Medical Science Liaison.

LOIs will be rigorously reviewed by a Gilead internal committee. Each reviewer will review the LOI and evaluate how well the proposal addresses the RFP, the potential impact of the study, the strength of the objectives/study design, sustainability/scalability of the proposal/intervention, and the site and study team’s ability to recruit the proposed study population and execute on study objectives. Investigators with the top submissions will be offered the opportunity to submit a full proposal including a detailed budget, adequate and proportional to the study’s scope, which will be similarly reviewed.

Gilead’s approval of awards will depend on the availability of funds, and receipt of meritorious and complete proposals. Awards shall be granted solely on the merit of the research and alignment with the criteria of this program.

No Guarantee of Funding

Gilead reserves the right to approve or decline any proposal at its sole discretion. Submission of an LOI or a full proposal does not guarantee funding.

Awards shall be for research purposes only; routine medical care or other costs associated with routine medical care will not be considered for funding.

No Inducement or Reward

Gilead approval of awards does not take into account the past, present, or future volume or value of any business or referrals between the parties. Awards are not being given, directly or indirectly, as an inducement or reward with respect to the past or potential future purchase, utilization, recommendation or formulary placement of any Gilead product. Furthermore, except for the use of the

Gilead product in approved award/research, the awardee is not required to purchase, order, recommend or prescribe to any patients any products manufactured by or available through Gilead.

About Gilead Sciences

Gilead Sciences, Inc. is a biopharmaceutical company that has pursued and achieved breakthroughs in medicine for more than three decades, with the goal of creating a healthier world for all people. The company is committed to advancing innovative medicines to prevent and treat life-threatening diseases, including HIV, viral hepatitis, COVID-19, cancer and inflammation. Gilead operates in more than 35 countries worldwide, with headquarters in Foster City, Calif.

References

1. Lindor KD, et al. *Hepatology*. 2019;69(1):394-419 (Primary Biliary Cholangitis: 2018 Practice Guidance from the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases [AASLD])
2. American Liver Foundation. Primary biliary Cholangitis (PBC). Updated March 22, 2024. Accessed January 6, 2023. <https://liverfoundation.org/liver-diseases/autoimmune-liver-diseases/primary-biliary-cholangitis-pbc/>
3. Pearce, M, et al. "Women in the 2019 hepatitis C cascade of care: findings from the British Columbia Hepatitis Testers cohort study." *BMC Women's Health* 21 (2021): 1-15.
4. Larney, S., Madden, A., Marshall, A. D., Martin, N. K., & Treloar, C. (2022). A gender lens is needed in hepatitis C elimination research. *International Journal of Drug Policy*, 103, 103654.

Footnotes

**LOIs are not binding documents for either party. The purpose of the LOI is a brief summary of the proposed study to enable Gilead to determine on a preliminary basis whether the proposed study and related budget are aligned with the criteria, timeline, and scope of this RFP.*