

**Community REsearch To End the HIV Epidemic (CREATE)  
Request for Proposals (RFP) for Australia, Canada and Europe (ACE)  
CREATE-ACE**

Community-based organizations, community-based health centers and other organizations providing support or care to people with HIV, or impacted by HIV, are committed to improving health outcomes for conditions commonly seen in their communities. Research plays an important role in improving services and quality of care for populations most impacted by HIV. It is critical that community organizations, their staff, and the individuals they care for have opportunities to identify critical research topics and are drivers in conducting the research.

**Through the CREATE-ACE Program, Gilead will evaluate and potentially support proposals which help communities reach and maintain targets across the HIV care continuum – from prevention and diagnosis to timely care, treatment and improved long-term outcomes.** This includes proposals that aim to advance both HIV prevention and treatment across the care continuum, encompassing efforts to support individuals in knowing their HIV status through expanded and accessible testing, enabling timely linkage to and retention in effective antiretroviral therapy, and ensuring that people living with HIV achieve and sustain viral suppression. In addition, proposals addressing prevention strategies - such as improving awareness, access to, and uptake of evidence-based prevention options (including PrEP and other emerging modalities) - are strongly encouraged.

Proposals that aim to close gaps in achieving the UNAIDS 95-95-95 goals, HIV prevention cascade approach, and long-term success of key affected communities and subpopulations of PWH will be prioritized. Research proposals should address one or more of the following open research questions and topic areas:

1. How can community-designed and community-led programs improve HIV testing and strengthen timely linkage to prevention and treatment services for key populations\*?
2. What approaches are effective in reducing HIV-related and intersecting stigmas and supporting people with HIV or those impacted by HIV to live well, and how do these contribute to long-term outcomes?
3. What innovations can improve collaboration between people with lived experience, community organizations, clinicians, and other stakeholders to improve HIV prevention and care outcomes?
4. What impact do peer-led and peer-supported services have across the HIV care continuum?
5. How can programs increase HIV/Sexually Transmitted and Blood-Borne Infection (STBBI) testing uptake among key populations\* and ensure timely linkage to a prevention care pathway (e.g., risk assessment, PrEP/PEP where appropriate, harm reduction, and other wraparound prevention services)?

\* Key populations, as defined within the applicable public health frameworks in the relevant geography.

## Glossary of terms:

**Community-led:** Designed and driven by the community, with lived experience at the center.

**Peer-led:** Delivered by people with shared lived experience who support others.

## Community Research

The intent of the CREATE-ACE RFP is to proactively request research proposals from the community or community-based organizations. The community is defined as entities and organizations including but not limited to those providing health or social services, education, or advocacy for populations most impacted by HIV. To qualify as “research”, a hypothesis, objective, and endpoints should be specified in the proposal. Qualitative research should be well defined, and how data will be used to improve/modify programs should be clear. The community organization must be the driver behind the research proposal and the orchestrator of the research project – not a secondary partner to a research entity - whether the study is qualitative or quantitative in nature. Community sites and investigators with limited research capacity or experience may partner with an institution or individuals as needed (e.g., academic institutions, hospitals, etc), but the community organization must enter the research agreement, and the funds will go directly to this entity as the party performing the research. This is not a grant for program development, but a research program with expectations that the study results will be presented and/or published in an appropriate forum. The CREATE-ACE RFP is intended to provide the community with the results of the funded research so that those results may benefit individuals across the HIV prevention and care continuum.

For this CREATE-ACE RFP, there will be two award tiers. Applicants should select which Tier to apply for carefully as there will be a limited number of Tier A rewards available.

### Tier A (award up to USD\$120,000)

- Applicant is a community-based organization with an established track record in conducting and presenting/publishing Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR)
- Proposed study involves a larger scale, more involved/intensive intervention, or high impact of proposed research on a wider population

### Tier B (award up to USD\$30,000)

- Applicants from all other community-based organizations

**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 approvals prior to beginning the study.**

## Eligibility Criteria

- Applicant's organization must provide services including but not limited to health or social services, education, or advocacy for populations most impacted by HIV.
- Applicant's organization must be based in Australia, Canada or Europe and serve a population in one of these regions.
- Community based organizations must have the legal capacity to conduct research.
- Proposals should directly address a specific research question listed in this RFP.
- Proposal should not include any medications for the treatment or prevention of HIV and should not evaluate the safety or efficacy of any medication.
- Proposal should originate from a community entity and be led by a non-academic individual (e.g., one who has neither a paid academic appointment nor is employed at a higher learning institution, hospital, or healthcare center on a full-time basis). However, community groups as study leads can propose to partner with an academic institution or healthcare institution to bolster research capacity.

## Research Criteria

- Have clear scientific objectives based on scientific hypotheses. For proposals that are descriptive only or fully qualitative in nature, where this may not apply, please explain how results will be used to improve programs or generate hypotheses for future studies.
- Collect appropriate metrics using defined, specific, and appropriate data collection methods.
- Have a plan to present results in a scientific or large community forum and to other organizations, and to publish results in peer reviewed journals.
- Note potential scalability and sustainability of the program once funding is complete (when applicable)
- Highlight generalizability or applicability to other community settings.
- The proposed research will not take longer than 18-24 months to complete.

## Application Process and Submission Deadlines

To apply for consideration for funding under the CREATE ACE RFP, please submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) via the [Gilead Optics \(GOPTICS\) online portal](#).

The LOI should contain a concise overview of your organization, which Tier you are applying for, the proposed project that directly addresses one or more of the open research questions (above) and a total estimated budget. Instructions on how to submit an LOI with screenshots are [here](#).

A review of the LOIs will result in invitations for the top scoring LOI applicants to submit a full proposal with a detailed budget. For applicants who are invited to submit a full proposal based on their LOI, instructions on how to submit a full proposal are [here](#). All full proposals must be complete and submitted into [GOPTICS](#) in order for them to be reviewed.

We encourage applicants to review the '[Community-Based Research Proposal Development Toolkit](#)' on Gilead's website which provides general information regarding funding proposals for Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR). Additional questions about the RFP or the application process can be submitted to: [CREATE@gilead.com](mailto:CREATE@gilead.com) We also advise interested applicants to reach out to their local Medical Scientist/Community Partner.

**Key Dates:**

- **July 24, 2026:** LOI Submission window opens.
- **October 9, 2026 (23:59 PDT):** LOI Submission window closes.
- **October 23, 2026:** Notice of LOI outcome, with invitations for full application submission extended to successful LOI applicants.
- **November 23, 2026 (23:59 PST):** Full proposals are due.
- **By January 2027:** Notice of full application outcome.

**Budget Considerations**

Gilead plans to award up to \$0.9 million in funds for these research proposals, dependent upon availability of funds and receipt of meritorious applications. Gilead anticipates that up to 10 awards will be granted. Proposed overhead costs should not exceed 30% of the total budget.

Awards shall be for research purposes only. **Requests that include routine medical care or other costs associated with routine medical care will not be considered.**

**Review Process**

The data gaps and open research questions within the RFP have been discussed with a panel of community advisors. Each LOI that meets program requirements and is complete, will be assigned to multiple reviewers. Each reviewer will review and score the LOI, evaluating the proposal fit to RFP, rationale, methodology, community impact, and feasibility according to the guidelines linked [here](#). Submitters with the top LOI submissions will be invited to submit a full proposal. All full proposals will be reviewed by a panel consisting of internal reviewers and community advisors drawn from the community and experienced in CBPR. Proposals that are funded will primarily be investigator-sponsored research study proposals. However, collaborative research study proposals (developed in conjunction with Gilead) will also be considered.

**No Guarantee of Funding**

Gilead reserves the right to approve or decline any application at its sole discretion. Submission of an LOI or a full application does not guarantee 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, the awardee is not required to purchase, order, recommend or prescribe to any patients any products manufactured by or available through Gilead.