

Vertex CF Circle of Care

Vertex is excited to announce that it is accepting applications for the next cycle of the **CF Circle of Care**, a competitive grant opportunity to support innovative patient-centric initiatives for the global cystic fibrosis (CF) community. Applications to the **CF Circle of Care** program will be considered from organizations globally that have a registered non-profit status within their country, including but not limited to patient advocacy organizations, community groups, academic institutions, and medical societies. Proposals where 2 or more organizations collaborate are encouraged.

CF Circle of Care Criteria

Vertex is committed to transforming the lives of individuals with cystic fibrosis and working to improve the overall quality of life for people living with cystic fibrosis. As an effort to focus on the diversity among individuals living with cystic fibrosis, this year's CF Circle of Care grant cycle will focus on applications that address the following topics, ***with a particular focus on raising awareness of diverse patient populations***:

- Supporting individuals with cystic fibrosis living a fuller, more engaged life
- Addressing the psychosocial challenges individuals with cystic fibrosis and their caregivers face
- Improving the overall support of cystic fibrosis patient family members
- Supporting individuals with cystic fibrosis taking more control of their healthcare, such as strategies that assist with transition, adherence, and navigating new environments with cystic fibrosis

Eligibility and Key Project Requirements

- Requested initiative must be completed within 12 months of the start date
- If the request is a part of a collaboration, primary applicant must clearly identify all collaboration partners, including the partners' roles, responsibilities, and registered non-profit status
- Application must be for a new initiative or for a significant expansion of an existing program. If the application is for a significant expansion, the request must clearly outline the need for the expansion and what enhancements are being proposed. Requests for initiatives or enhancements that have already started will not be considered.
- Proposal must demonstrate:
 - Innovation that could move the CF field forward
 - A clear outline that indicates how the initiative will address the topic, including identifying unmet needs
 - An outline of how the impact of the initiative will be measured/assessed, and how, if at all, the results will be disseminated
 - A sustainability plan that details steps the applicant will take to ensure the future success of the initiative beyond the CF Circle of Care grant funding period, including future financial support, staff requirements, and continued community interest
 - Detailed, reasonable budget that includes all estimated costs of the proposed initiative. The budget should include total cost of the initiative, proportion of the initiative requested to be funded by Vertex, initiative details broken down by major categories (e.g. costs associated with development, delivery, enduring material costs) and per-person costs for any transfers of value to faculty and staff (e.g., honoraria, staff time on the program)

- An outline of how additional expenses will be covered if you are not requesting Vertex to support the total cost of the initiative
- Applicant must indicate how Vertex support of the initiative would be publicly disclosed
- Applications and all supporting documentation must be submitted in English
- The maximum grant amount for any individual initiative is \$50,000 USD or the equivalent in local currency per award. The maximum grant amount for any collaborative initiative is \$100,000 USD or the equivalent in local currency per award. If the initiative exceeds the maximum amount, the organization must cover the remaining expenses from other sources. The funding amounts will be based on conversion rates at the time of the payment.
- Applicant must commit to ensuring the letter of agreement is fully executed prior to the initiative start date
- A detailed outcomes report must be submitted to Vertex within 90 days of the initiative end date
- Applicant must be a non-profit organization registered with their local government
- Vertex considers applicant's overall funding history with the organization when reviewing CF Circle of Care applications
- Organizations may submit multiple requests, but an organization can only win one award per cycle.
- Recipients of the previous year's CF Circle of Care program are not eligible to apply in the current year.

Consideration Will Not Be Given to Proposals that:

- Include timelines that are outside of the scope of the project
- Are submitted after the submission deadline
- Are requested by an applicant and/or collaborating organization(s) that have not successfully reconciled prior Vertex-supported grants in a timely manner
- Identify the project as collaborative, but do not identify other organizations outside of the applicant's own organization
- Identify as clinical research, pilot studies, or applications focused on clinical outcomes
- Mention or promote a Vertex product or line of business, or the initiative is used to directly influence or advance Vertex's commercial or marketing interests
- Request funds to develop or support standard of care or treatment guidelines
- Request funds for the purchase of medical devices
- Request support for an activity where Vertex receives any tangible benefits in return for the funding (ie conference sponsorship with associated levels of support)
- Provide funding for co-pay assistance or cover out-of-pocket costs for medical care or related items, including transportation and lodging in connection with the provision of medical care
- Focus on healthcare providers rather than patients and caregivers
- Include budget line items that are not directly related to the proposed initiative, including institutional overhead, capital campaigns, building funds, or operating expenses (e.g. salaries, benefits, furniture, office equipment, rent, or utilities)
- Support specific individuals or personal travel
- Include housing/rooming or travel
- Will be held in resorts or other lavish venues or locations
- Support entertainment or recreation costs, including spa or resort activities
- Are advocacy or lobbying activities directed towards specific legislation

Vertex reserves the right to not award funding if it is determined that none of the applications fully comply with the CF Circle of Care criteria. An independent Selection Committee comprised of individuals outside of Vertex who are representative of the CF community selects the Circle of Care recipients. All applications for grant funding will

be evaluated in accordance with local laws and regulations as well as programmatic requirements. Grant recipients are responsible for compliance with local transparency and reporting laws.

Submission Deadline

All applications must be submitted by 5 PM Eastern time on **November 17, 2023**.

Application Instructions

1. Create an account in the Vertex Request Management System:
<https://www.cybergrants.com/vertexpharmaceuticals/CircleofCareQuiz>
2. Once you complete the quiz, click the “Start a new Circle of Care Application” button, which is located towards the bottom of the Welcome Page
3. Select the appropriate organization contact for this request. If the contact is not listed, select the “Create New” button
4. Once the contact information is complete, click “Save and Proceed”
5. Confirm the organization information is correct. Make any corrections as needed, then click “Save and Proceed”
6. Complete the Circle of Care application. If you encounter any issues with the system or application, contact the Vertex Grants Team at vertex_grants@vrtx.com.

If a request is submitted that is considered incomplete or requires additional details, the organization will be contacted by the Vertex Grants Team and will have 10 business days to provide the requested information. If the organization fails to provide the additional information requested within 10 business days, the application will not be considered.