

For Patient Advocacy Grant Requests

Frequently Asked Questions:

What happens after I submit the Request for Application (RFA)?

All organizations seeking grant funding for a patient advocacy activity will be required to complete a Request for Application (RFA). Organizations that meet the basic grant eligibility criteria set forth in the RFA will be asked to submit a more detailed on-line application. An organization's receipt of an application is not a guarantee that Merck will provide support. Each completed grant application is evaluated on its individual merits relative to other grant applications and the available funding. Merck may contact the organization for additional information at any time during the application review process. Organizations that do not meet the basic grant eligibility criteria set forth in the RFA will receive a decline notification.

When can I expect a response to my Request for Application?

You should receive a response from Merck within 2-3 weeks of your Request for Application.

What are the eligibility criteria for patient advocacy grants?

Patient Advocacy grants support independent activities that seek to improve consumer/patient disease and treatment awareness about specific disease categories. Eligible organizations must be non-profit organizations having a focus on providing health care and health care related information, services, support and advocacy for their members, constituency and/or lay public. Eligible organizations must have a demonstrated track record of success in implementing patient advocacy activities similar to those for which funding is being requested. Health care providers (HCPs), HCP groups, other organizations that sell, dispense, prescribe, reimburse for, or distribute Merck products in the United States are not eligible for patient advocacy grants, nor, in general, are their affiliated foundations.

For a list of Merck's therapeutic areas of interest in which grant applications are being considered, please visit the [Patient Advocacy pag^](#).

If you are a patient advocacy group headquartered/incorporated outside of the United States and your activity will occur outside of the United States, please see the [Patient Advocacy page](#).

In addition to the criteria described above, what will disqualify a patient advocacy grant from consideration?

Some examples are:

- Request for Application is submitted less than 60 days prior to the activity start date.
- Support is sought for development of materials that have already been developed
- Activity offers continuing medical education credit(s) (See [U.S. Accredited Medical Education \(CME/CE\)](#)).
- Support is sought for an activity that has already occurred
- Activity relates to a disease area or healthcare topic that differs from those that the company has prioritized for support
- Funding is for gifts, travel, lodging, registration fees for individuals to attend the activity
- Activity is more social/recreational than educational
- Request is for a fundraising charitable event
- Program involves a religious, political, lobbying, fraternal or social organization
- Speaker names, Merck product/compound names are listed in the Request for Application or Grant Application
- An application has been previously submitted for the same activity
- Activity will be held at a lavish venue

Once my completed grant application has been submitted, how long does it take you to review it?

Merck receives numerous requests for support and evaluates each completed application on its merits relative to other applications and the available funding. You will be notified of a decision as soon as possible. Merck may contact you for additional information at any time during the application review process.

Is there a limit to the dollar amount we can request?

While there are no specific limits to the amount of support that can be requested, the funding request should represent fair market value for what is being provided. In addition, Merck will consider the sum of grants requested by an organization in relation to the organization's annual operating budget. Please note that Merck receives numerous grant applications and evaluates each application on its merits relative to other applications and available funding.

My program date is less than 60 days away. Can you make an exception?

No, for administrative purposes, Merck requires that a completed Request for Application be submitted at least 60 days prior to the activity start date.

How long after you receive the signed Letter of Agreement (LOA) can I expect to receive my check?

In general, payment is processed within 30 days after an executed Letter of Agreement (LOA) is received by Merck.