

## For TA/BC/QO Grant Requests

### Frequently Asked Questions:

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

All organizations seeking grant funding for trade association, business coalition and quality organization activities will be required to complete a Request for Application (RFA). Organizations that do not meet the basic grant eligibility criteria set forth in the RFA will receive a decline notification. 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.

#### **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.

#### **Who can apply for trade association, business coalition and quality care grants?**

The types of organizations eligible to apply for these grants are described below.

To be eligible for this grant type, the organization must be based in the United States and the activity must be taking place in the United States. Individual health care providers (HCPs) and organizations that sell, dispense, prescribe, reimburse for, or distribute Merck products in the United States are not eligible for these grants, nor, in general, are their affiliated foundations.

**Trade Association** – Non-profit organizations that represent the business interests of large groups of healthcare payors, insurers and administrators, including Managed Care Organizations, Health Maintenance Organizations, Integrated Health Systems, Hospitals, Long Term Care organizations, VA/Military, Pharmacy Benefits Management and physician medical groups.

**Business Coalition** – Non-profit organizations that represent groups of small to large employers in a particular geography and that focus on improving the value of health care provided through employer-sponsored health plans and to the entire community.

**Quality Organization** – Non-profit national and regional quality organizations with a primary mission of enhancing healthcare outcomes for all patients through research, development and/or promulgation of standards, tools or programs that measure clinical performance, and track and improve key aspects of clinical care and service.

**What are the eligibility criteria for trade association, business coalition and quality organization grants?**

- These grants support independent activities that seek to help shape the quality of care for patients and populations, with a focus on managed care, employer and other health care industry-related issues or perspectives
- Support of policies and policy initiatives that are science-based and evidence-based in order to address underlying factors that affect the health of individuals and populations
- Development and dissemination of tools and/or resources that communicate and measure quality and track clinical care and service for the purpose of quality improvement and standards
- Non-accredited (i.e., non-CE/CME) independent educational programs
- General meeting support

If you are seeking grant funding for a US-accredited continuing educational program, please see [U.S. Accredited Medical Education \(CME/CE\)](#)

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

- Request for Application is submitted less than 60 days prior to the activity start date.
- Program offers continuing medical education credit(s) (See [U.S. Accredited Medical Education \(CME/CE\)](#))
- Support is sought for development of materials that have already been developed or for an activity that has already occurred
- 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 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 online, 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. While we endeavor to provide a response within two weeks, the specific details of a given grant application may require several weeks to assess. 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 awarded to 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.