

## **For Public Policy Grants Requests**

### **Frequently Asked Questions:**

#### **What are the eligibility criteria for a public policy grants?**

Eligible organizations include 501c(3), 501c(4) and 501c(6) organizations. These grants support activities that seek to (1) foster an environment for innovation in the pharmaceutical industry and/or improve patient access to medicines or (2) facilitate opportunities to engage in constructive discussions on policy issues with organizations representing government officials. Public policy grants are not for support of political campaign activities.

Organizations that may be eligible for public policy grants include national, regional, or state organizations representing government officials, organizations representing business (e.g. chambers of commerce) medical societies, pharmaceutical or biotechnology associations, and patient-advocacy organizations (for state and vaccine policy-related activities) Health care providers (HCPs), HCP groups, other organizations that sell, dispense, prescribe, reimburse for, or distribute Merck products in the United States or their affiliated foundations are not eligible for public policy grants.

#### **In addition to the criteria described above, what else will disqualify a Public Policy grant application from consideration? Some examples are:**

- Support is sought for development of materials that have already been developed or for an activity that has already occurred
- The request was submitted less than 60 days prior to the start date of the activity.
- Program offers continuing medical education credit(s) (See [U.S. Accredited Medical Education \(CME/CE\)](#) found on our main portal)
- Funding is for gifts, travel, lodging, registration fees for individuals attending the activity
- Activity is more social/recreational than educational
- Activity will be held at a lavish venue
- Request is for a fundraising charitable event
- Program involves a religious, fraternal or social organization
- Program involves support of candidates for elective office
- Speaker names or Merck product/compound names are listed in the application
- An application has been previously submitted for the same activity

**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. . 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?**

The funding request should represent fair market value for what is being provided. 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 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.

**Why a Request for Application (RFA) for Public Policy grants?**

All organizations seeking funding for grant support for a vaccine public policy activity 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 for a Public Policy grant?**

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