



I. Call for Expression of Interest to Conduct Supported Research

As part of its mandate, the National AIDS Council is expected to coordinate research undertakings into various HIV and AIDS issues, and implement evidence based strategies to solve challenges in the national response to HIV and AIDS. Towards this effect, the National AIDS Council facilitated the development of HIV and AIDS Research Priorities for the period 2010 to 2012 and established a small grants funding scheme for which seed money has been set aside.

Applications are therefore being invited from researchers to express interest to undertake funded operational research on any area of choice under the following sections of the Research Priorities:

2.1.4 – What are the drivers of the pandemic;

2.2.1 – Access, efficacy, control and management of Antiretroviral therapy

2.2.4 – Pulmonary Tuberculosis

and 2.3.2 – People Living with Disabilities

N.B: Copies of the HIV and AIDS Research Priorities can be collected from the National AIDS Council, or downloaded from the following link:

<http://www.nac.org.zw/sites/default/files/Zimbabwe-HIV-and-AIDS-Research-Priorities-2010-2012.pdf>



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ed by the National AIDS Council with technical
V and AIDS Research Advisory Council on the 30th of

September 2011.

Application Deadline

To qualify for consideration, all proposals must reach NAC Head Office at 100 Central Ave no later than 15 September 2011 by 1645hrs. Any proposal missing that deadline will not be considered.



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In developing and submitting the application, the applicant must observe the following strict guidelines:

Cover page

All proposals must include a cover page, which should contain the project title, names of the principal and co-investigators, institutional affiliations, contact details and the amount of funds requested. The applicant should frame the title in the best way they deem necessary. The topic given in the call is for guidance purposes only and should not be regarded as the problem statement.

Research Description (six pages maximum)

a) Problem statement

It is the responsibility of the applicant to develop an appropriate problem statement and show the need for research. The applicant should therefore briefly define the problem that the application is intended to address, and include the scope and magnitude of the problem.

b) Objectives of the proposed research

Clearly list the goal and objectives of the proposed research

c) Background and significance of the proposed research

Briefly describe the background of the proposed research and clearly describe the importance and relevance of the proposed research to the national response to HIV and AIDS.

d) Literature review

Prior and current research related to the problem should be reviewed and major references cited.

e) Research design and methods

Describe the research design and major methods to be used, including sampling strategies and specific techniques to be used to collect data for proposed research. Explain how the data will be analysed and interpreted, including the software to be used.

f) Timetable

As part of the proposal, include a step by step timetable for the completion of each proposed task.

Maximum excluding attachments)

It is a requirement for all proposals to demonstrate relevant and viable institutional arrangements especially in the case of individual researchers. In this case, the application must be accompanied by endorsement letters from the affiliated institutions. Relevant endorsements may also be included from relevant institutions.

Curriculum Vitae (3 pages for each profile, supplied as attachments)

Provide profiles of the principal and co-investigators. Each profile must highlight major work done and should not exceed 3 pages.

Budget (2 pages maximum)

Include a detailed budget, which should range between US\$5000.00 and US\$20,000.00 The budget should exclude capital items and overheads.

Cooperative support (1 page maximum)

Provide names and addresses of any co-sponsors. Where co-sponsors are available, this will not prejudice the review of the proposal.

References (1 page maximum)

Include any references of any works cited in the proposal.

Proposal Submission

Applicants must submit 8 hard copies plus a soft copy of each proposal in hard copies to:

The Chief Executive Officer

The National AIDS Council

100 Central Ave

Harare

The envelopes containing the proposals must be clearly marked “ **NAC Research Grants 2011**”

Applications will be reviewed by, and together with a technical sub-committee of the Research Advisory Committee. Awards will be made based on scientific and technical merit according to the following criteria:

Significance and impact (15)

Does this research address an important problem in the national response to HIV and AIDS? If the aims of the application are achieved, how will scientific knowledge and HIV and AIDS programming be enhanced?

Methodology (15)

Is the research design, sampling, methods and data gathering techniques adequately developed and suited to the aims of the proposed research.

Data analysis – The proposal must clearly explain the process and method of data analysis, which must be appropriate and relevant (15)

Innovation (15)

Is the project original and innovative? If not innovative, does it significantly enhance existing knowledge regarding the identified problem?

Investigators (15)

The Principal Investigator must possess a Masters' Degree in Social, Medical Science or related field. The PI must have demonstrable experience in research, with at least three completed research projects, which have been accepted by its commissioners. (How well qualified is the research team? (the PI and his team).

Feasibility (10)

Is the proposed research feasible and can it be completed within the projected time?

Budget – The proposed budget must fit within the prescribed amount, and should at all cost exclude capital items and overheads. Is the costing correct and consistent with market trends of pricing? Does the proposal mention co-funding, and are there no conflict of interests? (10)

Conflict of interest - Is there any apparent or hidden conflict of interest? (5)