



SECTION	<p align="center"><b>2024 Call for Proposals on Cancer Research in Kenya</b>  <b>Application Guidelines</b>  <b>Ref No: NCI-NRF001/2024</b></p>
1.0	<p>Background</p> <p>The National Cancer Institute of Kenya (NCI-K), in collaboration with the National Research Fund (NRF), is pleased to announce the launch of the 2024 Cancer Research Call. Both NCI-K and NRF are statutory bodies established under specific Acts of Parliament – the Cancer Prevention and Control Act, No.15 of 2012, and the Science, Technology, and Innovation Act 2013, respectively. These entities are mandated to promote cancer research within their respective legal frameworks.</p> <p>The mandate of NCI-K, as outlined in the Cancer Prevention and Control Act of 2012, is to address the growing burden of cancer in the country through a coordinated multisectoral approach. NCI-K, through its diverse initiatives, including research, aims to significantly reduce the impact of cancer on the people of Kenya.</p> <p>Globally, cancer ranks as a leading cause of death, claiming nearly 10 million lives in 2020, representing almost one in six deaths. Within Kenya, cancer stands as the third leading cause of death, placing a substantial burden on families, communities, and the healthcare system. In 2020 alone, Kenya reported 42,000 new cancer cases and 27,000 cancer-related deaths.</p> <p>In response to this escalating national burden, the Kenyan government is actively pushing to accelerate research efforts with the aim of developing policies for cancer control and more effective approaches to prevention, screening, diagnosis, management, surveillance, and palliation.</p> <p>Recognizing the urgency of addressing the cancer crisis through research, NCI-K and NRF extend an invitation to researchers to submit proposals specifically focusing on the diagnosis, treatment, prevention, and management of cancer in Kenya. This funding opportunity, provided through NCI-K, represents a strategic response from the Kenyan government, designed to encourage collaborative efforts within the research community to advance cancer research.</p> <p>The one-year grant is strategically designed to spur research that not only offers viable solutions to current challenges but also stimulates deeper and more detailed investigations. The initial insights and solutions are anticipated to be both practical and scalable, serving as a crucial stepping stone towards larger-scale research efforts and more profound scientific advancements in cancer research and better policy interventions</p>

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	Call for Cancer Research in Kenya
<b>2.0</b>	<p><b>Specific Challenge</b></p> <p>This grant shall provide support for robust scientific cancer research that directly addresses the challenges outlined within the framework of the National Cancer Research Agenda's priority areas. The challenges include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Advanced Stage Diagnoses and High Mortality Rates</li> <li>2. Inadequate Adaptation to Demographic and Socio-economic Factors</li> <li>3. Limited Understanding of Unique Cancer Patterns</li> <li>4. Inadequate Data on Cancer Epidemiology</li> <li>5. Limited Public Awareness and Prevention Initiatives</li> <li>6. Resource Constraints and Access to Treatment</li> <li>7. Stigmatization and Psychosocial Support</li> </ol>
<b>3.0</b>	<p><b>The objective of the Call</b></p> <p>The objectives of this call are to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide a preliminary understanding of the various facets of cancer care and management in Kenya.</li> <li>2. Identify gaps in current cancer research and healthcare practices.</li> <li>3. Facilitate the development of larger-scale research projects based on initial findings.</li> <li>4. Enable the creation of evidence-based policies and strategies for cancer control and management.</li> <li>5. Foster collaboration among researchers, healthcare professionals, and policymakers.</li> <li>6. Build a foundation for sustainable and long-term improvements in cancer care in Kenya.</li> </ol>
<b>4.0</b>	<p><b>Scope</b></p> <p>The proposed research should focus on improving one or more of the following broad areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Cancer burden description</li> <li>2. Cancer prevention and causation</li> <li>3. Screening and early detection</li> <li>4. Cancer diagnosis, treatment, palliative care and survivorship.</li> <li>5. Cancer care economics and finance</li> <li>6. Health systems and policies in cancer care</li> </ol> <p>Further, the proposals should address one or a combination of the following thematic areas: Cancer mapping; Cancer surveillance; Mental health and</p>

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	<p>cancer; Infectious agents and cancer; Vaccination trends in cancer prevention; Cancer-prevention and early detection; Cost-benefit analysis of cancer interventions; Cancer screening models; Cancer diagnosis; Disability disparity in cancer care; Palliative care approaches; Psychosocial and behavioural issue; Health systems; Epidemiology and treatment outcomes; End-of-life care; Economics of cancer care.</p> <p>Considerations of effectiveness and potential clinical benefit should also be integrated into the proposals where relevant.</p> <p>Specific population age groups, sex and gender aspects, socio-economic, ethical, ethnic, cultural, lifestyle and behavioural factors and any other non-health related individual attributes should be taken into consideration where relevant.</p>
<b>5.0</b>	<p>Expected Impact</p> <p>The successful research proposals in this call are intended to have a significant impact on cancer research, policy, treatment, and prevention in Kenya. Applicants are therefore required to demonstrate they have considered the potential impact of their research in relation to the following areas, as appropriate:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Evidence-based recommendations for formulating and updating national cancer control policies.</li> <li>2. Insights into causes and preventive strategies leading to more effective cancer prevention programs, potentially reducing the overall incidence of cancer.</li> <li>3. Development of targeted screening programs, especially in high-risk populations, leading to earlier diagnosis and better outcomes.</li> <li>4. More cost-effective healthcare strategies, maximizing resource utilization and potentially reducing the economic burden on patients and the healthcare system.</li> <li>5. Reduction of mental health impacts of cancer</li> <li>6. Enhanced Public health education to raise awareness about cancer, promoting early detection and reducing stigma associated with the disease.</li> <li>7. Equitable access to cancer care for all demographic groups, including marginalized communities.</li> <li>8. Advancements in palliative care to improve the quality of life in the care continuum.</li> </ol>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9. Insights for strengthening healthcare infrastructure, human resources and training in cancer diagnosis and treatment.</li> <li>10. Enhanced local manufacturing of alternative technologies for diagnosis, screening and treatment</li> </ul>
<b>6.0</b>	<p><b>Eligibility Criteria</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Grant applications are open to Principal Investigators who are Kenyan citizens.</li> <li>2. NCI-K and NRF encourage local and international collaborations.</li> <li>3. Applicants should ensure relevant expertise has been secured.</li> <li>4. The application must list all collaborating institutions and collaborators.</li> <li>5. The Principal Investigator must be from a public or private university, research centre/institute, tertiary training institution, department of Research and Development(R&amp;D), industrial establishments or any other public sector organisation.</li> <li>6. The Principal Investigator should provide a rationale for the inclusion of the collaborator’s other personnel and their roles in the project.</li> <li>7. The Principal Investigator must describe the governance and coordination arrangements they will use to produce quality work and support fair and equitable partnership arrangements.</li> <li>8. Where applicable, the collaborative entities must formally indicate that they are committed to the project and must have the facilities to implement the project.</li> <li>9. Where applicable, there shall be the researcher/investigator consortium agreement agreement signed by the collaborating institution specifying each collaborating institution’s responsibility.</li> <li>10. An agreement document covering issues of confidentiality, intellectual property rights and publication should be signed by the Principal Investigator and all the research members at the start of project work and updated at the end of the project.</li> <li>11. Applications can only be submitted by the Principal Investigator from a recognised organisation in Kenya, which will be responsible for the grant or as detailed in the Research Grant Agreement.</li> <li>12. At the time of submitting the application, the Principal Investigator must hold; a minimum of a Master’s degree or equivalent qualification, a verifiable track record documented clearly in the CV, and documented evidence that he/she is affiliated with an institution as specified in</li> </ul>

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	<p>number 5 of this eligibility criteria. The Researcher/ Investigator must not be on an extended unpaid leave.</p> <p>13. The Principal Investigators are encouraged to incorporate students under their supervision into their research teams.</p> <p>14. Principal Investigator may apply for only one project for this Call.</p> <p>15. The Principal Investigator will assume responsibility for ensuring that the project activities are appropriately coordinated and implemented and will coordinate any necessary communication between the funding agency and themselves.</p> <p>16. The application must be endorsed by the Chief Executive Officers/Heads of the affiliate institutions.</p> <p>17. Proposals on research areas requiring ethical clearance and research licences/ approvals should be provided prior to the release of funds.</p>
7.0	<p><b>Project Budget, Duration and Eligible Expenditures</b></p> <p>The approval of funding for the successful research project proposals is subject to the terms and conditions of the NCI-K/NRF grant management policies that cover the technical and financial aspects of the proposal.</p> <p>Funding of a research project will depend on the nature and duration of proposed activities and must be justified in terms of resources needed to achieve the objectives of the project.</p> <p>The Researcher/Investigator should note the following while developing their proposals:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Budget Request: The maximum award request is Ksh.3,000,000. All budget line items must directly support the research and dissemination activities in the proposal and must be justified in relation to the scope of work.</li> <li>ii. Duration of a Grant: Grants are awarded for a one-year period. The NCI-K and NRF expect that the funds provided will be used for a full year of research and dissemination by the Researcher/ Investigator.</li> <li>iii. The funds shall not be transferred to another researcher.</li> <li>iv. The allowable costs for this grant are as follows; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supplies, services and equipment required specifically for the project and not otherwise available through the host Institution.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Travel expenses, accommodation and subsistence expenses are allowed only for data collection directly related to the proposed research not exceeding 25% of the total grant.</li> <li>• Costs related to organizing seminars and workshops within the project</li> <li>• Research management costs must not exceed 7.5% of the total grant</li> <li>• A budget itemization and justification are required in the proposal using the prescribed budget template</li> </ul>
<b>8.0</b>	<p><b>Structure &amp; Contents of the Proposal</b></p> <p>The proposal must be structured according to the Official Application Form. The form can be downloaded from <a href="https://www.ncikenya.go.ke">https://www.ncikenya.go.ke</a>, <a href="https://www.nrf.go.ke">https://www.nrf.go.ke</a></p> <p>All headings should appear in their stated order as outlined in the form. Information must be provided for all the headings and no additional heading shall be added.</p> <p>The application must be clear and focused. Although there are no requirements regarding the length of each section, the project description as a whole must not exceed 7,500 words and 20 pages.</p>
<b>9.0</b>	<p><b>How to apply</b></p> <p>Applications can only be on the official application form. All applications must be accompanied by letters of support from the respective CEOs/ Heads of affiliate institutions.</p> <p>Submission of applications in the official form must be in electronic format to <a href="mailto:research@ncikenya.go.ke">research@ncikenya.go.ke</a> and <a href="mailto:grants@nrf.go.ke">grants@nrf.go.ke</a> ; and online applications may be submitted through <a href="https://grants.nrf.go.ke/">https://grants.nrf.go.ke/</a> and Applications must be labelled: <b>2024 Call for Proposals on Cancer Research in Kenya: Ref No: NCI-NRF001/2024</b></p>
<b>10.0</b>	<p><b>Engagement with the Private Sector</b></p> <p>The NCI-K and NRF are committed to the promotion of collaboration with the Private Sector. This could be in collaboration or partnership, either as research participants or as prospective end users of the results.</p>
<b>11.0</b>	<p><b>Reporting</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Every funded researcher will report implementation progress at six months upon commencement of the project using a prescribed reporting template.</li> </ol>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ii. At the completion of the project, a final report using a template provided by the NCI-K will be used to submit the report. The report must be endorsed by the Head of Institution before submission by the Researcher/ Investigator to NCI-K.</li> <li>iii. The researchers are expected to publish their results in peer-reviewed journals of international repute.</li> <li>iv. The researcher will be expected to submit to NCI-K the final report, and proof of abstract submitted to journals or conferences of international repute.</li> <li>v. National Cancer Institute shall be acknowledged in all the publications arising from funded projects.</li> <li>vi. A full account of all expenses made for a research project shall be due within 30 days of the termination of the grant.</li> <li>vii. Unexpended funds remaining at the end of the grant must be returned to NCI-K.</li> </ul>		
<b>12.0</b>	<p><b>Evaluation Criteria</b></p> <p>NCI-K and NRF will engage subject specialists to evaluate the proposals submitted against the following criteria</p>		
<b>13 .0</b>	<p>Contact details:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p>Chief Executive Officer; National Cancer Institute Po. Box 30016-00100 Landmark Plaza, Nairobi</p> </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p>Chief Executive Officer; National Research Fund P.O. Box 26036 - 00100, NACOSTI Headquarters Building, Nairobi</p> </td> </tr> </table>	<p>Chief Executive Officer; National Cancer Institute Po. Box 30016-00100 Landmark Plaza, Nairobi</p>	<p>Chief Executive Officer; National Research Fund P.O. Box 26036 - 00100, NACOSTI Headquarters Building, Nairobi</p>
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**DISCLAIMER**

This document is prepared by the National Cancer Institute and the National Research Fund to provide guidance to applicants, the Agencies are not responsible for any use that may be made of the information it contains outside the purview of this grant call.