

**1. Can you provide examples of acceptable use cases for grant funds? Are there any specific areas encouraged for the use of the grant funds?**

Examples of project goals include bolstering infrastructure, refining training programs, and fortifying quality systems. Previous Enterprise Grant initiatives have encompassed the implementation of crucial infrastructure, including computers, printers, scanners, and other technologies tailored to empower facilities to streamline their operational processes effectively. Additionally, other projects have prioritized the enrichment of staff skills, knowledge, and expertise through training and upscaling initiatives. Some initiatives focused on providing financial support to physicians, technicians, and nurses to facilitate their participation in educational conferences, workshops, and events. These efforts are instrumental in fostering a culture of perpetual learning and skill development.

Notably, the inaugural project funded in 2017 was centered on IT within the quality system domain. While indirectly linked to traceability and the ISBT 128 Standard, its significance lies in its contribution to the broader ecosystem in which ISBT 128 operates. By addressing fundamental aspects of infrastructure and quality management, the project played a pivotal role in reinforcing the foundational elements necessary for the effective implementation and utilization of ISBT 128 standards.

**2. 2022 Enterprise Grantee: Pilot Project Dakar Senegal – What were some of the challenges faced during the project implementation?**

The inaugural project encountered several unique challenges that required adaptation and innovation. Given its pioneering nature, adjustments to the project proposal were inevitable. Operating within Africa, a region still in the developmental phase regarding its blood system, necessitated close government oversight and involvement due to regulatory frameworks being nascent. Conducting operations in Senegal remotely presented its own set of challenges as well. Moreover, the scarcity of French translators in third-world regions posed communication hurdles.

The longstanding shortages of plasma for fractionation and Plasma-Derived Medicinal Products (PDMP) spanning over three decades underscored the inefficacy of previous approaches. The proposed alternative approach is both pragmatic and promising. Improving the blood service infrastructure not only addresses immediate needs but also serves as a beacon of progress and motivation for similar services within the country. This, in turn, sets the stage for elevating the overall quality standards, paving the way for potential contract plasma fractionation.

**3. Is there a restriction based on world regions for the Enterprise Grant, thereby making certain regions ineligible to apply?**

No. While there is a special interest in addressing challenges in low-resource settings, we remain open to applications from more economically developed countries. Despite our eligibility criteria stipulating that organizations seeking funding should be nonprofit or public bodies, the presence of a commercial partner or contributor—such as a supplier providing essential systems to the grantee—does not disqualify the project. It's important to note that the grant is distributed directly to the non-profit facility or organization, irrespective of any commercial partnerships. Thus, collaborations with commercial entities are permitted, provided they are not the primary applicant.

**4. What are the key dates and deadlines for the Enterprise Grant application cycle?**

The crucial deadline for applications is **March 31st at 5 PM** (based on the applicant's respective time zone). Following this, the Selection Committee will assess the applications throughout April. Successful awardees will be notified of their status in June. Key dates are available on the [Enterprise Grant Homepage](#).

**5. What documents are required to be submitted as part of the application?**

To ensure a comprehensive application process, please submit the following documents:

- [ICCBBA Enterprise Grant Application Form, FM-093 v4](#)
- Copy of the facility's registration (*if applicable*)
- [Enterprise Grant Budget Template 1.0](#)
- Copy of the facility/organization's Annual Report
- Any additional supporting documentation that could provide valuable insights for the Selection Committee's review.

Given that the application may contain condensed sections, it may be necessary to include supplementary documents. In such cases, please specify the question number to facilitate correlation with the appropriate section of the application. Emphasis is placed on the completion and thoroughness of the application. Applications demonstrating these qualities are more likely to receive favorable consideration. Please note that ICCBBA may request additional information during the application review period (typically in April and May). Prompt responses to any such requests are preferred to facilitate a smooth review process.

**6. 2022 Enterprise Grantee: Pilot Project Dakar Senegal – What issues arose related to the Quality Management System during the project?**

Transitioning from executing work in a more developed setting to a low-resource environment, one observes a notable scarcity of technical tools to support the quality management system. Moreover, when operating within a manual system that is still evolving, it provides insights into the system's developmental stage. Through this experience, one can discern that while the fundamental concepts and principles for continuous improvement are present, there is room for capacity building. This involves additional training efforts to elevate the system to a higher level. Observations from Dakar reveal the presence of a quality system, albeit in a developmental phase. A notable gap exists in their daily operations due to the absence of technical tools to support their endeavors.

**7. How does the evaluation process work, and what criteria are used to assess grant applications?**

The evaluation process involves rubric scaling (the Project Description itself is worth 35 points). A meticulous examination of the project description is paramount. The committee will assess the clarity of project objectives and goals, validate the sustainability of the proposed approach, and evaluate the feasibility and efficacy of the initiatives intended to achieve the defined goals.

Reference "Section V. Application Review Information" on the ICCBBA Enterprise Grant Guide for detailed guidelines on the evaluation process, scoring criteria, and comprehensive insight into the requirements.

**8. How are grant disbursements made to the grant recipients?**

Generally, payments are made via wire transfer. The method of disbursement depends on the amount awarded to the grantee. For example, for payouts over 20,000 USD, disbursements can be staggered – 50% may be provided upon signing the grant agreement, with 30% released upon receipt of the interim report, and the remaining 20% upon project finalization. Should expedited funds be required, written requests will be evaluated promptly. Regular reporting, particularly during the middle to the end phases of the project, is crucial to keep ICCBBA informed of progress.

**9. Where do you see ISCP and ISBT 128 progressing in the next ten years?**

Our objective is to enhance patient care by ensuring improved access to treatment. A key aspect of achieving this goal is to increase the availability of plasma for fractionation. In this endeavor, traceability plays a crucial role, and the ISBT128 Standard serves as a valuable tool to facilitate this process. By leveraging ISBT 128, ISCP can take significant strides towards a future where patient care is optimized, and resources are efficiently managed, working collaboratively towards this shared vision.