

## **Second Round of funding by the Vaccine Challenge Fund**

### **Encouraging NGOs to participate in area-based teams coordinating the national COVID-19 vaccination programme at municipal level**

Together, the DG Murray Trust (DGMT) and Tshikululu Social Investments (Tshikululu) hereby announce a Vaccine Challenge Fund to encourage non-government organisations (NGOs) to participate in area-based teams to strengthen local coordination of the national COVID-19 vaccination programme.

#### **OUR COLLECTIVE CHALLENGE**

Ultimately, the national vaccination programme will succeed if every adult in South Africa, regardless of income, social status, disability, place of residence or nationality, has the specific knowledge, motivation, and capability to receive a vaccination against Covid-19.

**This challenge requires all of us to get involved.**

Our challenge is both to NGOs to be part of area-based teams and to funders to join in ensuring that the expertise and capacity of civil society is fully mobilised for the vaccination effort.

#### **The purpose of the Fund**

This fund will make grants of R100,000 each to assist NGOs to become actively involved in the vaccination programme by:

- Being an active participant in their local area-based team.
- Engaging with community organisations and networks to promote the uptake of vaccination.
- Addressing the challenge of transport to and from vaccination sites, either by providing transport or by mobilising local transport providers to get involved.
- Providing from-the-ground feedback to the provincial and national programme managers that can improve implementation.

Within the above parameters, these grants may be used at the discretion of the NGO, for expenses related to bringing in additional capacity into the organisation to free up some of the time of its leadership and travel and other costs related to community mobilisation and access. This discretion is granted on condition that proof of expenditure is made available on request by the funders.

DGMT and Tshikululu will continue to work with the NGOs to develop an active network of NGOs that can share ideas and experience and learn from each other, and to provide information and communication resources that will be helpful in community mobilisation.

## Area-based teams

Three of the factors critical to the success of the vaccination programme are the ability to:

- **Know the community:** Identify all the people in a geographical area, older people first;
- **Communicate:** Mobilise communities so that there is both knowledge and motivation to be vaccinated.
- **Ensure access:** Coordinate the vaccination programme to ensure that everyone is reached either at a vaccination site or through outreach services.

For these reasons, an area-based approach to planning, coordination and management is encouraged. “Areas” are defined as a district or sub-district comprised of a number of municipal wards. In addition to the formal departmental structures, a high level of cooperation across public, private and civil society is required to ensure equitable access for the entire population and to optimise vaccination delivery in geographical areas.

The district management offices of provincial health departments have been directed to convene area-based teams comprised of local health professionals and community leaders. Area team leaders will be health professionals drawn from the public, private or non-government sector, either in a voluntary capacity or remunerated by their existing employer.

The role of the area-based team will be to lead local mobilisation of community leadership and ensure coordinated planning, but formal and legal accountability will still rest with the district or metro department of health official assigned as the district vaccination team lead.

To promote local accountability and transparency, community observers and researchers will be encouraged to participate in monitoring implementation and reporting to through the area-based teams to the Department of Health.

## Selection Criteria

The joint selection committee will be considering the following factors in deciding on the final Vaccine Challenge Fund grant recipients in the second funding round:

- Community mobilisation, public health systems and/or logistical competencies;
- Funding utilisation plan (considered, practicable);
- Financial management and project reporting competencies;
- History of successful collaboration with public and/or private sector entities; and
- An existing physical presence in the district concerned.

This call is for Round II of the Vaccine Challenge Fund, which seeks to support a minimum of one organisation each for each of the 52 districts in the country, and where possible, at local municipality level, too. We continue to advocate for additional contributions from the donor community, and so hope to be able to support more organisations in future rounds.

## **To apply for funding**

NGOs wishing to apply for this funding can do so by filling application [here](#)  
**by 17:00 on 30 September 2021.**

Should you wish to apply for funding for work in more than one district, please complete a separate application form for each district.

## **Queries**

Please feel free to contact Akona at DGMT on (021) 670 9840 or Graeme at Tshikululu on (011) 544-0357 should you have any questions.