



# 11<sup>TH</sup> GACD FUNDING CALL

# Multisectoral approaches to tackle NCDs

Applicant guidance webinar | 24 March 2026

Dr Jane Strom – Programme Manager | Global Alliance for Chronic Diseases



# GACD

GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR CHRONIC DISEASES  
AN ALLIANCE OF HEALTH RESEARCH FUNDERS



1

**About GACD** – a run through of who we are and what we do



2

**The 11<sup>th</sup> funding call** – an overview of the funding call, the funders taking part, and remit



3

**How to apply** – including a quick demonstration of the joint process application portal



4

**Resources** – a look at the resources available to help you craft your application



5

**Q&A** – a chance to ask us any burning questions



Department  
of Health &  
Social Care



**CIHR IRSC**

Canadian Institutes of  
Health Research    Instituts de recherche  
en santé du Canada



National Institutes  
of Health



**hrc** nz



European  
Commission



**icmr**  
INDIAN COUNCIL OF  
MEDICAL RESEARCH  
Serving the nation since 1911



HEALTH SYSTEMS RESEARCH INSTITUTE



Australian Government  
National Health and  
Medical Research Council



# GACD aims for global impact

- A unique role in the global funding landscape
- Funds innovative NCD implementation science projects to improve health in all nations
- Creates and shares new knowledge and insights to Improve practice and policy everywhere



# GACD Strategy

## Strategic intent

Provide research outcomes that **readily inform practices and policies** for prevention and management of **NCDs** and minimise the systematic and avoidable **differences in the health status** of different population groups **within and between countries**.

## Objectives



Invest in **impactful implementation research**



Facilitate **collaborations and partnerships** to support impact



Build **implementation science capacity** in relation to NCDs

2012

2025

\$23  
million



Hyper-  
tension

15 projects

\$29  
million



Diabetes

17 projects

\$60  
million



Lung  
Diseases

17 projects

\$58  
million



Mental  
Health

34 projects

\$44  
million



Scale Up

27 projects

\$57  
million



Cancer

26 projects

\$68  
million



Life  
Course

30 projects

\$49  
million



Healthy  
Cities

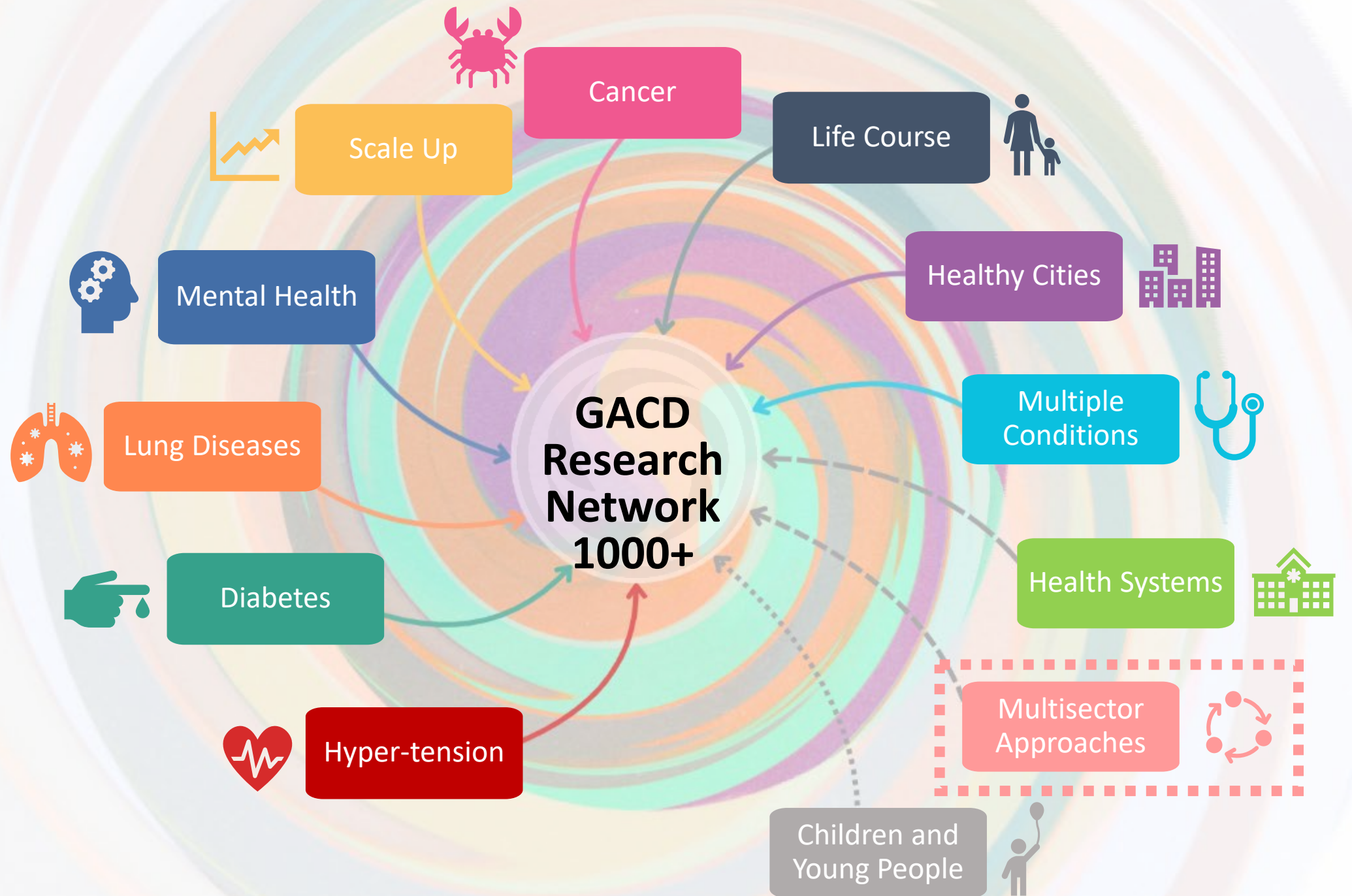
17 projects

\$29  
million



Multiple  
Conditions

9 projects



1

# About the Multisectoral Approaches funding call

2

- Funding model

3

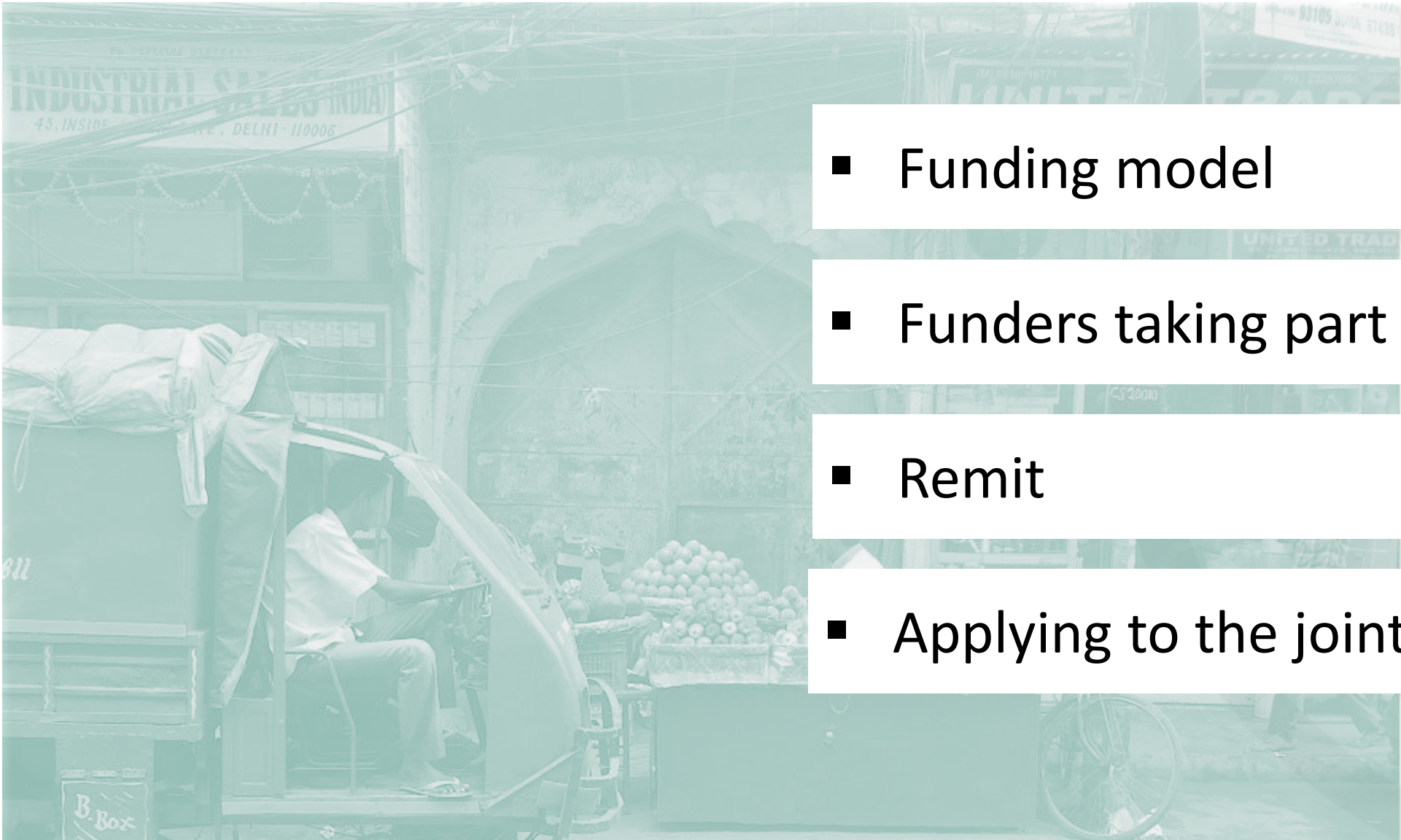
- Funders taking part

4

- Remit

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- Applying to the joint call



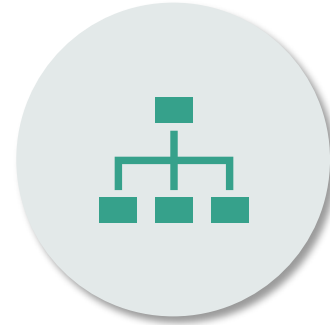
# The GACD funding model



Common call text



Funders choose  
to take part

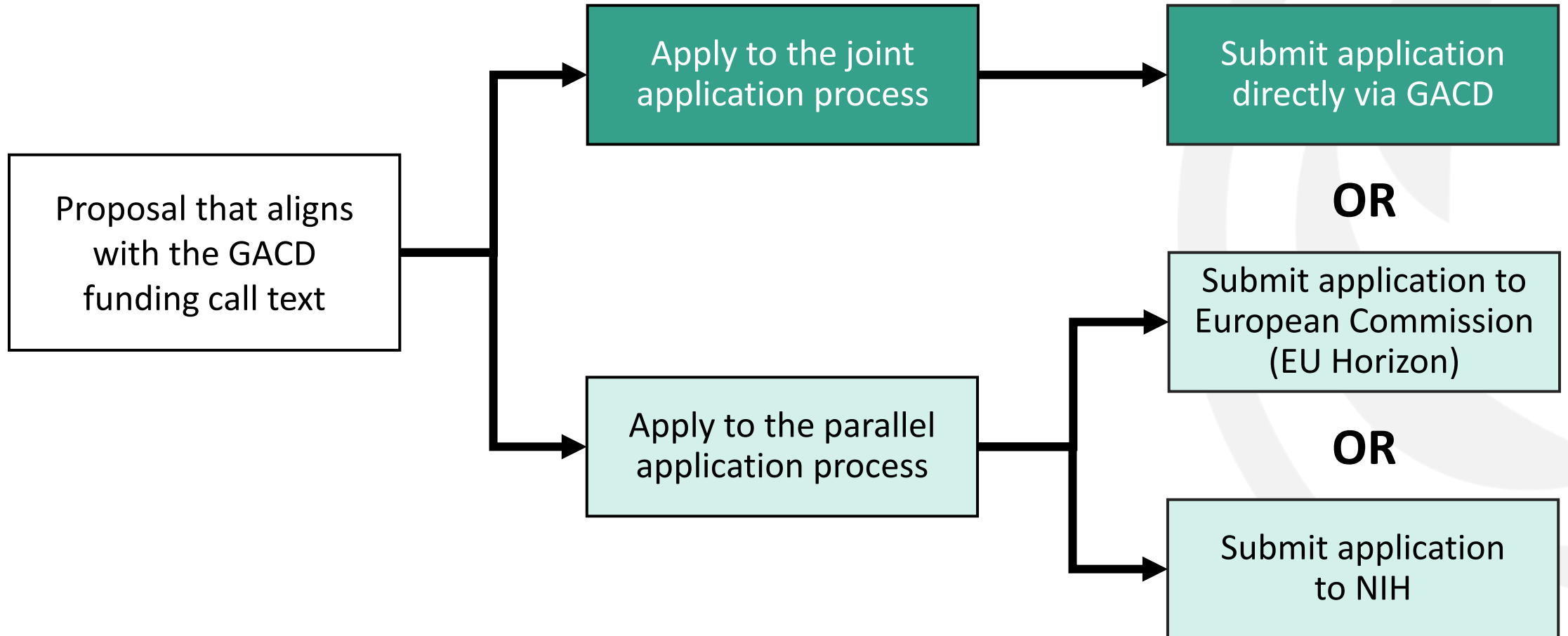


Joint and  
Parallel  
Processes



Funders make  
final awards

# How funding agencies participate in call



# How funding agencies participate in call

[Multisectoral Approaches | GACD](#)

## Joint application process

Australia:  
NHMRC



South  
Africa:  
SAMRC



India:  
ICMR



Thailand:  
HSRI



Canada:  
CIHR

Submit applications via [Application portal](#)

STAGE 1 DEADLINE 17<sup>th</sup> June

## Parallel application process

European  
Commission  
HORIZON Europe

Submit applications to [Funding and tenders portal](#)

The Horizon Europe Info Day for Cluster 1: Health was held on  
Tuesday 10 Feb 2026: [watch recordings from the day](#)

ONE STAGE PROCESS  
DEADLINE 16<sup>th</sup> April

US NIH

*To Be Confirmed*

# Joint Process – Joint funding

## Who

- The funders confirmed to take part in the joint process.

## How

- One application.
- Select all relevant funders.

## Things to consider

- Members of the leadership team must be eligible to apply
- Some funders only offer joint funding

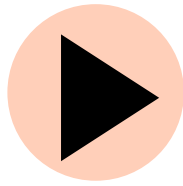
# Remit

- The call has a central focus on implementation research, exploring **multisectoral strategies** to improve prevention, diagnosis, screening, and management of NCDs for people living in low- and middle-income countries (LMIC: as defined by [the world bank](#)), and/or in underserved populations in high-income countries.
- Proposals should explore implementation strategies that draw on collaborative multisectoral engagement and utilise the different settings in which people are educated, work and live, to expand efforts to reduce risks, prevent, manage and control non-communicable diseases. **Proposals can focus on more than one setting and/or include cross-sectoral approaches, involving both healthcare and non-healthcare settings.**

# Expected impacts

- contribute to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 3.4 to reduce premature mortality from NCDs by one third by 2030;
- address implementation of strategies across sectors that will:
  - provide evidence and recommendations to national programmes and policies, aiming to inform policy and practice to address the growing burden of NCDs.
  - expand accessibility of programmes addressing NCDs.
  - promote the early prevention, risk reduction, and timely diagnosis of non-communicable diseases.
  - ensure continuity of care for non-communicable diseases, from prevention and screening to management in the community.
  - promote improved health outcomes in underserved populations, and low-and middle-income countries.
  - improve quality of life across the life course and extend healthy life expectancy.
  - improve local capacity for implementation research, data collection and harmonisation, and stakeholder engagement for strategies leveraging sectors beyond the health system to tackle non-communicable diseases.

# Joint process - timeline



**2 March 2026**

Joint Call Application Portal  
Open for Stage 1 applications



**17 June 2026**

Stage 1 applications  
deadline



**8 - 15 September 2026**

Stage 1 outcomes.



**1,2 December 2026**

Joint Process  
Review Panel meeting



**20 October 2026**

Stage 2 applications  
deadline.



**Spring 2027**

Funding Awarded

1

2

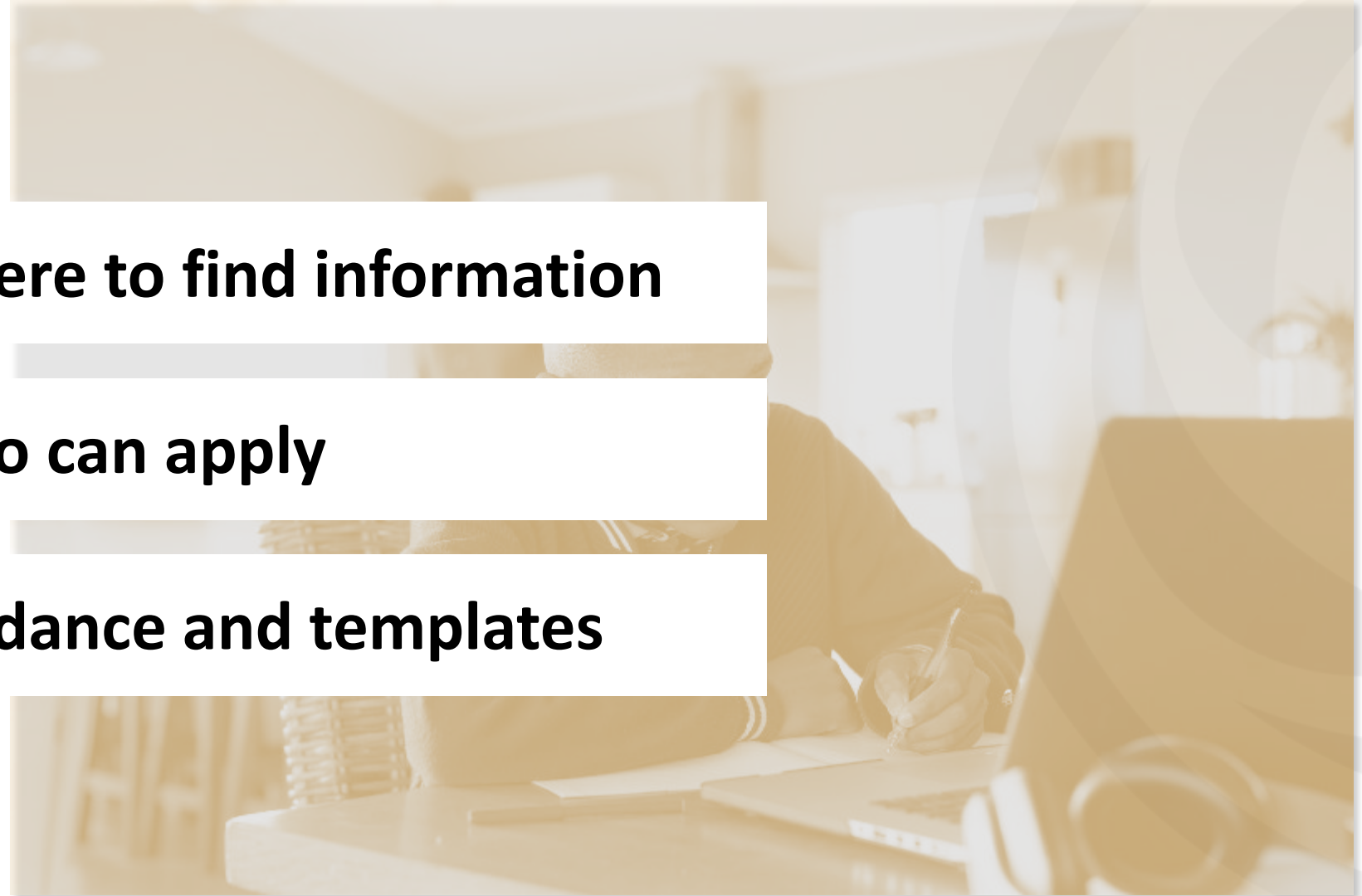
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# How to apply

- **Where to find information**
- **Who can apply**
- **Guidance and templates**



# Where to find information

## Joint Process

- [GACD webpage](#)
- [Joint application portal](#)

## Parallel Process

- [GACD webpage](#)
- [EU Funding & Tenders Portal](#)
- [Horizon info day recording](#)
- [Fogarty webpage - NIH](#)

You can also follow GACD on [LinkedIn](#) or [Bluesky](#)

# Joint application process

## Stage 1

- Shorter project description
- Peer review of eligible applications
- Feedback and outcomes



## Stage 2

- Only invited applicants can apply
- Full length application
- Feedback and outcomes following award decisions

# Who can apply?



The Principal Investigator must be based in an eligible organisation



The team must include:

- Expertise in implementation research
- Early career researchers



The team must be multidisciplinary



The project must demonstrate engagement of relevant stakeholders, including policy makers from engaged sectors

# Guidelines and templates



[Multisectoral call application guidance](#)



[Frequently asked questions](#)



[Multisectoral call application template](#)



[GACD evaluation and scoring criteria](#)

**Please read agency-specific information!**

# Points to strengthen your applications

- Provide robust qualitative and **quantitative statistical** analyses, and plans for data management.
- Ensure clear description of **qualitative methods**, including how knowledge is generated, analysed, and linked to study aims.
- Think about **outcomes** - include implementation outcomes and real-world effectiveness indicators.
- Ensure you demonstrate genuine understanding of conceptual and analytical **frameworks**.
- Demonstrate **meaningful co-design**, involvement of lived experience and how it informs the research process.
- **Critically reflect on knowledge production**, particularly in relation to context, equity, and generalisability: Make sure that any ethical and equity issues are clearly addressed

# Use of Artificial Intelligence/LLM/ML tools

- Applicants are requested to ensure any applications using AI tools comply with **the rules** set out by their funder.

For an example, please check the [Canadian Institutes of Health Research Guidance on the use of AI in the development and review of the research grant applications](#).

- Be **cautious** when using generative AI tools in the preparation of grant applications.
- If you choose to use generative AI tools, ensure you acknowledge and cite the output of those tools in your work -
  - To **reference AI-generated content** in your proposal:
    - When you reference this content directly in your text, you should include an in-text citation, and an associated entry in your reference list.
    - If you have used AI tools for some part of your research, you should describe that use in your introduction or methods section and include the prompts that you used.

# Projects involving Indigenous or First Nations peoples

**In Australia** - NHMRC has requirements and processes designed to ensure that research into Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health is of the highest scientific merit and is beneficial and acceptable to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities.

Resources available

- [Road map 3: A strategic framework for improving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health through research](#)
- [Ethical conduct in research with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and communities: Guidelines for researchers and stakeholders](#)
- [Keeping Research on Track II](#)

## **NHMRC's Indigenous Research Excellence Criteria:**

- Community engagement
- Sustainability and transferability
- Benefit
- Building capability

# Peer review of applications involving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health research

**Stage 1:** Relevant applications complete the *Indigenous Research Excellence Criteria* questionnaire available on the GACD 'how to apply' webpage. Application IREC responses provided to GACD peer reviewers for consideration against the GACD assessment criteria.

**Stage 2:** Relevant applications respond to the *Indigenous Research Excellence Criteria* within the NHMRC Sapphire application. NHMRC coordinates an evaluation of the IREC responses by a reviewer with specific expertise in Indigenous health research. The reviewer considers the benefits of the proposed research and whether the research will be undertaken in a culturally appropriate manner.

**The evaluation of IREC responses will be provided to the GACD joint international peer review panel.** The evaluation does not give a numerical score but will be taken into consideration by the panel in the overall assessment of the application against the GACD assessment criteria.

# Projects involving Indigenous or First Nations peoples

**In Canada** - CIHR is committed to supporting Indigenous self-determination in health research and there are additional considerations for research involving First nations in Canada.

- At least **one team member** listed as NPA or Principal Applicant who self-identifies as **Indigenous** (First Nations, Inuit or Métis) or can provide evidence of having [meaningful and culturally safe involvement](#) with Indigenous communities (First Nations, Inuit and/or Métis), or both  
**AND**
- At least one **Indigenous Elder** and/or Indigenous **Knowledge Keeper\*** (First Nations, Inuit or Métis) **OR** a [knowledge user](#) who is affiliated with an Indigenous non-governmental organization in Canada with a research and/or knowledge translation mandate listed as NPA, Principal Knowledge User, or Knowledge User.
- **Submit a 1-page attachment on how applicants meet this requirement - Indigenous Experience** (mandatory for applications involving Indigenous Peoples, maximum 1 document) – label as "Indigenous Experience – Name"



## **Application for the 11th GACD Multisectoral Approaches funding call: Stage 1 - Joint process**

This is the submission portal for applications to the Global Alliance for Chronic Diseases (GACD) eleventh joint funding call, focused on implementation research proposals, maximising collaboration and coordination with sectors and in settings beyond the healthcare system to tackle chronic non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in underserved populations. You can find more information about this call on the [GACD webpage](#).

**Please note: You cannot save your application as you go, so please prepare all the relevant materials offline and submit them together when you are ready.**

- Only proposals submitted via this online portal will be considered.
- The Principal Investigator should submit the proposal on behalf of the study team. The other project partners should not submit a separate proposal.
- Applicants applying for joint funding from two or more funding agencies will only need to submit one application.
- The proposal is stored securely.

**All applications must be submitted in English.**

**The deadline for Stage 1 applications is the 17 June 2026 (16:00 UTC)**

**Once you have completed all sections and uploaded all documents, please click the submit application button. Please note that you will not be able to amend your application once it has been submitted.**

Multisectors Call Application Portal : <https://airtable.com/apprPyCQ2qf0hdgmO/pagHNjSxeTuewtng2/form>

## Applicants' details

Applications for joint funding (from more than one funder) should include co-principal investigators eligible to receive funding from their respective funding agency.

Name of principal investigator \*

Affiliation of principal investigator \*

Country of residence of principal investigator \*

+ Add country

Email address of principal investigator \*

Name of co-principal investigator

Affiliation of co-principal investigator

Country of residence of co-principal investigator

+ Add country

Email address of co-principal investigator

Names and affiliations of co-investigators \*

## Funding agency details

Primary funding agency \*

+

Additional funding agency/ies

+

## Project details

Full project title \*

Country/ies where the project will take place \*

+ Add country

Total budget requested (USD) \*

Start date \*

dd/mm/yyyy



Project duration (months) \*

Scientific Abstract \*

Maximum 3500 characters, including spaces (equivalent to ~500 words)

Lay abstract \*

Maximum 3500 characters, including spaces (equivalent to ~500 words)

## Uploads

Please upload all of your completed forms in support of your application. [All templates and guidance can be downloaded from the GACD call webpage.](#)

### Project participants \*

Please upload your completed [project participant table](#).

⬇ Drop files here or [browse](#)

### Application form \*

Please upload your completed application form (1 pdf file); the template can be found on the GACD call webpage. Please ensure you have read and understood the application guidance.

⬇ Drop files here or [browse](#)

### Letters of support \*

Please upload your letters of support combined into one pdf file here. Please ensure that you have a signed, dated letter of support from the host institution of the principal investigator(s).

⬇ Drop files here or [browse](#)

### IREC form (NHMRC applications working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples only) or Indigenous Experience letter(s) (CIHR applications working with indigenous peoples only)

Applicants proposing to undertake research which specifically relates to the health of Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples must address NHMRC's [Indigenous Research Excellence Criteria](#)

Applicants proposing to undertake research involving Indigenous Peoples must submit a one-page attachment per country describing how they meet [CIHR requirements](#) for such research.

⬇ Drop files here or [browse](#)

## Ethical approvals

Have you received ethical approval? \*

Yes

No

Ethical considerations \*

Please describe the ethical considerations arising from this research and any steps you have taken towards reducing the risk to participants, in particular vulnerable or disadvantaged groups. Please ensure you address:

- Societal considerations
- Any direct and/or indirect harm that may come to participants/third parties (e.g. working with vulnerable groups).
- Environmental concerns
- Any other concerns you can think of, that may be harmful to anyone else.

## Final checks

### Privacy policy \*

Please confirm that you agree to your application data being shared with staff from the GACD Secretariat, GACD member funding agency staff, and peer reviewers. Your personal data will not be used for any purpose other than the application management and peer review.

### Consent \*

Please confirm that you have the consent of all parties listed as project participants to submit this proposal.

### Accuracy \*

Please confirm that all information that you have provided is truthful and accurate.

 Clear form

Submit application

# Planning your application: starter checklist

- ✓ Plan everything!
- ✓ Download all the templates from the GACD website
- ✓ Take a look at the portal and familiarize yourself with it
- ✓ Organise your letters of support
- ✓ Check your study design and sample size
- ✓ Think like a reviewer- what can you do to improve your proposal?

Pause for thought...

What could you add, remove, or modify?



# GACD Application guidance

 [www.gacd.org/funding/application-guidance](http://www.gacd.org/funding/application-guidance)

- GACD proposal guidance
- Specific considerations when applying to GACD
- GACD proposal evaluation criteria
- Top tips for writing proposals and responding to peer review comments
- And some links to information on Horizon Europe and the NIH

# GACD Implementation Science e-Hub



- Fully open access
- Self-paced programmes
- Real life examples of implementation science for tackling NCDs
- A resource hub, including other external tools and guidance

<https://implementationscience-gacd.org/>

# GACD Stakeholder engagement collection



- **Introduction:** to stakeholder engagement with recommended reading from our 'Getting started with implementation research' page.
- **e-Hub Programmes:** expert-led videos and downloadable materials from both the Fundamentals and Advanced Programmes, covering foundational principles and advanced strategies for scaling interventions and influencing policy.
- **Resources and toolkits:** key resources, frameworks, and top tips to guide stakeholder engagement efforts.
- **Case studies:** real-world examples and GACD-funded impact stories to illustrate effective stakeholder collaboration in diverse contexts.

## Questions?

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- Please put your questions in the chat box
- We will add popular questions to the FAQs on the call webpage
- Any questions not answered, please email [funding@gacd.org](mailto:funding@gacd.org)

# GACD Multisectoral Approaches Call - key considerations

- Implementation research
- Stakeholder engagement from the early stages
- Strategy for measuring implementation research outcomes and real-world effectiveness outcomes
- Equitable workloads and partnerships
- Embedded capacity strengthening
- Sustainability