The Value of Vaccination Research Network (VoVRN) is pleased to announce the initiation of a grant-making cycle to fund research on the broader social and economic impacts of vaccination (BSEIV).

Economic evaluations of vaccination have traditionally focused on a relatively narrow set of outcomes—chiefly the direct health benefits of vaccines and the averted medical care costs among those who are immunized. BSEIV research seeks to conceptualize and quantify additional outcomes of vaccination that may have bearing on decisions made by governments, donors, and other relevant stakeholders involved in the process of funding, designing, or implementing immunization programs. Examples of BSEIV include the long-term educational and productivity gains that result when immunized children are healthier and can therefore attend school and the potential for vaccination to slow the rate at which antimicrobial resistance develops (see Figure 1 for a taxonomy of BSEIV categories). For more information about the current state of BSEIV research, including major evidence gaps, please see Bloom et al., 2016 and Jit et al., 2015. Further reading is available here.

Figure 1 – Taxonomy of the broader social and economic impacts of vaccination (BSEIV)

Qualified organizations (“applicants”) interested in receiving funding to conduct research in this area should prepare an initial submission (“concept note”) for review by the VoVRN Secretariat and Steering Committee. Promising concept note authors will be invited to expand on their ideas in a full proposal that will be considered for a grant.

Please note, full proposals will only be accepted from applicants who were invited based the VoVRN’s evaluation of their concept notes.
Studies should focus on quantifying the social and economic benefits of vaccination at the household, community, or national level. Strong applications will include a focus on the impact of vaccination in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), and may include research partners from LMICs. The VoVRN is especially interested in funding research on childhood vaccination and on vaccines that otherwise affect people throughout the lifecycle (e.g., influenza vaccine, HPV vaccine). Concept notes should describe the study question, methodology to be employed, research partners, research outputs, and the potential real-world applications of the study findings. Concept notes should also indicate which category (or categories) of the BSEIV taxonomy detailed in Figure 1 the study results are expected to inform.

Multiple proposals will be selected for funding. The final selection of proposals will strike a balance between the area/region of the world where the research will take place, the methodologies employed, the pathogens studied, and the pathways analyzed.

Parameters:

- **Time frame:** Studies span from January 2018 up to December 2020 (3 years).
- **Budget:** Studies should budget up to 700,000 USD, including indirect costs. Budgets of up to 700,000 USD will be considered; however, applicants should determine project budgets based on the amount of funding needed to accomplish the proposed aims (not the maximum allowable amount). The final funding amounts to be awarded will depend on the budgetary needs of the several studies to be funded; therefore, budget negotiations will take place across all projects.

Indirect costs may be requested according to the following limits:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Limit</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Government Agencies</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Private Foundations</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US Universities / US Community Colleges</td>
<td>The lesser of 10% or the organization’s established rate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs)</td>
<td>The lesser of 15% or the organization’s established rate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Multilateral Organizations</td>
<td>The lesser of 15% or the organization’s established rate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-US Universities</td>
<td>The lesser of 15% or the organization’s established rate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For-Profit Organizations*</td>
<td>The lesser of 15% or the organization’s established rate</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* For-profit entities may propose indirect costs from 0% up to 15%. Adequate explanation of the cost must be provided.
Eligibility:

- Eligible Principal Investigators (PI): Any individual(s) with the skills, knowledge, and resources necessary to carry out the proposed research may apply.
- Applicant Organization Eligibility: The primary applicant should be employed by an institution with a robust financial and administrative infrastructure. Please note that applicants invited to prepare a full proposal application will be required to submit financial documentation, such as audit reports and/or financial statements, which will be used to assess the financial risk of their research institution.
- Applicants from domestic universities, international universities, non-governmental organizations (both domestic and international), multilateral organizations, and for-profit organizations are eligible to apply.
- Consortiums are eligible to apply. In the case of a multi-partner approach or consortium, the research must be led by a primary organization, which will provide coordination and overall management of the project.

Evaluation Criteria:

1. Concept notes will be evaluated on a scale of 5 (best) to 1 (worst) for each of the following categories:
   1. **INGENUITY**: To what extent will this research widen and deepen understanding of the broader social and economic impacts of vaccination? Consider the originality of the proposed research question and methods.
   2. **APPLICABILITY**: Assess the applicability of likely study findings to real-world policy settings.
   3. **CAPABILITY**: Assess the capabilities of the research team for conducting the proposed activities. Assess whether the research team is lacking any relevant methodological skills or experience.
   4. **FEASIBILITY**: How feasible is this study given real-world constraints (funding requested, allotted time, study context stability, etc.)? Consider any limitations of the research.
   5. **IMPACT**: How likely are the results of this study to have an impact on vaccination policy? Assess whether the study results will add to the evidence base, change the way policymakers think, or translate to other settings.

Submission Requirements:

1. Concept note describing the proposed research question and the methods the applicant plans to employ if funded. The concept note should include the following sections:
   - Project Scope/Description: Describe the overall approach you will take in the project. Include the methodology, study setting, and which broader impact(s) of vaccination will be investigated through this research.
   - Investment Outcomes: What are the project aims and proposed outputs? Describe how the proposed approach will achieve the desired outputs and how this will be measured.
   - Organizational Fit: Describe the institutional resources that are relevant to the implementation of the proposed work.
• Risks/Challenges: Describe the anticipated challenges to the success of the project and your proposed strategies to address them. Consider any technological limitations and how you plan to overcome them.

Formatting Requirements:
1. The concept note should be 1-3 pages, single-spaced, sized 11 Calibri Light or Arial font, 1-inch margins, on 8.5” X 11” paper.
2. High-level budget estimating the costs for the proposed research.
3. CVs or biosketches for key personnel
4. Letters of support from partner institutions (optional)

Deadlines:
• Concept notes are due on Friday, August 4 by 5 PM EDT.
• The Secretariat will invite the applicants with the highest scores to submit full proposals. These applicants will be notified by Wednesday, August 30.

Submission Procedure:
• Templates and instructions will be available online at www.immunizationeconomics.org
• Concept notes and all related documents should be emailed to madebayo@hsph.harvard.edu as a single zip file attachment.
• Files should be named as follows, with each applicant using their specific information for the text in bold. Please note, documents 1-4 are required, and documents 5 onward are optional. Please continue to number any additional documents as appropriate.
  • 1-ConceptNote_CoverSheet_PI-LAST-NAME
  • 2-ConceptNote_Narrative_PI-LAST-NAME
  • 3-ConceptNote_Budget_PI-LAST-NAME
  • 4-CV_Biosketch_PI-LAST-NAME
  • 5-Letter-of-Support_PI-LAST-NAME-PARNTER-ORG (optional)
• Applicants will receive an email confirming receipt of their application. During the review period, please do not contact the VoVRN Secretariat to inquire about the status of your review.

Evaluation Procedure:
• Step 1: The VoVRN Secretariat at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health in the Department of Global Health and Population will review all the concept notes. The most promising applications will be shared with the Steering Committee for evaluation and scoring.
• Step 2: Each concept note shared with the Steering Committee will be evaluated by at least two Committee members. These evaluations will be sent to the Secretariat, who will calculate the final scores, and decide which applicants will be invited to submit a full proposal. The number of applicants invited to submit a full proposal will depend on the quality of the concept notes received.
• Step 3: Selected applicants will be invited on August 30 to submit a full proposal due October 27.