

RFP BRIEFING SESSIONS HELD ON 18 AUGUST 2025 – MSM & TG AND PWID

FINAL Questions and Responses (Q&A)

Q&A for General, MSM & TG and PWID specific sections are outlined below.

General RFP-related	
Question	Response
1. Has the Submission Deadline Date been extended?	• Yes, the submission Deadline Date has been extended to 13:00 on 5 September 2025 and a notification on this extension was posted on the website under Updates. • Please check the website regularly for Updates - https://www.auruminstitute.org/gf-sr-requestforproposals
2. Where can the RFP documents be found, particularly the Application Form and List of Requirement Documents?	• The RFP documents for each programme (MSM & TG and PWID), including the required Application Forms, SR Capacity Assessment Tool and Required Checklists are available for download on the website at https://www.auruminstitute.org/gf-sr-requestforproposals
3. Will a (Pty) Ltd be able to apply to be a Subrecipients in the Global Fund GC7?	• No, per the published Adverts and RFPs, only duly registered and suitably experienced South African Non-profit Organisations (NPOs) and Government Departments based in the districts are eligible to apply. • PTYs, Close Corporations and Private For-Profit organisations are not eligible to apply.
4. Is your organisation restricted in working with private registered NPCs like ours?	• Aurum is a not-for profit public benefit organisation, and like any other organisation applies for funding based on the eligibility criteria specified in the published RFPs.
5. Is an SR allowed to sub-grant other recipients (SSRs) under them?	• No, Joint Ventures, Consortiums and SSRs will not be permitted. • SRs are expected to self-implement all activities within the districts selected and must have past/current experience and a footprint in these districts. • Kindly also refer to the response in 8. below.
6. If SR are allowed to contract other partners, are the partners supposed to be authorised by Aurum before contracting?	• No, Joint Ventures, Consortiums and SSRs will not be permitted. • SRs are expected to self-implement all activities within the districts selected and must have past/current experience and a footprint in these districts. • Kindly also refer to the response in 8. below.

7. How far would Aurum be involved in managing the relationship between the SR and their sub. Would the contract between Aurum and the SR apply to the partners contracted by the SR.	• No, Joint Ventures, Consortiums and SSRs will not be permitted. • SRs are expected to self-implement all activities within the districts selected and must have past/current experience and a footprint in these districts. • Kindly also refer to the response in 8. below.
8. Is the decision to appoint only three SRs for each RFP a firm one?	• No, however Aurum as the PR intends to appoint a total of 6 x SRs across all 3 programmes. • Aurum intends to appoint 3xSRs for MSM & TG and 3 x SRs for PWID, however this will be depended on the districts included in the applications received and the SR Selection Panel (SSP) recommendations if applications received do not cover all the districts, in which case the Final Selected SRs may be requested to take on additional districts.
9. On page 10 of the RFA, you note that the three SRs will be divided. But in the table that is in the RFA, there are 8 districts where both TG and MSM will be implemented; 7 in which only MSM will be implemented; and there are none in which TG alone will be implemented. Can you explain this seeming inconsistency?	• This was an unfortunate oversight when the RFP was updated with the last minute geographic and target changes approved by Global Fund. • The MSM & TG and PWID RFPs have been revised to update the section for correctness and clarification purposes and will be uploaded to the website on 20 August 2025 together with the revised Application Forms.
10. In the RFA, you state the “...preference will be given to SRs that can demonstrate a preference in these districts”? Given that they are spread across eight Provinces, and 15 Districts, what is a reasonable expectation in terms of how many Provinces and Districts an organization should have a “footprint” in?	• Applicants need to be based in the implementation district or be currently implementing programmes in the same district to leverage local knowledge and existing relationships with key stakeholders and ensure sustainability of interventions. • If potential Applicants have met the minimum threshold to be considered as an SR, first preference shall be given to the applicants based in the district, followed by those based elsewhere in the same province before considering all other applicants. • To the extent possible, SRs shall recruit their implementation staff from the relevant districts. • The procurement of general goods and services by SRs (e.g. catering and transport services) must be procured from local businesses located in the implementation districts, without compromising value for money, as part of the GF programmes to boost local economies.

11. Is the intention that only relatively large national NGOs should apply for this application? That is certainly the practical implication of given preference to NGOs that have a national footprint.	No, any NPO can apply but must have past/current experience and have a footprint in these districts.
12. If that is not the intention, explain how a smaller NGO that is implementing a GF programme in only one district would be competitive for this application?	Smaller NGOs implementing a GF programme in a specific district can enhance their competitiveness by demonstrating strong local impact and effective use of resources. They should highlight strategic partnerships within the district, emphasizing their track record of successful implementation, and demonstrate a footprint within the district.
13. Is the plan that these three successful NGO's that are selected as SRs would then subcontract local NGOs to be sub-sub recipients and actually implement the programmes?	- No, Joint Ventures, Consortiums and SSRs will not be permitted. - SRs are expected to self-implement all activities within the districts selected and must have past/current experience and a footprint in these districts. - Kindly also refer to the response in 8. above.
14. On page 31 of the RFA you state that questions must be submitted by 21 August. Does that mean that there will be no rolling response to questions? And we must await the 25th of August to have a response? Such as the questions I am posing in this email? This is already a very compressed application period. The 25th is one week before the grant application deadline. Answers at that late date will hardly be helpful in guiding the application.	- Responses to Questions received prior to and during the briefing sessions are published within 2 days after the briefing sessions as an Interim Q&A (i.e. by virtue of this Q&A published on 20 August 205) and a final Q&A will be published after the deadline date, by 25 August 2025. - All questions after the briefing sessions must be sent to - GF-SR-Applications@auruminstitute.org with the RFP reference number - Questions listed in the subject line per the RFP requirements.
15. Should we list potential SSRs on the grant application?	- No, Joint Ventures, Consortiums and SSRs will not be permitted. - SRs are expected to self-implement all activities within the districts selected and must have past/current experience and a footprint in these districts. - Kindly also refer to the response in 8. above.
16. Should we list potential groups that we might collaborate with on the grant application?	- No, Joint Ventures, Consortiums and SSRs will not be permitted. - SRs are expected to self-implement all activities within the districts selected and must have past/current experience and a footprint in these districts. - Kindly also refer to the response in 8. above.

17. Will there be roadshows?	Based on the latest information received by the CCM, Roadshows will take place in all provinces as follows: <table border="1" data-bbox="842 264 1425 600"> <thead> <tr> <th>Province</th><th>Date</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Gauteng Province</td><td>25 August 2025</td></tr> <tr> <td>Limpopo Province</td><td>26 August 2025</td></tr> <tr> <td>North West Province</td><td>26 August 2025</td></tr> <tr> <td>Eastern Cape Province</td><td>26 August 2025</td></tr> <tr> <td>Mpumalanga Province</td><td>27 August 2025</td></tr> <tr> <td>KwaZulu-Natal Province</td><td>27 August 2025</td></tr> <tr> <td>Western Cape Province</td><td>27 August 2025</td></tr> <tr> <td>Free State Province</td><td>28 August 2025</td></tr> <tr> <td>Northern Cape Province</td><td>28 August 2025</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Province	Date	Gauteng Province	25 August 2025	Limpopo Province	26 August 2025	North West Province	26 August 2025	Eastern Cape Province	26 August 2025	Mpumalanga Province	27 August 2025	KwaZulu-Natal Province	27 August 2025	Western Cape Province	27 August 2025	Free State Province	28 August 2025	Northern Cape Province	28 August 2025
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18. The capacity assessment tool is very detailed and time consuming to complete. Especially given the short deadline. Do we need to complete that for the 1 September application deadline? Or can be submitted afterwards?	- Yes, the completed Capacity Assessment Tool (CAT) is required to be submitted as part of the required documents for any application per the RFP (irrespective of whether the application is paper or electronic). - Paper applications must provide a USB/Memory stick with all the paper documents in electronic format on the USB/Memory stick including the CAT in excel format. - The CAT is used to assess the capacity of the Applicant as it relates to the Applicant's governance structures, systems, policies and procedures to identify any gaps or risks for clarification by Short-Listed Applicants and for capacity building and correction action plan purposes for the Final Selected SRs. - If the CAT is not submitted per the RFP, such applications will not be considered.																				
19. The document states that the targets may be subject to change. What is the process for target revisions, and how frequently are they expected to occur?	- The targets may be subject to change based on consultation and approval from and with the Global Fund, at least once every six months (i.e., semi-annually). - Any such changes will be communicated to the Final Selected SRs when applicable.																				
20. Given that targets may be subject to change, what are the key performance indicators (KPIs) that will be used to measure success, and what are the consequences for not meeting the stated targets?	- The key performance indicators to meet are referenced in the RFP. - There are additional indicators, but those are the primary indicators by which we are measured against at the Global Fund for performance. - The consequences of not meeting the stated targets could lead to performance improvement plans and ultimate suspension or termination of the SR.																				

21. Is there a maximum amount of districts that one organisation can apply for?	• No, Applicants should apply for districts where they have past/current experience and must have a footprint in such districts. • Applicants are however required to implement both MSM & TG where these are in the same districts per the RFP.
22. Can we apply if we do not have DEL letter of good standing?	• It is not a pre-qualification requirement in the RFP. • However, please specify in the Required Checklist why you are not submitting the requested DEL Letter (e.g., The Applicant is not registered with DEL). • It is however expected that all Applicants are registered with DEL to comply with local legislation. • The SR Selection Panel (SSP) will however make a final decision on whether the Applicant has met all the requirements to be considered for the selection review process.
23. Is the SR allowed to appoint a SSR where the districts have a broad geographic spread in a province?	• No, Joint Ventures, Consortiums and SSRs will not be permitted. • SRs are expected to self-implement all activities within the districts selected and must have past/current experience and a footprint in these districts. • Kindly also refer to the response in 8. above.
24. For clarity, am I correct in understanding that Aurum will appoint a total of six SRs in total over the 3 programmes? Will this be fixed as two in each programme or potentially a different split?	• Yes, Aurum as the PR intends to appoint a total of 6 x SRs across all 3 programmes. • Aurum intends to appoint 3xSRs for MSM & TG and 3 x SRs for PWID, however this will be depended on the districts included in the applications received and the SR Selection Panel (SSP) recommendations if applications received do not cover all the districts, in which case the Final Selected SRs may be requested to take on additional districts.
25. Could you give any details on the allowability of sub-sub recipients and the eligibility requirements for these?	• No, Joint Ventures, Consortiums and SSRs will not be permitted. • SRs are expected to self-implement all activities within the districts selected and must have past/current experience and a footprint in these districts. • Kindly also refer to the response in 8. above.
26. If SSRs are not allowed as sub grants, can SRs contract services on a fee for service basis from other organisations?	• No, SRs are expected to self-implement all activities within the districts selected and must have past/current experience and a footprint in these districts. • Kindly also refer to the response in 8. above.

27. Will a new start up organisation be considered for this grant.	- Any organisation can apply provided the pre-qualification criteria has been met and all the required documents have been submitted. - The SR Selection Panel (SSP) will however make a final decision on whether the Applicant has met all the requirements to be considered for the selection review process. - Per the RFP, preference will be given to Applicants that can demonstrate past/current experience and having a footprint in the districts.
28. If we are applying for multiple districts should we use one application form, or a separate application form for each?	- The Applicant must complete the relevant Application Form (i.e., either MSM & TG, or PWID) and indicate in the form for which districts the Applicant is applying by ticking the relevant boxes under the relevant section. - However, please take note that an application package is required for MSM & TG and PWID separately per the RFPs. - If the Applicant is applying for both RFPs, the Applicant can submit one application package, however the package must contain both of the separate Application Forms (i.e. one for MSM & TG and one for PWID).
29. At what stage and in what format would a proposed budget be required for the submission? I did not notice any mention of a specific template to be used / listed in the documents to be submitted?	- Per the RFPs, Budget(s) and Workplan(s) are not being requested for submission. - Only the Final Selected SRs will be required to prepare and submit Budgets and Workplans in collaboration with Aurum as the PR.
30. The RFA notes that budgets are not required at this submission stage - please confirm.	- Yes, this is correct. - Kindly refer to the response in 27. above.
31. Is there any indication of the approximate funding level? It appears that the request is for a limited number of SRs to essentially run national programmes across multiple districts and provinces (without SSRs). Will there be adequate allowances for the administrative costs for this?	- Aurum is currently still awaiting approval of the budget from the Global Fund and due to the budget constraints Aurum as the PR can only appoint a total of 6 x SRs across the 3 programmes. - At this point in time there is no indication of approximate funding levels for SRs, however provision will be made for administrative costs as allowed/approved by the Global Fund.
32. Some organizations might not necessarily have a footprint in other sub districts within the district. How is this going to work? Or is it automatic disqualification?	- If a district is assigned to an SR, the SR will be responsible for the entire district. - This will not be an automatic disqualification.
33. If the received or successful applications do not include all the listed districts, what will happen to the other districts? Will the successful organization be required to take more on board?	- Yes, it is possible that the Final Selected SRs may be requested to take on additional districts if the applications received do not cover all the districts. - Kindly also refer to the response in 6. above.

34. At what stage will budget amounts be communicated, this will have an impact on the implementation and approach	• Only the Final Selected SRs will be required to prepare and submit Budgets and Workplans in collaboration with Aurum as the PR. • Kindly also refer to the response in 29. above.
35. Are these requirements required at application phase or will be required at a later stage, as due diligence?	• All the required documents are listed in the RFP and must be submitted, including the Capacity Assessment Tool (CAT). • If the CAT is not submitted per the RFP, such applications will not be considered. • Kindly also refer to the response in 16. above.
36. Given that this is a tender, will there be a requirement for SBD forms and if so which once?	• No, SBD forms only apply to the SA Government Tenders. • The use of the words “Tender/Tender Box” refers to the boxes at the various locations at which/where paper applications are to be submitted and does not imply that this is a “Tender”. These boxes are commonly known as “Tender Boxes”. • Please refer to the Revised RFPs for the required documentation and submission instructions.
37. Can NGOs do a joint application? for example if an organization has been implementing prevention and community based Programmes for PWID and not much on the HealthCare services like HLV/AIDS awareness.	• No, Joint Ventures, Consortiums and SSRs will not be permitted. • SRs are expected to self-implement all activities within the districts selected and must have past/current experience and a footprint in these districts. • Kindly also refer to the response in 8. above.
38. Can one SR apply for any of the districts, or is there some form of allocation?	• Yes, the Applicant should apply for all districts of relevance where the Applicant has past/current experience and has a footprint in the districts. • The Applicant must indicate in the relevant Application Form which districts the Applicant is applying for by ticking the relevant boxes under the applicable section.
39. Can we apply for a site in any of the Districts?	• Yes, the Applicant should apply for all districts of relevance where the Applicant has past/current experience and has a footprint in the districts. • The Applicant must indicate in the relevant Application Form which districts the Applicant is applying for by ticking the relevant boxes under the applicable section.
40. Will you share the presentation deck with us?	• Yes, the briefing session recordings as well as the Presentation was uploaded to our website on 19 August 2025. • Please review the website regularly for any updates and/or changes to documents or information.

41. Where do we submit proposals in Ekurhuleni?	Kindly refer to the RFPs, under the Paper Application Submissions Instructions, the locations for all districts are listed.
42. Is it compulsory for us to be registered with DEL?	- It is not a pre-qualification requirement in the RFP. - However, please specify in the Required Checklist why you are not submitting the requested DEL Letter (e.g., The Applicant is not registered with DEL). - It is however expected that all Applicants are registered with DEL to comply with local legislation. - The SR Selection Panel (SSP) will however make a final decision on whether the Applicant has met all the requirements to be considered for the selection review process.
43. In writing the proposal, do we however still propose recruitment of medical/clinical staff on a contract = duration of the project (2028)?	- Yes, Applicants will need to indicate what staffing is required, or will need to employ to implement as an SR for the programme area(s) and districts the Applicant is applying for. - Kindly also refer to the response in 8. above.
44. How will the recording be made available and when?	The briefing session recordings as well as the Presentation was uploaded to our website on 19 August 2025.
45. Can one SR apply for all 3 programs?	- Yes, Applicants may apply for all 3 programmes provided that the Applicant has the relevant past/current experience and has a footprint in the districts. - However, please take note that an application package is required for MSM &TG and PWID separately per the RFPs.
46. Will there be opportunities for smaller organisations with small capacity that do not meet the requirements of being an SR	- Any organisation can apply provided the pre-qualification criteria has been met and all the required documents have been submitted. - The SR Selection Panel (SSP) will however make a final decision on whether the Applicant has met all the requirements to be considered for the selection review process.
47. Where do we submit?	Kindly refer to the relevant RFP, which outlines the submission instructions for Paper and Electronic submission options, as well as the locations for Paper application submissions.
48. If an NGO applies for 3 programs in 2 or 3 provinces, where do we submit? Do we submit at any address, or one in each province?	- The Applicant needs only to submit at one location, at any of the relevant locations specified in the RFPs. - However, please take note that an application package is required for MSM &TG and PWID separately per the RFPs.

49. We do not meet the following requirement: Letter confirming participation in the district coordination structure, e.g. the DAC, <i>if it exists</i>; or a letter issued by the PAC. Kindly advise us on how to go about it?	• It is not a pre-qualification requirement in the RFP. • Please indicate in the required Checklist as to why the required document is not being submitted. • The SR Selection Panel (SSP) will however make a final decision on whether the Applicant has met all the requirements to be considered for the selection review process.
50. The Department of Employment and Labour as well as DSD letters of good standing, those are valid for a period of 12 months, so do you want us to also submit for the last two years?	• Per the RFP, please provide these letters as requested. • However, if the Applicant only has the latest valid period letters then these should be submitted. • The SR Selection Panel (SSP) will however make a final decision on whether the Applicant has met all the requirements to be considered for the selection review process.
51. In the event that the organization is newly registered, for example, if it came into existence this year, most of the requirements around financial statements around compliance with the Department of Employment Equity and DSD, they are only possible for organizations that would have been existing for more than a year. I just want to understand what is the attitude towards organizations that want to meet that criteria from a compliance perspective. I know that earlier on you mentioned that a new organization can present their experience because Aurum is more interested in the capacity in terms of the experience and ability to deliver, but what is the attitude when it comes to the issues of compliance which are not possibly for organizations that were registered in the current year?	• Any organisation can apply provided they have met the pre-qualification criteria specified in the RFP (i.e. B-BBEE Certificate or Sworn Affidavit - minimum of Level 1 or 2 only). • Any Applicant that does not submit the required B-BBEE Certificate or Sworn Affidavit as mentioned above, will be automatically disqualified. • If the Applicant has been operating for less than a year, the Applicant is required to specify in the Required Checklist why the documents are not being provided (e.g. Your organization has been operating for less than a year and therefore does not have the required documents). • The DEL & DSD requested letters are not part of the pre-qualification criteria, so the Applicant won't be disqualified. • The SR Selection Panel (SSP) will however make a final decision on whether the Applicant has met all the requirements to be considered for the selection review process.
52. With regards to the required AFS, I see in terms of the criteria that you need to have audited financial statement for the period of 2023-2024. Please can I have clarity with regards, let's say maybe I have 2022 which is audited. Please can you elaborate in terms of that?	• If the Applicant does not have audited financial statements for 2024, then the Applicant must provide the audited financial statement for FY2022 and FY2023 and state in the Required Checklist that the FY2024 audit has not been completed as yet. • If an Applicant does not have audited financial statements, per the RFP, such an Applicant must provide - A Letter of financial good standing together with Management Accounts (including a Balance Sheet and an Income Statement) for FY2024 and FY2023, signed by

	the preparer of such accounts and the Board Chairperson.
53. On your website. I can see that you also post on the Capacity Strengthening, which is an Excel capacity assessment tool. I believe it's for community strengthening system program. So for community system strengthening program I just wanted to check when are you going to be starting with it?	• The Capacity Assessment Tool (excel document) is not related to Community System Strengthening (CSS). • The CSS is actually a whole separate component that is going to be managed by another PR. • The Global Fund has split the CSS supported districts across the 3 PRs, and each PR has been allocated a set number of districts in which CSS will be implemented. • It is estimated that the CSS work will probably start taking shape or start being implemented in earnest by December 2025, or January 2026. • The CSS work will be supported, facilitated and directed by the PR allocated to support those districts. So all SRs appointed in the PR's districts will follow the activities as facilitated and directed by the PR for those districts.
54. If an organisation is not in a particular district, do they still qualify to apply? For example, if the organisation is located in Gauteng but wants to apply for Limpopo.	• An Applicant can apply for any district(s). • The Applicant must however have past/current experience and have a footprint in the districts.
55. If an organisation does not have all the required documents, such as the SARS Tax clearance certificate, would the organisation be considered or eligible to apply?	• Any organisation can apply provided they have met the pre-qualification criteria specified in the RFP (i.e. B-BBEE Certificate or Sworn Affidavit - minimum of Level 1 or 2 only). • Any Applicant that does not submit the required B-BBEE Certificate or Sworn Affidavit as mentioned above, will be automatically disqualified. • If the Applicant has been operating for less than a year, the Applicant is required to specify in the Required Checklist why the documents are not being provided (e.g. Your organization has been operating for less than a year and therefore does not have the required documents). • The SR Selection Panel (SSP) will however make a final decision on whether the Applicant has met all the requirements to be considered for the selection review process.
56. As you know, there are some organisations and they have got good government bodies and structures that are in place. So I want to find out within the Global Fund as an SR, do they actually entirely qualify for a hosting organisation that already has an existing hosting agreements with them and in place entirely to host their funds in an orderly way.	• Any organisation can apply if they are eligible and meet the requirements. • The Capacity Assessment Tool is used to assess the capacity of the Applicant as it relates to the Applicant's governance structures, systems, policies and procedures to identify any gaps or risks for clarification by Short-Listed Applicants and for capacity

Since you know that some organisations don't have entirely good financial systems where the hosting organisations has system with the financial management and ensuring that their books are in order over.	building and correction action plan purposes for the Final Selected SRs. • If the CAT is not submitted per the RFP, such applications will not be considered.
57. Regarding the letters that we need to collect from DEL and PAC, knowing that that might take a long period to receive and with the closing date being on 1 September. We've been struggling to get the letter from DEL and it's been over six months now. What can we provide in the meantime if maybe these letters are not available by the time of submission?	• It is not a pre-qualification requirement in the RFP. • If the Applicant does not have these letters at the time of submission, the Applicant must state in the Required Checklist that these have been requested by not received at time of submission and provide proof that these letters have been requested. • The SR Selection Panel (SSP) will however make a final decision on whether the Applicant has met all the requirements to be considered for the selection review process.
58. We understand that SSRs will not be permitted. However will a Joint Venture be allowed, whereby 2 organisations collaborate in terms of the application?	• No, Joint Ventures, Consortiums and SSRs will not be permitted. • SRs are expected to self-implement all activities within the districts selected and must have past/current experience and a footprint in these districts. • Kindly also refer to the response in 8. above.
59. If an organisation did not attend the briefing session, is the organisation still eligible to apply?	• Per the RFP, the briefing sessions are not compulsory and therefore all organisations are eligible to apply provided they meet the RFP requirements, irrespective of whether they attended the briefing sessions or not.
60. In the RFP it is stated that the one of the letters must be from a CEO, now depending on the structure of the organization that might be a very high level and in some projects that has never been required. Is this an example that a letter from the CEO or a new relevant person designated to sign for such projects may sign and not necessarily the CEO?	• The Letter must be signed by whoever the Applicant's authorized official is, the person who has been delegated to be able to sign on behalf of the organization. Whether it's the CEO, a Managing Director or somebody else who's been delegated authority, is acceptable.
61. If my organisation contracts another organisation as a Consortium, under which my organisation will pay the partner for skills, is this allowable?	• Any persons required for skills or work to be performed under the application, must be employed by the Applicant directly. • The Applicant may not contract out to another entity/organisation for workers and/or to perform any of the activities. • SRs are expected to self-implement all activities within the districts selected and must have past/current experience and a footprint in these districts. • Kindly also refer to the response in 8. above.

62. Are organisation eligible to apply if the specific interests of the programmes are not covered in the objectives of the organisation's constitution?	• Yes, the organisation is eligible to apply. The organisation's constitution is not checked for alignment of the organisation's objectives to the programmes. • Per the RFP, Applicants are required to have past/current experience and have a footprint in the districts for the programmes the Applicant is applying for.
63. Is this grant a once off, or a continuous grant?	• The funding from the Global Fund is only for the period 1 October 2025 till 31 March 2028.
64. In terms of the programmes, do you perhaps have a presentation with the overlapping of programs in in the different districts or provinces?	• A slide has been included in the Briefing Sessions Combined Presentation that was uploaded to our website on 19 August 2025, per this request.
65. In the RFP document it does outline that you can either do a paper, a hand delivered submission via the tender box locations that are listed in the RFP?	• Yes, the RFPs clearly outline the submission instructions for both paper and electronic submissions. • No emailed applications or documents will be accepted, so please follow the instructions in the RFPs.
66. There were issues with the email address, please can this be corrected?	• There was unfortunately a typo in one section where the email address was mentioned, however this was corrected in the RFPs that were uploaded to our website and the correct email address is - GF-SR-Applications@auruminstitute.org. • Should anyone still experience issues, please email info@auruminstitute.org, and the email will be redirected to the abovementioned email address for these RFPs.

MSM & TG Specific	
Question	Response
67. Could you kindly provide your proposed targets and budget estimates for the full program duration?	• Kindly refer to the RFP. The Indicators and Targets, as well as the Scope of Work, for MSM & TG are outlined in the RFP document, which is available on the website - https://www.auruminstitute.org/gf-sr-requestforproposals • Applicants are not being requested, and should not, submit any workplans or budgets. • At this point in time Aurum as the PR is still awaiting Global Fund finalisation and approval of the budgets and therefore cannot provide any details. The final selected SR's will be provided with the relevant information as soon as Aurum has Global Fund approval and signed the grant agreement with Global Fund.

68. Western Cape locations: Would the City of Cape Town include the Winelands area of Paarl and Stellenbosch?	No, Paarl and Stellenbosch are in the Cape Winelands District, and only the City of Cape Town and Garden Route have been approved by the Global Fund as districts in the Western Cape for implementation of the programmes.
69. The MSM/TG RFP states that 3 SRs are required, namely 1 for MSM, 1 MSM/TG, and 1 for TG. However, our observation is that there are no TG only districts in the document, would you please help clarify which districts are TG only?	- This was an unfortunate oversight when the RFP was updated with the last minute geographic and target changes approved by Global Fund. - The MSM & TG and PWID RFPs have been revised to update the section for correctness and clarification purposes and will be uploaded to the website on 20 August 2025 together with the revised Application Forms.
70. The MSM/TG RFP seems to require 1 national SR for MSM and another for MSM/TG, is our interpretation correct?	- No, however Aurum as the PR intends to appoint a total of 6 x SRs across all 3 programmes. - Aurum intends to appoint 3xSRs for MSM & TG and 3 x SRs for PWID, however this will be depended on the districts included in the applications received and the SR Selection Panel (SSP) recommendations if applications received do not cover all the districts, in which case the Final Selected SRs may be requested to take on additional districts.
71. The MSM/TG RFP seems to indicate that TGs will be provided with OST and the numbers are very significant. Is it OST or hormonal therapy that was intended?	- This was an unfortunate oversight when the RFP was updated with the last minute geographic and target changes approved by Global Fund. - The MSM & TG RFP has been revised to remove the OST targets from the table for correctness and clarification purposes and will be uploaded to the website on 20 August 2025 together with the revised Application Forms.
72. The document provides targets for each district over the grant period. Are these targets for the entire grant period (October 1, 2025, to March 31, 2028), or are there annual or quarterly targets that we should be using for implementation planning?	The targets reflected in the RFP are for the entire grant period, being 1 October 2025 till 31 March 2028.
73. For the districts where both MSM and TG programs are identified, should the bid proposal include separate work plans and budgets for each program, or should they be integrated?	- Per the RFPs, Budget(s) and Workplan(s) are not being requested for submission. - Only the Final Selected SRs will be required to prepare and submit Budgets and Workplans in collaboration with Aurum as the PR.
74. Could you please confirm if any districts are designated exclusively for the Transgender (TG) program, or are all districts are listed for both MSM and TG programs?	- There are no districts designated exclusively for TG, however there are for MSM. - Kindly refer to the Revised RFP for the specific districts for MSM and the districts for both MSM & TG.

75. The document mentions a hybrid service delivery model combining Drop-in Centres (DICs) with community-based outreach. Are the locations for the DICs predetermined, or is the SR responsible for proposing suitable locations within the target districts?	• Yes, the SR is responsible for proposing suitable target locations within the districts.
76. There was a mention of footprint in districts, what happens when the SR applies for a districts with a footprint that is not MSM/Transgender but other programmes in those districts?	• This is acceptable, provided the Applicant can demonstrate that the Applicant has past/current HIV Prevention experience and has a footprint in the districts.
77. Provide more details on procurement of meds	• The procurement of the drugs will come predominantly through the Department of Health. • So the SR will be required to have an SLA with the local district Department of Health • With the SLA the SR will be linked to the mother facility and the mother facility will provide the SR with all of the commodities as it relates to HIV testing kits. • No HIV self-screening kits, only the rapid testing kits, EDTA tubes, etc. for viral draws, CD4 draws, as required and the drugs will come directly from the mother facility. • Both the oral prep as well as the antiretrovirals,, and the STI drugs as well, the fluconazoles, amoxicillins, etc. and the bulk of the Primary Health care medicines will come from the Department of Health. • What an SR would need to cost for is some lab costs for hepatitis tests, etc., that NHLS may not undertake and based on experience it differs from province to province. • Aurum will be providing SRs with the HIV self-screening test kits, as well as all of the other commodities that the Department of Health would not be providing. • Please note that the DICs must have a pharmacy storeroom / mini pharmacy that meets all of the criteria for good pharmaceutical practice.
78. Do you have the layout of the ideal DIC facility?	• A DIC Design has been uploaded to the website under Updates on 20 August 2025, per this request.

The MSM programme spans 15 districts across 7 provinces. The RFP indicates that only three SRs will be appointed to implement the MSM and TG programmes. This implies that each SR would need to cover a minimum of five districts to ensure full geographic coverage. Please clarify the following:

79. If an organisation has a strong operational footprint in only one district and applies to implement in that district alone, would this result in automatic disqualification due to the limited geographic scope? 80. Is there flexibility for Aurum to appoint more than three SRs if the strongest applicants demonstrate deep district-level expertise but limited multi-district capacity? 81. Will Aurum consider hybrid models where SRs lead in their primary district and collaborate with SSRs in adjacent districts to meet coverage requirements? 82. How will Aurum balance programme quality and depth of community engagement against the need for geographic coverage? 83. Will preference be given to SRs with proven impact in fewer districts over those proposing broader but potentially thinner coverage?	• An organisation with a strong operational footprint in only one district will not be automatically disqualified. • However, the SR Selection Panel (SSP) will make a final decision on whether the Applicant has met all the requirements to be considered for the selection review process. • Aurum as the PR intends to appoint a total of 6 x SRs across all 3 programmes. • Aurum will unfortunately not consider hybrid models or allow any SSRs on this grant. • Quality improvement will be implemented as part of the programme.
84. Where key staff and other project staff have been involved in HIV preventative projects in districts working for different organizations other than the applying entity, would this count as a footprint in these districts?	• No, Joint Ventures, Consortiums and SSRs will not be permitted. • SRs are expected to self-implement all activities within the districts selected and must have past/current experience and a footprint in these districts. • Kindly also refer to the response in 8. above.
85. Related to commodities, specifically condoms for anal sex, will you be able to procure that and ICC and proficiency testing, what about that?	• Aurum will be engaging the NHLS to undertake or to receive all of the serums for the internal proficiency testing. • Condoms will be provided. So it is an MSM specific condom, but because of our budget limitations, we would not be able to provide condoms for 100% and 100% of the time for MSM. There will be some provision for the MSMS specific condoms and lubricants, but the condoms will also be augmented by the Department of Health condoms.

86. We understand enough from representation that MSM & TG are integrated, but then it's seemingly from your presentation at the same time that there are districts without targets for TG, whereby you've also stated that although it's integrated, they would be accessing services from the same DICs. So then how, does that play out if a district does not have a target to reach? Are organisations only applying for the MSM within those districts, although the program is integrated because then obviously you know there's other questions that come into play for example during the process of application in terms of proposals, budgeting and so forth. So for example, KZN rather does not reflect within the demifications of the TG programme, but it's quite clear that it's integrated into the MSM.	• The districts that are MSM only are OR Tambo, King Cetshwayo, Ugu, uThukela, Mopani, Sekhukhune and Waterberg. In these districts TG is not supported by this programme and therefore have no targets to reach. • For these districts, if an Applicant applies for any one of the MSM only districts listed above, the Applicant will indicate that it's for MSM only. • For all of the other districts where the TG programme is included with the MSM programme, the Applicant will need to include both.
87. At our organisation we don't have DICs, so do we qualify?	• It would be required that an Applicant, if selected as an SR, sets up a DIC because that is part of our mandate with the Global Fund, that the MSM or TG individuals will have a safe space or a DIC that they can go and visit. • In addition, the team would need a site where they can keep all of the stock and a pharmacy space to store the pharmaceutical stock. • So yes, if selected as an SR, we would expect that a DIC be created. It doesn't need to be a massive DIC, but something small to accommodate the team that is commensurate with the target size for the specific district in in which the selected SR will be operating. • Bojanala is one of the districts with very high targets and we definitely expect a good DIC to be located there.
88. There was a mention of footprints in districts. What happens when the SR applies for a district with a footprint that is not MSM/TG, but has other programs in those districts?	• Preferably MSM and TG, but if the Applicant has other footprints, it will also suffice. • If the Applicant is familiar with delivering biomedical prevention services or treatment services, definitely that that would count in the Applicant's favour. • If the Applicant has first-hand experience with working with MSM or TG individuals that would be advantageous.
89. With regards to the Gauteng province, you only mentioned Johannesburg inner city. Are the rest of the others excluded? What does City of Johannesburg include, since it is noted that Tshwane and Ekurhuleni are not mentioned.	• No, for MSM & TG under Gauteng it is only the City of Johannesburg. • Tshwane, Ekurhuleni, Sedibeng and West Rand are not included in the City of Johannesburg and there is no MSM or TG for these districts in the Gauteng province.

90. Our organization has been dealing with HIV and AIDS since the beginning of the millennium. So we specifically deal with people who are dealing with HIV, especially on the issue of taking ARVs and those who have defaulted along the way. So that's has been our speciality for so long and training of lay councillors and I think that's a really relevant field that we have been in and on the issue of LGBTQ we have been active on that side. So we are part of the Gert Sibande district, but in this district there are hotspots where we are currently concentrated. With your project, are we expected to be doing the whole of Gert Sibande or must we continue on the concentrated so-called hotspots that we have already allocated in this particular time?	• It would be required to cover the whole of the Gert Sibande district because the targets are based on the entire district and not certain areas only. • However, for any SR within a district that they've been allocated or awarded the requirement, or expectation, would be that the SR undertake hotspot mapping, micro planning to identify exactly where the areas of high transmissions are located so that the SR can effectively target resources to those areas.
91. In the RFA there are discrepancies between the districts listed in the RFP and the Application Form for Eastern Cape and Western Cape – e.g. the RFP states for Eastern Cape it's OR Tambo district, but in the application form it is states Nelson Mandela Bay district. So I wanted clarity on that.	• This was an unfortunate oversight when the RFP was updated with the last minute geographic and target changes approved by Global Fund. • The MSM & TG RFP and Application Form have been revised to update the districts for MSM under Eastern Cape and Western Cape for correctness and clarification purposes and will be uploaded to the website on 20 August 2025.
92. Our organisation has been implementing social behaviour program for the past eight years, which deals with HIV prevention. So I wanted to ask if we can still apply since we never implemented MSM and TG?	• The organisation is eligible to apply if it meets the RFP requirements. • The Applicant should indicate in the Application Form the organisation's past/current experience and how the organisation would approach the MSM & TG programmes given that the organisation does not have experience in dealing with MSM and TG individuals.
93. In the RFP it states that MSM is for OR Tambo district, is this meant to cover the whole of OR Tambo district of will there be specific areas/sub-districts within the district?	• Yes, it is for the entire OR Tambo district because the targets are allocated for the entire district.

PWID Specific	
Question	Response
94. Sighting violent removal of all foreign nationals in public health care systems of South Africa , How may you help us in establishing centres that will assist inclusively for both foreign visitors and locals without discrimination. Especially in people taking HIV injections / prevention etc.	The successful SR's will be responsible for establishing inclusive drop-in centres for the MSM & TG and PWID programmes in the respective districts as outlined the RFP that will serve both foreign visitors and local populations without discrimination.
95. In our recent study we have realised that South Africa has a bigger number of foreigners with or without papers . Unregistered back yard clinics are popping up. How may you best help us get a recognised centre that will help both locals and foreign HIV drugs/ injections / distribution centre for a population of about 1M people living in Shacks , shanty towns.	The successful SR's will be responsible for establishing inclusive drop-in centres for the MSM & TG and PWID programmes in the respective districts as outlined the RFP that will serve both foreign visitors and local populations without discrimination. (refer to 91 above)
96. A nearby squatter camp where there is a massive number of poor locals and foreign residents .This is the remote area with the highest numbers of HIV positive people . Some have stopped going to clinics to collect their injections and drugs . Some have children living with HIV . All are left to suffer now. I am asking for your organisation to empower us to help this community on HIV-related issues and in issues like MSM.	The successful SR's will be responsible for establishing inclusive drop-in centres for the MSM & TG and PWID programmes in the respective districts as outlined the RFP that will serve both foreign visitors and local populations without discrimination. (refer to 91 above)
97. I see on geography template that in Gauteng Tshwane is not including, does that mean people from Tshwane shouldn't apply?	- Unfortunately, Tshwane is not included in the districts that Global Fund has approved and allocated to Aurum as the PR. - Only City of Johannesburg, City of Ekurhuleni, West Rand and Sedibeng have been allocated by the Global Fund to Aurum as the PR in the Gauteng Province.
98. Are the targets specified in the RFP disaggregated by age / gender or pregnancy?	No.
99. Will the PWID programme also have Economic Strengthening going forward?	Economic Strengthening might not be included for GC7, however this will be guided by the Global Fund.

100. Should the NGOs be currently having their programmes covering all the objectives required by the grant currently? or if some of our programmes meet 2 or 3 of the objectives we can apply and extend our programmes?	• You do not need to cover all objectives outright, but the proposal should clearly articulate how your programmes contribute to the overall goals and how additional activities will fill gaps. • The SR Selection Panel (SSP) will however make a final decision on whether the Applicant has met all the requirements to be considered for the selection review process. • Per the RFP, preference will be given to Applicants that can demonstrate past/current experience and having a footprint in the districts.
101. Does this program provide nutrition	• Yes, basic nutrition packs will be provided for the programme as has been provided under the Global Fund GC6 programme.
102. Regarding experience of an organization... An organization might have not implemented Harm Reduction programmes before (previously) but we have capacity & technical skills now, to implement. Will this disqualify us, despite the soundness of the proposal?	• Per the RFP, preference will be given to Applicants that can demonstrate past/current experience and having a footprint in the districts • The SR Selection Panel (SSP) will however make a final decision on whether the Applicant has met all the requirements to be considered for the selection review process.
103. It was mentioned that the SRs will not be allowed to make referrals to the Government health facilities, they'll have to disperse the medication to the PWID clients. My question is what will happen with those clients during the end of the grant cycle and also to those who are on the move because we have some who are always in the movement due to social economic status, they might move from 1 area to the other hustling. So what will happen to them if SRs are not allowed make referrals to the client, particularly when it comes to the end of the grant cycle?	• When the SR tests a client negative or positive, the SR cannot then refer the client to the facility or to any other entity/organisation to initiate treatment or PrEP. • The SR must provide the initiation on site at point of care. • As it relates to the end of grant, all clients that the SR services, are Department of Health clients. So all clients will be decanted and transitioned back into the Government sector. • If the client leaves the district, the SR has to undertake a process of transfer out and the client is given a transfer letter so that they can then go and get their drugs at wherever they end up across the country. • Ideally we don't want to see lost to follow-ups because that means we don't know if the client is taking their treatment and where the client is. • What was meant with "we won't accept referrals", it is explicitly meant for treatment initiation. • We also don't want to see that the SR initiates 50 clients on treatment but then the follow ups are only 10, for example. We would require that the SR have a formal transfer out process if the client does indeed leave the district.

104.If an organisation is working in multiple districts and also provinces can the organisation apply let's say for working in Gauteng and also in KZN? And also in terms of the budgeting, I want to check if a budget is required to be submitted and should we allocate for procurement of ARVs and PrEP, and is there a budget ceiling that we can work around with?	• Per the RFP, budgets are not being requested for submission. • SRs will not have to procure any ARVs or PrEP. • The Department of Health would be providing all of the commodities as it relates to HIV testing as well as ART initiation and PrEP, as well as the STI treatment drugs. • For the viral hepatitis, we will be providing the DAARs. • In addition to that, for all of the other pharmaceutical products, Aurum as the PR will be providing those particular products to the SRs based on a forecasting basis.
105.A question on the geography, I'm sure that these locations were chosen based on maybe the hotspots or the high volume of usage, but I just want to understand, for instance, with other areas like maybe why they're not on the list and maybe how other provinces are not also on the list just for educational purposes. And I see on that particular slide it says that these targets may be subject to change, so may the geography also be subject to change later on?	• The districts in the RFP are the Global Fund supported districts and it's to ensure that there's no overlap with the current CDC funded districts, because CDC is still operational and they are providing PWID services in the City of Tshwane through TB HIV Care. • The other districts that are in the RFP, are those districts from the GC6 Global fund programmes and are now also the USAID districts that have been dissolved due to the termination of all USAID funding in South Africa. • These districts that have now come up because these are the highest burden districts were based on epidemiological modelling as well as programmatic reporting over the last couple of years, we've seen an increase in the population size estimates for the PWID communities, as well as increased transmission rates amongst these communities.
106.Does Aurum understand that the population is highly mobile and what are the parameters of play insofar as we initiate clients on treatment to keep them on treatment?	• If the Applicant is applying to provide support services for people who inject drugs, we expect the Applicant to understand that an SR can't initiate a patient on treatment and then just let them disappear into the wind, because the expectation biologically from everybody is that you must understand the parameters of epidemiological transmission as well as HIV drug resistance. So simply starting someone on treatment is not adequate. • The Applicant will need to demonstrate its ability in the application to deal with that specific issue, that this is a highly mobile and unpredictable population, and who the Applicant is going to ensure that it keeps track of the population and the Applicant is able to

	ensure that the clients keep taking their antiretrovirals. • We understand that PWIDs out in the middle of nowhere, they disappear, etc., but the Applicant through its outreach efforts and experience in working with this population, must state what the Applicant would propose on how to keep the population engaged in care?
107.Are you looking to fund organizations that already has Clinicians or Professional Nurses that are going to be doing the initiation on site or is it going to be some sort of collaboration with the Department of Health?	• The Applicant should indicate in the application the addition, or the employment, of NIMART Nurses and these Nurses are required to have dispensing licenses, so that they would be able to undertake the PrEP and ART initiation, as well as the follow-up care.
108.Is there going to be a provision for mobile facilities?	• For the mobile outreach team, we don't want to be prescriptive, but for the mobile outreach team and within the DIC, the Applicant would need to accommodate NIMART nurses because the services will basically revolve around the availability of NIMART Nurses to initiate treatment as well as undertake follow-up care.
109.We previously worked with one of the organizations that were funded for PWID and the biggest bottleneck with them was that they couldn't refer for rehabilitation. So my question is, are we going to be having a specific place where we can refer for rehabilitation to those that are interested because most of the clients that we came across were very much keen to go to the rehabilitation centres and for some reason we couldn't get, them to the rehabilitation centres.	• For the for the rehabilitation access, that's where the SR would have its social worker, who would then be creating those referral links to the various rehabilitation centres based on the condition that the rehabilitation is for. • Aurum as the PR will be providing support for the SRs in aligning the referral processes to the rehabilitation centres, as well as having human rights advocates. In addition, also providing Community System Strengthening (CSS) to ensure that for exactly the reasons mentioned, the PWID population has access to rehabilitation centres.
110.As part of this grant, if we already have relationships with rehabs, paying rehabs that is, will this grant pay for our clients if we do refer them there or will they be set rehabilitation centres that Aurum will outline for us?	• If an Applicant is appointed as an SR, it would be seen that such SR is the expert in that area. • The SR will need to determine which are the relevant referral centres and rehabilitations centres that the SR needs to work with and part of the PR's responsibility is to support the SR in outlining the referral pathways and facilitating the rehabilitation centres to engage with the SR to ensure that the clients are being taken in and taken care of.