

The Step Up! Global Grants Programme Opens for Applications

Do you have an innovative idea for a youth-focused sustainable health initiative? AstraZeneca's Young Health Programme wants to support your organisation to promote youth health and environmental sustainability in your community.

Each year, AstraZeneca's Step Up! Global Grants Programme provides funding of up to US \$10,000 to help small, innovative, youth-focused non-profits develop and deliver effective health promotion programmes – with an emphasis on under-resourced and marginalised communities in low- and middle-income countries.

Climate change and non-communicable diseases (NCDs) are two defining challenges of the 21st century, each posing significant threats to health and sustainable development.

NCDs such as mental health conditions, cancers, diabetes, heart and respiratory diseases share common risk factors, including air pollution, physical inactivity, poor diet, excessive alcohol and tobacco use, and mental ill health.

This year, we are accepting applications for innovative, creative approaches which tackle both environmental sustainability and NCD risk factors, primarily targeting young people in under-resourced settings.

Approximately US \$200,000 in grants will be awarded to registered charitable organisations with experience in delivering effective projects which make health and environmental improvements in young people's lives. We will prioritise projects which address the needs of vulnerable young people (10-30 years old) in under-resourced communities. Often, they will take place in low- and middle-income countries.

Step Up! Grants have previously supported projects which measure and track air quality in polluted cities and informed young people about the risks to their health, and then worked with them to advocate for tighter legislation to combat air pollution. Another project supported young people to collect discarded cans and plastic bottles from the streets and turn them into hanging plant pots so they could grow their own fresh vegetables and herbs, while providing education about the benefits of healthy eating.

Interested applicants can learn more about the eligibility criteria and apply by visiting the [Step Up! Global Grants Programme application page](#).

Applications will be open until July 21, 2021.