

POWERING BREAST CANCER PROGRESS



Powering Breast Cancer Progress

2025 Grant Programme

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OVERVIEW

1

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), more than **2.3 million people** are diagnosed with breast cancer each year.¹ Breast cancer accounts for **11.6%** of all new annual cancer cases worldwide, making it one of the most prevalent cancers in the world.²

Moreover, in **95%** of countries, breast cancer is the first or second leading cause of female cancer deaths.¹

The introduction of breast cancer screening, earlier diagnosis, and innovative therapies, along with increased disease awareness, have significantly improved the survival of people living with breast cancer.^{3,4}

However, not all patients have access to optimal breast cancer care which ultimately results in significant disparities in outcomes within, and across countries around the world.^{5,6,7}

The **Powering Breast Cancer Progress** grant programme is a global initiative funded by AstraZeneca and supported by the Charities Aid Foundation (CAF). The programme has been initiated in recognition of the inequities in breast cancer care around the world and the significant barriers to optimal care that are contributing to avoidable breast cancer deaths.

Through this initiative, we seek to support innovative and impactful projects that can transform breast cancer care for underserved patient populations. By empowering these efforts, the programme aims to drive meaningful improvements in patient outcomes across the globe.

We also hope that this initiative will generate valuable evidence about the challenges breast cancer patients face worldwide, as well as the diverse strategies that can help overcome these obstacles. By fostering new insights and solutions, the programme aims to remove barriers to optimal breast cancer care and contribute meaningfully to the WHO Global Breast Cancer Initiative (GBCI) targets.

Focus for 2025 grant programme

The 2025 Powering Breast Cancer Progress grant programme will continue to focus on breast cancer patient navigation.

Patient navigation is a critical part of the patient experience as it helps individuals navigate the complex care pathway, and it helps improve patient outcomes and reduce the impact on healthcare systems.⁸⁻¹⁰ It is an evidence-based vehicle to improve the patient continuum in

each pillar of the WHO GCBI framework – strengthening the patient pathway for improved screening, earlier diagnosis and treatment.

However, there are significant barriers to accessing patient navigation services, and these barriers are even more pronounced amongst low-resource settings.^{11,12,13}

Desired outcomes for 2025 grant programme

Through the 2025 Powering Breast Cancer Progress grant programme, we hope to address some of the major barriers obstructing underserved patient populations from accessing patient navigation services, such as:^{13,14}

Lack of access to navigation programmes

Implementation challenges with navigation across the care continuum

Capacity for breast cancer navigation programmes

We hope the projects funded will help achieve outcomes such as:

More patients can access patient navigation

Reduced time for patients to receive complete diagnosis and initiate comprehensive treatment

Improved outcomes and disease experience as a result of improved patient navigation services



FUNDING GUIDANCE

2

Who can apply?

Powering Breast Cancer Progress grant applications are open to charitable and non-profit organisations involved in the care and support of patients with breast cancer. Organisations must be registered as a charity or non-profit in their country.

How much funding is available?

Financial contribution:

The total fund size available for 2025 is \$500,000 (USD). The funding will be provided by AstraZeneca through CAF. We anticipate awarding two grants of \$250,000 each for activities taking place within a 12-month period.

Funding will only be available to larger organisations or partnerships. These organisations should be able to demonstrate a track record of delivering significant impact or projects at scale and pace. Projects will have a high level of due diligence and expectation around reporting, specifically around monitoring and evaluation (M&E).

Other funding considerations

- The Powering Breast Cancer Progress grant request in most cases should not exceed 30% of the applicant organisation's annual revenue as stated in your annual accounts, or the combined revenue for a group of organisations. However, we may fund projects where funding is above this level. In exceptional circumstances, where an organisation can demonstrate proven track record of delivering projects of similar scale / scope, the threshold could be up to 50%. If you are requesting funding in excess of 30%, please provide evidence on your ability to manage this funding.
- Please request an appropriate level of funding according to your project needs. Part of the assessment will focus on the transparency and breakdown of project costs.
- Only one application per organisation is permitted.

Funding support cannot be given to

- ✗ Individuals, health care providers, medical group practices, public officials
- ✗ Organisations that:
 - ✗ Discriminate on the basis of age, race, colour, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, military service, veteran status, disability or other unlawful basis
 - ✗ Promote political or religious viewpoints to their beneficiaries
 - ✗ Use the funds to make grants or donations to other organisations or individuals
 - ✗ Are unable to supply bank details or report back on outcomes
 - ✗ Are non-charitable
- ✗ Initiatives already funded through other AstraZeneca programmes
- ✗ Projects that provide treatment or pay for medicines
- ✗ Projects that benefit AstraZeneca's commercial business
- ✗ Applications over \$250,000 (USD)
- ✗ Retrospective funding
- ✗ Capital projects or building appeals
- ✗ Any other activities prohibited under local standards



PROGRAMME GOALS

3

Through the Powering Breast Cancer Progress 2025 grant programme, we aim to address some of the major barriers to patient navigation services for underserved patient populations. While patient navigation is demonstrated to support outcomes across the WHO GBCI pillars, this programme will focus specifically on pillars II and III - timely diagnosis and comprehensive breast cancer management. Patient navigation is a critical method for reducing time to diagnosis within 60 days of initial presentation, the key performance indicator of pillar II, and achieving continuity of care so that at least 80% of patients complete multimodal treatment - the key performance indicator of pillar III.

To address these goals, we seek programmes which attempt to show improved outcomes within pillars II and/or III, and we encourage prospective grantees to reference the published WHO GBCI technical brief [***Patient Navigation for Early Detection, Diagnosis and Treatment of Breast Cancer***](#).¹⁵ Projects can be new, or they can build on existing successful projects.

Key metrics to demonstrate success

A successful grant application will need to include an outline of objectives, inputs, outputs and outcomes, as well as an articulated vision for how these outcomes will be shared within the health system and/or local policy stakeholders.

For a list of indicative indicators, please refer to the [WHO GBCI patient navigation technical brief](#) and the tools on navigation from the [Academy of Oncology Nurse & Patient Navigators \(AONN+\)](#).

Key metrics to demonstrate success of the project may include, but not exhaustive:

Increase in knowledge among navigators

Utilisation of navigation for diagnostic and treatment services

Reduction in time to treatment and/or diagnosis

Increased knowledge of the learnings from programmes amongst policy and health systems

Improvement in the provision of navigation within the health system for diagnostic and treatment services



PROJECT ASSESSMENT

4

The Powering Breast Cancer Progress grant programme will fund inspiring and innovative projects that show the potential to meet the programme's objectives.

How will we decide which projects to fund?

Successful projects will be identified via a two-stage application process. All applicants must first submit an **Expression of Interest (EOI)** outlining their proposed project. As part of the EOI, organisations will be required to outline their project **Logical Framework (Log Frame)** to define the project's objectives, activities, outputs and expected outcomes. The EOI will be assessed against the programme criteria, and selected organisations will be invited to submit a **full application** for further consideration. The full application will invite applicants to provide further detail on their proposed project.

To identify successful projects, we have developed a robust assessment criteria and decision-making process. Powering Breast Cancer Progress grant applications will be reviewed and selected by CAF, an external expert committee and AstraZeneca.

Assessment criteria considerations

- Project activities meeting stated objectives within a year
- Demonstrated ability to strengthen the patient navigation pathway supporting GBCI pillars II and III
- Ability to disseminate findings to policy and health system stakeholders
- Scaling up potential and sustainability
- Measurement and evaluation of success

What happens once a project is chosen for funding?

Following submission of the full application, short-listed applicants will be contacted by CAF to undergo a due diligence check to ensure their organisation has a charitable purpose and the funds can be legally transferred for that purpose. This process can take up to three months and you will need to provide documentation and further information online.

Before you apply, please ensure that you are able to provide the required documentation.

Please see FAQs for further details of the documentation required.

For applications which are not chosen to receive funding, where possible you will receive feedback from us.

What happens once due diligence is complete?

If you pass the due diligence check, your organisation will be offered a grant. The funding will be transferred, and monitoring and reporting requirements will be agreed as part of a signed grant agreement.

In the unlikely event that your organisation does not pass the due diligence checks, you will receive a response from us. Where possible, we will offer feedback.



PROJECT REPORTING AND FOLLOW-UP

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All applicants must complete a **Log Frame** as part of their EOI, application and reporting. This structured tool helps define project objectives, indicators and evaluation methods.

As part of your full application, you will be asked to provide details about your intended plans for **M&E**. This plan will guide how you intend to measure the success and impact of your project. It should include clear indicators, data collection methods and timelines for tracking progress against your objectives. A strong M&E plan will demonstrate how your organisation intends to capture learnings, assess change and ensure accountability throughout the duration of the grant.

Grantees will be required to submit a progress report six months after starting the project. After the completion of your project (12 months after initiation), we will ask you to complete a final report outlining how funds have been spent, what you have achieved and the difference the funding has made. We may also contact you in the future to determine the long-term impact of the project.

You will be asked how the learnings from this grant will be disseminated to policy stakeholders. Please include this planning in your six month and final reporting. Further independent financial reporting will be required for these grants.

Please note that once contracts are in place, the information about the Powering Breast Cancer Progress awarded grants may be published on social channels and/or external websites. We may also contact you to develop a case study for publication.

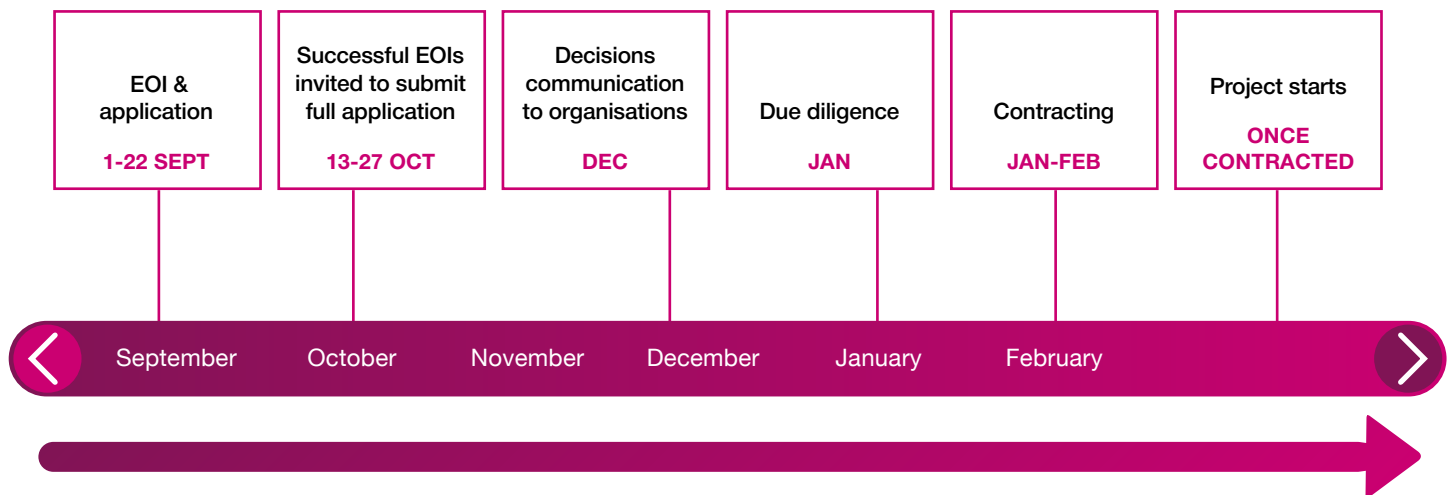


TIMELINES

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Provisional application timeline

We have set out below the estimated timeline for the 2025 grant application process:



Powering Breast Cancer Progress grant projects must start by the end of March 2026 and be undertaken and completed within 12 months.



HOW TO APPLY



Stage 1 – EOI: You can submit your EOI starting from **9am GMT on Monday, 1 September 2025**. EOIs for the Powering Breast Cancer Progress grant programme must be received by midday in your local time zone on **Monday, 22 September 2025**.

Stage 2 – Full application: Following the EOI process, successful organisations will be invited to submit a full application starting **Monday, 13 October 2025** during a **two-week window**. This stage is designed to assess projects in greater detail, ensuring alignment with funding objectives and evaluating their feasibility, impact and sustainability. Full applications must be received by midday in your local time zone on **Monday, 27 October 2025**.

Note that we do not expect to invite all organisations to Stage 2. We will provide feedback to unsuccessful applicants, where possible.

The online portal

Applicants are invited to register and complete the Powering Breast Cancer Progress grant online EOI form. EOIs and applications are to be submitted via the online portal, located on the AstraZeneca website [here](#). You will be taken to a website hosted by CAF's carefully selected partner, Blackbaud Grant Making.

Following registration, you will need to complete a short series of questions to ensure you are eligible to apply. This is designed to save you time and ensure qualified applications.

Once you have created a login and password, the online forms can be saved and returned to on an ongoing basis. You do not need to complete your EOI or application in one go. Access your part-completed or submitted application [here](#).

Supporting documents

The online EOI must be received by midday in your local time zone on Monday, 22 September 2025 in order to be considered for funding.

In addition to completing questions within the EOI and application forms, you will also be asked to upload documents to support your submission.

As part of the EOI submission you will be asked to provide:

- The latest set of financial accounts

As part of the full application form you will be asked to provide:

- Your project budget
- Your log frame
- Your planned timelines for activities
- Your governing document

Grant application advice

To strengthen your application, we recommend that you:

- Apply for funds at a level appropriate to the scale, size and impact of your project and organisation
- If your organisation is relatively new or turnover is low, be especially clear about how you will manage a grant of this size
- Provide comprehensive, detailed information about your project
- Describe your grant within the context of the GBCI pillars
- Demonstrate your track record and expertise in your project's focus area
- Discuss how you will share the results of your learnings with policy and health system stakeholders
- Make sure that your organisation's website is active and up to date

Please refer to the following FAQs for further information on the guidance set out above.

For more information please contact

PoweringBCProgress@cafonline.org

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)



1. *What do you mean by ‘patient navigation’?*

The WHO classifies patient navigation as a strategy that aims to overcome individual and system-level barriers to the timely diagnosis and treatment of cancer and other chronic disease conditions. It has been demonstrated that the implementation of such a mechanism can be useful in enabling and empowering women to receive appropriate and timely breast cancer care.¹⁵

Projects may support community-based or facility-based patient navigation services.

2. *What do you mean by ‘underserved populations’?*

Underserved patient populations refer to people who encounter barriers (e.g., racial, ethnic, gender, sexual orientation, economic, cultural and/or linguistic) to accessing public health and health care goods and services.

3. *Who is CAF and what is their role in this project?*

Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) is our partner providing the online platform and Powering Breast Cancer Progress grant making services. You can read more about CAF [here](#).

4. *Do I need to be a non-governmental organisation (NGO), non-profit or registered charity?*

You can be an NGO, non-profit, registered charity or an organisation with a social mission that operates on a non-profit basis. Applications will be considered from any organisation whose mission is exclusively charitable.

Please ensure that you have uploaded signed, scanned copies of the required documents in English, (listed under Supporting documents) to enable us to qualify your charitable purpose. These must be submitted as part of the application process.

5. *Can a group of organisations apply?*

Yes. However, one organisation must take responsibility for completing the application, managing the funds and reporting on impact as lead partner. The applicant organisation cannot provide sub grants to the other organisations in the consortium. There should be a written Memorandum of Understanding between the organisations.

6. *Can I apply as an individual or do I need an organisation?*

You need to apply through an organisation. We will not provide funding to individuals.

7. *If our organisation is selected to submit a full application based upon the EOI, how will we submit the full application?*

If your organisation is selected to submit a full application based on the EOI, CAF will contact you directly regarding next steps. You will be required to submit your full application form via the online portal, and guidance will be provided.

8. *Can I submit a project that has a reach and impact beyond breast cancer (a pan-cancer approach)?*

We are open to considering projects with a pan-cancer approach, but the Powering Breast Cancer Progress grant prioritises projects that address the specific needs of patients with breast cancer, and where these projects are able to share data related to breast cancer specifically.

9. *I've already received funding from another AstraZeneca fund. Can I still apply?*

Yes, however the AstraZeneca funding should not already be supporting the specific initiative for which you are applying.

10. *Can I apply if the patient navigation project already receives funding from a government or another private organisation (e.g., from another pharmaceutical or diagnostics company)?*

Yes, it is possible to apply for a grant as long as the specific activities you are applying for are not already funded by a government or another organisation.

11. *Can you help me complete my application? Can you help with translation into English?*

We will be able to answer queries related to the Powering Breast Cancer Progress grant programme, the completion of your online application form and submission requirements. Applications, along with supporting documentation and reporting, must be in English.

Online translation tools can be used as needed to prepare your application and documentation. Please be reassured your application is not assessed on your English fluency.

12. Can I apply for costs that have already been incurred?

No, expenditure must only be incurred after the Powering Breast Cancer Progress grant is awarded.

13. How much funding can I apply for?

We expect to award two grants of \$250,000 in this round of funding. Grant applications which are significantly below \$250,000 are unlikely to be considered for funding.

14. Can I apply for funding in my local currency?

You must request funding for the Powering Breast Cancer Progress grant in US dollars (USD). It is then possible to request payment in your local currency, which will be calculated using the exchange rate from USD on the date of payment.

To counter potential currency fluctuation, please incorporate any anticipated currency fluctuation risk (which can be up to 10% of the total budget if needed) as a line in your budget breakdown, along with an explanation as to why currency fluctuation would negatively affect the final amount received.

15. If I am unable to send supporting information, will it negatively impact my application?

Failing to provide supporting documents would mean that CAF will not be able to perform relevant due diligence checks. Therefore, applications without supporting documents will not be considered for a grant.

16. Can I send in supplementary information? Photos, videos etc?

Yes, we are interested in seeing supporting video and photos. You can upload photos or videos as supplementary information to the application form.

Note, successful grant applicants may be asked to submit a video to introduce the organisation and the project following completion of the contracting and due diligence processes. A video may also be requested to share outcomes of the project.

17. The application form asks me to upload my timelines for activities, what should I include in this?

We would expect your Powering Breast Cancer Progress grant timelines to include key milestones and objectives, activities planned, outputs and start and end dates. This information will be used to help us assess your planned activities and grant request.

18. Is there flexibility in the deadline?

No, please make sure you submit your Powering Breast Cancer Progress grant application by midday in your local time zone on **Monday, 22 September 2025**.

19. I applied last year but did not receive funding. Can I apply again this year?

Yes, you are welcome to apply again this year as long as the project fulfills the criteria for the 2025 grant. Please note that for the 2025 grant we anticipate making two awards of \$250,000 each and that your request must be proportionate to your organisation's income.

20. When will I be notified of the outcome of my full application?

Applicants submitting an EOI can expect to receive notification of the Powering Breast Cancer Progress grant outcome by October 2025. Timings will depend on the volume of applications received. This will be followed by the due diligence process. Decisions on the full applications will be communicated in December 2025.

21. What documents will I need to provide if I am successful?

If your Powering Breast Cancer Progress grant project is selected, CAF will then ask you for documentation to complete the due diligence and verification checks following the full application process. This is to ensure the grants meet legal requirements on international charitable donations. You must complete this stage before funds can be delivered.

Documents may include a copy of your organisation's governing document, a certificate of charitable registration in your country, most recent annual financial accounts, a transactional bank statement from the last 3 months as proof of your organisation's bank account and details of your Trustees/Directors' full names, residential addresses and dates of birth. Further information may be required in some cases, and you will be advised of this if your project is shortlisted.

Once these checks have been completed, you will find it easier to receive future donations through CAF, if appropriate.

22. What is a governing document?

This is likely to vary by country. Your governing document is the document that sets out the rules of your organisation. It could be your constitution, articles of association, bylaws, statutes, trust deed, articles of incorporation or other legal document, explaining the purpose of your organisation and how it works. It must include a charitable dissolution clause (i.e., what would happen to your assets if your organisation closed down).

23. If I apply for a grant this year, can I apply for a later grant cycle? Can it be the same project?

Yes, in principle you can apply in a future grant cycle, subject to future programme and eligibility requirements. Future grant cycles may focus on different priorities and requirements may differ to the current cycle. Your future application may be for a new project or a continuation of a previous project, as long as it fits the criteria provided for the grant cycle. Timescales for this will be announced at a later date.

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