



July 8th, 2026

Call for Statement of Interest: Integration of Nutrition and Health Initiatives

Edesia Nutrition is a 501(c)3 non-profit social enterprise dedicated to preventing and treating malnutrition in the world's most vulnerable populations. From our facility in North Kingstown, Rhode Island, we produce nutrient-dense, ready-to-use foods distributed through partners like the U.S. State Department, US Department of Agriculture, World Food Programme, UNICEF, local governments, and NGOs — reaching over 30 million children across 65 countries since 2010. Working at this scale has given us a deep appreciation for the innovations needed to drive better nutrition outcomes, and the Edesia Innovation Fund is our commitment to that goal.

In 2024, we established **Edesia's Innovation Fund** to accelerate the evidence base and scale up for cost-effective ways of preventing and treating acute malnutrition. Since then, the Fund has grown into an active and expanding portfolio — currently supporting 15 projects, with 15 partners, across 12 countries. Our partnerships are generating evidence on wasting prevention and treatment, novel product formulations, integrated service delivery, relapse prevention, maternal health, and digital health systems — across some of the world's highest-burden settings.

The Fund supports research that will lead to a reduction in the number of children suffering and dying from acute malnutrition — by improving treatment and preventing wasting in at-risk populations before it becomes life-threatening. We bring more than funding to these partnerships: Edesia works alongside partners as an engaged collaborator, offering R&D support, input on design, supply chain expertise and linkages to other partners.

We are now inviting Statements of Interests from organizations working at the frontier of the **integration of nutrition and health programs**, and we look forward to building the next generation of evidence together.

Theme: Integration of Nutrition and Health

Malnutrition and poor health do not occur in isolation. Malnourished children result in weaker immune responses, making them more vulnerable to infectious diseases. And infection, in turn, accelerates nutritional decline. This vicious cycle is well-documented but poorly addressed: too often, the systems designed to tackle malnutrition and those designed to deliver health services operate in parallel, reaching many of the same families at great and often duplicated cost, while still missing the most vulnerable.

The case for integration is fundamentally practical. Health services that target young children — immunization, antenatal and newborn care, growth monitoring, disease prevention and treatment — already share overlapping target populations, compatible timing, and similar logistical requirements with nutrition programs. Layering interventions onto existing platforms has the potential to improve coverage, reduce costs, increase demand for both services, and generate better outcomes than either could achieve alone. For caregivers, who are often mothers navigating fragile health systems with limited time and resources, integrated services mean fewer trips, fewer barriers, and a more coherent experience of care.

Despite the logic for integration, evidence on how to do it well remains thin. A model that works in a stable development setting may look very different in a humanitarian emergency; a facility-based approach may not translate directly to community health platforms. There are still real open questions around targeting, cost, and what success looks like across multiple program areas. Edesia's goal is to support the generation of

evidence that can be acted upon: informing program design, and making the case for integration with donors, governments, and implementing partners.

Supported Projects

This call is focused on research at the intersection of nutrition and health — projects that treat these not as separate sectors but as interconnected determinants of child survival and wellbeing. We are primarily interested in proposals that contribute rigorous, actionable evidence on integrated service delivery approaches that reduce wasting, prevent wasting or relapse, and improve child health, survival, and development — evidence that can be used to shift policy and practice.

Proposals must be grounded in one or more of the following integrated delivery models:

- Integrating preventive nutrition supplementation (SQ-LNS) into existing health delivery platforms to improve child health, nutrition, and survival.
- Integrating screening, referral, and treatment (with ready-to-use therapeutic food) of uncomplicated acute malnutrition (including relapse) into existing platforms to ensure malnourished children are being treated at scale.
- Integrating approaches that link nutrition support for pregnant and lactating women with maternal, newborn, and child health services to improve child health, nutrition, and survival.

Within these models, we are interested in research that advances understanding across these areas:

Program design and implementation

- Identifying how to structure integrated service delivery, including which platforms and touchpoints to use, how to sequence services, and what workforce and protocol adaptations are required.
- Understanding how integrated delivery models affect commodity forecasting, procurement, and last-mile distribution of nutrition products, and identifying bottlenecks that limit coverage or continuity of supply.
- Investigating feasibility of scale-up in different contexts, including humanitarian and fragile settings.

Coverage and demand

- Identifying which children and communities could benefit most from integrated approaches, and determining the most effective strategies for reaching, engaging, and retaining underserved populations through targeting, population modeling, and equity analyses — including whether the cost of targeted approaches is justifiable relative to broader coverage strategies.
- Understanding how integrated approaches influence demand generation and service utilization, including uptake, adherence, continuity of care, and completion of health and nutrition services.
- Assessing the acceptability and feasibility of integrated delivery models from the perspective of caregivers, frontline health workers, and health system actors, including perceived benefits, barriers, burdens, and unintended consequences.

Measurement, accountability, and technology

- Identifying how to define and measure outcomes across nutrition and health program areas simultaneously and understanding tradeoffs and ways to integrate data collection.
- Investigating technology, AI, and/or digital health tools that support targeting, integrated service delivery, beneficiary tracking, and/or accountability.

Cost-effectiveness and scalability are central to this call — we are looking for evidence that can realistically inform how integrated approaches can be delivered at scale. Proposals should have a clear link to wasting

reduction, wasting prevention, relapse prevention, or child survival outcomes; standalone policy or advocacy initiatives without a research component are outside scope.

Edesia will accept proposals for projects with quantitative and/or qualitative primary or secondary research, operational research pilots, and case studies.

Funding Support

Applicants can present their scope of work in tiers: a core scope within the base funding range of \$200,000-\$500,000, and an optional expanded scope describing how additional funding (up to \$2.5M total) would increase reach, rigor, or timeline. Each organization may apply with no more than two projects in which they are the prime applicant. The number of grants supported will depend on the quality of submissions and the funding requested by each project, as well as possible co-funding contributions.

Funding will support projects for a maximum of three years (including dissemination activities, where relevant). We expect to make funding decisions in early Q4, with the expectations that grant activities could start at the end of 2026 or early in 2027.

Phase One: Statement of Interest (SOI) Submission

SOI should be no more than 3 pages (Times New Roman, size 11 font, single spaced, 1 inch margins) and include:

- Project title
- Lead organization and key partners
- Country or proposed geography
- Problem statement and rationale
- Description of the proposed intervention or research
- Target population
- Description of how the intervention will integrate programs
- Expected nutrition and health outcomes
- Estimated budget range and current status of co-funding / funding for base program activities
- Anticipated timeline
- Relevant prior experience of the organization or consortium
- Applicants should use the provided budget template ([a copy can be downloaded here](#))
- Applicants may include up to 2 additional pages of annexes, graphics, or supporting materials.

Successful submissions will:

- have a clear research question relevant to the goal and within the scope listed previously.
- show innovative solutions.
- Shows adequate technical understanding of each sector.
- highlight impact locally and broadly.
- show promise to scale within the next 5 years.
- describe the context in which the project will take place and carefully identify how this context is important in framing the research questions and interpreting results and/or achieving deliverables
- show strong local partnerships and civil society linkages, where applicable.

- describe how this work will lead to acceptance amongst actors and normative bodies across all vertical areas, including assessment of the need for input on program design or research protocols.
- describe how research (and related academic publications, when applicable) prioritize local and/or global impact on policies and programming.

Phase Two: Selection for Funding Consideration

Selected organizations will be contacted for preliminary discussions and may be asked to expand their SOI into a full proposal.

Additional information

- Edesia is looking to build longer-term research partnerships. Follow-on grants may be considered.
- Edesia anticipates final contractual arrangements to take the form of a standard restricted grant, with reporting at least quarterly and at project completion.
- Edesia may use both internal and external resources to make funding decisions.
- We are primarily looking to fund projects in Africa, however Asia, the Middle East and Latin America will also be considered.

Submission instructions

Please send SOIs to grants@edesianutrition.org, subject line “[Organization Name]: Edesia - Integration of Nutrition and Health Initiatives” by **end of day (5pm eastern time) on August 31, 2026**. Early proposal submissions are encouraged, as reviews will take place on a rolling basis.

Clarifying questions can be sent to grants@edesianutrition.org and will be responded to on a rolling basis until 7 days before the due date. At Edesia’s discretion, answers submitted to questions may be shared with all applicants via our website.

Please note that the Eleanor Crook Foundation and other donors who have expressed interest in potentially funding projects submitted through this request may participate in the review process. Applicants will be notified if their proposal is selected for further consideration by Edesia and/or additional donors.

Edesia, Inc. Additional Terms & Conditions

Applicant acknowledges and agrees that the successful grantee will be subject to the following additional terms and conditions, which shall be a part of the grant agreement.

1. **Eligibility** – applicants must meet the following conditions: registered as a legal entity (non-governmental organization, community-based organization, civil society organization, research organization); comply with applicable laws, rules, regulations, orders, conventions, ordinances, or standards of the country in which they operate; be directly responsible for project design, implementation, and reporting. Government organizations are not eligible as direct candidates for grant funding, but they may support and participate in partnership with prime applicant with the condition that there is no conflict of interest. Where collaboration with a private sector/for profit organization is required or provides a compelling partnership, the proposal must demonstrate a clear public rather than private benefit.
2. **Exclusions** - Applicant institutions cannot participate in this call or receive funds if they: Are bankrupt or in the process of dissolution, have their businesses managed by the courts, have entered into an agreement with creditors, suspended business activity, are the subject of proceedings relating to these matters, or are in a similar situation resulting from a similar procedure provided for in legislation or national regulation; Have been convicted of a crime related to the subject of the call by a judgment that has become final (that is, against which it is not possible to appeal); Are guilty of serious misconduct proven by any means that the Contracting Authority can justify; They have failed to comply with obligations relating to the payment of social security contributions or the payment of taxes in accordance with the legal provisions of their country; Have been convicted by a final judgment for fraud, corruption, participation in a criminal organization or any other illegal activity; or, Have been declared to be in serious breach of contract for failure to fulfill their contractual obligations in connection with a tender procedure or other grant award procedure. Institutions will also be excluded from participating in this call or receiving funds if at the time of the call, they are subject to a conflict of interest.
3. **Tax Status** – Edesia, Inc. is a public charity, classified by the United States Internal Revenue Service (IRS) under Internal Revenue Code 501(c)(3) as either a Section 509(a)(1) or 509(a)(2). In making a sub-grant, Edesia needs to determine whether an applicant is tax exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. If an organization's exempt status is revoked or changed by the Internal Revenue Service, that organization is required to notify Edesia immediately.
4. **Use of Grant Funds for Charitable Purposes** - All payments with respect to the grant will be used by the grantee only for purposes that are charitable within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.
5. **Use of Grant Funds Other Than By a Public Charity** – Any grantee that is not a public charity as defined by the Internal Revenue Service shall comply with IRS expenditure responsibility rules.
6. **Use of Grant Funds for Project Proposal and Budget** – Grant funds may be used only in accordance with the project proposal and budget approved by Edesia. Grant funds cannot be used as collateral, to offset other financial obligations (including interest payments on lines of credit, and securing or servicing debt), or to meet cash flow or general operating expenses that are unrelated to the purpose of the grant proposal as defined in the grant agreement letter.
7. **Grant Payments** - If the grant payment schedule includes multiple installments, as specified in Edesia's grant agreement, or as modified in subsequent correspondence, the following will be applicable. The payment of each installment is contingent upon (i) grantee's progress towards achievement of the grant purpose as determined in Edesia's sole discretion, (ii) grantee's compliance with the terms of this Agreement, including without limitation timely submission of reports, and (iii) there having been no material changes in grantee's operations, staffing, funding, structure or tax status that would adversely affect grantee's ability to carry out or accomplish the grant purpose.
8. **Repayment of Grant Funds** - Grantee will promptly repay any grant funds not used for the grant purpose or otherwise in accordance with this agreement.
9. **Recording Keeping of Grant Funds** - Grantees are required to retain account records, detailing all receipts and expenditures, for a minimum of four years following submission of the final grant report. Edesia reserves the right to conduct on- and offsite audits of records related to the use of grant funds. In cases where grantee spending is not consistent with Edesia's award, Edesia reserves the right to request the return of awarded funds, disallow expenditures, or take other remedial actions.
10. **Monitoring and Evaluation of Grant Funds** – Edesia may monitor and evaluate grant activities. This may include, for example, visits from Edesia personnel, discussing the project and its progress with grantee's personnel, and reviewing financial and other records and materials connected with the activities financed by this grant. The

grantee agrees to cooperate with Edesia and to provide any information reasonably requested by Edesia.

11. **Prohibited Activities with Grant Funds** - Grantees will not use any amounts distributed to grantee nor any income from the grant to carry on propaganda, direct or indirect lobbying, or otherwise to attempt to influence or to influence the outcome of any specific public election or to carry on, directly or indirectly, any partisan voter registration drive. Please see Overview of U.S. Lobbying and Political Campaigning Rules for Grantees for additional guidance on lobbying definitions. Additionally, grant funds may not be used to support violence or terrorism-related activity. For a detailed list of restrictions on grant funds, grantees should refer to the grant agreement. Grantees are also expected to maintain controls to see that use of grant funds complies with the rules and guidance promulgated by the United States Office of Foreign Assets Control.
12. **Limited license for Use of Name** - Grantee will acknowledge Edesia's funding in an appropriate manner in all publications, press releases, talks, interviews, audio recordings, films/video, and other media and activities related to or resulting from grant-funded activities. Any other use of Edesia's name or logo is subject to the prior written approval of Edesia. Edesia may include information relating to the grant, including the name of grantee, on its website or in periodic public reports, press releases, or other public materials.
13. **Right to Discontinue Funding, Rescind Payments, and Require Return of Unspent Funds.** – Edesia reserves the right to modify or terminate the grant or to withhold future grant distributions at any time if it determines that grantee has failed to comply with any term of the agreement or is not able to carry out or accomplish the grant purpose. Edesia may also modify or terminate the grant if it determines that continuing grant payments would expose Edesia to liability or adverse tax consequences, or otherwise be inconsistent with the mission and values of Edesia. In the event of termination in accordance with this section, the grantee must promptly return to Edesia any unexpended grant funds.
14. **Ongoing Obligation to Notify of Significant Changes** - Grantees are expected to inform Edesia promptly of any significant changes in project staffing, organizational leadership, scheduling, or budgeting, when such changes occur during the grant period. Grantees are also expected to inform Edesia of notification by another significant funder that the funder is ceasing further funding.
15. **Ownership of Intellectual Property** - Unless otherwise noted in the grant agreement, the grantee organization retains all copyright interests to the work product created as a result of the grant. However, the grantee grants to Edesia an irrevocable, non-exclusive, royalty-free license to use, reproduce and publicly display all publications, studies, research, and similar works provided by the grantee to Edesia in connection with grant-funded activities (together, the "works") solely for Edesia's charitable purposes, including but not limited to highlighting grantee's grant-funded work on the Edesia website.
16. **Indemnification** - Grantee shall expressly indemnify, defend and hold harmless Edesia, its Directors, officers, employees, and agents from all liability related to the application, award, execution and monitoring/evaluation of the grant.