

Improving dementia care and support in the Dutch Caribbean

Subjects: dementia, Dutch Caribbean, best practices in dementia, dementia training

Publication date: 21 May 2024

Deadline: 8 July 2024, 2 PM (Central European Summer Time)

NOTE: The original Dutch-language text of the call for proposals is the authoritative version. Where the English-language text is open to a different interpretation, no additional rights may be derived from it.

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1. Summary

Who can apply?

This call for grant applications focuses on organisations as well as existing and yet-to-be-formed partnerships active in the chain of care and support for people with dementia on Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao, St. Maarten, St. Eustatius or Saba (ABC and SSS islands). These may be, for example, care institutions, educational institutions, research centres or non-profit organisations.

What is the purpose?

Grants within this call are available for projects focused on improving integrated healthcare, the knowledge infrastructure and the capacity of healthcare staff working in the care and support for people with dementia on the ABC and SSS islands. Applications may be made for applying innovative interventions in dementia care or for sharing best practices in the care of people with dementia and adapting them to the needs of the local island community or communities. In addition, applications may focus on implementing existing methods, training activities and other forms of knowledge transfer. Proposed projects should contribute to improving dementia care in a manner that can have a direct impact on the quality of life of people with dementia and their loved ones.

What can be applied for?

Two types of grant can be applied for:

1. Grants for projects focusing on improving collaboration in integrated healthcare and/or improving the quality of care and support in integrated healthcare. These projects have a maximum budget of €100,000.
2. Grants for offering targeted training courses for healthcare providers working in dementia and professionals in the social domain. These projects have a maximum budget of €50,000.

For this grant round, a total of €450,000 is available. For both types of grant, funding has been provided for three projects. If part of the budget for one type of grant remains, this budget may be allocated to the other type of grant.

The maximum duration of projects is 24 months.

When can applications be submitted?

Deadline for presenting detailed grant applications	Monday 8 July 2024, 2 PM (Central European Summer Time)
Receipt of referees' reports	Monday 9 September 2024
Deadline for applicant response	Monday 30 September 2024, 2 PM (Central European Summer Time)
Decision	Mid-December 2024
Latest start date	Mid-February 2025

2. Background

Programme objectives

The Dutch Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport launched the National Dementia Strategy in 2021.¹ The National Dementia Strategy (NDS) comprises three themes that are closely connected:

- 'A world without dementia'
- 'Persons with dementia matter'
- 'Tailor-made support when living with dementia'.

The Dementia Research Programme of the Netherlands Organisation for Health Research and Development (ZonMw) is developing the theme of 'A world without dementia'. This research programme facilitates groundbreaking research and innovation by leading centres specialised in

¹ <https://www.government.nl/documents/publications/2020/11/30/national-dementia-strategy-2021-2030>

dementia research, diagnosis and treatment. ZonMw therefore focuses on improvements to the quality of life of people with dementia, treatment and the ultimate goal of preventing dementia at national and international level. For a period of 10 years (2021-2030), the Dementia Research Programme is concentrating on knowledge development, innovation and knowledge utilisation. The programme targets the entire Kingdom of the Netherlands. The Caribbean parts of the Kingdom² are part of this. They comprise the islands of Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao, St. Maarten, St. Eustatius and Saba (ABC and SSS islands). All six islands are eligible for grant funding within this call for grant applications.

This call for grant applications is part of the Dementia Research Programme and involves collaboration with the ZonMw programmes [Caribbean Health Research](#) and [Dagactiviteiten voor thuiswonende mensen met dementie](#) (ADMD) (Daytime activities for people with dementia living at home; page only available in Dutch). The ADMD programme comes under the National Dementia Strategy's second theme, 'Persons with dementia matter'. It encourages and supports local authorities in using worthwhile daytime activities to meet the needs of people with dementia living at home, in line with their daily lives.

Dementia and the Dutch Caribbean

Just as in the Netherlands, increasing numbers of people in the Dutch Caribbean are dealing with dementia. These people find it increasingly difficult to perform everyday tasks. In addition, the disease has a major impact on the lives of their loved ones. It is important that care and support are appropriate to the needs of people with dementia and their loved ones at every stage of the disease. This alignment with their needs improves the quality of life of people with dementia.

Care and support for people with dementia involves 'integrated healthcare', in which different care and support professionals work together or separately to provide care and support. Examples are the general practitioner, the medical specialist, nurses, home care, paramedics, the social worker and providers of daytime activities³. Informal carers are also involved. Optimum integrated healthcare, sufficient knowledge and ample capacity of professionals contribute to improving care and support for people with dementia. The situation in the Netherlands cannot be compared exactly with that on the ABC and SSS islands, but in the island region, too, care is integrated with and between the various professionals, informal support and organisations.

3. Goal of this call for grant applications

The primary goal of this call for grant applications is to contribute to improving the quality of life of people with dementia and their loved ones in the Dutch Caribbean. ZonMw encourages care institutions, welfare organisations and other parties in the chain of dementia care and support on the ABC and SSS islands to start developing and implementing initiatives that contribute to improving dementia care in a manner that can directly impact the quality of life of people with dementia and their loved ones.

Best practices

With this call, ZonMw wishes to encourage the deployment of existing knowledge and interventions in the Dutch Caribbean. The application of best practices and validated methods, based solidly on scientific research and practical experience, significantly increases the likelihood of success and a positive impact. In this regard, it is important that initiatives are appropriate to the specific context of the Caribbean Netherlands region.

Best practices are successful approaches and programmes that have been developed and implemented in practice, and that have demonstrated significant improvements in the care of people with dementia. These may involve organisational improvements in care institutions, innovative forms of daytime activities, effective ways of supporting informal care, or the use of technology to enhance the independence of people with dementia.

Validated methods refer to care and support strategies that have been tested through research and found to be effective in offering sufficient support and improving the quality of life of people with dementia and their loved ones. These methods can range from specific communication techniques,

² For the purpose of this call, the term 'Dutch Caribbean' refers to all six Caribbean islands of the Kingdom of the Netherlands (Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao, Saba, St. Eustatius, St. Maarten), regardless of their constitutional position within the Kingdom.

³ [Wie is wie bij dementie? | Movisie](#) (in Dutch)

through ways of influencing behaviour, to approaches for stimulating cognitive functions and promoting social interaction.

Exchanging knowledge between islands

Collaboration and knowledge exchange between the islands involve complex challenges. However, ZonMw sees the added value of collaboration between islands in terms of exchanging knowledge and sharing best practices. In addition, achieving the active involvement of local government bodies and the relevant ministries in each region is key to safeguarding improvements over the long term.

Sustainable implementation and safeguarding

It is essential that projects do not just focus on a one-off application in dementia care and support, but on the sustainable implementation and safeguarding of these improvements. This requires an iterative process in which action-oriented learning and well-considered strategies ensure that the knowledge and the improved methods that emerge from the projects are firmly embedded in local healthcare practices.

Substantive focus

Applications in this grant round can be focused on improving collaboration in integrated healthcare and/or improving the quality of care and support in integrated healthcare. In addition, it is possible to apply for a grant for offering targeted training courses for healthcare providers working in dementia and professionals in the social domain. Below is an explanation of these two types of grant.

1. Improving collaboration and quality of care and support in integrated healthcare

Applications can focus on:

- Evaluating current care and support for people with dementia and their informal carers, with the goal of improving alignment with the needs of these groups and identifying specific points for improvement.
- Improving the coordination of integrated healthcare, so that it is appropriate to the needs of people with dementia and their loved ones, for example by strengthening collaboration between professionals from healthcare, support, welfare and informal care in the chain.
- Exploring, further developing and deploying best practices and proven effective interventions that improve collaboration and/or quality of care and support in integrated healthcare.
- Creating worthwhile daytime activities that are in line with the needs of people with dementia.
- The deployment of e-health as a strategy for enhancing the quality of care and support. Determining how e-health solutions currently contribute to dementia care in the region and which technologies are effective will make it possible for projects to use these innovations structurally to support and optimise care provision.

2. Offering training courses for care and support by professionals

Applications can focus on offering training to healthcare providers working in dementia and professionals in the social domain. These training courses aim to increase the competences of professionals in dealing with dementia and offering effective support that is appropriate to the personal needs of people with dementia and their loved ones. An additional goal here is not only to offer healthcare providers the necessary knowledge and skills, but also to empower them as key figures in the sustainable improvement of dementia care in their community. It is preferable to make use of existing training courses, developed either in the Caribbean region or in the European Netherlands, which can be adapted where necessary to the local context of the islands.

Training courses, but also other initiatives within this call, should preferably not only address the medical aspects of dementia care, but also promote the acceptance of people with dementia and their participation in their community. This encompasses supporting a person with dementia within an understanding and accessible social environment, with the emphasis on maintaining that person's dignity and autonomy, which in turn enhances quality of life.

4. Conditions and obligations

You must take account of certain rights, conditions and obligations when applying for ZonMw funding. These are based upon the [Dutch General Administrative Law Act \(Awb\)](#). Section 4.2 of the Awb

contains specific provisions, which apply to grants from ZonMw. [ZonMw's General Terms and Conditions Governing Grants](#) also apply. This call for grant applications derogates from Article 7 of ZonMw's General Terms and Conditions Governing Grants, which states that only legal entities governed by public or private law registered in the Netherlands are entitled to apply to ZonMw for grants. For the purpose of this call, legal entities have to be registered on one of the six Dutch Caribbean islands of the Kingdom of the Netherlands (Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao, Saba, St. Eustatius, St. Maarten).

For this grant round, the project should meet the following conditions:

4.1 Conditions

Your grant application must meet the conditions below in order to be considered.

4.1.1. Who is eligible for grant funding?

The following party/parties is/are eligible to receive either partial or full grant funding:

1. Organisations and/or existing or yet-to-be-formed partnerships that are active in care and support for people with dementia on Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao, St. Maarten, St. Eustatius or Saba, including care institutions, educational institutions, research centres and non-profit organisations.
2. The co-applicants can be parties based on the six islands. There is a strong preference for project members with local ties to the region, so that the regional capacity for healthcare and research is strengthened.
3. Parties based in the European Netherlands are not entitled to grant funding through this call. However, these parties may be hired through contract extension to implement part of the project activities.

4.1.2. Collaboration and contributions from third parties

ZonMw encourages the participation of different parties in collaborative projects. In this context, no grant will be provided if the conditions of the call for grant applications cannot be met.

- Collaboration is not compulsory, but it may be of added value for increasing the impact and scope of the project.
- Only parties that are represented in the project group and that make an active contribution to the project are considered to be partners in the project. Parties commit to the partnership for at least the full term of the project.
- The project group consists of relevant representatives of participating organisations. It also includes local people with dementia and their loved ones, as well as their representatives, such as local Alzheimer's foundations.

In the grant application and budget, the following must be made clear:

- Which parties are participating. Describe how each party will be actively contributing to the project; these should in any case be parties who appear in the budget as a party intending to claim a portion of the grant funding. Also include parties that will be making an active contribution as partners in the collaborative project for their own account and at their own risk.
- With which party or parties a sponsorship agreement will be concluded and what their cash or in-kind contribution will be.
- Which parties will be hired or, if this is not yet known, which activities are expected to be performed by third parties, plus the related costs that will be incurred (including VAT). For additional information and the conditions applicable to hiring/contracting, see the ZonMw webpage, [Grants and Collaborations/contributions from third parties](#).

Collaboration and sponsorship must be definitively arranged prior to submission of the detailed grant application.

Co-financing (in cash or in kind)

Co-financing is permitted but not compulsory. Alzheimer Nederland is interested in providing co-financing as a partner at project level. It can be contacted via onderzoek@alzheimer-nederland.nl.

Letter of Commitment

Because ZonMw requires assurance that the parties/sponsors collaborating on any project will be legally bound to provide the agreed contribution, each collaborating party/sponsor must provide a Letter of Commitment on submission of the detailed grant application. For this purpose, please use the template on the ZonMw webpage, [Grants and Collaborations/contributions from third parties](#).

Collaboration and sponsorship agreements

On the ZonMw webpage, [Grants and Collaborations/contributions from third parties](#), you can find more information about the various forms of collaboration and contributions (sponsoring/contract) with sample agreements as an aid to drawing up the relevant agreement, as well as the conditions the agreement must meet in the accompanying explanation. The conditions referred to on this webpage and in the explanation comprise an integral part of this call for grant applications. When ZonMw requests draft collaboration and/or sponsorship agreements, it grants funding only on condition that it has also accepted such agreements.

4.1.3. How much funding can be applied for?

Two types of grant can be applied for:

1. Grants for projects focusing on improving collaboration in integrated healthcare and/or improving the quality of care and support in integrated healthcare. These projects have a maximum budget of €100,000.
2. Grants for offering targeted training courses for healthcare providers working in dementia and professionals in the social domain. These projects have a maximum budget of €50,000.

For this grant round, a total of €450,000 is available. For both types of grant, funding has been provided for three projects. If part of the budget for one type of grant remains, this budget may be allocated to the other type of grant.

The maximum duration of projects is 24 months.

Conditions for drawing up a budget

- Use euros as the currency when drawing up the budget. You can use an online converter to convert the currency.
- The budget must show that at least 75% of the budget applied for will be for the benefit of organisations based in the Dutch Caribbean.
- You must reserve at least 5% of your project budget for communication and implementation.
- If there is co-financing, the budget must show clearly how much each party will contribute (in kind and/or in cash) and what the contributions will be spent on.

Eligible activities

- Costs of project members and healthcare staff carrying out project activities.
- Organisational and material costs for training, working groups and meetings, such as room hire, materials and catering.
- Costs of training sessions/courses for healthcare staff.
- Staff and material costs for communication, dissemination and implementation activities.
- Travel costs. The total travel expenses must be realistically substantiated within the total requested budget.

Non-eligible activities

- Costs of paying for or procuring care.
- Costs of regular activities of healthcare staff (such as nurses' salaries).
- Costs of the purchase of equipment or the construction/renovation of locations.
- The costs of preparing your application.
- Costs incurred or for which obligations have been entered into prior to the grant being provided. This also applies to costs for which grant funding or public or private co-financing has already been received from other sources.
- Unforeseen costs. These also include reserves for factors that impede the feasibility of the project.

4.1.4. Practical conditions

- Applications must be written in Dutch or English.
- The following annexes may either be added optionally or are compulsory:

- **Annex 1: Budget**
 - Compulsory / [Compulsory format](#) / English or Dutch / Excel
- **Annex 2: The project plan in a Gantt chart**
 - Compulsory / No compulsory format / Max. 1 A4 / English or Dutch / PDF
- **Annex 3: Proof of co-financing (Letter of Commitment for each partner)**
 - If applicable / [Model format available](#) / English or Dutch / PDF
- **Annex 4: Signed letter of intent on active participation in the project group**
 - Compulsory / [Compulsory format](#) / English or Dutch / PDF
- **Annex 5: Figures and tables**
 - Optional / No compulsory format / Max. 2 A4 / English or Dutch / PDF

Please number each annex in accordance with the above description. If an annex is not compulsory, it will not be included in the assessment of your application. The exception is the optional annex presenting figures and/or tables. This annex will also be included in the assessment.

4 Assessment and prioritisation

4.1. Assessment procedure

Please see the infographic '[applying for funding in 10 steps](#)' and the '[procedural brochure](#)' (in Dutch) for information about the assessment procedure for grant applications.

This is a grant round without a project idea phase, which means that you can immediately submit a detailed grant application.

Assessment committee

An assessment committee will be set up with members from the Dementia Research Programme committee, the ADMD programme and the Caribbean Health Research programme, supplemented with temporary members who have expertise regarding the local situation.

Admissibility

After the grant application has been submitted, ZonMw first assesses whether it can consider that application. It does so based on the preconditions and the compulsory parts of the application, as described in this call for grant applications. Only those applications that fulfil all the conditions are admissible and will be considered.

Substantive assessment

Step 1: Assessment by referee panel

- The application is assessed by a referee panel, which also includes experts by experience. The referee panel assesses a grant application based on the assessment criteria as described below. The main goal of this step is to provide recommendations and points for improvement.
- The ZonMw office processes the panel's responses into a set of recommendations from the referee panel.

Step 2: Rebuttal

- The applicant is invited to respond to the referee panel's recommendation (right of reply). Subsequently, the applicant incorporates the proposed recommendations and points for improvement into the action plan.
- The referee panel's recommendation is then presented to the assessment committee together with the applicant's response.

Step 3: Assessment committee's recommendation

At a meeting, the committee adopts its final recommendation to the ZonMw board. It bases this recommendation on the grant application, the referee panel's recommendation and the applicant's response.

The committee gives one relevance score (based on a 4-point scale: Highly relevant, relevant, not very relevant, not relevant) and one quality score (based on a 5-point scale: Very good, Good,

Satisfactory, Poor, Unsatisfactory). An application must at least be assessed as Relevant and Satisfactory to be eligible for funding. Relative weighting of relevance and quality proceeds according to the prioritisation matrix (see 4.4).

If after application of the prioritisation matrix the number of eligible applications exceeds the available budget, the committee will employ the following additional grounds of evaluation:

1. The extent to which the application shows how the research project ensures an immediately usable and sustainable solution for the issue in question.
2. The degree to which people with dementia and their loved ones are involved in the design and execution of the project.

Step 4: Decision-making

The board of ZonMw is responsible for making the final decision on whether to approve or decline the grant. Following the ZonMw board's decision, we will inform you of the result.

4.2. Relevance criteria

- **The added value for dementia care and support in the region**
 - The application should show that the project is focused on the current situation on the ABC and SSS islands regarding dementia care and support, and the associated questions and needs of healthcare professionals.
 - The application makes clear the added value of the project and the intended results for the region/island's dementia care and support.
 - The application shows how the research project provides an immediately usable and sustainable solution for these issues.
 - Where possible and relevant, the application links up with ongoing local initiatives related to dementia care and support on the ABC and SSS islands, such as the [National policy plan for dementia Bonaire](#) (in Dutch).
- **Alignment with questions and needs of people with dementia and their loved ones**
 - It is clear how relevant the project is for people with dementia and their loved ones, and to what extent the project is aligned with their questions and needs.
 - The application describes clearly the manner in which people with dementia and their loved ones are involved in the design and execution of the project. Use the participation ladder for this. In [this article](#) (in Dutch), you can read more about participation and experts by experience in relation to your project.
 - Show how the project takes account of the diversity and differentiation of the target group. This includes characteristics such as [sex and gender](#), age, socio-economic situation, level of education, migration and cultural background, and sexual orientation, insofar as these are relevant to the project theme.

4.3. Quality criteria

- **Research question and objective**
 - Describe the research question and the objective. The objective(s) of the project is/are SMART (Specific, Measurable, Acceptable, Realistic, Time-bound).
 - The intended results are clearly described.
- **Action plan**
 - There is a clear and specific description of the working methods that will be used to achieve the objective(s) and of the way in which these are aligned with the activities and needs of local healthcare practice.
 - Explain the basis on which this working method has been selected as existing best practice and/or validated method, and, if necessary, what changes will be made to bring this method into line with the local context of the islands.
 - The action plan contains a specific step-by-step plan with a division of tasks and a realistic timeframe for the various elements. The milestones and deliverables are clearly described.

- **Training of healthcare professionals and care supporters**

**Applicable only if an application is focused on the training of healthcare professionals and care supporters*

- Describe the areas in which training is needed to raise the knowledge and skills of healthcare staff to the desired level in order to provide better dementia care.
- The application explains clearly how the project contributes to healthcare staff developing their knowledge and skills.
- Explain the basis on which the chosen training course has been selected as existing best practice and/or validated method. If necessary, describe the changes that will be made to bring the training course into line with the local context of the islands.
- The application shows clearly how many people will be trained, spread over how many organisations, and what impact this will have on people with dementia and their loved ones. In doing so, give details of sustainable embedding, such as a train-the-trainer programme to ensure that more staff members can be trained.

- **Feasibility**

- It is plausible that the goal of the application can be achieved within the established timeframe and with the expertise, staffing, facilities and resources available.
- Possible impeding and facilitating factors have been identified and the application describes how these will be dealt with.

- **Project group**

- The roles, tasks, powers and responsibilities of the parties involved in the project are clearly described.
- The composition of the project group is in line with the planned activities and scope of the project.
- The willingness of the parties involved to participate actively has been shown by a signed letter of intent on active participation in the project group (Annex 5).

- **Application, use and impact of results**

- A concrete plan has been elaborated, which shows how the project activities and knowledge gained can be structurally embedded within the institution concerned.
- The application makes it clear how knowledge will be exchanged with other organisations on the island relevant to the main applicant and, if applicable, between other islands in the Dutch Caribbean. If it is relevant, give details of the roles of local government bodies and administrations, and of the responsible ministries.

- **Budget**

- The budget is realistic and substantiated.

4.4. Prioritisation

The committee gives one relevance score (based on a 4-point scale: Highly relevant, relevant, not very relevant, not relevant) and one quality score (based on a 5-point scale: Very good, Good, Satisfactory, Poor, Unsatisfactory). The relative weighting of relevance and quality proceeds according to the following prioritisation matrix*:

Relevance	Highly relevant	Relevant	Not very relevant	Not relevant
Quality				
Very good	1	3	-	-
Good	2	4	-	-
Satisfactory	5	6	-	-
Poor	-	-	-	-
Unsatisfactory	-	-	-	-

*The application must at least be assessed as Relevant and Satisfactory to be eligible for funding.

5. Submitting your application

5.1 Submission via My ZonMw

Grant applications may only be submitted by the main applicant via ZonMw's online application system ([My ZonMw](#)). The closing date for submitting a detailed grant application is 8 July 2024, at 2 PM (Central European Summer Time). You can see the complete timeline for this grant round [here](#).

5.2 Tips

- If you have never used ZonMw's system before, you will have to register first as a 'New user'.
- For further information, see the general [My ZonMw Manual](#) and the [comprehensive manual](#).

We advise you to print out a Word version of your application (via My ZonMw) and carefully review it for errors before you submit it digitally. Be aware that some characters (such as quotation marks) may not be printed correctly if you wrote your application in Word first and then copied it into My ZonMw. You can correct this yourself in My ZonMw.

5.3 Statement of agreement to your detailed grant application

The '[Statement of agreement to your detailed grant application](#)' must be signed by the individual with administrative responsibility and the main applicant. The signed declaration can be submitted as an attachment to the application or sent by email to ZonMw, for the attention of Maya Widowati, dementie@zonmw.nl. The statement must have been received no later than one week after submission.

5.4 Substantive questions

If you have any questions about the procedure, you can contact: Marlies van den Oever (Programme Manager Dementia Research Programme) + 31 70 349 54 70, dementie@zonmw.nl.

You can also put your questions about the procedure to Steffen van Heijningen, the local liaison officer employed by ZonMw, based on Curaçao, steffen@sc-curacao.com.

5.5 Technical questions

If you have any technical questions about using ZonMw's online application system, please contact the Service Desk from Monday to Friday between 8.00 and 17.00, on +31 70 349 51 76 or at servicedesk@zonmw.nl. Please include your telephone number in your email so that we can call you back if necessary.

5.6 Downloads and links

On the ZonMw website you can read more about:

- [ZonMw's General Terms and Conditions Governing Grants](#)
- [Applying for funding in 10 steps](#)
- [What do I need to submit?](#)
- [Conditions and obligations](#)
- [Assessment of grant applications](#)
- [Grants and Collaborations/contributions from third parties](#)
- [FAIR data management](#)
- [Open Access](#)
- [Implementation and impact](#)
- [My ZonMw Manual](#)
- [Procedural information for grant applicants](#) (in Dutch)
- [Statement of agreement to your detailed grant application](#)
- [Dementia Research Programme page](#)
- [Daytime activities for people living at home with dementia programme page](#) (in Dutch)
- [Caribbean Health Research](#)