

Strengthening Public Health and Wellbeing on the ABCSSS Islands

Date posted: 11 November 2024

Digital information meeting: 21th of November 2024, 4:00 PM (Central European Time)

Walk-in information hour: 14th of January 2025, 5:00 PM (Central European Time)

Submission deadline: **28th of January 2025, 2:00 PM** (Central European 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 is aimed at organizations and (yet to be established) partnerships active on Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao, Sint Maarten, Sint Eustatius, or Saba (ABCSSS islands). The applying organizations may include healthcare institutions, educational institutions, research centers, and non-profit organizations.

What is the purpose?

Grants are available for projects that contribute to strengthening local public health and wellbeing on the ABCSSS islands. This includes projects with a focus on mental health care, lifestyle, and sexual health & mother and child care, with a special emphasis on vulnerable groups.

What can be applied for?

This call for proposals has a total budget of €500.000,-. A grant for either an applied project or a research project can be requested. The grant budget for an applied project¹ is a maximum of €50.000,-. If the proposal is a research-project where a new intervention, method, or procedure is being researched, the grant budget can be supplemented up to a maximum of €100.000,-. The duration of a project is a maximum of 24 months.

Projects must spend at least 75% of the budget on the ABCSSS islands. This means that the majority of funding must be used for local services, materials, personnel, and other project-related costs within the islands. It is not intended for the grant to flow back to the Netherlands; funding is specifically intended for local strengthening on the ABCSSS islands. This must be evident in your budget. If part of the budget is spent in the Netherlands local procurement rules apply.

Co-financing, both in cash and in-kind, is not mandatory but strongly encouraged to increase the project's impact and scope.

Timeline

Online information meeting	21 th of November 2024, 4:00 PM (Central European Time) Registration via this form
Walk-in information hour (online)	14 th of January 2025, 5:00 PM (Central European Time) Registration via this form
Deadline for submitting the grant application	28th of January 2025, 2:00 PM (Central European Time)
Receive reviewers' feedback	Early March 2025
Deadline for submitting rebuttal	Mid/End of March 2025
Decision	June 2025
Starting date project	From July 2025

**Please note the time difference with the ABCSSS islands.*

¹ In Dutch 'Praktijkproject'.

2. Background

The ABCSSS islands within the Kingdom of the Netherlands, consisting of Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao, Sint Maarten, Sint Eustatius, and Saba, have traditionally been a region with a rich cultural diversity and history. Since 2010, Bonaire, Sint Eustatius, and Saba (BES islands) have become special municipalities within the Netherlands, while Aruba, Curaçao, and Sint Maarten (CAS islands) are autonomous countries within the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The health of the Caribbean population within the Kingdom lags behind that of the Dutch (European mainland) population. For example, residents of Aruba, and even more so in Curaçao, die more frequently from causes considered preventable with the availability of timely and effective healthcare and/or prevention and public health measures². In recent years, there has been a growing need to promote health, wellbeing, and (integrated) care on the ABCSSS islands.

Given the increasing demand for better health for the Caribbean population, ZonMw has decided to conduct an in-depth [explorative study](#) to map out the opportunities and challenges of a Caribbean program. This exploration was conducted locally during the period 2021-2022. This grant has shown that each island faces its own unique health and wellbeing challenges and inequalities, both between and within the islands. The exploration also revealed that the health status of residents of the ABCSSS islands indeed lags behind that of the European part of the Netherlands and highlighted that a combination of socioeconomic factors, cardiovascular diseases, and lifestyle are often underlying causes of disease onset and progression. Particularly, public health issues such as obesity and diabetes, as well as mental healthcare, sexual health, and healthcare organization, are seen as key topics.

Based on the results of this explorative study, the ZonMw board, in consultation with the Ministry of Health, Welfare, and Sport of the Netherlands (VWS) and the Directorate of Healthcare and Youth Caribbean Netherlands (ZJCN), has agreed to establish a pilot program aimed at improving health and wellbeing on the ABCSSS islands. The aim of this pilot program is to increase knowledge about health and wellbeing, initiate the strengthening of the knowledge infrastructure, and contribute to improving (the quality of) healthcare on the ABCSSS islands, in order to reduce the existing health disparities within the islands, between the islands, and between the islands and the Netherlands. The program will primarily focus on strengthening local public health and aims to create impact by implementing regionally relevant projects that focus on improving the health and wellbeing of residents on the islands, specifically tailored to their unique needs and challenges. The program strives to establish a sustainable foundation for future developments in the region's healthcare and infrastructure, taking into account both medical and social factors.

The program will consist of two research lines. This current call for proposals is based on the first research line 'Strengthening public health and wellbeing'.

3. Objective of the call

The objective of this call is to contribute to improving public health, wellbeing, and (integrated) care for the population on the ABCSSS islands. The projects should primarily focus on (further) developing and testing suitable interventions, methods, and/or approaches in healthcare practice. A grant for either an applied project or a research project can be requested.

Applied projects

In this call, a maximum budget of €50.000,- can be requested for the implementation of applied projects. The aim of these practice-oriented/based applied projects is to solve current practical issues, directly impacting healthcare and support on the ABCSSS islands. This includes proposals that arise from the needs of the local population and stakeholders in the healthcare field (such as patients and healthcare professionals) and that can deliver improvements or solutions for healthcare on the islands.

² S. Verstraeten (2020). *Population Health in the Dutch Caribbean. A comparative study of political context and health policy performance*. Dissertation Erasmus University.

Within these applied projects, there is room for (further) development, adaptation, and/or experimentation with (new) methods, approaches, and/or interventions. A thorough assessment (process) should always take place. An important feature is that what is developed and evaluated should also be shareable/transferable to other settings and/or regions.

Characteristics of applied projects are:

- The outcomes are relevant and directly applicable.
- The project takes place in collaboration with and involves the practice, such as patients, experts by experience, end users, and (healthcare) professionals.
- The project uses methods that are tailored to the possibilities and working methods of the practice. Within this call, it is important that an alignment is also made with the local context of the island and/or the Caribbean region.
- The project results are implemented, or the results should show that the outcomes can be implemented more broadly.

The following topics are eligible as an applied project within this call:

- Further development and assessment of existing interventions, approaches, and/or methods that strengthen public health and healthcare on the ABCSSS islands and apply them in practice.
- Applied research on the added value and (improved) quality of care: for example, embedding existing interventions, methods, or approaches in treatment pathways or care paths.
- Direct application and assessment of working methods (tools/guidelines, modules) to support healthcare professionals in referring, guiding, assisting, and/or treating the help or care request.
- Direct application and assessment of improved information provision and/or educational programs.
- Implementation of interventions, methods, approaches, and/or management strategies and faster application of these in practice.

Research projects

If the project involves a new, not yet existing, or not previously implemented intervention, method, or approach, there is an opportunity within this call to extend the grant budget with a research component. This includes, for example, the development of and/or researching a new intervention, method, and/or approach. The research project can also focus on the initial effects or effectiveness. For a research project, the grand budget can be increased by an additional €50.000,- if a research component is included, bringing the maximum grant budget to €100.000,-.

The following topics are eligible for a research project in this grant round:

- Research on the (initial) effects or effectiveness of new interventions, methods, or approaches that strengthen local healthcare and/or public health.
- Research on the added value and (improved) quality of care: for example, embedding new interventions, methods, or approaches in treatment pathways or care paths.
- Identifying and researching unique health challenges affecting diverse (cultural) groups and exploring approaches to improve the (quality) of care and health for these groups.
- Research focused on the impact of the Caribbean region's history—particularly the history of slavery in the Caribbean region—on the health and wellbeing of current generations within the ABCSSS islands. Knowledge development about the profound effects of these historical influences to map them within healthcare and to provide recommendations.

The following topics are not eligible for this current call of proposals:

- Research aimed at strengthening dementia care. A [separate call](#) has already been published in collaboration with the Dementia Research Program.
- Research into the origins of disorders or mechanisms underlying diseases or disorders, or that the intervention aims to address.
- Research focused on fundamental or translational research questions.

Focus of the call

This call focuses on three main health themes: 1) mental health (care) 2) lifestyle & prevention, and 3) sexual health & maternal and child care. These themes are based on the findings of the earlier mentioned explorative study.

Emphasis on vulnerable groups

A unifying theme across these health areas is the health of vulnerable groups. Vulnerable groups, such as youth, the elderly, people with low income or limited access to healthcare, often face a higher risk of health problems and experience more barriers in obtaining adequate care. By specifically addressing these groups, interventions can be better tailored to their unique needs and circumstances. This is essential for promoting equal access to healthcare and reducing health disparities on the ABCSSS islands. Projects that focus on the health of vulnerable groups contribute to an inclusive and equitable approach to public health, significantly improving the overall health and wellbeing of the island residents.

Examples of project proposals

Within these three health themes, the following applied or research projects can be considered:

- ***Mental health care:***
 - (Research on) support for psychological complaints through community-based programs.
 - (Research on) reducing stigma surrounding mental health issues, especially for vulnerable groups such as youth.
 - (Research on) implementation of strategies to better recognize and treat mental disorders.
 - Establishing or strengthening low-threshold access points for mental health care (and possibly researching the effects thereof).
 - (Research on) the implementation of programs for prevention and early intervention in mental health problems, focusing on practical feasibility and direct impact on the community.

- ***Lifestyle & prevention:***
 - Exploring preventive measures aimed at improving lifestyle and reducing or preventing non-communicable diseases, such as obesity.
 - Prevention and practical management strategies for chronic diseases such as diabetes and cardiovascular diseases, aiming to support individuals in managing their condition and controlling chronic diseases at the island level (and possibly researching the effects thereof).
 - (Research on) lifestyle interventions aimed at reducing risk factors and promoting a healthy lifestyle, with a focus on direct applicability and impact.

- ***Sexual health & maternal and child care:***
 - Education and prevention programs on sexually transmitted infections (STIs), emphasizing practical and directly applicable programs.
 - Promotion of healthy sexual practices and planned parenthood through action-oriented interventions and educational programs.
 - (Research on) improving maternal and child care during pregnancy, birth, and the first 1,000 days of a child's life, with attention to practically applicable programs, interventions, or projects that promote a healthy start.
 - (Research on) supporting healthy pregnancies and early interventions in case of complications through initiatives that enable timely identification and treatment of complications.
 - Educational programs that contribute to a better childbirth experience and reducing postpartum depression (and possibly researching the effects thereof).

In the grant application, it must be clearly indicated whether it concerns an applied project or a research project. *Note:* for a research project, the project must always contain a research component and/or involve the development of new interventions, methods, and/or approaches.

Knowledge sharing, collaboration, and (sustainable) implementation

With this call, ZonMw aims to stimulate the use of existing knowledge and interventions in the Caribbean part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. By applying best practices and validated methods, which have a solid foundation in scientific research and practical experience, the likelihood of success and positive impact is significantly increased. It is important that initiatives align with the specific context of the Caribbean region.

It is essential that projects are not solely focused on one-time adjustments in healthcare, but rather on the sustainable implementation and embedding of these improvements on the ABCSSS islands. This requires an iterative process in which action-oriented learning and thoughtful strategies ensure that the knowledge and improved methods resulting from the projects are firmly anchored in local healthcare practices.

Collaboration and knowledge exchange between the islands present complex challenges, but ZonMw sees the added value in terms of knowledge sharing and the dissemination of best practices. Funded projects are encouraged to strengthen collaboration and integrated care on the ABCSSS islands, particularly between the BES islands and CAS islands. Therefore, it is recommended to consider early on how collaboration and strengthening of integrated care on the ABCSSS islands can be achieved.

Additionally, the active involvement of local representatives of the target group, such as community leaders, patient organizations, and local foundations committed to mental health, lifestyle & prevention, sexual health, and maternal and child care, is of great importance. This collaboration ensures that improvements are sustainably secured and meet the needs of the communities. Involvement of local governments and the responsible ministries per region is also crucial in this context.

4. Conditions and requirements

When applying for a grant at ZonMw, there are rights, conditions, and obligations to take into account. These are derived from the General administrative law act ([Algemene wet bestuursrecht: Awb](#)). Title 4.2 of the Awb contains specific provisions that apply to subsidies provided by ZonMw. Additionally, the General grant provisions of ZonMw ([Algemene subsidiebepalingen ZonMw](#)) are applicable.

For this specific call, there is a deviation from Article 7 of the general grant provisions of ZonMw, which stipulates that only public or private legal entities based in the Netherlands can apply for grants from ZonMw. For the purpose of this call, the requirement is that legal entities must be based on one of the six Caribbean islands of the Kingdom of the Netherlands (Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao, Saba, St. Eustatius, St. Maarten).

4.1. Conditions & obligations

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

4.1.1. Who is eligible to apply for the grant?

The following party (or parties) is/are eligible for (partial) grant funding:

1. Local organizations and/or (yet to be formed) partnerships active in healthcare (and healthcare support) on Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao, Sint Maarten, Sint Eustatius, or Saba, including healthcare institutions, educational institutions, research centers, and non-profit organizations.
2. Co-applicants may include parties based on the six islands or in the Netherlands. There is a strong preference for project members with a local connection to the Caribbean region to strengthen the regional capacity for healthcare and research on the ABCSSS islands.

4.1.2. State Aid

ZonMw will not provide subsidies if this results in or could result in the granting of unlawful state aid³.

From a European legal perspective, the Caribbean Netherlands, along with the Caribbean countries within the Kingdom, are classified as overseas countries and territories (OCTs). Based on the OCT Decision (Decision 2013/755/EU of the Council of November 25, 2013, on the association of the overseas countries and territories with the European Union (OJ 2013, L 344)), a special regime applies. The OCTs are not part of the internal market of the European Union. This means that state aid rules do not apply to the OCTs, and therefore do not apply to the Caribbean Netherlands either. This is only different when funding is granted from the Netherlands to enterprises in the Caribbean Netherlands, to the extent that this could affect the internal market.

If the grant funding only flows to the ABCSSS islands, no state aid measures apply to this call.

³ Artikel 107 VWEU.

If a part of the grant is allocated to the Netherlands (a maximum of 25% of the requested grant budget), there are also no state aid measures that apply as long as the outsourcing does not take place to any subsidiaries/sister companies of the grant receiving party. In case of outsourcing, local procurement rules must be complied with. More specifically, the requirements set out in Article 49 of Decision 2013/755/EU regarding the simplified (European) tender procedure must be met.

More information about state aid can be found on the ZonMw web page [Vrijstellingverordeningen staatssteun](#).

4.1.3. Collaboration and third-party contributions

ZonMw encourages collaboration between and participation of various parties. In this context, no grant will be provided if agreements lead or could lead to unlawful state aid or if they prevent compliance with the 'General grant provisions' of ZonMw ([Algemene subsidiebepalingen](#)) or the conditions of the grant call.

- Collaboration can be of added value to enhance the impact and scope of the project. The application should clearly show the intention to strengthen collaboration and integrated care on the islands, particularly between the BES islands and CAS islands. Clarify how contact with other islands will be established and operationalized. If this does not apply to your project, provide a justification for this.
- Only parties represented in the project group and actively contributing to the project will be considered as project partners. Parties must commit to the partnership for at least the entire duration of the project.
- The project group consists of relevant representatives from participating organizations. This includes local representatives of the target group(s), such as community leaders, patient organizations, and local foundations engaged in mental health, lifestyle & prevention, sexual health, and maternal and child care.

The grant application budget must clearly indicate:

- Which parties are involved in the collaboration. Describe for each party how they actively contribute to the project; this includes parties listed in the budget as beneficiaries of part of the grant. Parties that actively contribute at their own expense and risk are also considered part of the collaboration.
- Which party or parties will enter into a sponsorship agreement and what the in-kind or financial contribution will be.
- Which parties will be contracted, or if not yet known, for which activities it is anticipated that these will be carried out by third parties, and the corresponding costs (including VAT). For more information and conditions regarding contracting, see the ZonMw webpage: [grants and collaborations/contributions from third parties](#).

Collaboration and sponsorship must be definitively arranged at the time of submission of the full grant application.

Letter of Commitment

To ensure that collaborating parties/sponsors of a project are legally bound to the pledged contribution, a Letter of Commitment is required for each collaborating party/sponsor when submitting the full grant application. Please use the template provided on the ZonMw webpage: [grants and collaborations/contributions from third parties](#).

Collaboration and/or sponsorship agreements

On the ZonMw-webpage on [grants and collaborations/contributions from third parties](#), you can find more information about the various forms of collaboration and contributions (sponsorship/contracting) along with template agreements to help draft the relevant agreements and the conditions to which the agreements must adhere. The conditions listed on this webpage and in the accompanying explanation are an integral part of this grant call. If ZonMw requests draft collaboration and/or sponsorship agreements, it grants funding only on the condition that the agreement(s) are accepted by ZonMw.

4.1.4. What amount can you apply for?

The grant budget for an applied project is a maximum of €50.000,-. If it concerns a research project involving the investigation of a new intervention, method, or approach, this amount can be supplemented up to a maximum of €100.000,-. The project duration is up to 24 months.

For this call, a total of €500.000,- is available. The budget is reserved for funding 4 applied projects of max. €50.000,- and 3 research projects of max. €100.000,-. This could mean that a high-scoring research project may not be funded in favor of a lower-scoring practice-based applied project, or that a high-scoring practice-based applied project may not be funded in favor of a lower-scoring research project.

Drawing up a budget

- You may use the format for 'Other institutions'. More information about budget is available on our [website](#).
- Use euros as the currency when drawing up the budget. You can use an online converter to convert the currency.
- Projects must spend at least 75% of the budget on the ABCSSS islands. This means that the majority of the funds must be used for local services, materials, personnel, and other project-related costs within the islands. It is not intended for the grant to flow back to the Netherlands; the funds are specifically intended for local strengthening on the ABCSSS islands. This must be evident in your budget. If part of the budget is spent in the Netherlands local procurement rules apply.
- Co-financing is not mandatory, but it is encouraged to increase the impact and scope of the project. 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.
- Reserve 10% of your project budget for communication and implementation of your results.

Eligible costs:

- If you publish under the gold Open Access scheme, you may include costs for Open Access publications in the project budget, up to a maximum amount of €5.000,-. In the budget, list 'Open Access' as a separate budget item. For more information on Open Access, see Chapter 3.1 and the ZonMw [open access](#) webpage.
- Costs for project members and healthcare personnel involved in carrying out project-related activities as described in the grant application.
- Organizational and material costs for training, working groups, and meetings, such as room rental, materials, and catering.
- Cost of training sessions/courses for healthcare staff.
- Personnel and material costs for communication, dissemination, and implementation activities.
- Travel expenses.

Non-eligible activities:

- Costs for paying or purchasing healthcare services.
- Costs for the regular duties of healthcare staff (such as salaries for nurses).
- Costs for purchasing equipment or constructing/renovating facilities.
- Costs for the preparation of your application.
- Costs incurred or commitments made before the grant is provided. This also includes costs already subsidized or co-financed through other sources (public or private).
- Unforeseen costs, including provisions for factors that may hinder the feasibility of the project.

4.1.5. Practical requirements

- Write your application in English.
- It is mandatory to include a budget with the full grant application.
- Reserve 10% of your project budget for communication and implementation of the results. Include this in the budget when submitting the full grant application.
- The following attachment(s) are required to be included:
 - Project timeline in a Gantt chart (Max. 1 A4 / in English / PDF)
 - If collaborations and/or sponsorships are involved: A [Letter of Commitment](#) from each collaborating party.
 - If collaborating with other parties: A draft version of a Collaboration Agreement ([samenwerkingsovereenkomst](#)). Note: When drafting the agreement, we recommend using

- the ZonMw template 'Model Consortium Agreement'. If the project is approved, a final version (signed by all parties) of the collaboration agreement must be submitted to ZonMw.
- *Optional*: Maximum 2 A4 pages with figures and tables. It is not allowed to include text in this attachment.
 - Financial details and the requested amount should be provided in Section 5 (Financial Information) of the application form via 'My ZonMw'. You are also required to attach a budget (PDF version). For this grant application, you should use the budget format for 'Other Institutions'. More information about the budget can be found on our [website](#)

Other attachments will not be considered. If an attachment is not mandatory, it will not be taken into account in the grant process. An exception is an optional attachment containing figures and/or tables. This attachment will be included in the grant process.

4.2. Obligations

Obligations apply when you are awarded a grant. ZonMw follows their General grant provisions ([ZonMw's General Terms and Conditions Governing Grants](#)). In addition, the following obligations also apply:

- **Open access**

All publications resulting from (scientific) research fully or partially funded by ZonMw must be made available Open Access (in accordance with ZonMw's Open Access policy). ZonMw accepts various Open Access routes. In addition to articles, ZonMw also encourages making other types of (scientific) publications available via Open Access (such as monographs, books, conference proceedings, and grey literature), as well as research data and knowledge products from practice-based research (such as models, protocols, prototypes, digital tools, and demonstrations).

For more information on ZonMw's Open Access policy, full conditions, and possibilities, we refer you to our [website](#).
- **Conditions for valorization**

ZonMw aims for broad accessibility of the results from its funded projects; therefore, the ten principles for Socially Responsible Licensing (SRL) ([tien principes voor Maatschappelijk Verantwoord Licentiëren](#)) must be applied when licensing results. If applicable, describe how intellectual property rights are arranged with collaborating parties and any third parties. Also, indicate how these parties will comply with the ten principles.

5. Assessment procedure and prioritization

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.

5.1. Relevance criteria

Alignment with the objective of the call

The application must clearly demonstrate how the proposed project aligns with the objective of the call: contributing to the improvement of public health, wellbeing, and healthcare for the population on the ABCSSS islands.

- The application must show that the project directly contributes to the health and wellbeing of residents, with a clear focus on one (or more) of the themes: mental health, lifestyle & prevention, or sexual health & maternal and child care. If applicable, indicate how the project addresses the health of vulnerable groups.
- Clearly articulate that the project aims to solve a problem that is currently being faced on the ABCSSS islands. The project should address a current issue, challenge, or need of the local population regarding the improvement of health and wellbeing on the islands, and the related needs of healthcare professionals.
- The application should clearly outline the added value of the project and the intended results for improving the health and wellbeing of the population in the region or on the island.
- The application should demonstrate how the project provides a directly usable (and sustainable) solution to these challenges.
- The application should, where possible and relevant, connect to ongoing local initiatives on the ABCSSS islands related to improving the health and wellbeing of the population.

- Indicate whether the project is an applied or research project. If it is a research project, justify why a research component is necessary.

Diversity

- Describe how attention is given to [diversity](#) and differentiation of the target group based on characteristics such as [sex and gender](#), age, socioeconomic status, educational level, migration and cultural background, and sexual diversity, where relevant to the project's theme.

Participation of patients or end-users

ZonMw highly values the relevance and involvement of clients, their families, and/or stakeholders, such as healthcare professionals, in your project. In your grant application, it should be clearly described to what extent the project addresses the questions and needs of clients, their families, and/or stakeholders such as healthcare professionals, and to what extent they are involved in the design and implementation of the project. By "involving," we mean specifically consulting, seeking advice, collaborating, and/or allowing them to (co-)decide in drafting the grant application and executing the project.

- Describe how you involve stakeholders, the target audience, or end users with experiential knowledge in the project.
- Clearly describe how the local population, including vulnerable groups, is involved in the design and implementation of the project. Use the participation ladder as a reference. You can read more about involving people with lived experience in your project in [this article \(In Dutch\)](#).

Knowledge transfer, implementation, and sustainability

Projects funded by ZonMw must have an impact. New knowledge and skills should be used in practice, policy, education, and/or further research. On our website, we explain what impact is, how we work towards achieving and demonstrating it, and what we expect from project leaders. More information and tips on impact and implementation of results can be found on the [ZonMw implementation support](#) webpage.

- Indicate the (potential) scientific and/or societal impact and added value of your project compared to the current healthcare on your island/the ABCSSS islands.
- Describe which types of knowledge products you expect to deliver, ensuring that the results are (directly) useful for all professionals and/or clients on your island/the ABCSSS islands.
- As part of the grant application, include a brief implementation plan for your intended results in practice. We strongly recommend using this plan from the start of the project and paying attention to how your research will be disseminated, scaled up, implemented, and secured nationally outside the (regional) setting of the project. Describe which enabling and hindering factors have already been identified and how you will further map and address these factors in the project.
- Clarify which parties are involved in your research to ensure that your results will be effectively used in practice. If applicable, indicate whether this involves an existing collaboration and to what extent the involved parties will focus on securing and continuing the results beyond the project period.
- The application should demonstrate how knowledge exchange with other organizations on the applicant's island and (if applicable) between other islands within the Caribbean part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands will take place. If relevant, also address the role of local governments, boards, and responsible ministries.
- The application should show the intention to strengthen collaboration and integrated care on the islands, particularly between the BES islands and CAS islands. Explain how contact with other islands will be established and operationalized. If this is not applicable to your project, provide a justification.

5.2. Quality criteria

Problem definition and objectives

- Clearly describe the problem definition and the project's objectives. The project's objectives must be formulated according to the SMART criteria (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, Time-bound).
- The intended results are described in concrete terms.
- If your project also includes a research component, provide a clear description and rationale for the associated hypothesis.

Approach

- Provide a clear and concrete description of the methods that will be used to achieve the objectives and how these methods align with the work practices and needs of the local healthcare setting.
- Explain the basis on which this method was selected as a best practice and/or validated approach and, if necessary, describe any adjustments made to ensure it fits the local context of the islands.
- The approach should include a concrete step-by-step plan, including task distribution and a realistic timeline for the different components. Milestones and deliverables should be clearly described.
- If your project includes a research component, please also address the following points:
 - ZonMw requires attention to appropriate research designs: a research design must align with the research question and consider the feasibility of the study setup (and potentially the inclusion of clients). There is no restriction on the type of research design used, but you must justify your choice.
 - Describe the primary outcome measures you expect.
 - Specify which measurement tools you will use.
- Include a timeline. Present this graphically in a Gantt chart or a similar format (Max. 1 A4 / in English / PDF). You can add this as an attachment under Section 6. Attachments in the application form of My ZonMw.

Feasibility

- Demonstrate that the project's objectives can be achieved within the set timeframe using the available expertise, manpower, facilities, and resources.
- Potential hindering and enabling factors have been identified, and the application should describe how these will be addressed.
- If applicable, pay particular attention to the feasibility of including clients in the research.

Project group, expertise, and experience

- Provide a clear description of the roles, tasks, authority, and responsibilities of project participants.
- The composition of the project group should align with the intended activities and scale of the project.
- The composition of the project group should show that the majority of the project will be carried out and/or outsourced locally.

For more information on these criteria, please refer to [procedure brochure \(in Dutch\)](#).

5.3. Assessment procedure and prioritization

This is a call without a project idea phase, meaning that you will submit a full grant application directly.

Program committee

A program committee will be formed with independent experts. This committee will consist of members with expertise in various aspects of healthcare and research in the context of the ABCSSS islands.

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. We kindly ask that you remain available by phone on the day of the deadline and the following days for contact from the ZonMw secretariat. We mainly ask you to be available in the morning, considering the time difference.

Assessment

- Assessment of the application: All grant applications will be assessed independently based on quality by anonymous reviewers.
- Rebuttal: The applicant will have the opportunity to respond in writing to the reviewers' assessments.
- Program committee recommendation: Based on the application, the reviewers' assessment, and the rebuttal, the program committee will formulate its final recommendation on relevance and quality using the established relevance and quality criteria. The committee will give a relevance score (using a 3-point scale: highly relevant, relevant, low relevance) and a quality score (using a 5-point scale: very good, good, sufficient, moderate, insufficient).

- The committee will then prioritize the grant applications using the prioritization matrix below. In the matrix, relevance is weighted more heavily than quality. An application must be at least "relevant" and of "sufficient" quality to be considered for funding.

Relevance	Highly relevant	Relevant	Low relevance
Quality			
Very good	1	4	-
Good	2	5	-
Sufficient	3	6	-
Moderate	-	-	-
Insufficient	-	-	-

For this call, a total of €500.000,- is available. The budget is reserved for funding 4 applied projects of max. €50.000,- and 3 research projects of max. €100.000,-. This could mean that a high-scoring research project may not be funded in favor of a lower-scoring practice-based applied project, or that a high-scoring practice-based applied project may not be funded in favor of a lower-scoring research project.

If there are fewer fundable research projects, the committee will consider whether there is still budget available within the prioritization matrix criteria to fund an additional applied project.

If there are fewer fundable applied projects, the committee will consider whether there is still budget available to fund an additional research project within the matrix criteria.

If, after applying the prioritization matrix, the number of fundable applications exceeds the available budget, the committee will apply the following additional selection criteria:

1. Thematic distribution: To ensure that different health issues receive balanced attention.
 2. Geographic and fair distribution across the ABCSSS Islands: To ensure that the projects benefit all the islands.
 3. Emphasis on vulnerable groups: Priority is given to projects specifically aimed at the health and wellbeing of vulnerable groups.
 4. Feasibility: To ensure that the proposed projects are realistic and achievable within the given timeframe and budget.
- The program committee will formulate a recommendation to the ZonMw Board.
 - The ZonMw Board will make the final decision on whether to approve or reject the grant.

6. Submitting your application

6.1 Submission via My ZonMw

PLEASE NOTE! A digital information meeting will take place on **November 21th 2024, 4:00 PM** (Central European Time). There will also be an online walk-in information hour on **January 14th 2025 at 5:00 PM** (Central European Time). At both these moments you have the opportunity to ask questions about the call. You can register for both moments via this [registration form](#).

Grant applications can only be submitted by the main applicant through ZonMw's online submission system ([My ZonMw](#)). The deadline for submitting a full grant application is **January 28th at 2:00 PM** (Central European Time). Please note the time difference with the ABCSSS islands.

NB: The online system closes automatically at 2:00 PM in Dutch time, so make sure you have checked everything before then, make sure all attachments have been uploaded and you submit the application on time.

You can view the entire timeline for this grant round [here](#).

6.2 Tips

- ZonMw uses an online submission system. If you have not worked with My ZonMw before, you must first register as a "New User."
- For more information about the application process, see the the [Guide Mijn ZonMw](#) (English).
- For frequently asked questions please refer to our [FAQ](#).

We recommend that before submitting your application digitally, you print a Word version of your application (via My ZonMw) and check for any irregularities. This is particularly important if you have first drafted your application in Word and then copied it into My ZonMw, as some characters (such as quotation marks) may not be converted correctly. You can correct this directly within My ZonMw.

6.3 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, addressed to cariben@zonmw.nl. The declaration must be received no later than one week after submission.

6.4 Substantive questions

For substantive questions, you can contact: Miryea Ruiz (Program Manager) or Tamara Adonis (Program Manager), or Jade Clee (Program secretary) Phone: +31 70 349 54 70, Email: cariben@zonmw.nl.

You can also direct your substantive questions to Steffen van Heijningen, the local liaison for ZonMw, based on Curaçao: Email: steffen@sc-curaçao.com.

6.5 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.

6.6 Downloads and links

On the ZonMw website, you can find more information about:

- [ZonMw's General Terms and Conditions Governing Grants](#)
- ['Applying for funding in 10 steps'](#)
- [What must I submit](#)
- [Conditions and obligations](#)
- [Grant of proposals](#)
- [Grants and collaborations/contributions from third parties](#)
- [State aid exemption](#)
- [FAIR data management](#)
- [Open access](#)
- [Implementation and impact](#)
- [Manual My ZonMw](#)
- [Declaration of agreement for submitting the full grant application](#)
- [Program website Caribbean Health Research](#)
- [Guideline Application form \(English\)](#)
- [FAQ \(English\)](#)