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GILEAD SCIENCES AWARDS MORE THAN ONE MILLION USD IN GRANTS TO ADVANCE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV IN ASIA

-- More Than 136 Submissions Received From Asia Pacific Community Organizations --

Hong Kong, 28 November 2019 – Gilead Sciences today announced the recipients of its 2019 Gilead Asia Pacific Rainbow Grant program, a regional grant initiative that supports community-led programs for people living with HIV in the Asia Pacific region. Through this year’s program, Gilead is awarding a total of US\$1.4 million to close to 40 projects across Asia Pacific.

Started in 2018, the Gilead Asia Pacific Rainbow Grant program directly supports HIV-related community-led projects. The program is part of Gilead’s broader efforts to enhance public-private partnerships in the Asia Pacific region to address the challenges facing communities affected by HIV.

This year, the 2019 Gilead Asia Pacific Rainbow Grant aims to accelerate progress on the “Fourth 90”, which complements the “90-90-90” global treatment goals established by UNAIDS to end HIV. These targets aim to achieve the goal that 90 percent of people living with HIV will know their HIV status, 90 percent of people who know their HIV-positive status will be on treatment, and 90 percent of people on treatment will have a suppressed viral load. The Fourth 90 target aims to ensure that 90 percent of people living with HIV achieve a good health-related quality of life¹.

“For people living with HIV, the virus is one among myriad factors that contribute to their total health and well-being,” said Amy Flood, Senior Vice President, Public Affairs, Gilead Sciences, Inc. “The Asia Pacific Rainbow Grant program recognizes the need for a broader approach to helping people with HIV live well – one that goes beyond HIV suppression – and the central role of community-based organizations in helping to address the diverse challenges that can affect quality of life, including mental well-being and HIV-related discrimination.”

A total of 136 entries were received across the Asia Pacific region during the grant application window. The proposed projects seek to address three areas of high unmet need: i) Access and Quality of Life; ii) Multidisciplinary Care; iii) Diversity and Inclusion.

“Stigma against HIV and people living with HIV continues to hinder progress. We need to do more to address these barriers as well as empower all those who are at-risk, newly diagnosed, and living with the disease to live fulfilling, productive, and happy lives. With support from the Gilead Asia Pacific Rainbow Grant, Action for AIDS will be able to plug some of the gaps in the healthcare system and create a more positive environment for the community, as well as implement some of the proposed activities as outlined in the community blueprint to end HIV transmission and AIDS in Singapore by 2030,” said Avin Tan, Advocacy Manager, Action for AIDS, Singapore.

¹ Beyond viral suppression of HIV – the new quality of life frontier (2016)
<https://bmccmedicine.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12916-016-0640-4>

About Gilead Sciences, Inc.

Gilead Sciences, Inc. is a research-based biopharmaceutical company that discovers, develops and commercializes innovative medicines in areas of unmet medical need. The company strives to transform and simplify care for people with life-threatening illnesses around the world. Gilead has operations in more than 35 countries worldwide, with global headquarters in Foster City, California.

For more than 30 years, Gilead has been a leading innovator in the field of HIV, driving advances in treatment, prevention and cure research. Today, it's estimated that more than 12 million people living with HIV globally receive antiretroviral therapy provided by Gilead or one of the company's generic manufacturing partners.

About the Gilead Asia Pacific Rainbow Grant

The Gilead Asia Pacific Rainbow Grant program is a corporate giving initiative dedicated to supporting HIV-related projects that address the challenges faced by communities affected by HIV. The Rainbow Grant program aims to empower, engage and form partnerships and alliances so that people living with HIV can achieve the best quality of life possible. Since 2018, nearly US\$3 million have been awarded to more than 60 projects across Asia Pacific. For more information about the grant program and the grantees and their stories, please visit <https://www.gileadrainbowgrant.com>.

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