

WOMEN'S HEALTH R&D FUNDING GUIDE FOR GRANTEEES

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON STRATEGIC ANALYSIS,
RESEARCH & TRAINING (START) CENTER

REPORT TO THE GATES FOUNDATION

PRODUCED BY: MULUGETA, A.; KHWEPEYA, M.; NOLAN, S.; SOMA, G.; DR. PAVLINAC

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Department of Global Health | University of Washington

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Commissioned by the Gates Foundation and developed by the University of Washington's Strategic Analysis, Research & Training (START) Center, this guide provides a curated snapshot of the global funding landscape for women's health research and development (R&D) as of May 2025. It focuses on funding opportunities with relevance for LMIC markets, highlighting non-U.S. government sources, primarily from high-income countries (HICs), due to current uncertainties around U.S. government funding. The guide prioritizes five key health areas: maternal health, sexually transmitted infections (STIs), gynecological and reproductive health, menstrual health, and contraceptive technologies.

Four major funding mechanisms are covered: grants, venture capital (VC), industry partnerships, and technical support (e.g., accelerators and incubators). For each, the guide summarizes key trends, accessibility patterns, and featured funders. An appendix provides a curated list of top funders and additional resources for identifying further opportunities.

Key findings indicate that grant funding remains a core resource for academic and nonprofit-led efforts, while VC and industry partners are increasingly investing in scalable, tech-enabled solutions—most often in reproductive health and digital diagnostics. Technical support programs help bridge early-stage funding gaps and provide pathways to private-sector investment. However, the landscape remains fragmented, with persistent gaps in transparency, equity, and accessibility, particularly for LMIC-focused innovations and less-commercial areas such as menstrual health and STIs.

INTRODUCTION

The funding landscape for women's health research and development (R&D) remains fragmented and difficult to navigate, especially for innovators and researchers outside of traditional academic channels, or those working to develop new products and technologies. While interest and investment in women's health have grown in recent years, funding pathways remain complex and uneven, making it hard to know where to look, who funds what, and how to access opportunities.

This guide was developed to help innovators, researchers, startups, and implementing partners navigate this evolving landscape. It offers a practical, one-time snapshot of funding mechanisms across five key areas of women's health: maternal health, sexually transmitted infections (STIs), gynecological and reproductive health, menstrual health, and contraceptive technologies. The guide focuses on funders based in high-income countries (HICs) that support research and innovation with global relevance, particularly in low- and middle-income country (LMIC) settings.

To identify opportunities, the START team conducted structured searches of global databases (e.g., PitchBook, Devex, FundsForNGOs), manually reviewed organizational websites, and consulted experts in the funding ecosystem in Q2 2025. The START team identified 175 active funding opportunities across four categories: 110 grant opportunities, 35 venture capital (VC) opportunities, 14 industry partnerships, and 16 technical support programs.

Where funding amounts were available, these opportunities represent substantial resources for advancing women's health innovation. Grant opportunities totaled approximately \$11.6 billion in known funding, with a median award size of about \$100,000. VC opportunities represented roughly \$5.17 billion, with typical investments in the single- to low double-digit millions. Industry partnerships contributed \$110 million, while technical support programs, often offering small grants and in-kind support, accounted for \$248,000. Across all categories, a notable share of opportunities did not specify a funding amount, reflecting variation in how funding information is communicated. Opportunities were further tagged and analyzed by health area, applicant eligibility, region, funder type, and application accessibility. These data inform the thematic trends and funder insights presented throughout the guide, helping innovators and researchers identify relevant pathways to support their work.

GRANT FUNDING

Grant funding refers to non-repayable financial support provided by governments, philanthropic foundations, international agencies, and nonprofit institutions to support specific research or innovation goals. For women's health R&D, grants are a key entry point, especially for academic researchers, non-profit innovators, and early-stage partnerships. Grants are particularly valuable for product development efforts that are early-stage, high-impact, or aimed at underfunded areas. They do not require equity exchange or repayment, making them a more accessible option for mission-driven projects that align with public health priorities.

Most identified women's health-focused grants support work in:

- **Maternal health** (e.g., tools to reduce maternal mortality, preeclampsia diagnostics)
- **Gynecological and reproductive health** (e.g., endometriosis, fibroids, PCOS)
- **Contraceptive technology** (e.g., new delivery methods, long-acting devices)

Opportunities specific to menstrual health and STIs are growing but still underrepresented in mainstream global grant funding.

Who provides grant funding?

- ✓ Philanthropic foundations (e.g., Gates Foundation, Wellcome Trust, March of Dimes)
- ✓ International organizations (e.g., WHO, UNFPA, the World Bank)
- ✓ Non-U.S. government agencies (e.g., Horizon Europe, UKRI)
- ✓ Research partnerships (e.g., Joint Global Health Trials – government and philanthropic institutions)

Note on Regional Variation: While Europe is a key driver of global grant funding for women's health, funding opportunities are also emerging from Canada, Australia, and multilateral organizations. Applicants may find that regional priorities, such as fertility in high-income countries or maternal mortality in LMICs, shape which types of projects are most competitive.

GRANT FUNDING OVERVIEW

Total Grant Opportunities	110
% Without Funding Amount Listed	56% (62/110)
Total Known Funding	~\$11.6 billion
Average Award Size	~\$241 million
Median Award Size	~\$100K

Note: For some opportunities, the total value of a funding program or multi-year grant initiative was listed, rather than the amount awarded per project. In these cases, the total funding is distributed across multiple awards. As a result, the average award size is skewed by large program totals, and the median award size (~\$100K) provides a more accurate reflection of typical grant sizes available to individual applicants.

GRANT FUNDING

WHAT TO EXPECT	ACCESS TIPS
Application Processes: Typically, open calls with clear timelines, proposal guidelines, and online submission portals.	Use dedicated platforms like FundsforNGOs, Devex, and the EU Funding & Tenders Portal to find active grant calls.
Eligibility: Many grants require affiliation with a research institution or nonprofit organization. Increasingly, funders are prioritizing LMIC-based applicants, South–South partnerships, and women-led research teams.	Strengthen your proposal by aligning with funders' equity goals, especially those encouraging partnerships with LMIC institutions and the advancement of women researchers.
Funding Amounts: Range widely from small seed grants (e.g. \$50,000) to multi-million-dollar, multi-year awards.	Look out for annual or rolling deadlines, as many large grant programs recur yearly.
Restrictions: Funds are generally restricted to R&D use and must align with the scope outlined in the original proposal.	If you are based in the U.S., look for funders that explicitly allow U.S.-based applicants but operate globally.

Grant funding remains the most accessible and widely supported mechanism for advancing women's health R&D. Beyond financial support, many grantmakers now actively seek to build local research ecosystems by investing in capacity strengthening and prioritizing equity in team composition, including leadership by women and LMIC-based researchers. Researchers and innovators should be prepared to demonstrate not only technical merit but also inclusive, partnership-driven approaches to their work.

SPOTLIGHTED GRANT FUNDERS

GATES FOUNDATION

The Gates Foundation invests significantly across multiple areas of women's health, with particular emphasis on maternal health, contraceptive innovation, and advancing gender equity in LMICs. The Foundation has provided substantial funding for maternal and newborn health, including a recent \$200 million commitment to improve maternal and contraceptive health supplies. In contraceptive technologies, the Foundation allocates approximately \$280 million annually to expand access to family planning and support next-generation contraceptive R&D.

Recent Grand Challenges funding rounds have included women's health priorities, awarding grants of up to \$150,000 for early-stage innovations, with opportunities for follow-on funding. Past Grand Challenges awards have supported projects in areas such as self-injectable contraceptives, multipurpose prevention technologies (combining HIV and pregnancy protection), and maternal nutrition interventions.

While many grants are awarded through strategic partnerships, open calls are posted via the Grand Challenges platform, where organizations with scalable, evidence-based solutions can apply. Most opportunities are best suited for consortia, NGOs, or research institutions with demonstrated capacity and experience.

SPOTLIGHTED GRANT FUNDERS

GLOBAL AFFAIRS CANADA

Global Affairs Canada is one of the largest global funders of sexual and reproductive health and rights, providing over \$700 million annually through its Feminist International Assistance Policy. Funding supports a wide range of priorities, including family planning and contraceptive access, safe abortion and post-abortion care, comprehensive sexuality education, and efforts to address gender-based violence and child marriage. Recent investments include over \$200 million through the SheSOARS initiative, funding projects in more than 18 countries, and a \$248 million round supporting maternal and adolescent health services globally. Competitive calls for funding are published through Global Affairs Canada's online funding portal, with opportunities open to NGOs and research institutions advancing women's health in LMIC settings.

CHILDREN'S INVESTMENT FUND FOUNDATION (CIFF)

CIFF offers multi-year, multimillion-dollar grants to organizations tackling adolescent, maternal, and reproductive health through high-impact, measurable solutions. In 2020 alone, CIFF disbursed around \$344 million in grants, with over \$349 million currently committed to sexual and reproductive health and rights, including work on self-injectable contraceptives, HIV self-testing, and adolescent-focused programs like Adolescents 360. CIFF frequently partners with global initiatives such as FP2030 (pledging \$325 million through 2026 to expand contraceptive access in underserved regions) and collaborates with platforms like PMNCH to co-invest in scalable adolescent and maternal health programming. While many of its awards are made via strategic partnerships, researchers and implementers can engage through these global platforms to access significant funding streams.

WELLCOME TRUST

The Wellcome Trust is a global leader in funding maternal, reproductive, and menstrual health research, supporting both large-scale initiatives and investigator-led studies. Its Wellcome Leap division recently launched The Missed Vital Sign, a \$50 million program focused on heavy menstrual bleeding, aiming to transform how menstruation is measured and managed globally. In addition, Wellcome awarded £17 million across nine global research projects to investigate the impacts of extreme heat on maternal and child health in 2024. Wellcome Trust also supports interdisciplinary academic grants in areas such as reproductive aging and menstrual health networks, fostering innovation across diverse aspects of women's health. Open, competitive funding calls are accessible through Wellcome's online portal, accepting proposals from any country and often providing multi-million-pound awards for rigorous, globally relevant research.

SPOTLIGHTED GRANT FUNDERS

GRAND CHALLENGES CANADA (GCC)

Funded by the Government of Canada, GCC focuses on early-stage, high-impact innovations that address critical health needs in low- and middle-income countries. Offering equity-free grants up to CAD \$1.5 million, GCC supports startups, NGOs, and first-time grantees with innovative, testable ideas that demonstrate clear potential for impact and scale. To date, GCC has invested in more than 1,500 innovations across 100+ countries, reaching over 85 million people globally. GCC funds innovations across several women's health priority areas, including maternal and child health, sexual and reproductive health, and gender equity. It runs regular open calls, such as Stars in Global Health and Saving Lives at Birth, alongside invitation-only Transition-to-Scale awards. GCC also champions gender-lens investing, embedding gender equity into grant selections. Its CAD \$90 million Cross-Border Impact Ventures fund supports women's and children's health technologies designed for use in both LMICs and HICs. Current opportunities are listed on GCC's online portal at grandchallenges.ca.

VENTURE CAPITAL

Venture capital (VC) is private investment provided to early-stage companies in exchange for equity. While less common than grants in the women's health space, VC funding can be a critical pathway for innovators focused on product development, especially for commercially scalable technologies like diagnostics, digital platforms, or devices. VC is especially relevant for startups developing tools that can transition from research to real-world use.

Women's health-focused VC firms and generalist health-tech investors tend to fund:

- ✓ **Contraceptive technologies** (e.g., long-acting or hormone-free solutions)
- ✓ **Reproductive and gynecological health** (e.g., PCOS, endometriosis diagnostics)
- ✓ **Maternal health innovations** (e.g., pregnancy monitoring, postpartum care tools)
- ✓ **Menstrual health** (e.g., tracking tools, absorption tech, CBD-based pain relief)
- ✓ **Digital and diagnostic solutions** (e.g., AI-powered hormone platforms, at-home STI tests)

Note: The majority of VC firms identified are U.S.-based, with limited representation from LMIC-based investors. Many VC-funded products are aimed at high-income country markets. However, tools with clear global relevance, such as low-cost diagnostics, scalable digital health platforms, or contraceptive delivery innovations, may attract investment with the right positioning.

FUNDING LEVELS & STRUCTURE

Pre-seed or seed-stage investments: **\$50K–\$500K**

Series A and growth rounds: **\$1M–\$25M+**

Some firms manage funds over **\$100M–\$1B**, but funding is often tied to startup milestones (e.g., proof of concept, regulatory approval)

VENTURE CAPITAL OVERVIEW

Total VC Firms Identified	35
Firms With At Least One Known Past Investment Size	22 (63%)
Total Known Funding (Sum of Known Investments)	~\$5.17 billion
Average Award Size	~\$234 million
Median Award Size	~\$9.3 million

Note: For VC firms, available data reflect individual past investment sizes where disclosed; many firms do not publicly share all deal sizes. Firms were included if they had multiple past investments in women's health and demonstrated relevance to LMIC settings. The total known funding reflects only investments with publicly available data and should be interpreted as a partial view of the broader VC investment landscape.

HOW TO ACCESS VC FUNDING

Unlike grants, most VC firms **do not have open application processes**. Instead, they rely on:

- **Referrals** through shared networks
- Participation in **accelerator programs** that connect startups to funders (e.g., Tech4Eva, Inno4Her)
- Strategic outreach based on a match between your innovation and their investment focus

VCs typically fund registered companies, not academic institutions or research projects. If you're in the early stages of developing a product, consider forming a startup or partnering with an existing company to access this funding type.

TIPS FOR NAVIGATING THE VC LANDSCAPE

- ✓ Study the **past funded companies** of VC firms to understand their interests
- ✓ Use tools like **PitchBook** (paid access required, but may be accessible through your institution), **FemTech Insider**, and **LinkedIn** to identify active funders
- ✓ Craft a pitch that emphasizes **global scalability**, **R&D strength**, and **market demand**
- ✓ Leverage **accelerator programs** to build relationships with investors and refine your business model

VC funding is best suited for innovators developing **market-ready, scalable products**, especially those in diagnostics, digital health, and contraceptive tech. While access can be competitive and relationship-based, tools like startup accelerators and investor databases can open doors. Researchers aiming to transition from R&D to commercialization should consider VC as a pathway, especially if their solution has clear demand and potential impact across diverse settings.

INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIPS

Industry partnerships provide funding and support from private sector organizations, including pharmaceutical companies, health technology firms, and corporate foundations, to advance women's health research, innovation, and product development. Support may include financial investments, product donations, co-development partnerships, or technical mentorship. These partnerships are best suited for organizations, startups, and research institutions aligned with a company's strategic or therapeutic focus.

Across the review of women's health R&D funding opportunities, industry partners most frequently supported:

- ✓ **Pregnancy, birth, and postpartum care** (e.g., digital pregnancy planning, postpartum care, birth equity initiatives)
- ✓ **Contraception, fertility, and gynecological health** (e.g., long-acting implants, multipurpose prevention technologies, fertility tracking apps, menopause symptom management tools)
- ✓ **Digital platforms for women's health** (e.g., remote monitoring, virtual care models)

While support for STIs was limited, some broader health initiatives (e.g., related to diagnostics or antimicrobial resistance) may still provide relevant opportunities. Many partnerships are tied to corporate initiatives around gender equity, community health, or global innovation in underserved settings.

TYPES OF SUPPORT

- ✓ **Medical education grants or investigator-initiated studies** (e.g., fertility, maternal health)
- ✓ **Product donations or strategic investments** (e.g., diagnostics, medications)
- ✓ **Pledges to NGO-led initiatives or challenge funds** (e.g., UNFPA, Good+ Foundation)
- ✓ **Business development grants** or corporate venture arms

HOW TO ACCESS INDUSTRY PARTNER FUNDING

- Some opportunities are **invite-only** or require a **pre-existing relationship** with the company
- Others offer **competitive open calls, rolling applications**, or accept proposals by email
- Most opportunities are targeted at **startups, nonprofits, or institutional partners**; individuals are less commonly eligible
- Many programs are open to **global applicants**, but funding often flows through US- and Europe-based networks

TIPS FOR NAVIGATING INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIPS

- ✓ **Start with alignment:** Companies are more likely to fund work that matches their strategic priorities or innovation goals
- ✓ **Check funder websites:** Corporate social responsibility (CSR) and R&D partnership pages often list grant mechanisms or partnership opportunities
- ✓ **Use health innovation networks:** Platforms like MATTER, Tech4Eva, and industry-backed incubators frequently offer pathways to connect with corporate funders
- ✓ **Leverage prior partnerships:** Review which organizations have received past funding to understand what types of projects get supported

Industry partnerships offer diverse and flexible forms of support for women's health R&D, especially for scalable solutions that align with a company's therapeutic or technology focus. While not always as transparent as grant funding, these opportunities can be powerful drivers of growth when innovators are able to build relationships, leverage accelerators, or tap into existing corporate priorities. Early-stage innovators with strong evidence of impact and alignment may find promising opportunities here.

Technical support programs offer a blend of funding, mentorship, training, and business development resources to help innovators advance their women's health solutions. These programs are typically delivered through accelerators, incubators, bootcamps, or capacity-building initiatives and are supported by health-focused NGOs, private sector partners, academic institutions, and global health organizations. They are especially valuable for innovators who have an early-stage solution but need strategic guidance, technical refinement, and ecosystem access to scale their work.

Most identified programs historically supported women's health innovations related to:

- **Contraceptive technology and family planning** (e.g., novel contraceptive delivery methods)
- **Menstrual, gynecological, and reproductive health** (e.g., menstrual health tracking tools, gynecological diagnostics, fertility innovations)
- **Digital and diagnostic health solutions** (e.g., AI-enabled diagnostics, at-home testing technologies)

Many technical support initiatives are based in high-income countries and often prioritize scalable, commercially viable solutions. Some programs specifically focus on LMICs, the MENAT region (Middle East, North Africa, and Turkey), or underserved populations globally. Programs often welcome applications from early-stage startups, clinician-innovators, nonprofit teams, and NGOs.

TYPES OF TECHNICAL SUPPORT PROGRAMS

- ✓ **Accelerators** are short-term, cohort-based programs (often 3–6 months) designed to help startups grow quickly. They typically provide seed funding, structured mentorship, and exposure to investors or partners (e.g., Tech4Eva, MATTER 51 Labs, Flat6Labs/Organon).
- ✓ **Incubators** offer longer-term, hands-on support to help refine product development and business models. Incubators may not offer direct funding but provide lab space, technical assistance, and access to networks (e.g., HANGA SRH Incubator, Healthy Teen Network).
- ✓ **Bootcamps** are intensive, often virtual, programs focused on training and business readiness — sometimes used as entry points into accelerator or incubator pipelines (e.g., Alpha Startups INNO4HER).
- ✓ **Global coalitions and capacity-building initiatives** offer thematic technical support for specific areas like family planning, midwifery, or reproductive health (e.g., WHO FP Accelerator Plus, Midwifery Accelerator).

HOW SUPPORT IS DELIVERED	ACCESSIBILITY
Seed funding (\$3,000 to \$150,000 depending on the program)	Most programs are open to startups, organizations, or multidisciplinary teams ; some accept individuals
Structured mentorship from health, tech, and business experts	Eligibility varies : some are global, others region-specific, and some require local registration
Clinical or product development support	Application processes are generally clear , posted online, and follow annual or cohort cycles
Networking opportunities including pitch days, VC introductions, and industry exposure	Programs are competitive ; thus, alignment with health priorities, scalability, and potential for impact are key to selection

Technical support programs offer more than funding; rather, they provide a launchpad for sustainable growth. For innovators committed to creating impactful, scalable women's health solutions, these programs deliver critical early support and exposure to the broader funding landscape.

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES FOR FINDING FUNDING

GRANT FUNDING SEARCH PLATFORMS

INSIDE PHILANTHROPY GRANTFINDER: A subscription-based database tracking grant opportunities from foundations and major philanthropic funders. Useful for identifying non- U.S. government and global health relevant grants.

INSTRUMENTL: A comprehensive, subscription-based grant search platform used by many nonprofits and research institutions. It allows users to track deadlines, filter by geographic eligibility, and monitor funder priorities. Particularly useful for organizations actively seeking multiple or ongoing funding streams.

G-FINDER TOP FUNDERS DATABASE: While not a search engine, this public database offers a curated list of top global funders in sexual and reproductive health. It can be used to identify high-potential grantmakers and explore their websites for open calls or partnership programs.

GRANT AND PROPOSAL WRITING SUPPORT: Consulting firms and independent experts can provide tailored assistance with crafting competitive grant proposals and applications.

RESOURCES FOR PRIVATE SECTOR & VC FUNDING

PITCHBOOK: A subscription-based platform that allows users to search for venture capital firms and incubators with a history of funding women's health innovations. Helpful for identifying potential investors and funders for scalable products. Access may be available through academic or institutional affiliations.

FEMTECH INSIDER: A free platform offering insights on venture funding trends, startup accelerators, and investor news in women's health innovation. Useful for tracking emerging opportunities.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT PROGRAMS: For innovators unfamiliar with the venture capital space, technical support programs such as accelerators and incubators can provide critical guidance and connections. These programs offer structured mentorship and often culminate in investor pitch opportunities, making them strong on-ramps to private sector funding.

CONCLUSION

This guide offers a curated snapshot of the women's health R&D funding landscape, highlighting opportunities across grants, VCs, industry partnerships, and technical support programs ranging in funding from \$50,000 to over \$25 million. These mechanisms reflect a growing, but still fragmented ecosystem of support for innovation in maternal health, STIs, gynecological and reproductive health, menstrual health, and contraceptives.

Grant funding remains a core resource, particularly for academic and nonprofit-led research, with an increasing emphasis on women-led teams and LMIC-based partnerships. Venture capital and industry partners continue to invest heavily in scalable, tech-enabled solutions- particularly in reproductive health and digital diagnostics- though accessibility and transparency vary. Technical support programs such as accelerators and incubators offer a critical bridge for early-stage innovators, often providing both seed funding and direct access to private sector funders. As traditional funding streams fluctuate, particularly U.S. federal sources, innovators are encouraged to explore beyond conventional grant pathways. Many relevant opportunities fall under broader umbrellas, such as global health, digital innovation, or basic science, with potential to support women's health goals even if not labeled as such.

Ultimately, this guide serves as a tool to help innovators navigate a dynamic and evolving funding environment. With a proactive and creative approach, researchers and entrepreneurs can better access the resources needed to drive progress in women's health globally.

SPOTLIGHTED FUNDERS TABLE

FUNDER	TYPE	FUNDING RANGE	OVERVIEW
Gates Foundation	Grant	\$150K (exploratory Phase I grants); follow on up to \$1M+; large awards \$2M–\$20M+	Funds global health initiatives through Grand Challenges calls and partnerships, awarding up to \$150K for early-stage innovations. Best suited for established NGOs, research institutions, and consortia.
Global Affairs Canada	Grant	Varies; over \$700M/year total in sexual and reproductive health research	Major bilateral donor with large SRHR portfolio. Competitive open calls support NGOs and research institutions advancing women's health in LMICs.
Wellcome Trust	Grant	Discovery Awards \$4.3M; early-stage unspecified	Global funder of large-scale health research. Offers rolling open calls to international research teams with rigorous proposals.
Grand Challenges Canada	Grant	\$100K Phase I; up to \$1.5M Phase II	Equity-free funding for early-stage innovation in LMICs. Ideal for new organizations and bold ideas responding to open innovation challenges.
Children's Investment Fund Foundation	Grant	Per-award unspecified (multi-year, multimillion-dollar)	Largest philanthropy in adolescent and maternal health. Provides multimillion-dollar, multi-year grants, often through strategic partnerships or coalitions.
March of Dimes	Grant	\$200K over 2 years per Discovery Grant	Supports maternal and fetal health through both Discovery Grants and a larger Innovation Fund. Suitable for researchers and startups developing new diagnostics or interventions.
WHAM (Women's Health Access Matters)	Grant	Investigator grants (unspecified) + campaign to double NIH funding to \$700M	WHAM accelerates sex-specific health research via investigator grants and economic advocacy campaigns, while also convening research and investor collaboratives to reshape the funding landscape.
French ANRs	Grant	Up to ~\$233K per project partner	Funds sexual and reproductive health research, including contraception and STIs, through research consortia. Strong track record in global health collaborations.
South African MRC	Grant	Grants range ~\$120K–\$1.2M	Provides funding for South African researchers and global partners working on maternal, menstrual, contraception, STI, and diagnostic innovation.
American Heart Association	Grant	Typical individual awards \$300K–\$450K over three years	Funds individual researchers and institutions addressing cardiovascular health in women, including pregnancy complications and metabolic issues.

SPOTLIGHTED FUNDERS TABLE

FUNDER	TYPE	FUNDING RANGE	OVERVIEW
Indian DBT	Grant	~\$120K–\$285K per project/year	Offers substantial research funding in maternal health, contraception, endometriosis, and diagnostics. Open to Indian researchers and international collaborators.
RH Capital	Venture Capital	\$500K–\$1.5M per investment	Invests in early-stage companies addressing reproductive health, contraception, and STI innovation.
Amboy Street Ventures	Venture Capital	Not specified per deal (Fund I ≈ \$20M total)	Focuses on startups in fertility, menopause, and maternal health. Has backed at home STI and vaginal microbiome tests.
FemHealth Ventures	Venture Capital	Not specified (Fund I = \$32M total)	Funds scalable women's health startups with strong clinical and market potential. Relevant for startups in contraception and gynecological health.
SteelSky Ventures	Venture Capital	Per-investment unspecified; Fund size ~\$72M	Invests in digital health, devices, and AI in women's health. Open application process for companies with growth potential.
Portfolio FemTech Fund	Venture Capital	\$250K–\$1M per investment	Backs early-stage companies with scalable women's health solutions. Rolling applications for C-corporations in the U.S. and globally.
Avestria Ventures	Venture Capital	Not specified	Invests in early-stage, women-led life science startups. Targets innovative products in reproductive, maternal, and aging-related health.
Fern Capital – Dignity Fund I	Venture Capital	\$250K–\$1M per seed deal (Fund size \$25M)	Early-stage VC backing clinically validated, tech-driven women's health startups across the UK, Europe, and Africa. Focuses on bringing investment to women's health innovations that have historically received limited funding.
Merck/MSD	Industry Partnership	Grants range from ~\$200K–\$10M+; total initiative >\$650M	Global pharmaceutical company funding women's health through direct solicitations and partnerships. Focus areas include contraception and HPV-related innovation.
Milken Institute – Women's Health Network	Industry Partnership	Not specified (pooled fund model)	The Women's Health Network brings together corporations, startups, investors, policymakers, health systems, and philanthropists to build a pooled investment fund, digital platform, and proof-of-concept projects- channeling private capital into underfunded areas of women's health such as endometriosis, heart disease, and healthy aging.

SPOTLIGHTED FUNDERS TABLE

FUNDER	TYPE	FUNDING RANGE	OVERVIEW
Organon	Industry Partnership	Part of a \$30M program; individual award amounts unspecified	Partners with NGOs, startups, and researchers to scale contraceptive and maternal health solutions. Known for its 'Her Plan Her Power' initiative.
GSK	Industry Partnership	\$15M Gender Equality Fund; per-partner amounts unspecified	Operates a Gender Equality Fund supporting women's health initiatives, particularly in sexual and reproductive health research and global vaccine access.
Johnson and Johnson (J&J)	Industry Partnership	Committed \$50M+ to health innovation; per investment amounts unspecified	Provides funding and investment via J&J Impact Ventures Forum to startups improving healthcare outcomes, including in women's Health. Prioritizes tech-forward solutions; typically supports companies rather than individual researchers.
Dare Bioscience	Industry Partnership	\$10M ARPA-H Sprint award; additional amounts unspecified	Provides industry funding and partnerships to advance innovations in contraception, cervical health, STIs, and menstrual health. Engages in collaborative product development through initiatives like the Sprint for Women's Health.
UNICEF Venture Fund	Technical Support	Up to \$400K equity free per startup	Supports women-led digital health startups in LMICs with funding and technical assistance. Rolling applications for early-stage companies.
MATTER 51 Labs Accelerator	Technical Support	\$125K per company (cash + services)	12-week accelerator supporting U.S.-based entrepreneurs developing solutions to reduce maternal mortality. Provides funding, mentorship, and access to healthcare innovation networks.
UNFPA – The Equalizer Challenge	Technical Support	Up to \$20K per winner + 6-month virtual accelerator	Supports women-led social enterprises in UNFPA countries to scale proven women's health innovations, providing equity-free catalytic funding, bi-weekly coaching, expert mentoring, and introductions to global health and investment networks
INNO4HER (1337 Ventures)	Technical Support	Equity-free program; no direct funding	Annual virtual accelerator for global FemTech startups. Provides mentorship, workshops, and network access to support product development and commercialization.
Tech4Eva	Technical Support	Equity-free program; no direct funding	6-month equity-free accelerator for women's health startups globally, with personalized technical & business coaching, roadshows, investor access, peer networking, and integration into a strong Femtech ecosystem.