



USAID
DEL PUEBLO DE LOS ESTADOS
UNIDOS DE AMÉRICA

COLOMBIA

Colombia Alliance Program (CAP)

APS-514-11-000001

Questions and Answers

February 5 - March 31, 2011

1. Is there a closing date for concept papers, and is there an estimated date for the submission of full applications?

The closing date for the submission of concept papers, as stated on the first page of the APS, is December 15, 2011. Full applications will be requested if concept papers that are submitted before the closing date pass the evaluation.

2. Can proposals be submitted on different areas of focus than those described in the APS? If so, does it have to encompass all components?

No, please refer to the APS for the specific areas that apply to the concept papers.

3. Is there a list of municipalities where awards under the APS will be implemented or can organizations propose municipalities?

Of the \$8.5M of the APS, \$2M is for the entire territory of Colombia, \$6M for the Nudo del Paramillo region, and \$500,000 for Disability projects.

Nudo de Paramillo - Córdoba

Valencia
Tierralta
Montelíbano
Puerto Libertador

Nudo de Paramillo – Antioquia

Anorí
Briceño
Cáceres
Caucasia
El Bagre
Ituango
Nechí
Tarazá
Valdivia
Zaragoza

4. Are estimated costs in U.S. Dollars or Colombian Pesos?

U.S. Dollars

5. Are reimbursements done in U.S. Dollars or in Colombian Pesos?

U.S. Dollars

6. Could you please send us the map with the detail of these regions?

Please find the attached map and also refer to list of municipalities on Question No. 3 of this document.



Nudo de Paramillo Region (CSDI)
(Bajo Cauca -Antioquia- Sur de Cordoba, Catatumbo)



7. Is it possible to apply for projects that are implemented in Bucaramanga and/or the department of Santander?

Yes, as stated in the APS, \$6M is destined for the Nudo del Paramillo region. The remaining \$2M is for any part of the Colombia territory.

8. Initially you have identified some alliances. Could you clarify if local governments, private universities, public universities, foundations and so forth could form alliances?

Section III.A of the APS identifies partner eligibility criteria. The list includes universities (public and private) and foundations. We do not contemplate direct grants to local governments, but building the capacity of local governments would be considered as an important activity in a proposed grant.

9. Instructions dictate that the concept paper must not exceed five pages total. We would like to include a one-page provisional logical framework, in addition to the five pages of narrative. Is this acceptable?

Five pages is the limit to all items of the concept paper. As stated in the APS, any concept papers received over five pages will not be considered.

10. Does the cover page of Concept Papers count toward the five pages?

Yes.

11. In the document specify that the initiatives are focused in the Nudo de Paramillo region of Colombia, and we like to know ¿which are the specifically municipalities, that the initiative are focused?

See the answer to Question No. 3 above.

12. You stated that $\frac{3}{4}$ of the funding will be allocated to Nudo de Paramillo, but the other $\frac{1}{4}$ is without geographical restriction. Do we understand right this paragraph?

Yes, see the answer to Question No. 3 above.

13. Can concept paper be submitted during the period specified in the APS, or is there a cut off date to submit concept papers?

The closing date of the APS is December 15, 2011. Concept papers can be submitted at any time until the closing date.

14. In the cover letter you mention two specific regions (Bajo Cauca and Southern Córdoba). Are these the only zones where work can be performed or are there others?

See the answer to Question No. 3 above.

15. Would disaster preparedness (mitigation, early warning systems and community capacity training projects) and activities related to primary health-care be included under the Disaster Assistance Area of Focus (C.5)?

Primary health care activities will not be funded under the APS unless the proposal clearly focuses on emergency and humanitarian assistance. USAID's Office of Disaster Assistance (OFDA) has an APS to fund mitigation, early warning and community capacity training.)

16. To apply for funding under the new modality of direct contracting with Civil Society Organizations, do they present the application, do we, or is it done by both?

Any organization can present a concept paper.

17. Is there a limit to the number of applications that an organization presents in one period?

There is no limit to the amount of concept papers an organization can submit at any time, as long as they are received before the closing date.

18. Is the page limit inclusive of all items listed under each of the three major items or does the limit only concern the technical information section?

Yes, five (5) pages is the limit for all items in concept papers. Any concept paper over the five-page limit will not be considered.

19. Is a project eligible to apply for the area 1.Consolidation and Livelihoods, if it is taking place in a region, which is NOT included in the National Consolidation Plan of Colombia?

Yes, see the answer to Question No. 3 above. This would be in the "Rest of Colombia" portion, for which the estimated budget is \$2 million USD.

20. We would like to know if USAID are planning to do some meeting in Colombia, (specifically in Medellín) to give information or to solve some doubts about the Funding Opportunity. In affirmative case, we would like to participate on this space offered by USAID.

USAID representatives made a presentation to interested organization at the Camara de Comercio de Medellin on March 15. Any interested organization can send inquiries to wfothergill@usaid.gov and nfarfan@usaid.gov and they will be posted with their respective answers on www.grants.gov with their respective answers, as done with this document.

21. How many projects can be presented per year by organization?

See the answer to Question No. 17 above.

22. Can one same entity present several projects under the same funding opportunity?

See the answer to Question No. 17 above.

23. In case of receiving an award from USAID, what is the possibility of presenting a proposal in the future?

Organizations receiving awards under USAID are welcome and encouraged to present proposals for other USAID solicitations and funding opportunities on www.fbo.gov and www.grants.gov.

24. What's the minimum amount of time a project funded under USAID should last?

There is no minimum amount of time that a project is required to last per this APS.

25. How long does it take USAID to evaluate concept papers?

The amount of time taken for evaluations differs depending on the volume of concept papers received.

26. If a concept paper is selected and a full application is requested, how long does it take to receive the first payment?

Note that requests for full applications do not constitute awards. Full applications must go through an evaluation process as well.

The amount of time between evaluations of full applications, the award and the first payment is subject to the negotiation between USAID and the potential awardee (if the full application is chosen for award).

27. Does the Colombia Alliance Program fund research projects? (assuming that the project itself will be carried out in cooperation with other organisation(s))?

While the APS encourages innovation and the use of new technologies, purely research-focused activities will not be funded.

28. What are the periods of time of the application process? It's an open call with no dead lines, so project proposals may be sent throughout the year. In what time can one expect a positive or negative reply (concerning a submission of a complete project proposal)? If invited to submit a full proposal, what are the time periods with regard to a final reply?

Concept papers are received through December 15, 2011. The amount of time until an applicant receives a response to the evaluation of a concept paper may vary depending on the volume of applications received and depending on the submission dates. The amount of time it takes to receive a response to a full application may vary as well due to the reasons stated above (See the answer to Questions No. 25 and 26 above).

29. Does an organization need to be registered in a database with the United States Government to participate in this funding opportunity?

No.

30. Must the application be done online? Is there a special format?

All instructions on how to submit a concept paper are in Section IV of the APS. Concept papers must be submitted via email to wfothergill@usaid.gov and nfarfan@usaid.gov.

** Questions received after the posting date of this document will be posted with their respective answers in the April or May, 2011, if any are received.



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