Annual Program Statement (APS)

Celebrating America’s 250th Anniversary

Public Diplomacy Section at U.S. Embassy Beirut

Department of State

Opportunity number: LBN-PDS-2025-APS

Application deadline(s): September 2, 2025

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**U.S Department of State
*Public Diplomacy Section – U.S. Embassy Beirut***

**Annual Program Statement**

### **Basic Information**

##### ***Overview***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Funding Opportunity Title** | Celebrating America’s 250th Anniversary |
| **Funding Opportunity Number** | LBN-PDS-2025-APS |
| **Announcement Type** | Initial Announcement |
| **Deadline for Applications** | September 2, 2025 |
| **Assistance Listing Number** | 19.040 – Public Diplomacy Programs |
| **Length of performance period** | 12 to 18 months |
| **Number of awards anticipated** | 4 awards (dependent on amounts) |
| **Award amounts** | Awards may range from a minimum of $150,000 to a maximum of $250,000 for organizations.Awards may range from a minimum of $75,000 to a maximum of $150,000 for individuals. |
| **Total available funding** | $600,000 pending funding availability |
| **Type of Funding** | FY25 Smith Mundt Public Diplomacy Funds  |
| **Anticipated program start date** | September 30, 2025 |

The Public Diplomacy Section at U.S. Embassy Beirut, of the U.S. Department of State is pleased to announce that funding is available through its Annual Program Statement Program (APS). This is an Annual Program Statement, outlining our funding priorities, the strategic themes we focus on, and the procedures for submitting requests for funding. Please carefully follow all the instructions below.

**Funding Instrument Type:** Grant or cooperative agreement. Cooperative agreements and some FAAs are different from grants in that bureau/embassy staff are more actively involved in the grant implementation (“Substantial Involvement”).

**Program Performance Period**: Proposed projects should be completed in eighteen months or less.

The Department of State will entertain applications for continuation grants funded under these awards beyond the initial budget period on a non-competitive basis subject to availability of funds, satisfactory progress of the program, and a determination that continued funding would be in the best interest of the U.S. Department of State.

**This notice is subject to the availability of funding.**

##### ***Executive Summary***

**Priority Region:** Lebanon

**Executive Summary**

On July 4, 2026 the United States of America will commemorate and celebrate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Throughout 2026, the U.S. Embassy in Beirut will celebrate this anniversary and highlight cultural, academic, innovation, trade, and historical influences and shared interests that shaped the relationship between Lebanon and the United States.

The Public Diplomacy Section is pleased to announce this funding opportunity as part of this celebration of America’s 250th Anniversary. This is an Annual Program Statement (APS) that invites proposals for our year-long campaign to tell the story of America in Lebanon. It aims to support organizations in creating and developing public programs that celebrate the people, events, ideas, and legacies related to the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, and the diplomacy and friendship with the Lebanese and Lebanon.

Proposed programs must include Lebanese audiences, strengthen bilateral ties between the United States and Lebanon, promote increased understanding of the United States among the Lebanese public, and demonstrate a clear connection to the 250th anniversary.

All programs must include a clear U.S. element or connection, which could involve cooperation with experts, private or public organizations, or institutions from the United States. Programs with countrywide reach will be considered favorably.

This APS outlines our funding priorities, the strategic themes we focus on, and the procedures for submitting requests for funding. Please carefully follow all the instructions below.

### **Eligibility**

##### ***Eligible Applicants***

The Public Diplomacy Section encourages applications from Lebanon*:*

* *Not-for-profit organizations, including think tanks and civil society/non-governmental organizations*
* *Lebanese private educational institutions*
* *Individuals*

##### ***Cost Sharing or Matching***

*Cost sharing is encouraged but not required.*

##### ***Other Eligibility Requirements***

All organizations must have a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) issued via SAM.gov as well as a valid registration on SAM.gov. Please see Section D.3 for more information. Individuals are not required to have a UEI or be registered in SAM.gov.

*Applicants are only allowed to submit one proposal per organization. If more than one proposal is submitted from an organization, all proposals from that institution will be considered ineligible for funding.*

### **Program Description**

##### ***Goals and Objectives***

We seek innovative public diplomacy initiatives that showcase the full extent of American excellence and U.S.-Lebanese cooperation, past, present, and future. This will be achieved through various public diplomacy outreach and experiential learning, highlighting achievements, legacies, contributions, mutual influences, and translating these moments into lessons for the future.

**Priority Themes:**

*Innovation: American Ingenuity Across Borders*

* *Highlight the United States as a global engine of innovation in science, technology, culture, arts, and storytelling.*
* *Showcase American leadership in areas such as artificial intelligence, biomedical breakthroughs, and space exploration.*
* *Elevate cultural exports like film, music, fashion, literature, sports, and digital media as uniquely American contributions that inspire and connect communities worldwide.*

*American History: Reflecting on the Past, Shaping the Future*

* *Engage Lebanese audiences with a nuanced and compelling narrative of American history.*
* *Include uplifting stories of civil rights progress, volunteerism, and democratic ideals.*
* *Promote a deeper understanding of America’s founding values and historical journey through exhibits, lectures, academic modules, social media and audiovisual content, and public diplomacy campaigns.*

*Partnership: 250 Years of Diplomacy and Shared Prosperity*

* *Celebrate the strength and potential of U.S.-Lebanese partnerships.*
* *Highlight the evolution of diplomatic, economic, and cultural ties with Lebanon framed in terms of shared interests and shared values.*
* *Underscore how U.S. support helps foster peace, security, and prosperity in Lebanon and globally.*

**Participants and Audiences:**

*All applicants must specify their target audience (age, sex, geographic breakdown) and estimate the expected audience reach through direct and indirect contact (via social media or traditional media).*

**The following types of programs are not eligible for funding**

* Programs relating to partisan political activity;
* Charitable or development activities;
* Construction programs;
* Programs that support specific religious activities;
* Fund-raising campaigns;
* Lobbying for specific legislation or programs;
* Scientific research;
* Programs intended primarily for the growth or institutional development of the organization; or
* Programs that duplicate existing programs.

##### ***Substantial Involvement***

Each award type has specific reporting requirements from the recipient during the award period and at the conclusion of the award. Cooperative agreements additionally include active involvement by Embassy staff in the grant implementation with substantial involvement, such as:

* Active participation or collaboration with the recipient in the implementation of the award.
* Review and approval of one stage of work before another can begin.
* Joint preparation and/or presentation of results with the recipient.
* Review and approval of substantive provisions of proposed subawards or contracts beyond existing Federal policy.
* Involvement where the Department’s project office requires specific programmatic oversight over the award beyond normal monitoring.

### **Application Contents and Format**

Please follow all the instructions below carefully. Proposals that do not meet the requirements of this announcement or fail to comply with the stated requirements will be ineligible.

**Content of Application**

Please ensure:

* The proposal clearly addresses the goals and objectives of this funding opportunity
* All documents are in English
* All budgets are in U.S. dollars
* All pages are numbered
* All documents are formatted to A4 paper, and
* All Microsoft Word documents are single-spaced, 12-point Calibri font, with a minimum of 1-inch margins.

The following documents are **required**:

##### ***Mandatory application forms***

* **SF-424** (Application for Federal Assistance – organizations) or **SF-424-I** (Application for Federal Assistance --individuals)
* **SF-424A** (Budget Information for Non-Construction programs)
* **SF-424B** (Assurances for Non-Construction programs)

##### ***Summary Page (optional)***

Cover sheet stating the applicant’s name and organization, proposal date, program title, program period proposed start and end date, and brief purpose of the program.

##### ***Proposal (Five pages maximum)***

The proposal should contain sufficient information so that anyone not familiar with it would understand exactly what the applicant wants to do. You may use your own proposal format, but it must include all the items below.

1. **Proposal Summary:** Short narrative that outlines the proposed project, including project objectives and anticipated impact.
2. **Introduction to the Organization or Individual Applying**: A description of past and present operations, showing ability to carry out the program, including information on all previous grants from the U.S. Embassy and/or U.S. government agencies.
3. **Problem Statement:** Clear, concise and well-supported statement of the problem to be addressed and why the proposed program is needed
4. **Program Goals and Objectives:** The “goals” describe what the program is intended to achieve.  The “objectives” refer to the intermediate accomplishments on the way to the goals. These should be achievable and measurable.
5. **Project Activities**: Describe the program activities and how they will help achieve the objectives.
6. **Project Methods and Design**: A description of how the program is expected to work to solve the stated problem and achieve the goal. Include a logic model as appropriate.
7. **Proposed Project Schedule and Timeline:** The proposed timeline for the program activities. Include the dates, times, and locations of planned activities and events.
8. **Key Personnel:**Names, titles, roles and experience/qualifications of key personnel involved in the program. What proportion of their time will be used in support of this program?
9. **Project Partners:** List the names and type of involvement of key partner organizations and sub-awardees.
10. **Project Monitoring and Evaluation Plan:** This is an important part of successful grants. Throughout the timeframe of the grant, how will the activities be monitored to ensure they are happening in a timely manner, and how will the program be evaluated to make sure it is meeting the goals of the grant?
11. **Future Funding or Sustainability:** Applicant’s plan for continuing the program beyond the grant period, or the availability of other resources, if applicable.

##### ***Budget Justification Narrative***

After filling out the SF-424A Budget (above), use a separate file to describe each of the budget expenses in detail. See section *I. Other Information: Guidelines for Budget Submissions* below for further information.

##### ***Attachments***

* 1-page Curriculum Vitae (CV) or resume of key personnel who are proposed for the program
* Letters of support from project partners describing the roles and responsibilities of each partner
* If your organization has a Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA) and includes NICRA charges in the budget, include your latest NICRA as a PDF file.
* Official permission letters, if required for program activities.

**Note:** The summary page, attachments, and the budget justification narrative do not count toward the five-page narrative proposal.

### **Submission Requirements and Deadlines**

##### ***Address to Request Application Package***

Application forms required above are available at [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov/)

##### ***Department of State Contacts***

If you have any questions about the grant application process, please contact: PDBeirutGrants@state.gov.

PD Will host a virtual Information Session, via MS Teams, on August 18 to answer questions from all potential applicants.

##### ***Unique entity identifier and System for Award Management (SAM.gov)***

**Required Registrations**

All organizations, whether based in the United States or in another country, must have a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) and an active registration with the SAM.gov. A UEI is one of the data elements mandated by Public Law 109-282, the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA), for all Federal awards. An applicant must maintain an active registration while it has a proposal under review by the Department and must continue to keep the registration active for the entire duration of the period of performance of any Federal award that results from the NOFO.

The 2 CFR 200 requires that subrecipients obtain a UEI.  Please note the UEI for subrecipients is not required at the time of application but will be required before an award is processed and/or directed to a subrecipient.

***Note:  The process of obtaining or renewing a SAM.gov registration may take anywhere from 4-8 weeks.  Please begin your registration as early as possible.***

* Organizations **based in the United States** or that pay employees within the United States will need an Employer Identification Number (EIN) from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and a UEI prior to registering in SAM.gov.

* Organizations **based outside of the United States** and that do not pay employees within the United States do not need an EIN from the IRS but do need a UEI prior to registering in SAM.gov.
* **Organizations based outside of the United States that do not intend to apply for U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) awards are no longer required to have a NATO Commercial and Government Entity (NCAGE) code to apply for non-DoD foreign assistance funding opportunities.** If an applicant organization is mid-registration and wishes to remove an NCAGE code from their SAM.gov registration, the applicant should [submit a help desk ticket (“incident”)](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsd.gov%2Fgsafsd_sp%3Fid%3Dgsafsd_kb_articles%26sys_id%3Dc81018e71b1601d0937fa64ce54bcb57&data=05%7C01%7Cfjeldkk%40state.gov%7C0cc4e2b471f44abcd32308db093ecead%7C66cf50745afe48d1a691a12b2121f44b%7C0%7C0%7C638113937577534024%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=W2ShcazZBQbanYGj0cLOTnUJwv%2BGL4xfwr83%2BycQY2E%3D&reserved=0) with the Federal Service Desk (FSD) online at [www.fsd.gov](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsd.gov%2F&data=05%7C01%7Cfjeldkk%40state.gov%7C0cc4e2b471f44abcd32308db093ecead%7C66cf50745afe48d1a691a12b2121f44b%7C0%7C0%7C638113937577534024%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=t32ANWzgpiB93pMWoq%2BFCSHz4YJY9QF1S1iQzCsS6RM%3D&reserved=0) using the following language: “I do not intend to seek financial assistance from the Department of Defense. I do not wish to obtain an NCAGE code. I understand that I will need to submit my registration after this incident is resolved in order to have my registration activated.”

Organizations based outside of the United States and that DO NOT plan to do business with the DoD should follow the below instructions:

Step 1:  Proceed to SAM.gov to obtain a UEI and complete the SAM.gov registration process.  SAM.gov registration must be renewed annually.

Organizations based outside of the United States and that DO plan to do business with the DoD in addition to Department of State should follow the below instructions:

Step 1:  Apply for an NCAGE code by following the instructions on the NSPA NATO website linked below:

NCAGE Homepage:

[https://eportal.nspa.nato.int/AC135Public/sc/CageList.aspx](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Feportal.nspa.nato.int%2FAC135Public%2Fscage%2FCageList.aspx&data=05%7C01%7Cfjeldkk%40state.gov%7C0cc4e2b471f44abcd32308db093ecead%7C66cf50745afe48d1a691a12b2121f44b%7C0%7C0%7C638113937577534024%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=v3TLT8F%2FNfk5SuTcI2zw7SMhV4HK542OhP9XDx4ln%2BY%3D&reserved=0)

NCAGE Code Request Tool (NCRT):

[NCAGE Code Request Tool (nato.int)](https://eportal.nspa.nato.int/Codification/CageTool/home)

**Exemptions**

An exemption from the UEI and SAM.gov registration requirements may be permitted on a case-by-case basis. See [2 CFR 25.110](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/subtitle-A/chapter-I/part-25/subpart-A/section-25.110) for a full list of exemptions.

Organizations requesting exemption from UEI or SAM.gov requirements must email the point of contact listed in the NOFO at least two weeks prior to the deadline in the NOFO providing a justification of their request. Approval for a SAM.gov exemption must come from the warranted Grants Officer before the application can be deemed eligible for review.

##### ***Submission Dates and Times***

Proposals will be accepted until the closing date of September 2, 2025. No applications will be accepted after that date. Proposals will be reviewed by September 16, 2025*. Responses will be sent to applicants by September 18.*

##### ***Funding Restrictions***

1. Funding Restrictions for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA)

None of the funds awarded resulting from this Annual Program Statement may be made available for subawards, direct financial support, or otherwise used to provide any payment or transfer to United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA).

1. Certification Regarding Compliance with applicable Federal anti-discrimination laws

If the place of performance or delivery of any award made under this Annual Program Statement will be **within the United States**, applicants are advised that they will be required to certify the following at the time of award:

1. Its compliance in all respects with all applicable Federal anti-discrimination laws is material to the government’s payment decisions for purposes of section 3729(b)(4) of title 31, United States Code and;
2. It does not operate any programs promoting Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion that violate any applicable Federal anti-discrimination laws. A program promoting Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion means a program whose purpose is to promote preferences based on race, color religion, sex, or national origins, such as in training or hiring.
3. Certification Regarding Compliance with 20 U.S.C. 1011f and any other applicable foreign funding disclosure requirements for [Institutes of Higher Education (IHEs)](https://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?req=granuleid:USC-2010-title20-section1001&num=0&edition=2010)

Applicants are advised that IHEs must certify the following at the time of award, and that this certification requirement must be included in any subaward agreements to IHEs:

1. Its compliance in all respects with section 1011f of title 20, United States Code, and any other applicable foreign funding disclosure requirements is material for purposes of section 3729 of title 31, United States Code, and for receipt of appropriate Federal grant funds.

##### ***Other Submission Requirements***

All application materials must be submitted by email to *PDBeirutGrants*@state.gov

### **Application Review Information**

##### ***Review Criteria***

Each application will be evaluated and rated based on the evaluation criteria outlined below.

**Strategic Value (24 points):** The project should address the priority themes and the Embassy’s goals outlined in this Annual Program Statement. It should also include a clear American component, as described in Section A.

**Project Idea (10 points):** The project should include a strong problem statement and be innovative, well-developed, and have a reasonable implementation timeline.

**Project Goals and Objectives (15 points):** Goals and objectives are clearly stated and are specific, measurable, attainable, relevant, and time-bound (SMART).

**Grant Management Capacity (10 points):** Applicant has organizational and personnel expertise in its stated field. It has accounted for adequate staffing to manage the project.

**Evaluation and Project Impact (14 points):** The monitoring and evaluation plan clearly identifies outputs, outcomes, and impact. It evaluates project success during and at the end of the project. The plan identifies potential risks and offers mitigation strategies.

**Sustainability (7 points**): Activities could continue to have positive impact after the end of the project. Impact could include changes in individual or community perceptions or potential.

**Budget and Budget Narrative (20 points):** The budget is well developed, with itemized budget lines, and aligns with OMB guidelines (Please refer to the “Guidelines for Budget Justification” under section H). The budget justification is detailed with itemized costs. Budget items are reasonable, allocable, and allowable. The budget accounts for all forecasted expenses in line with proposed activities.

##### ***Review and Selection Process***

A review committee will evaluate all eligible applications. PDS will conduct an initial technical review of all proposals by September 4. An interagency selection committee will review all technically eligible proposals on September 16 and evaluate them based on their own merit and against the criteria listed above. Final decisions will be communicated to all applicants by September 18.

The issuance of awards is contingent on the availability of funds and clearance from the Department of State’s Bureau of Administration/Global Acquisitions.

##### ***Risk Review***

1. Risk factors

Under the merit review as required by 2 CFR § 200.206, prior to making a Federal Award the Department will review and consider the following risk factors:

* 1. Financial stability
	2. Management systems and standards
	3. History of performance
	4. Audit reports and findings
	5. Ability to effectively implement requirements

### **Award Notices**

The award or cooperative agreement will be written, signed, awarded, and administered by the Grants Officer. The award agreement is the authorizing document, and it will be provided to the recipient for review and signature by email. The recipient may only start incurring program expenses beginning on the start date shown on the grant award document signed by the Grants Officer.

If a proposal is selected for funding, the Department of State has no obligation to provide any additional future funding. Renewal of an award to increase funding or extend the period of performance is at the discretion of the Department of State.

Issuance of this NOFO does not constitute an award commitment on the part of the U.S. government, nor does it commit the U.S. government to pay for costs incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals. Further, the U.S. government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals received.

**Unsuccessful applicants:** Unsuccessful applicants will be notified by September 18 via email.

**Payment Method:**

Recipients will be required to request payments by completing form SF-270—Request for Advance or Reimbursement and submitting the form to the Grants Officer.

### **Post-Award Requirements and Administration**

##### ***Administrative and National Policy Requirements***

Before submitting an application, applicants should review all the terms and conditions and required certifications which will apply to this award, to ensure that they will be able to comply.

 These include:

In accordance with the Office of Management and Budget’s guidance located at 2 CFR part 200, all applicable Federal laws, and relevant Executive guidance, the Department of State will review and consider applications for funding, as applicable to specific programs, pursuant to this Annual Program Statement in accordance with the following: NOTE:

* [Guidance for Grants and Agreements in Title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations](https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=81a5f41de81c46a9844617d93a9db081&mc=true&node=pt2.1.200&rgn=div5) (2 CFR), as updated in the Federal Register’s 89 FR 30046 on April 22, 2024 , particularly on:
	+ Selecting recipients most likely to be successful in delivering results based on the program objectives through an impartial process of evaluating Federal award applications (2 CFR part 200.205),
	+ Promoting freedom of speech and religious liberty in alignment with *Promoting Free Speech and Religious Liberty* (E.O. 13798) and *Improving Free Inquiry, Transparency, and Accountability at Colleges and Universities* (E.O. 13864) (§§ 200.300, 200.303, 200.339, and 200.341),
	+ Providing a preference, to the extent permitted by law, to maximize use of goods, products, and materials produced in the United States (2 CFR part 200.322), and
	+ Terminating agreements pursuant to the U.S. Department of State Standard Terms and Conditions, including, to the greatest extent authorized by law, if an award no longer effectuates the program goals or agency priorities (2 CFR part 200.340).
* [2 CFR 25 - UNIVERSAL IDENTIFIER AND SYSTEM FOR AWARD MANAGEMENT](https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=81a5f41de81c46a9844617d93a9db081&mc=true&node=pt2.1.25&rgn=div5)
* [2 CFR 170 - REPORTING SUBAWARD AND EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION INFORMATION](https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=81a5f41de81c46a9844617d93a9db081&mc=true&node=pt2.1.170&rgn=div5)
* [2 CFR 175 - AWARD TERM FOR TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS](https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=81a5f41de81c46a9844617d93a9db081&mc=true&node=pt2.1.175&rgn=div5)
* [2 CFR 182 - GOVERNMENTWIDE REQUIREMENTS FOR DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE (FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE)](https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=81a5f41de81c46a9844617d93a9db081&mc=true&node=pt2.1.182&rgn=div5)
* [2 CFR 183 - NEVER CONTRACT WITH THE ENEMY](https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=81a5f41de81c46a9844617d93a9db081&mc=true&node=pt2.1.183&rgn=div5)
* [2 CFR 600 – DEPARTMENT OF STATE REQUIREMENTS](https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=81a5f41de81c46a9844617d93a9db081&mc=true&tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title02/2chapterVI.tpl)
* [U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE STANDARD TERMS AND CONDITIONS](https://www.state.gov/federal-assistance-policies-appeals/)

##### ***Reporting***

**Reporting Requirements:** Recipients will be required to submit financial reports and program reports. The award document will specify what reports are required and how often these reports must be submitted. The Public Diplomacy Section prioritizes data-driven reporting that tracks progress toward achieving performance indicators, report on outcomes and impact of program activities. All programs should measure increased awareness among Lebanese audiences of America’s history, global leadership, and innovation, and of the importance of the U.S.-Lebanese partnership. A final narrative and financial report must be submitted within 120 days after the expiration of the award.

**Foreign Assistance Data Review:** As required by Congress, the Department of State must make progress in its efforts to improve tracking and reporting of foreign assistance data through the Foreign Assistance Data Review (FADR). The FADR requires tracking of foreign assistance activity data from budgeting, planning, and allocation through obligation and disbursement. Successful applicants will be required to report and draw down federal funding based on the appropriate FADR Data Elements, indicated within their award documentation. In cases of more than one FADR Data Element, typically program or sector and/or regions or country, the successful applicant will be required to maintain separate accounting records.

### **Other Information**

**Guidelines for Budget Justification**

Personnel and Fringe Benefits: Describe the wages, salaries, and benefits of temporary or permanent staff who will be working directly for the applicant on the program, and the percentage of their time that will be spent on the program.

Travel: Estimate the costs of travel and per diem for this program, for program staff, consultants or speakers, and participants/beneficiaries. If the program involves international travel, include a brief statement of justification for that travel.

Equipment: Describe any machinery, furniture, or other personal property that is required for the program, which has a useful life of more than one year (or a life longer than the duration of the program), and costs at least $10,000 per unit.

Supplies: List and describe all the items and materials, including any computer devices, that are needed for the program. If an item costs more than $10,000 per unit, then put it in the budget under Equipment.

Contractual: Describe goods and services that the applicant plans to acquire through a contract with a vendor. Also describe any sub-awards to non-profit partners that will help carry out the program activities.

Other Direct Costs: Describe other costs directly associated with the program, which do not fit in the other categories. For example, shipping costs for materials and equipment or applicable taxes. All “Other” or “Miscellaneous” expenses must be itemized and explained.

Indirect Costs: These are costs that cannot be linked directly to the program activities, such as overhead costs needed to help keep the organization operating. If your organization has a Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate (NICRA) and includes NICRA charges in the budget, attach a copy of your latest NICRA. Organizations that have never had a NICRA may request indirect costs of 15% of Modified Total Direct Costs as defined in 2 CFR 200.1.

“Cost Sharing” refers to contributions from the organization or other entities other than the U.S. Embassy. It also includes in-kind contributions such as volunteers’ time and donated venues.

Alcoholic Beverages: Please note that award funds cannot be used for alcoholic beverages.