

MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE CORPORATION
NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY (NOFO) ANNUAL PROGRAM STATEMENT (APS)
NOFO APS No: 95332418N0002
PARTNERSHIPS with MCC Program
November 09, 2017
Cover Letter

Dear Applicants,

The Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) is pleased to launch this Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Annual Program Statement (APS) for opportunities to support MCC in achieving our mission of poverty reduction through growth. Specifically, **this NOFO is reaching out to organizations with demonstrated interest, relevant experience, creativity and know-how to participate in Partnerships with MCC to achieve specific outcomes and optimize impact of our investments.**

This is the initial announcement for this new funding opportunity. The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number is 85.002 MCC Foreign Assistance for Overseas Programs. For the purposes of this Notification of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) the term "Grant" is synonymous with "Cooperative Agreement"; "Grantee" is synonymous with "Recipient"; and "Grant Officer" is synonymous with "Agreement Officer".

Eligible organizations interested in submitting an application should read this NOFO thoroughly to understand the nature of the work required, eligibility and application submission requirements, and the evaluation process. The funding opportunity number is 95332418N0002.

MCC defines "Partnership" as a collaborative relationship between two or more entities -- governmental or nongovernmental -- in which the partners work together to achieve a common purpose or undertake a specific task and to share risks, responsibilities, resources, competencies, and benefits. The partners mutually determine the goals, structure, governance, roles, and responsibilities of their collaboration. This APS is aimed at fostering extensive collaboration and partnerships with external organizations, including but not limited to businesses, foundations, academic institutions, think tanks, and non-governmental organizations, to achieve a greater development impact. Through the APS, MCC aims to foster proactive collaboration and engagement among MCC and the partner(s) around specific areas for collaboration, co-financing, catalytic investment, and innovation that advance MCC's mission. By partnering with other entities in the public, private, and civil sectors, MCC and its country counterparts can increase the scale, impact, and sustainability of MCC compact and threshold program investments.

Partnership opportunity areas for this APS are:

1. Growth Diagnostics and Economic Policy Reform
2. Urban Economic and Social Context Analysis
3. Agribusiness in Niger
4. Data Collaboratives for Local Impact (DCLI) in Tanzania and Cote d'Ivoire
5. High Frequency Monitoring Data
6. Data Collection and Analysis in Sri Lanka

Other partnership opportunities may be added throughout the year.

Key dates related to this NOFO are as follows:

Items	Target Dates	
NOFO Issue Date	November 9, 2017	
Pre-submission Phase I teleconferences	Will be scheduled in November and beginning of December 2017; and beginning of May 2018; details will be provided later in Amendments	The first teleconference is tentatively scheduled for November 30, 2017 at 10.00 am EST. More information will be provided later through an amendment.
Review Windows for Concept Papers Phase I submissions between the following dates	Review Window 1 - Concept papers submitted from the APS issuance date through December 13, 2017	Concept Papers due by 2.00 pm EST on December 13, 2017
	Review Window 2 - Concept papers submitted from December 14, 2017 through February 2, 2018	Concept Papers due by 2.00 pm EST on February 2, 2018
	Review Window 3 - Concept papers submitted from February 3, 2018 through March 30, 2018	Concept Papers due by 2.00 pm EST on March 30, 2018
	Review Window 4 - Concept papers submitted from March 31, 2018 through May 31, 2018	Concept Papers due by 2.00 pm EST on May 31, 2018
	Review Window 5 - Concept papers submitted from June 1, 2018 through July 31, 2018	Concept Papers due by 2.00 pm EST on July 31, 2018
	Review Window 6 - Concept papers submitted from August 1, 2018 through November 08, 2018	Concept Papers due by 2.00 pm EST on November 08, 2018
Deadline for the Phase I Concept Paper Questions	Questions for Review Window 1 is due by 2.00 pm EDT on December 4, 2017. Responses will be issued several times upon receipts of questions before December 4, 2017	
	Questions for Review Windows 2-7 are due 15 calendar days from the start date of each window at 2.00 pm EST	For example, the questions for Review Window 2 is due on December 28, 2017

Awards	Multiple awards may be issued throughout the year for each technical area of the partnership opportunity.	
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Each review window is open to all technical areas announced.

Successful Applicants will be selected through a two-phase application process that will be completed consistent with the Open Contracting Principles.¹ Additional notification milestones pertinent to this process will be posted on www.grants.gov and are further described in Section H.

Program Name: MCC Partnerships

Notice of Funding Opportunity Number: 95332418N0002

NOFO APS issuance date November 09, 2017

Questions and correspondence for this NOFO should be directed to the point of contacts specified in Section D. MCC's responses will be posted on www.grants.gov under this NOFO number.

Issue of this NOFO does not constitute a commitment from MCC to award the program. All applications and submission costs are at the Applicants' expense. MCC reserves the right to reject any or all concept notes and applications received and to fund any or none of the applications submitted under this APS.

We encourage you to apply to this exciting new opportunity!

Sincerely,

Taylor Wolf
Agreement Officer
MCC/Washington

¹ For more information refer to:
http://www.opencontracting.org/2013/06/20/introducing_the_open_contracting_principles/

Table of Contents

Contents

SECTION A. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION	5
I. AUTHORITY	5
II. INTRODUCTION	5
III. BACKGROUND	6
IV. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION.....	6
1. PROGRAM OBJECTIVE	6
2. PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:.....	6
3. MCC's and PARTNERS' RESPONSIBILITIES	14
V. PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE AND KEY MILESTONES	14
SECTION B. FEDERAL AWARD INFORMATION	16
I. PURPOSE OF AWARD	16
II. ESTIMATED FUNDING AND NUMBER OF AWARDS	16
III. PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE AND START DATE	18
IV. SUBSTANTIAL INVOLVEMENT	18
SECTION C. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION	19
I. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.....	19
II. COST SHARING OR MATCHING	20
III. PARTNER RESOURCE COMMITMENT OR FUNDS LEVERAGING	20
IV. PROGRAM INCOME.....	21
SECTION D. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION.....	22
I. MCC's POINTS OF CONTACT	22
II. OVERVIEW OF APPLICATION PROCESS	22
III. SUBMISSION OF QUESTIONS AND TELECONFERENCES	23
IV. CONTENT AND FORM OF APPLICATION SUBMISSION	24
1. Application Submission Instructions.....	24
2. Content and Format of Application Submissions	24
V. DUNS AND SAM REQUIREMENTS (PART I ONLY)	35
VI. EVIDENCE OF RESPONSIBILITY (PART I ONLY).....	35

VII.	REQUIRED CERTIFICATES, ASSURANCES AND REPRESENTATIONS	35
VIII.	SUBMISSION DATES AND TIMES	44
IX.	INTERGOVERNMENT REVIEW	44
X.	FUNDING RESTRICTIONS	44
XI.	OTHER SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS	45
SECTION E. APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION		47
FEDERALLY-FUNDED AWARDS		47
MERIT REVIEW CRITERIA IMPORTANCE		47
PHASE I: CONCEPT PAPER - PASS OR FAIL		47
PHASE II: COMPLETE APPLICATION, BY MCC INVITATION ONLY		48
REVIEW AND SELECTION PROCESS		48
EVALUATION FOR COST EFFECTIVENESS AND COST REALISM (PHASE II ONLY)		51
SECTION F. FEDERAL AWARD ADMINISTRATION		53
I.	FEDERAL AWARD NOTICES	53
II.	ADMINISTRATIVE AND NATIONAL POLICY REQUIREMENTS	53
III.	MCC TECHNICAL OFFICE INVOLVEMENT	53
IV.	REPORTING	53
SECTION G. FEDERAL AWARDDING AGENCY CONTACT(S)		2
SECTION H. OTHER INFORMATION		3
I.	OPEN CONTRACTING PRINCIPLES IMPLEMENTATION	3
II.	SMALL BUSINESS UTILIZATION	3

List of Acronyms

APS	Annual Program Statement
CGM	Contracts and Grant Management
CLEAR	Embrace Collaboration; Always Learn; Practice Excellence; Be Accountable; and Respect Individuals and Ideas
COR	Contracting Officer Representative
DCO	Department of Compact Operations
DPE	Department of Policy and Evaluation
MCA	Millennium Challenge Account
MCC	Millennium Challenge Corporation
PM	Project Manager
RCD	Resident County Director

SECTION A. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

I. AUTHORITY

Pursuant to the Millennium Challenge Corporation Act of 2003, as amended, the United States Government (USG), as represented by the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), is seeking support for the activities described below, and requests applications from organizations to help mobilize, join, and implement partnerships that advance MCC's mission. The prime award(s) resulting from this NOFO will be administered in accordance with the following:

- 2 CFR 200 UNIFORM ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS, COST PRINCIPLES, AND AUDIT REQUIREMENTS FOR FEDERAL AWARDS (http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title02/2cfr200_main_02.tpl)
- MCC's STANDARD PROVISIONS (attached to NOFO)
- MCC's GRANTS AND COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT MANUAL

II. INTRODUCTION

MCC is a government corporation as defined in section 103 of title 5, United States Code, established by the U.S. Congress in the Millennium Challenge Act of 2003, 22 U.S.C. 7701, et seq. It is an independent agency separate from the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). MCC applies an innovative philosophy to foreign aid; its mission is to provide assistance that will support economic growth and poverty reduction in carefully selected countries that demonstrate a commitment to just and democratic governance, economic freedom, and investments in their citizens. Eligible countries develop, in coordination with MCC, a program agreement (Compact) that is then implemented during five years. MCC also supports programs to assist countries seeking to attain eligibility for Compacts by supporting targeted policy and institutional reforms ("Threshold Programs"). Our model is defined by core principles, of selectivity, country ownership, transparency, and a focus on results. For more information on MCC, please visit www.mcc.gov.

MCC is issuing this APS in order to develop partnerships² with organizations that share compact and threshold program and MCC institutional goals and align with the needs of MCC's current portfolio. Partnerships may support program priorities and objectives through every stage of the compact and threshold cycle - selection, development, implementation, and closeout as well as to the benefit of the organizational effectiveness of the agency. Partners may include academic and research institutions, businesses, non-governmental organizations, development-oriented investors, philanthropies and foundations, think tanks, other donors, or other public and private sector entities.

In considering partnerships, MCC is seeking to identify and engage new resources, expertise and technologies in MCC's mission to reduce poverty through economic growth. Successful partnerships are expected to bring financial and/or technical resources to support MCC's ability to achieve its mission and programmatic goals. Partnerships must also concentrate on priority development activities which fall

² MCC defines a partnership as "A collaborative relationship between two or more entities -- governmental or nongovernmental -- in which the partners work together to achieve a common purpose or undertake a specific task and to share risks, responsibilities, resources, competencies, and benefits, and mutually determine the goals, structure, governance, roles, and responsibilities of their collaboration." As used in this APS, the term "partnership" is not intended to mean or be construed as a partnership as defined by law.

within MCC's mission and meet its core principles of results, good policies, and accountability. MCC funds activities in the public sector where the government role is clear and preeminent, but hopes to draw more broadly on non-governmental partners to leverage MCC resources and to stimulate additional investment and innovative development practices. MCC recognizes that such partnerships offer the possibility of promoting greater effectiveness and sustainability in programming, and thus offer an opportunity to substantially increase the impact of MCC-funded programs.

By publicly posting this NOFO APS, MCC is soliciting interest in innovative partnership opportunities. In addition to the opportunities described in the APS, at its discretion, MCC may also issue addenda or updates to this APS as and when new partnership opportunities arise.

III. BACKGROUND

The Millennium Challenge Corporation is an innovative and independent United States foreign aid agency that is helping lead the fight against global poverty. Created by the MCC Act in 2003 with strong bipartisan support, MCC is changing the conversation on how best to deliver U.S. foreign assistance by focusing on good policies, country ownership, and results. MCC works with some of the world's poorest countries, provided they are committed to good governance, economic freedom, and investments in their citizens.

MCC provides selected well-performing countries with large-scale grants, in the form of compacts, to fund country-led solutions for reducing poverty through sustainable economic growth. MCC compacts are implemented over five years and complement other U.S. and international development programs. MCC is managed by a Chief Executive Officer, who is part of the nine-member Board of Directors. The Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Treasury, the U.S. Trade Representative, and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development serve on the board along with four private sector representatives. Countries that receive MCC assistance are referred to as "MCC Partner Countries" and the accountable entity designated by each country to oversee implementation of its MCC-funded program is often referred to as a Millennium Challenge Account (or "MCA"). During implementation of the MCC-funded program, MCC maintains an oversight role, including a rigorous and transparent program of funds control and monitoring and evaluation.

IV. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

1. PROGRAM OBJECTIVE

This APS will focus on federally-funded partnerships. Through this APS, MCC may choose to provide funding to support the partnerships application. In determining whether to provide such funding MCC will consider the nature of the concept paper and application, available funding, and the appropriate funding mechanism.

It is important to note that MCC is committed to country ownership, and some partnerships will be subject to agreement of the parties and, as appropriate, engagement of MCC Country Partners. MCC recognizes that partners will want to carefully consider their relationship to government agencies and projects. Where appropriate, MCC will support and facilitate this relationship where necessary to achieve effective and meaningful partnerships based on mutual interests and objectives. Concept papers and applications may potentially be shared with MCC Partner Countries.

2. PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:

MCC is interested in receiving concept papers for partnerships in the following areas:

1. Growth Diagnostics and Economic Policy Reform
2. Urban Economic and Social Context Analysis
3. Agribusiness in Niger
4. Data Collaboratives for Local Impact (DCLI) in Tanzania and Cote d'Ivoire
5. High Frequency Monitoring Data
6. Data Collection and Analysis in Sri Lanka

TECHNICAL AREA 1: GROWTH DIAGNOSTICS AND ECONOMIC POLICY REFORM PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Since 2007, growth diagnostics (called “Constraints Analyses” at MCC) have played a central role in informing how MCC targets investments in our partner countries. Notably, beginning after the publication of various papers on how to implement growth diagnostics in practice, MCC adopted the approach generally outlined in the *Mindbook* (Hausmann, Klinger, and Wagner 2008). As MCC’s experience applying the methodology has grown, MCC has developed a catalogue of techniques and practices which could help inform future diagnostic exercises. In addition, MCC has identified areas where a more elaborated theoretical foundation and practical guidance would be of value for practitioners; for example, the dynamics of structural transformation, identifying issues related to state ownership in the economy, barriers to entry and imperfect competition, urbanization, inclusion and job creation, sector-specific constraints, and systemic or macro distortions related to the political economy, state capacity, and governance of the country. MCC seeks a partner with both academic/analytical and practical expertise to take stock of existing techniques, address key methodological questions commonly faced, and to advance new ideas on making the growth diagnostic methodology more robust. One output of the partnership will be a published guide to doing growth diagnostics that builds on previous literature³, updating it where necessary, and connecting the theoretical foundation of diagnostics to practical guidance on implementing.

MCC seeks to identify and alleviate the root causes of binding constraints to growth. Depending upon how “root causes” are defined, these often include policy and institutional failures, often underpinned by more general governance failures. MCC seeks a partnership with an academic institution that has theoretical and practical expertise in designing and implementing reforms in areas such as labor market regulation, fiscal management, tax policy, regulatory regimes, competition policy, civil service reform and state capacity-building, and other areas of economic policy and institutional strengthening in developing countries. MCC would bring value to the partnership through its ongoing engagements with countries, permitting policy analysts and researchers to shape their agenda using the real world constraints faced by donors and partner countries. For MCC, this partnership would result in real time advice to MCC and partner countries on designing and implementing policy reforms, including in how to build them into compact programs, and an enhanced ability to draw upon the latest research findings and approaches advanced by academic practitioners to achieve policy reform. For the partner, key outputs would be case studies and the opportunity to publish a framework and/or design principles for advancing economic reforms.

MCC is particularly interested in partnering with academic institutions, especially those with research institutes with a focus on development economics, and/or development policy faculties or schools, and/or other development assistance agencies confronting similar challenges. Partners should be able to bring at

³ *Mindbook*, Hausmann, Klinger, Wagner (2008); *Growth Analytics*, Pritchett (2008); *Growth Diagnostics*, Hausmann, Rodrik, Velasco (2005)

least two leading economists with the applicable expertise, as well as a broader expert community upon which to draw as mutually beneficial.

TECHNICAL AREA 2: URBAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONTEXT ANALYSIS PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITY

MCC is looking for partners who can give MCC access to the latest thought leadership, research, and practice related to 1) analyzing the role of urban agglomeration in economic growth and the contribution of urbanization to poverty reduction, 2) the effects of urban land policy and its implementation in enabling economic growth and poverty reduction, and/or 3) design and implementation of policies, institutional practices and tools or systems to help government institutions better manage and monitor urbanization in order to more fully achieve its benefits.

Partners would work with MCC to develop operational tools and methodologies for addressing the urban agglomeration and growth dimensions of MCC's growth diagnostics; for MCC root cause and problem analysis associated with urbanization or urban environments; and for MCC due diligence and design of projects in urban or urbanizing contexts, with particular emphasis on the policy and institutional enabling environment for urban management and urban growth. Partners could also contribute to the development of methodologies and tools to identify the outcomes and quantify the benefits of urban land-oriented investments.

In addition to any financial resources provided by MCC, partners would have the opportunity to influence the form of MCC's engagement in urban environments and MCC's analysis leading to investment choice and scope. Partners would also have the opportunity to work with MCC (and be expected to work with MCC) to apply thought leadership and tools developed under the partnership to concrete, real-world cases among compact or threshold program eligible countries.

MCC is particularly interested in partnerships with entities considered to be leaders and influencers on urban matters, and with entities with standing programs or initiatives related to urbanization and urban management. Use of technology/new technology as an area of leadership, practice and testing is of interest, as are proposals from consortia of more than one entity.

MCC would work with the partner to refine the annual work plan and approach if needed to align to MCC's portfolio or operational needs at the time of award. MCC also recognizes that for some applicants, proposals to this Technical Area 2 may have overlaps with aspects of Technical Area 1, above.

TECHNICAL AREA 3: AGRIBUSINESS IN NIGER

The MCC Niger Compact team seeks agribusiness value chain partners to provide offtake of commercial agricultural products from the Compact's smallholder beneficiaries and invest in processing facilities and other intermediate infrastructure as part of their business strategy. The Compact team also seeks private sector partners interested in last-mile, market-based provision of inputs (including fertilizer, improved seeds, small-scale irrigation and other equipment) to Nigerien smallholders.

MCC's \$437 million Compact with the Government of Niger was signed in July 2016. In partnership with the Government of Niger, the MCC compact will strengthen Niger's agricultural sector by improving water availability, infrastructure, and market access, with the potential to benefit more than 3.9 million people. The Compact consists of two Projects – an Irrigation and Market Access project which pairs major

investment in two large-scale irrigation perimeters and market access roads with integrated technical support to farmers, cooperatives, and womens' savings groups in the intervention areas; and a Climate Resilient Communities project which implements a community-driven approach to investing in small-scale infrastructure and sustainable natural resource management in livestock and agriculture. The Climate Resilient Communities project also supports entrepreneurial activities of farmers groups, women and youth, and micro, medium, and small enterprises focused on resilience, productivity, and diversification. More information on the Compact and its projects can be found [here](#). The government of Niger has set up a dedicated counterpart entity to MCC called MCA-Niger to implement the Compact activities with MCC oversight and funding.

MCC's significant investment in the productive potential of important Nigerien agricultural regions and in market linkages creates opportunities for commercially and socially-minded partners to propose interventions that involve smallholder farmers in agricultural value chains. Niger is a leading regional producer of several agricultural commodities, including onion, cowpea, sesame, moringa, millet, sorghum, and livestock, and a major supplier to West African regional markets including Nigeria, Cote D'Ivoire, and Ghana. Niger also has a critical need for improved supply of inputs such as fertilizer, seeds, and irrigation equipment. Please see the table below for a description of each opportunity.

Category	Partnership Opportunity
Offtake/Value Chain Partnerships	Irrigation & market access investment will result in significant production increases and improved farmer organization. This offers opportunities for private firms to source products like onion, cowpea, sesame, peanuts, souchet, rice, moringa, gum arabic, and livestock products that are highly demanded in regional markets. MCC's programs will assist with farmer/cooperative organization, technical assistance, and logistics infrastructure investments. This also offers agribusinesses the opportunity to establish local processing facilities. If these investments involve partnerships with local firms or cooperatives, they may be eligible for partial grant funding under MCC's Climate Resilient Agriculture Grant Facility.
Input Supply (Fertilizer and improved seed distribution, irrigation equipment, etc.)	MCC's investments will significantly increase demand for agricultural inputs (including fertilizer and improved seeds) and small-scale, low water-use irrigation equipment. The Niger compact will implement institutional reform that will facilitate increased private sector involved in input distribution. MCC seeks partners who have a strategy to enter Niger with market-based, sustainable provision of inputs and/or technologies that can reach smallholders at the last mile. Sustainable strategies may include a training and sensitization component and a financing component so that smallholders can afford the inputs & equipment.

MCC is open to receiving applications from any organization with a sustainable business plan addressing one or both of the opportunity areas above, including but not limited to commercial agribusinesses, cooperative organizations, and social enterprises. Applications should be primarily commercial and not exclusively philanthropic in nature. Selected organizations will be expected to engage with MCA-Niger as well as MCC to finalize the implementation. MCA-Niger will employ a Private Sector Engagement Manager who will serve as the primary on-the-ground contact for selected partners. Applications should specify the support requested from MCC/MCA-Niger. While applications are expected to reach commercial viability within a reasonable time period, MCC may be able to provide limited co-investment in projects that partner with local cooperatives, farmers groups, enterprises, and/or women's and youth groups in MCC's target intervention areas (see MCC Compact for details). In addition, MCC through its existing

program investments may also provide support through farmer/cooperative organization, investment in infrastructure, technical assistance and capacity building to smallholders, and policy reform.

TECHNICAL AREA 4: DATA COLLABORATIVES FOR LOCAL IMPACT (DCLI) IN TANZANIA AND COTE D'IVOIRE PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Cote d'Ivoire - Data Collaboratives for Local Impact (DCLI)

MCC seeks co-investment and collaboration partners for creating a 'dataLab-like' entity or organization in Cote d'Ivoire. The dLab will need capacity to support data analytics that can inform investments at national and sub-national levels in areas of health, education, and youth.

MCC is interested in reviewing concept notes from businesses or large non-governmental organizations that seek to improve health, education, or economic growth outcomes via data analytics and/or data science; donors and foundations interested in increasing country capacity in “data for development”, open data, data transparency, and data accountability; telecommunications firms interested in “big data” and innovation; and financial services firms interested in increased access to credit initiatives in Cote d'Ivoire.

Tanzania - Data Collaboratives for Local Impact (DCLI) The DCLI team seeks funding and in-kind donation partners for the sustainability of an independent Tanzania Data Lab (dLab). Needs include: building a customer base for the dLab; co-funding and co-investment, training, data science services, in-kind support, employee engagement, and regional/international collaboration.

MCC is interested in reviewing concept notes from Information and Communication Technology/data-focused private sector firms that are interested in utilizing the dLab as a service delivery mechanism for data science training; developing a strong data ecosystem in east Africa; building a pipeline of prospective tech-savvy employees; engaging employees in developing market capacity building; and/or gaining access to new markets through better analytics and data science. MCC is also interested in concept notes from donors or foundations that emphasize African development and/or digital technology, youth, and livelihoods.

TECHNICAL AREA 5: HIGH FREQUENCY MONITORING DATA PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITY

The Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) seeks technical recommendations and methodological guidance to improve its evidence gathering methods. Since its inception, MCC has been dedicated to the idea of rigorously evaluating every project. However, recently MCC has identified the need to collect higher quality monitoring data and, in many cases, higher frequency monitoring data. MCC's approach to development assistance hinges on its smart and extensive use of evidence to inform investment decisions, guide program implementation strategies, and assess and learn from its investment experiences. The rapid expansion of new data gathering and analytic modalities promises to improve the utility of its evidence and/or reduce its costs. The adaptation of these new types of data to inform MCC's evidence requirements will require a systematic assessment of both MCC's needs for evidence, an ability to assess the capabilities and maturity of the newly emerging modalities, and an ability to inform MCC's choice of cost-saving or results-improving modalities.

Some of the new modalities MCC has considered for high frequency data include (but are not limited to): remote imaging; crowd-sourced data; smart-sensors; electricity and water grid meters; traffic counts and

origin/destination checks using cameras; and continually updated, confidentiality protected administrative data. The key features sought with these modalities include embedded geospatial information, known and acceptable data quality descriptors, low marginal costs of expanding geographic or target population coverage, and low costs of repeated or temporally-continuous reporting.

MCC's Data Needs and Current Limitations

MCC's data collection activities serve multiple functions including:

- Informing the investment choices of MCC and partner countries;
- Monitoring and improving program implementation; and
- Evaluating the effectiveness of these investments to help inform future investment decisions.

These activities have relied on a variety of traditional evidence-gathering modalities; modalities that are often slow to adapt to new data gathering opportunities – for good and practical reasons. For example, impact evaluations typically rely on micro-level individual, household and establishment surveys to document relevant characteristics and conditions. While these microdata can provide critical insights to investment decisions and results, they can be costly.

MCC wants to better study key assumptions in our program logics and the causal chains that result in project impacts. Persistent, high frequency, consistently measured data enhance opportunities to more accurately model causal patterns of development constraints and investment impacts. This is especially true when key intermediate outcome measures are not stable over time or when more immediate outcomes have great bearing on the probability that we will be able to detect an effect through an impact evaluation. For example, if teachers do not consistently attend and actively participate in trainings, we cannot expect to see a change in their pedagogy and thus in student learning outcomes. Or, if a project rehabilitates a water treatment plant expecting more water to get to customers, there should be high frequency monitoring of both rainfall and pressure in the pipes to ensure the supply of water is available to be treated and is getting to customers as would be expected.

New high frequency data gathering modalities provide opportunities to cost-effectively measure key program outcomes and provide valuable supplementary or alternative sources of evidence of program impacts. This sort of evidence will complement the rich micro-survey data, if it can reliably assess the observed micro-relationships affecting our projects.

MCC is looking for partners that can provide technical expertise and thought leadership on high frequency data gathering across multiple sectors. Partners should be able to provide guidance on the kinds of data that are feasible to collect; be able to collect the data or find additional partners that can collect the data; and provide analysis, as needed. All data should be in compliance with MCC's [open data guidelines](#). MCC is particularly interested in partnerships with research and academic institutions.

Pilot of this approach for the El Salvador Logistical Infrastructure Project

One page of the concept paper should be devoted to addressing the need for high frequency monitoring data for the Logistical Infrastructure Project (LIP) under the [El Salvador Investment Compact](#). MCC needs to collect high frequency data for its upcoming evaluation of LIP, which includes the Coastal

Highway Expansive Activity (Activity 1), and the Border Crossing Infrastructure Activity (Activity 2). Activity 1 will finance expansion from two to four lanes of about 24 km between Zacatecoluca and the Comalapa Highway at the airport entrance and rehabilitate/improve about 3 km of the two lane segment connection between the Comalapa Highway and the intersection to La Libertad. Additionally, in conjunction with Activity 1 and its Compact Condition Precedent, MCC will work with GoES to improve long term sustainability of road maintenance. Activity 2 will rehabilitate and improve of a 5.74 km road from Agua Salada to El Amatillo; and, improve and modernize the border crossing facilities on the Salvadoran side of the La Amistad Bridge and the site on the Pan American Highway.

The necessary high frequency data includes, but is not limited to, Daily Traffic Counts (DTCs), road roughness data, and Origin-Destination Surveys of vehicles traveling along the road.

TECHNICAL AREA 6: DATA GATHERING AND ANALYSIS IN SRI LANKA PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITY

The MCC Sri Lanka Compact team seeks a partnership with a firm, research institution, NGO, or academic institution to collect and analyze data for policy research to aid in Compact design and inform Compact monitoring and evaluation.

Sri Lanka was selected by MCC to develop a Compact in December 2016. The constraints analysis (CA), completed in February 2017, identified weaknesses in transport and logistics infrastructure and planning, and access to land as key binding constraints to growth in Sri Lanka. Using the CA as a guide, in May 2017 the MCC country team and GOSL conducted a root cause analysis to further unpack the issues related to transportation and land access; specifically:

- Transportation: 1) bottlenecks resulting in traffic congestion in the Western Province and 2) the slow movement of people, goods, and services between the Western Province and other regions; and
- Land: the difficulty of the private sector in accessing land for commercial purposes.

Now entering the program design and due diligence phase, the MCC country team recognizes the need to quickly collect time-sensitive data to better understand both the transportation and land constraints. MCC seeks a partnership to collect and analyze multiple sources of data in Sri Lanka to inform decision making during program design, monitor program implementation, and aid an independent evaluation. In addition to guiding program design, MCC expects the partner's research may be used to establish baselines, targets and/or other program milestones, inform real-time course corrections or other decision making, and possibly feed into a program evaluation.

An illustrative set of research questions for each sector are detailed below to give potential awardees a sense of the data gaps that MCC currently faces. Additional data collection, research questions, areas of focus, or geographic may be added as needed, in collaboration with the partner, to inform better project design.

MCC encourages applicants provide a SOW for transportation and land separately. MCC may choose to fund one or both SOWs. If applicants submit SOWs for both sectors, MCC is also interested in understanding where the two sectors overlap and what data could be used to better understand those synergies.

Illustrative Research Questions

Transportation:

Transportation Infrastructure & Use:

- What public transit services are available in Sri Lanka? More specifically, what options are available in Colombo?
- What are the characteristics of transit users in Western Province? Colombo?
- What transportation mode(s) are passengers in Western Province currently using?
 - Why are they choosing that transportation mode? (reliability, quality, trip duration, etc)
 - What factors would influence their decision to change modes?
 - What are the socio-economic characteristics of passengers using different modes?
- How does harassment on buses affect women's modal choice and economic decisions?
- What is the economic impact of passengers' transit mode choices? (i.e. women's participation in the work force)
- How much are passengers of different modes willing to pay for public transportation? For improved public transportation options? For improved bus options?

Road infrastructure and use:

- What are the land use characteristics of key transportation corridors?
- What are the population characteristics of greater Colombo and Western Province?
- What are the economic characteristics of key road corridors?
- How do people and goods traffic move in greater Colombo (with special regard to the effects of congestion) and Western Province?

Land Access:

- What is the demand for land and what information about land valuation is available?
 - What is the current value of land with different characteristics?
 - How can we measure current and changes in the value of land?
- What is the search time and cost of other hurdles for investors to identify viable land for investment?
- What is the number and duration of land disputes?
- What is the current state of land tenure security and how can we measure changes in it?
 - How can we measure the economic effects of improving land tenure security?

More information about [Sri Lanka](#) and [compact development](#) can be found on MCC's website.

MCC is looking for a partner to with experience in innovative data collection and analysis, preferably with expertise in either transportation, land, or both. MCC is looking for a team that can collect and analyze multiple types of data (including high frequency data) with machine learning and big data analytic techniques that are informed by socio-economic survey data to drive project design in the near term and project monitoring in the medium term. Experience in Sri Lanka is strongly preferred.

The partner should propose deliverables that answer the research questions listed in the problem statement. All deliverables produced should include the data with the associated analysis. All data should be in line with MCC's [open data guidelines](#).

OTHER TECHNICAL AREAS might be added later in the year.

3. MCC's and PARTNERS' RESPONSIBILITIES

MCC envisions relationships with partners as collaborative ones. In the interest of creating a successful and functional partnership, the following is a list of illustrative activities and responsibilities for MCC and for partner organizations. The exact nature of the responsibilities of each partner will be determined during discussions and/or negotiations leading to the formalization of the award.

After Phase I applications are submitted for each phase, MCC may hold collaboration and co-creation design sessions with one or more of the partners who submitted applications; and any given design session(s) may include one or more of the partners who submitted applications participating concurrently at MCC's invitation. The goal of these sessions will be to create an open space for idea sharing, partnering, and collaboration before MCC invites submission of complete applications in Phase II. More information will be provided in the amendments.

1. Examples of MCC Responsibilities

- a) Provision of relevant personnel and expertise, as required for implementation of partnership
- b) Collaboration in establishing annual work objectives and approval of an annual work plan;
- c) Collaboration in assessing progress and identifying issues that arise which may impact the success of the project;
- d) Approval of key personnel and any subsequent changes in the positions during the life of the award;
- e) Collaboration on developing monitoring and evaluation standards;
- f) Participation on advisory boards, management committees, etc.;
- g) Collaboration on development of technical documents/publications;
- h) Linkages to MCC Country Partners; and
- i) Provision of agreed upon funding for partnership implementation.

2. Examples of Partner Responsibilities

- a) Provision of relevant personnel, expertise and/or technology, as detailed in the application;
- b) Participation on a management committee/advisory board overseeing the partnership;
- c) Collaboration in establishing annual work objectives and work plans of the implementing partner(s);
- d) Collaboration in assessing progress and identifying issues that arise which may impact the success of the project;
- e) Provision and application of technical skills, knowledge, products or services;
- f) Conducting ongoing assessment of progress and a final evaluation, and submitting annual reports according to the requirements outlined in the award;
- g) Programmatic and financial reporting, including reporting on leverage contributions;
- h) Coordination of communication; and
- i) Provision of agreed upon leverage for partnership implementation.

V. PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE AND KEY MILESTONES

- A. Period of performance: Applicants may propose activities covering no more than five years from the date of award. The majority of awards period of performances will be one to three years, though some may be up to five years.
- B. Anticipated Number of Awards and Funding Availability: Pending the availability of funding, MCC reserves the right to make multiple awards or no awards at all through this APS for each technical area. MCC reserves the right to fully or incrementally fund selected application(s) as

well as to partially fund selected application(s). Issuance of this APS does not constitute an award commitment on the part of MCC, nor does it commit the MCC to pay for any costs incurred in the preparation and submission of any application.

- C. Type of Award(s): MCC anticipates funding Grants, Cooperative Agreements, and/or Fixed Amount Awards as a result of this APS.
- D. System for Award Management: Recipients must be registered in the System for Award Management (SAM) website (www.sam.gov) before they submit an application to MCC. Please see the information regarding registration below on page 31.
- E. The competition will be **conducted in two phases – Phase I Concept Paper submission, and Phase II Complete Application**. Submitted concept papers for Phase I will be reviewed based on the schedule in the cover letter. Selected applicants will be invited to submit a complete application for Phase II. Each Phase has a separate merit review criteria specified below. Please see more detailed two-step process in Sections D and E.

SECTION B. FEDERAL AWARD INFORMATION

MCC will issue Grants, Cooperative Agreements, and/or Fixed Amount Awards as the successful result of an evaluation process for each key technical program area, which is detailed in Sections D and E.

The applications will be evaluated in a two-step process review: Phase I Concept Paper submission, and Phase II Complete Application. The number of awards will dependent upon the number of meritorious applications and availability of funding. Accordingly, MCC reserves the right to award none, one, or multiple awards as a result of its review of concept papers and subsequent full applications for each technical Partnership Opportunity.

I. PURPOSE OF AWARD

The principal purpose of the relationship with the Recipient under an assistance instrument is to transfer funds to accomplish a public purpose of implementing the MCC Partnerships as described in Section A.

The successful Recipient will be responsible for ensuring the achievement of the Partnership tasks and the efficient and effective administration of the award through the application of sound management practices. The Recipient will assume responsibility for administering USG funds in a manner consistent with underlying agreements, activity objectives, and the terms and conditions of the USG Federal award. The Recipient using its own unique combination of staff, facilities, and experience, has the primary responsibility for employing whatever form of sound organization and management techniques may be necessary in order to assure proper and efficient administration of the resulting award.

II. ESTIMATED FUNDING AND NUMBER OF AWARDS

MCC estimates that the program amount of funding associated with the implementation of the Partnerships as described in Section A for each partnership opportunity is from \$50,000 to \$5,000,000 (federal funding) over a period of 12 to 60 months; though MCC may increase the funding amount for a given partnership opportunity depending on the U.S. Government's need.

The estimated USG funding range for each /technical area is the following:

1. Growth Diagnostics and Economic Policy Reform - from \$100,000 to \$250,000.
2. Urban Economic and Social Context Analysis - from \$100,000 to \$200,000.
3. Agribusiness in Niger - from \$50,000 to \$500,000.
4. Data Collaboratives for Local Impact (DCLI) in Tanzania and Cote d'Ivoire - from \$50,000 to \$300,000.
5. High Frequency Monitoring Data – from \$200,000 - \$400,000. The El Salvador Roads portion is an additional/separate \$150,000 - \$250,000.
6. Data Collection and Analysis in Sri Lanka - from \$200,000 to \$500,000.

Applicants may propose partnerships for all technical areas funded by private funds with no USG funds included.

Partnership application must provide cost share from 2-10% (See Section C.2), or matching funding up to 10%, or leverage funding with a ratio of 1:1 or higher.

After review of complete applications, MCC intends to:

- Award an application without negotiations;
- Award a portion of the application;
- Not to award an application.

MCC intends to award multiple grants, cooperative agreements, and fixed amount award pursuant to this NOFO – and reserves the right to fund any or none of the applications submitted. The U.S. Government may make an award without negotiations. Therefore each application must contain the applicant's best technical and financial terms when invited to participate at Phase II.

III. PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE AND START DATE

The period of performance anticipated herein is the date of MCC's Agreement Officer's signature of the award. The entire total period of performance will depend upon the application submitted but cannot exceed five years.

IV. SUBSTANTIAL INVOLVEMENT

According to MCC's Grants and Cooperative Agreements Manual, MCC will be substantially involved in the implementation of Grants, Cooperative Agreements, and/or Fixed-Amount Awards as described below:

- **Approval of the Recipient's Implementation Plans.** MCC will approve the annual budget, project monitoring and evaluation reports in accordance with 2 CFR 200.327, annual work plans, performance indicator data reports; monthly travel (domestic and international if needed); all other relevant outcomes/deliverables as noted in Section A of the Project Description; and planned and actual expenditures under the award in accordance with 2 CFR 200.328.
- **Approval of Key Personnel.**
- **Agency and Recipient Collaboration or Joint Participation.** All other aspects of the agreed-upon work plan, and notably:
 - a. Collaborative involvement in selection of technical advisory committee members. MCC together with the other members will participate as member in the committee. Technical advisory committees will only deal with technical or programmatic issues, and not routine administrative matters.
 - b. Approval of the Recipient's monitoring and evaluation plans.
 - c. Approval of subawards and subcontracts (if any).
 - d. MCC monitoring to permit specific direction or redirection because of interrelationships with other projects and MCC Compacts.

SECTION C. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

I. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible as an Applicant under this NOFO, an organization must be a Non-USG Federal Entity per 2 CFR 200.69 (Non-Federal entity means a state, local government, Indian tribe, institution of higher education (IHE), or nonprofit organization that carries out a Federal award as a recipient or sub-recipient).

MCC welcomes applications from many types of organizations including U.S. and non-U.S. private businesses, business and trade associations, foundations, U.S. and non-U.S. Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), international organizations, U.S. and non-U.S. colleges and universities, civic groups, regional organizations, etc. All applicants must be legally recognized organizational entities under applicable law.

An individual cannot apply as an applicant.

Other U.S. Government departments and agencies may not apply for MCC funding under this APS. Host country government agencies/entities are not eligible to apply. Furthermore, cost applications may not contain level of effort or related costs for host country government staff.

In case of proposed Partnership of a Prime and subpartners Applicants, the prime applicants will assume responsibility for the subpartners' implementation of the program. The proposed structure of partnerships need to be indicated in the organization/management and staffing plans with indicated roles and responsibilities, and subpartners' strengths highlighted in the technical application. Partnerships may include a range of characteristics and collaborative arrangements, including coordination of activities, co-financing arrangements, shared implementation, risk sharing, and resource sharing. Sustainable and successful partnerships are most likely grounded at the intersection between the partner's core interests and MCC institutional goals and program priorities.

Each Applicant must be found to be a responsible entity before receiving an award by the Agreement Officer. The Agreement Officer may determine if a pre-award survey is required for a successful applicant. Applicants must have established financial management, monitoring and evaluation, internal control systems, and policies and procedures that comply with established U.S. Government standards, laws, and regulations. The successful applicant(s) will be subject to a responsibility determination completed by the AO.

The applicant is reminded that U.S. Executive Orders and U.S. law prohibits transactions with, and the provision of resources and support to, individuals and organizations associated with terrorism. It is the legal responsibility of the Recipient to ensure compliance with these Executive Orders and laws. This provision must be included in all sub-awards and subcontract (if any) issued under this Cooperative Agreement.

Pursuant to Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 200.400(g), MCC will not award profit under assistance instruments such as cooperative agreements, and as such, for-profit organizations must waive profits and/or fees to be eligible to submit an application. Forgone profit does not qualify as cost-share. 22 CFR 200.101 states that, unless specifically excluded, all requirements applying to recipients also apply to sub-recipients if they meet the definition of "recipients"; therefore, fee/profit under assistance type awards is also prohibited for sub-recipients. Forgone profit does not qualify as cost-sharing or leveraging. If a prime

recipient has a (sub)-contract with a for-profit organization for the acquisition of goods or services (i.e., if a buyer-seller relationship is created), fee/profit for the (sub)-contractor is authorized.

Multiple Applications: Applicant organizations may submit more than one application for several technical areas under this NOFO APS.

II. COST SHARING OR MATCHING

Per 2 CFR 200.306 cost sharing or matching by Applicant and/or partners is required to support the project objectives at a minimum of 2-10% of the estimated total proposed budget, though applicants that can demonstrate a more significant cost-share may be more competitive. At a minimum, for cost sharing or matching under this cooperative agreement, the Applicant (or its partners) is encouraged to provide the office space, administrative support staff and/or the required equipment to support the key personnel functions. MCC is looking for innovative, practical approaches to using these resources while promoting the partnership tasks and objectives.

Applicants must identify in the budget submission a separate budget category supported by detailed line items for the cost share and comply with instructions in Section D.4. Cost share contributions will be reviewed as part of the cost review.

Cost Share refers to the resources a recipient contributes to the total cost of an agreement, the portion of project or program costs not borne by the U.S. Government. Cost Share becomes a condition of an award when it is part of the approved award budget if proposed by the Applicant.

Cost-sharing includes cash and in-kind contributions. Such contributions may be mobilized from the recipient; other multilateral, bilateral, and foundation donors; host governments; and local organizations, communities and private businesses that contribute financially and in-kind to implementation of activities at the country level, and is subject to 2 CFR 200.306.

Proposed cost-sharing must be used for the accomplishment of program objectives, and must consist of allowable costs under the applicable USG cost principles. Information regarding the proposed cost share, should be included in the SF 424 and the Budget as specified in Section D. The cost sharing plan should be discussed in the Budget Notes to the extent necessary to demonstrate its feasibility and applicability to the program.

Applicants can propose matching funding up to 10%.

III. PARTNER RESOURCE COMMITMENT OR FUNDS LEVERAGING

Leverage describes the quantifiable contributions provided by resource partners to the program. Unlike cost sharing or matching, leverage is not intended to be binding or auditable. It is not subject to traditional audit standards as it is not intended to be held to the same level of accountability as cost-share or matching (see description above). Leverage contributions are private funding or other resources that a partner will bring to a public-private partnership. Leverage funding can be presented in a variety of forms - anything of value that is measured, financial contributions, third party contributions, donated services or property, or intellectual property. Leverage contribution can be applied to the same program description part that is funded by MCC or it can be applied to a specific program area determined during the award negotiations, like a separate program description section in the award or a subaward, etc.

Applicants can propose leverage funding with a ratio of 1:1 or higher.

However, given the strategic and programmatic value that leverage should contribute to the partnership program, applicants are expected to identify what enhanced results are expected from any leverage proposed and provide and implement a mechanism for tracking and reporting that contribution. Unless otherwise stated in the relevant alliance award agreement(s) and/or MOU(s), the entity receiving an award from MCC to implement program activities is responsible for ensuring, tracking and reporting on the mobilization and use of the leverage. MCC expects the award recipient to provide such information on a quarterly basis across the fiscal year, with an annual summary, in the quarterly technical and financial reports.

MCC encourages private sector engagement and commitment to the partnerships objectives specified in the APS. In addition, MCC welcomes private sector assets, expertise, capabilities and other resources (equipment, training, licensing fee, etc).

IV. PROGRAM INCOME

The Recipient shall account for the Program Income (per 2 CFR 200.80 Program Income is gross income earned by the non-Federal entity that is directly generated by a supported activity or earned as a result of the Federal award during the period of performance) generated under this program. Funds are to be returned to MCC on a quarterly basis via the International Treasury System (ITS.gov) and each instance of program income will be reviewed on an individual basis

SECTION D. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

I. MCC's POINTS OF CONTACT

Taylor Wolf
Agreement Officer
E-mail: wolftj@mcc.gov

Nataliya Holl
Senior Agreement Specialist
E-mail: hollna@mcc.gov

Andrew Lee
Agreement Specialist
E-mail: leeae@mcc.gov

MCC distributes all information for this NOFO APS through www.grants.gov .

II. OVERVIEW OF APPLICATION PROCESS

The application process will follow two steps:

- 1) **Phase I** – Pre-qualification submission phase, which will be open to all applicants listed in Section E under Part I and requires submittal of materials referred to as a Concept Paper.
- 2) **Phase II - FULL APPLICATION** (technical and financial) submission phase, which will be open only to Applicants or proposed Partnership successfully selected through the Phase I process and invited by MCC to submit full applications.

MCC may award a grant(s), cooperative agreement(s) or a fixed amount award(s) without negotiations with the Applicants during Phase II, therefore you are encouraged to submit your best applications in response to this NOFO.

MCC reserves the right to invite Applicants to make pre-award oral presentations and teleconferences in support of their applications, and also may request to interview the Applicant's proposed key personnel.

After Phase I applications are submitted for each phase, MCC may hold collaboration and co-creation design sessions with one or more of the partners who submitted applications; and any given design session(s) may include one or more of the partners who submitted applications participating concurrently at MCC's invitation. The goal of these sessions will be to create an open space for brainstorming, idea sharing, innovation, dialogue, and feedback before MCC invites submission of complete applications in Phase II. During the design session(s), MCC and invited prospective partner(s) will map prospective approaches and challenges to addressing the needs outlined in the Partnership Opportunities (Section 2); and discuss where, when, and how each organization could bring complementary capabilities to a potential partnership. MCC and invited partner(s) will refine their mutual understanding of the Partnership Opportunity, the potential capabilities and contributions each partner might bring to a

partnership; risks and challenges to potential partnership; and the envisioned benefits of and approaches to partnership. The design session(s) also present an opportunity for MCC and prospective partner(s) to consider whether inviting other organizations (e.g., businesses, foundations, non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, etc.) could allow for a more effective partnership approach to achieving the goals outlined in the Partnership Opportunity statement. More information about the format and timing of any design session(s) will be provided in the amendments.

Additional information on the content of the application is provided in Section D.4. Merit review criteria and information on the review process provided in Section E.

III. SUBMISSION OF QUESTIONS AND TELECONFERENCES

All questions and requests for clarification regarding this NOFO APS should be submitted in writing to the email provided below **no later than the date and time provided on the cover** letter to provide sufficient time to address the questions and incorporate the questions and answers as an amendment to this solicitation.

Any information given to a prospective Applicant concerning this NOFO APS will be furnished promptly to all other prospective Applicants as an amendment to this NOFO APS, if that information is necessary in submitting applications or if the lack of it would be prejudicial to any other prospective Applicant.

E-mail address for submitting questions: Nataliya Holl at hollna@mcc.gov and Andrew Lee at leeae@mcc.gov.

E-mails with **questions must reference:**

1) Organization's name and 2) the NOFO number, technical area in the subject line of the e-mail. The submitting organization name, address and phone number must be included in the body of the e-mail. Questions will not be answered after the deadline for submission of questions, specified in the cover letter.

PRE-APPLICATION TELECONFERENCE: Phase I

MCC will host a Phase I Pre-Application Teleconference(s) prior to the submittal of Phase I applications to describe this funding opportunity and to respond to questions. Interested Applicants must register for the Pre-Application Conference attendance by the date specified in an amendment (will be posted later) and through the following options:

- 1) Follow the link (will be provided later in an amendment) and complete the registration questionnaire:
 - Organization name and address, office location, organization's website
 - Interest type – prime or partner consortium member
 - Names of participants, limited to two people
 - Contact Emails and phone numbers

This registration information; the exact venue and time for the Pre-Application Conferences; and responses to all questions will be published as amendments to this NOFO on www.grants.gov.

KEY PERSONNEL and ORAL PRESENTATIONS

MCC might request a key personnel and oral presentations and/or interviews. Specific details will be provided directly to the applicants.

IV. CONTENT AND FORM OF APPLICATION SUBMISSION

Applicants are expected to review, understand and comply with the requirements of this NOFO. Applications not conforming to this NOFO requirements will be considered non-responsive and will be eliminated from further consideration.

1. Application Submission Instructions

The Application shall be submitted in English. The Applicant must submit an application to: Nataliya Holl at hollna@mcc.gov and Andrew Lee at leeae@mcc.gov electronically. Hard copies will not be accepted. The MCC reserves the right not to consider late or incomplete applications.

Steps to register as an organization are provided at:

<http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/organization-registration.html>. Questions relating to the registration process or system requirements for Grants.gov must be directed to grants.gov at support@grants.gov or 1-800-518-4726 for US and international is 1-606-545-5035. Application forms and instructions are available at Grants.gov. To access these materials, go to <http://www.grants.gov>, select “Apply for Grants”, and follow the directions.

Each Applicant shall furnish the information described below in their applications. Also please refer to Section E (merit review criteria) for additional insight on how your application will be evaluated.

DO NOT SUBMIT: Promotional literature and materials regarding the Applicant as part of the Annexes. Do not submit unsolicited material.

2. Content and Format of Application Submissions

PHASE 1 – CONCEPT PAPER

The following are the page limits:

Cover Page – (1 Page Limit).

Organization Overview – (2 Page Limit)

Concept Paper – (3 Page Limit)

Attachments – (3 Page Limit).

A cost application should NOT be submitted for Phase I. The Application should be in 11-point Times New Roman, single-spaced and not in excess of the page limits as stated above for each section. Applicants can submit both the Microsoft Word (required) and PDF (optional) files.

Note: If any sections of the submitted concept paper exceed the designated page limit, MCC reserves the right in its sole discretion to take any appropriate action, including, but not limited to, excluding the pages in excess of the limit and eliminating the applicant from the competition.

COVER PAGE (1 page limit) must contain the following information:

1. Name and full address of applicant organization;
2. Project Title, NOFO Reference Number, Technical Area Name and Proposed Name of the Application of proposed activity and country;
3. Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) Number (mandatory for Prime, but also preferable for key subpartners);

4. Type of organization (e.g., for-profit, non-profit, etc.);
5. Point of Contact (name, position title, phone number, fax number, e-mail address);
6. Identify to which program area described in Section A the concept note applies and responds to the relevant program goals and objectives and place of performance;
7. Total budget estimate (direct and indirect, cost share and leverage (if applicable));
8. Any partnerships / proposed consortium members with the addresses and contract person name, phone and email; and
9. Signature of authorized representative of the applicant, name and title.

ORGANIZATION OVERVIEW (no more than two (2) pages):

The Organization Overview should succinctly provide information about the Applicant:

1. The organization, its mission, structure, summary of relevant organizational experience and qualifications of the Applicant (Prime) and proposed consortium partners (if any).
2. The organizational capacity (capacity, roles and responsibilities of the Applicant (Prime) and its partners to adequately manage and implement the Project with high quality and credibility; and
3. Applicant's consortium strategy, if applicable; and adherence to project local content requirements.
4. List of proposed key consortium members (if any).

CONCEPT PAPER (no more than three (3) pages):

The Applicant's vision for the project should be clearly described in the Concept Paper to enable MCC distinguish the Applicant's suitability for this opportunity. The Concept Paper should therefore describe what should be done, expected target areas, and demonstrate that the Applicant has assembled a team best suited to achieve the project outcomes within the envisioned timelines.

The Concept Paper must include:

1. Identification of country of focus, concise title and objectives of proposed project.
2. Discussion of method of approach, amount of effort to be employed, types of resources to be contributed by the respondent; this should include a distinction between the components that can be accomplished during the design and development stage of a compact and the components that relate or extend to the compact implementation stage.
3. Brief discussion of how the proposed partnership activities will contribute to enhancing the impact and viability of MCC's proposed compact intervention in light of MCC's mission of poverty reduction through economic growth; this should include how the project will be sustainable upon termination of MCC funding.
4. Brief discussion of why the respondent considers the proposed partnership to be particularly appropriate to meet the objectives of MCC's ongoing or proposed activities in a country.
5. Brief discussion of any elements of the partnership concept which the respondent considers to be unique, innovative, or unusual.
6. Discussion of the division of roles, level of effort, responsibilities and contributions between MCC and the prospective partner organization(s); this should also cover how risk within the partnership will be divided.
7. Proposed estimated budget cost and any other support being requested by the respondent (e.g., funds, facilities, equipment, materials, personnel resources, etc.), based on the preliminary description of the projects and intended to be the basis for discussion with MCC.

APPENDIX for Phase I (no more than three (3) pages and (5) with the subpartners):

Relevant Past Performance and Past Experience Information (Prime and Key Partner Organizations)

Applicants will provide at least three (03) past performance references for the last five (05) years on contracts/works similar in nature (i.e. subnational level work, with participatory engagement and the use of data for development) or relevant to this award, preferably with U.S. government agencies, international development or donor institutions, international non-government organizations (NGOs) or the private sector.

If a consortium is envisioned, the application should also include at least two (02) past performances for the by subpartners (consortium members) including references, per subcontractor, for the last five (05) years detailing work similar in nature to that which would be envisioned for this. References may be with U.S. government agencies, other international development or donors institutions, NGOs, and/or the private sector.

The Government reserves the right to obtain information for use in the evaluation of past performance from any and all sources inside or outside the Government.

The past performance information shall include the following matrix for each project submitted:

Contract/Task Order/Call Order Number/CA	Period of Performance (base and options)	Contract/Task Order/Call/CA Value	Order
Technical POC			
Name	Email	Tel. Number	
Contractual POC			
Name	Email	Tel. Number	
Project Description			
Relevant experience to program description above			

Applicants are authorized and encouraged to provide information on problems encountered on the identified contracts and the Applicant's corrective actions taken. This will include information that is in addition to that which is provided by the Applicant.

CONTENT AND FORMAT OF APPLICATION SUBMISSIONS – PHASE II (only for applicants invited by MCC)

Each Applicant shall furnish the information described in this section. Applications shall be submitted in two separate parts: (a) Technical Application, including past performance, and (b) Cost/Business Application.

The following are page limits associated with the technical application.

- Cover Page – (1 Page Limit).
- Executive Summary – (2 Page Limit).
- Technical Application – (10 Page Limit).
- Attachments (including past performance) – (40 Page Limit).
- Business / cost application (separate cover) – no page limit.

The Application should be in Font 11 point/Times New Roman, single-spaced and not exceed the page limits as stated above for each application section. Applicants can submit both the Microsoft Word and Microsoft Excel files (required) and PDF (optional) files.

Any charts or tables included within the technical application sections will be considered against the page limits of those sections.

All applicants must be registered in SAM at the time of the application submission.

The requirements for the technical application sections as described are minimum requirements that must be included with the applicant's submission. The applicant may include additional information other than that stated as long as it falls within the page limitations set in the NOFO.

COVER PAGE (1 Page Limit) must contain the following information:

- a. Name and full address of applicant organization;
- b. Project Title, technical area, NOFO Reference Number, Name of proposed activity, country;
- c. Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) (for US sub-partners, if applicable);
- d. Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) Number (mandatory for Prime and all proposed subpartners). Organizations must be registered in SAM at the time of submission;
- e. Type of organization (e.g., for-profit, non-profit, university, etc.);
- f. Point of Contact (name, position title, phone number, fax number, e-mail address);
- g. Identify to which program area described in Section A the application applies and responds to the relevant program goals and objectives and place of performance;
- h. Any partnerships/final consortium members with the addresses and contract person name, phone and email; and
- i. Signature of authorized representative of the applicant.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY (2 Page Limit)

The executive summary must summarize the final proposed vision and technical approach of the applicant to achieve project outcomes; list proposed target areas (if Applicant has made that determination); highlight work plan milestones; and convey why the Applicant team is optimally suited to lead this innovative project.

TECHNICAL APPLICATION (10 Page Limit)

The technical application will be the most important factor for consideration in selection for award of the proposed Award. The technical application should be, to the extent possible, be clear, complete and concise. The application should demonstrate the Applicant's capabilities and expertise with respect to this Project and describe how the team proposes to achieve the Project's outcomes. The application should take into account the requirements of the Project and merit review criteria found in this NOFO (Section E).

All uploaded technical applications must be submitted both in Microsoft Word (required) and PDF (optional) format. At a minimum the application should include the components listed below:

1. Background/problem statement with expected impact
2. Explanation of partners and their expected roles, including partner and other resources brought to bear (leverage)
3. Duration of activity and implementation schedule
4. Role of MCC or MCA-country (e.g., facilities, equipment, material, or personnel resources)
5. Key personnel and their contribution to the project

6. Anticipated risks and proposed mitigation strategies
7. Proposed financial management controls and systems

LIST OF APPENDICES - PHASE II (Not included in the Technical Application page limit; limited to 40 pages.)

1. Resumes for key personnel - not to exceed 3 pages for each resume

Resumes must be in chronological order starting with most recent experience. Each resume for the proposed Key Personnel positions must be accompanied by a signed Letter of Commitment from each candidate (additional 1 page not included in 3 page limit) indicating his/her: (a) availability to serve in the stated position, in terms of days after award; (b) intention to serve for a stated full term of the service (complete period of performance for the cooperative agreement); and (c) agreement to the compensation levels which correspond to the levels set forth in the cost application.

Resumes for Key Personnel **must include at least three (3) current references** for each proposed key position, including up-to-date telephone numbers and e-mail contact information. MCC reserves the right to contact references not included in the list above.

To the extent that additional personnel representing other disciplines are needed, the Applicants must present a staff and staffing pattern for non-key positions that demonstrates excellence in terms of key technical and organizational requirements and provide an appropriate mix of skills while avoiding excessive staff.

2. Staffing Plan

The applicant must submit an integrated staffing plan that should list all proposed positions with proposed personnel under the Project, and whether the position is full-time, part-time, or intermittent, and the planned person months or days each position will devote to the Project. In addition, the staffing plan must include an organizational chart that shows the structure and the relationships between positions.

While it is understood that the team may include personnel from both the Prime Applicant organization and sub partner organizations, the Applicant should demonstrate that the team is operationally integrated and works as *one* team, leveraging the respective organizational strengths and areas of expertise. The degree to which consortia have had prior opportunities to work together will be viewed favorably.

3. Organizational Qualifications and Management Plan

Management strategies and administrative approaches (e.g., plan, structure, policies and practices) proposed to accomplish the PD's requirements – including: (i) personnel, financial, and logistical support; (ii) the role and level of effort for staff supporting these functions; and (iii) a realistic plan for monitoring the technical and financial activities and reporting on results. The merit of the management and administrative plan will also be reviewed to ensure cost-effectiveness and timely completion of planned activities.

4. Final Consortium Plan, including Letters of Intent (if applicable)

The consortium plan should list all proposed partners under the Project, and what role the partners have in relation to the project objectives. In addition, the consortium plan must include an organizational chart that shows the structure, governance and the relationships between consortium partners and prime.

Each consortium organization must provide a signed Letter of Commitment indicating the following information for each organization: (a) availability to participate in the stated consortium; (b) the length of participation as it relates to the Project; and (c) agreement to the budget associated with each consortium partner set forth in the cost application. Those letters are not exclusive to a particular prime partner, and need to briefly state the subpartner role in the project.

5. Proposed initial approach to monitoring and evaluation (2-3 pages)

6. Final Team Relevant Past Performance and Past Experience Information (Applicant and Key Partner Organizations)

Applicants will provide at least three (03) past performance references for the last five (05) years on contracts/works similar in nature or relevant to this award, preferably with U.S. government agencies, international development or donor institutions, international non-government organizations (NGOs) or the private sector. Alternatively, the Applicants may provide five (05) past performance examples including references within the last seven (07) years for relevant work with national and/or regional entities.

If a consortium is envisioned, the applications should also include at least two (02) past performances for the subgrants (consortium members) including references, per subcontractor, for the last five (05) years detailing work similar in nature to that which would be envisioned for this subcontractor under this PD. References may be with U.S. government agencies, other international development or donors institutions, NGOs, and/or the private sector.

The Applicant will include the name, recent telephone number and email address of knowledgeable customer contacts. References from institutions that have characteristics that are most similar to MCC will be preferred.

The past performance information shall be provided in the following format:

Contract/Task Order/Call Order Number/CA	Period of Performance (base and options)	Contract/Task Order/Call/CA Order Value
Technical POC		
Name	Email	Tel. Number
Contractual POC		
Name	Email	Tel. Number
Project Description		
Relevant experience to program description above		

MCC may contact references and use the past performance data regarding the organization, along with other information to determine the applicant's past performance.

The Government reserves the right to obtain information for use in the evaluation of past performance from any and all sources inside or outside the Government.

COST/BUSINESS APPLICATIONS (no page limit)

The Cost or Business application is to be submitted under a separate cover from the Technical application. The Cost/Business application is also to be submitted electronically in an unprotected Microsoft Excel 2000 or Excel 2003 with open and linked formulas. The Applicant is requested to submit a budget broken down by project years with an accompanying detailed budget narrative (in Word 2000 or Word 2003 text accessible) which provides in detail the anticipated total costs for implementation of the Project. The budget narrative should provide information regarding the basis of estimate for each line item, including reference to sources used to substantiate the cost estimate.

The budget should include a breakdown of all anticipated costs associated with the Project – as well as a breakdown between the portions of the overall funding between the various partners

The cost/business application should contain:

- Cover Page (The Cost Application Cover Page must contain the same information as the Technical Application)
- Standard Forms (SF 424 Forms)
- Budget submission in Excel workbook, with several sheets as needed, with all open and linked formulas:
 - summary budget by the main budget elements specified below;
 - Detailed budget separated by each line item;
 - Program budget showing percent allocation for each partner.
- Budget Narrative (detailed explanation of proposed costs in Microsoft Word format)
- DUNS and System for Award Management (SAM)
- Certification, Assurances, Statements and Other Required Forms
- Funding Restrictions (if any)

The Applicant must sign and submit the cost application form SF-424, and print or type the Applicant's organization name on the Cover Page of the technical and cost applications. Erasures or other changes must be initialed by the person signing the application. Applications signed by an agent shall be accompanied by evidence of that agent's authority, unless that evidence has been previously furnished to the issuing office.

US Government Standard Forms Required as Part of the Application Include:

- Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)
- Budget Information (SF-424A)
- Assurances – Non-construction Projects (SF-424B)

These Standard Forms can be downloaded from the following site: www.grants.gov.

General Summary Budget Template for each technical area

Cost Elements	Unit	Total number of months/people	Unit Cost	Total
Salaries International				
Salaries Local				
Fringe Benefits International				
Fringe Benefits Local				
Travel and Transportation Local and International				
Equipment				
Supplies				
Subawards/Subcontracts (proposed consortium partner(s) should follow the same budget structure)				
Other Direct Costs				
Indirect Costs				
SUBTOTAL FEDERAL COSTS				
Cost Share / Matching funds				
Financial Leverage (if applicable)				
TOTAL COSTS				

- **Salaries**

Direct salaries and wages should be proposed in accordance with the Applicant's personnel policies. Identify each personnel by title and name and specify each position to be supported under the proposed award. International and local salaries should be separated.

- **Fringe Benefits**

If the Applicant has a fringe benefit rate that has been approved by an agency of the U.S. Government, such rate should be used and evidence of its approval should be provided. If a fringe benefit rate has not been approved, the Application should propose a rate and explain how the rate was determined. If the latter is used, the narrative should include a detailed breakdown comprised of all items of fringe benefits. International and local fringe benefits should be separated.

- **Travel and Transportation**

The Application should indicate the number of trips, domestic and international, the number of days per trip, and the estimated costs. Specify the purpose of travel, the origin and destination for each proposed trip, duration of travel, and number of individuals traveling and the position held by the travelers. Estimated travel and transportation costs, including airfare and per diem.

- **Equipment**

The Applicant must itemize the equipment i.e. office equipment and briefly justify the need for the items to be purchased as they apply to the Activity. Indicate the estimated unit cost and number of units for each item to be purchased.

- **Supplies**

The Applicant must itemize the materials and supplies and briefly justify the need for the items to be purchased as they apply to the Activity.

- **Subawards/Subcontracts (proposed consortium partner if any)**

The Applicant's budget shall include a breakdown of all costs for each sub-agreement and identify the proposed Sub-Recipient.

- **Other Direct Costs (ODC)**

The Applicant shall indicate the estimated unit cost and number of units for each additional allowable item proposed.

- **Indirect Costs**

The Applicant must submit a Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement NICRA if the organization has such an agreement with an agency or department of the U.S. Government. If no NICRA the Applicant should submit the following:

- **Reviewed Financial Statements Report:** a report issued by a Certified Public Account (CPA) documenting the review of the financial statements was performed in accordance with Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services; that management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework and for designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation. The account must also state the he or she is not aware of any material modifications that should be made to the financial statements; or
- **Audited Financial Statements Reports for the last three years:** An auditor issues a report documenting the audit was conducted in accordance with Generally Accepted Auditing Standards (GAAS), the financial statements are the responsibility of management, provides an opinion that the financial statements present fairly in all material respects the financial position of the company and the results of operations are in conformity with the applicable financial reporting framework (or issues a qualified opinion if the financial statements are not in conformity with the applicable financial reporting framework. The auditor may also issue a disclaimer of opinion or an adverse opinion if appropriate.
- **No prior NICRA:** Any non-Federal entity that has never received a negotiated indirect cost rate, except for those non-Federal entities described in Appendix VII to Part 2 CFR 200—States and Local Government and Indian Tribe Indirect Cost Applications, paragraph D.1.b, may elect to charge a de minimis rate of 10% of modified total direct costs (MTDC) which may be used indefinitely. Please see 2 CFR 414 f) and 2 CFR 200.68 Modified Total Direct Cost (MTDC).

- **Cost Share**

The Applicants must indicate the amount and percentage of cost-sharing resources which they are proposing to mobilize over the life of the agreement and specify the sources of such resources, and the basis of calculation in the budget narrative. Applicants should also provide a breakdown of the cost share (financial and in-kind contributions) for all organizations.

- **Leverage - Private Sector Engagement and Resource Mobilization**

Applicants must indicate the value of private sector resources, assets, capabilities and expertise contributed to the implementation of the project (if applicable). Leverage resources should be attributed to the project implementation in a manner that generates sustainable solutions and impacts.

Examples of financial and resources leverage:

1. Private contributions;
2. Value of salaries for staff dedicated to the project;
3. Technology, communications and capital assets;
4. Intellectual property rights;
5. Licenses;
6. Training contributed to the project implementation;
7. Equipment and commodities.

BUDGET NARRATIVE (no page limit)

The cost elements provided in the Detailed Budget must also be provided in the **Budget Narrative in Microsoft Word**, but with text that explains the rationale for the choices and costs, including market research. The Budget Narrative must be thorough, including sources for costs to more quickly enable MCC to determine the cost as fair and reasonable.

DUNS and SAM

MCC requires DUNS number for Primes for Phase I and for Primes and all subpartners for Phase II of the application per 2 CFR 25.502 (a). DUNS number is easy to obtain, see Q&A below for guidance. Prime applicants will require their sub-recipients to obtain DUNS number per Appendix A to Part 25, I.B:

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2010-09-14/pdf/2010-22706.pdf>

B. Requirement for Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) Numbers

If you are authorized to make subawards under this award, you:

1. *Must notify potential subrecipients that no entity (see definition in paragraph C of this award term) may receive a subaward from you unless the entity has provided its DUNS number to you.*
2. *May not make a subaward to an entity unless the entity has provided its DUNS number to you.*

Beginning October 1, 2010, all Recipients receiving federal awards must have a DUNS (Data Universal Numbering System) Number and be registered with the CCR (Central Contractor Registration) as outlined in 2 CFR Part 25, *Financial Assistance Use of Universal Identifier and Central Contractor Registration*. As of July 2012, the CCR was incorporated into the System for Award Management (SAM).

<http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=4b1646c637c990d90c86c0a68e316865&mc=true&node=se2.1.25.1110&rgn=div8>

DUNS Number Requirements

Who needs a DUNS number?

All organizations receiving Federal financial awards (i.e., grant, cooperative agreement, contract) or subawards must have a DUNS number. Individuals are exempt.

How do I find out if my organization already has a DUNS number?

Your chief fiscal officer, treasurer, business manager, executive director, or accountant is likely to be able to provide your organization's DUNS number. Many larger organizations such as universities, non-profits, and other private contractors are likely to already have a DUNS number. If you don't know if you have one, you can search the Dun & Bradstreet website: <http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform/CCRSearch.do>.

I've received federal grants/cooperative agreements for several years without a DUNS number. Why do I need one now?

Although these requirements have existed for a number of years for contracts, the regulations were officially implemented for grants and cooperative agreements in the Federal Register on September 14, 2010. The regulation had an effective date of October 1, 2010. **In addition, this is a new requirement for subawardees.**

Who can obtain a DUNS number for my organization?

An authorizing official of the organization, not a project director, should request a DUNS number. The following is a list of the information you will need in order to obtain it:

- Name of organization
- Organization address
- Name of the CEO/organization owner
- Legal structure of the organization (corporation, partnership, proprietorship)
- Year the organization started
- Primary type of business
- Total number of employees (full and part time)

How much will it cost to get a DUNS number?

Obtaining a DUNS number is **FREE** for all federal grant, cooperative agreement, and contract applicants. Contact Dun & Bradstreet directly using the contact options listed above and you will quickly and easily obtain a DUNS number at no charge.

How do I obtain a DUNS number?

DUNS numbers are provided by Dun & Bradstreet (D&B). You can obtain a DUNS number by phone or through D&B's website. Typical turnaround time for a web request is 1-2 business days.

Contact Dun & Bradstreet

Website: <http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform/displayHomePage.do>

My organization is not in the United States. Do I still need a DUNS number?

DUNS numbers are required for all organizations, foreign or domestic, doing business with the Federal Government.

My organization has more than one DUNS number. How do I know which one to use?

DUNS numbers are issued by the physical location of the organization. Therefore, some organizations may have multiple DUNS numbers. Use the DUNS number associated with the location of the organization.

SAM Registration

What is SAM?

SAM is an online system that combines several federal procurement systems and the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance. The first phase of SAM includes the functionality from the following systems: Central Contractor Registry (CCR), Federal Agency Registration (Fedreg), Online Representations and Certifications Application (ORCA), and Excluded Parties List System (EPLS). Future phases will include additional systems.

CCR is the Central Contractor Registration database within SAM. It is a federally operated database that collects, validates, and disseminates information about organizations that do business with the federal government via contracts, grants, and cooperative agreements.

Who has to register with SAM?

Any organization that is receiving a financial assistance award from ARS must be registered in SAM. All organizations who require a DUNS number, as defined above, must also register with SAM before a grant/cooperative agreement/contract can be issued.

How do I register with SAM?

To register with SAM, go to <http://www.sam.gov/>, and click "Create User Account" to begin or call 1-866-606-8220 for assistance. Your organization must have a valid DUNS number and you must know your organization's Federal Tax Identification Number (TIN). Foreign organizations do not need a TIN number to register in SAM; however, they will need an NCAGE code (see below for additional FAQs on obtaining a CAGE code).

Be sure to use the primary DUNS number for your organization, which should be the same DUNS number used on the grant/cooperative agreement/contract as described above. SAM registration must be renewed at least every 12 months to remain valid.

How do I find out if my organization is already registered in SAM?

You can perform a public search in SAM to find your organization's registration. Go to the SAM website, and enter the DUNS number, CAGE Code, or organization name in the "Search Records" box. If your organization chose the "opt out of public display" option in its registration, you will not be able to see that registration on the public search site unless you log in with your user name and password.

V. DUNS AND SAM REQUIREMENTS (PART I ONLY)

MCC may not award to an applicant unless the applicant has complied with all applicable unique entity identifier and System for Award Management (SAM) requirements. **Each applicant is required to:**

- **Be registered in SAM at the time of submitting its application for the Phase II.** SAM is streamlining processes, eliminating the need to enter the same data multiple times, and consolidating hosting to make the process of doing business with the government more efficient (www.sam.gov). In case your organization is not registered in SAM for Phase I, please ensure you are registered before Phase II applications submission. **You application will not be accepted without the SAM registration.**
- Provide a valid Data Universal Numbering Systems (DUNS) number in its application (available at <http://www.dnb.com/get-a-dunsnumber.html>); and
- Continue to maintain an active SAM registration with current information at all times during which it has an active Federal award or an application or plan under consideration by a Federal awarding agency.

VI. EVIDENCE OF RESPONSIBILITY (PART I ONLY)

The cost/business application for Phase II should also include **evidence of responsibility** that the MCC Agreement Officer can use to determine that the Applicant:

- a. Has adequate financial resources or the ability to obtain such resources as required during the performance of the award;
- b. Has the ability to comply with the award conditions, taking into account all existing and currently prospective commitments of the Applicant;
- c. Has a satisfactory record of performance. Past relevant unsatisfactory performance is ordinarily sufficient to justify a finding of non-responsibility, unless there is clear evidence of subsequent satisfactory performance;
- d. Has a satisfactory record of integrity and business ethics; and
- e. Is otherwise qualified and eligible to receive a Cooperative Agreement under applicable laws and regulations.

VII. REQUIRED CERTIFICATES, ASSURANCES AND REPRESENTATIONS

Applicants must complete and sign the **Certifications, Assurances, and Representations**:

• REQUIRED CERTIFICATIONS, ASSURANCES AND REPRESENTATIONS

MCC requires recipients of grants and cooperative agreements to make representations or provide assurances and certifications that they are in compliance with the policies. Applicants should refer to the regulations cited below to determine the certification to which they are required to attest. Applicants should also review the instruction for certification included in the regulations before completing this form.

The certifications and assurances must be completed and submitted with each applications for the MCC financial assistance.

Applicant _____

Application Number _____

CERTIFICATION AND ASSURANCES

ASSURANCE OF AUTHORITY OF THE APPLICANT AND ITS REPRESENTATIVE

On behalf of your Applicant, you certify that both you and your Applicant's attorney who sign these Certifications, Assurances, and Agreements affirm that both your Applicant and you, as its authorized representative, may undertake the following activities on behalf of your Applicant, in compliance with applicable laws and regulations, and your Applicant's by-laws or internal rules:

1. Execute and file its application for Federal funds,
2. Execute and file its Certifications, Assurances, and Agreements binding its compliance,
3. Execute Grant Agreements or Cooperative Agreements, or both, with MCC,
4. Comply with applicable Federal laws and regulations, and
5. Follow applicable Federal guidance.

STANDARD ASSURANCES.

On behalf of your Applicant, you assure that your Applicant understands and agrees to the following:

1. Your Applicant will comply with all applicable Federal statutes and regulations to carry out any MCC funded Project,
2. Your Applicant is under a continuing obligation to comply with the terms and conditions of the MCC Grant Agreement or Cooperative Agreement for its Program/Project, including the MCC Original Cooperative Agreement or Grant Agreement incorporated by reference and made part of the latest amendment to the Grant Agreement or Cooperative Agreement,
3. Your Applicant recognizes that Federal laws and regulations may be modified from time to time and those modifications may affect Program/Project implementation,
4. Your Applicant understands that Presidential executive orders and Federal guidance, including Federal policies and program guidance, may be issued concerning matters affecting your Applicant or its Program/Project,
5. Your Applicant agrees that the most recent Federal laws, regulations, and guidance will apply to its Program/Project, unless MCC determines otherwise in writing,

CERTIFICATION REGARDING DEBARMENT, SUSPENSION, AND OTHER RESPONSIBILITY MATTERS (2 CFR 180)

(1) The prospective primary participant certifies to the best of its knowledge and belief that it and its principals:

(a) Are presently not excluded or disqualified from covered transactions by any Federal department or agency;

(b) Have not been convicted within the preceding three years of this proposal of or had a civil judgment rendered against them for commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (Federal, State, or local) transaction or contract under a public transaction; violation of Federal or State antitrust statutes or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, tax evasion, receiving stolen property, making false claims, or obstruction of justice; commission of any other offense indicating a lack of business integrity or business honesty that seriously and directly affects your present responsibility;

(c) Are not presently indicted for or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity Federal, State, or local) with commission of any of the offenses enumerated in paragraph (1)(b); or

(d) Have not had one or more public transactions (Federal, State, or local) terminated for cause or default within the preceding three years.

(2) Where the prospective primary recipient is unable to certify to any of the statements in this certification, such prospective participant shall attach an explanation to this application.

(3) The recipient agrees that, unless authorized by the Agreement Officer, it will not knowingly enter into any subagreements or contracts under this grant with a person or entity that is included on the excluded Parties List System (<http://epls.arnet.gov>). The recipient further agrees to include the following provision in any subagreements or contracts entered into under this award:

DEBARMENT, SUSPENSION, INELIGIBILITY, AND VOLUNTARY EXCLUSION

The recipient/contractor certifies that neither it nor its principals is presently excluded or disqualified from participation in this transaction by any Federal department or agency.

(3) The policies and procedures applicable to debarment, suspension, and ineligibility under MCC-financed transactions are set forth in 22 CFR Part 208 and c CFR 180.

Organization Name: _____

Name of Authorized Signatory: _____

Title of Authorized Signatory: _____

Signature: _____ Date _____

ASSURANCE OF COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING NONDISCRIMINATION IN FEDERALLY ASSISTED PROGRAMS

Note: This certification applies to Non-U.S. organizations if any part of the program will be undertaken in the United States.

(a) The recipient hereby assures that no person in the United States will, on the bases set forth below, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under, any program or activity receiving financial assistance from MCC, and that with respect to the Cooperative Agreement for which application is being made, it will comply with the requirements of:

(1) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Pub. L. 88-352, 42 U.S.C. 2000-d), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin, in programs and activities receiving Federal financial assistance;

(2) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of handicap in programs and activities receiving Federal financial assistance;

(3) The Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended (Pub. L. 95-478), which prohibits discrimination based on age in the delivery of services and benefits supported with Federal funds;

(4) Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. 1681, et seq.), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in education programs and activities receiving Federal financial assistance (whether or not the programs or activities are offered or sponsored by an educational institution); and

(b) If the recipient is an institution of higher education, the Assurances given herein extend to admission practices and to all other practices relating to the treatment of students or clients of the institution, or relating to the opportunity to participate in the provision of services or other benefits to such individuals, and must be applicable to the entire institution unless the recipient establishes to the satisfaction of the MCC that the institution's practices in designated parts or programs of the institution will in no way affect its practices in the program of the institution for which financial assistance is sought, or the beneficiaries of, or participants in, such programs.

CERTIFICATION REGARDING LOBBYING (2 CFR 200.450)

(Note: This certification is for sub-awards valued at US\$100,000 USD or more.)

The undersigned certifies, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

(1) No Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of the undersigned, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any Federal contract, the making of any Federal Cooperative Agreement, the making of any Federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment or modification of any Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement.

(2) If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure of Lobbying Activities," in accordance with its instructions.

(3) The undersigned shall require that the language of this certification be included in the award documents for all subawards at all tiers (including subcontracts, subgrants, and contracts under grants, loans, and cooperative agreements) and that all subrecipients shall certify and disclose accordingly.

This certification is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was made or entered into. Submission of this certification is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by section 1352, title 31, United States Code. Any person who fails to file the required certification shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than US\$10,000 and not more than US\$100,000 for each such failure.

Organization Name: _____
Name of Authorized Signatory: _____
Title of Authorized Signatory: _____
Signature: _____ Date _____

PROHIBITION ON ASSISTANCE TO DRUG TRAFFICKERS

MCC reserves the right to terminate this Agreement, to demand a refund or take other appropriate measures if the Grantee is found to have been convicted of a narcotics offense or to have been engaged in drug trafficking as defined in 22 CFR Part 140.

MCC reserves the right to terminate assistance to or take other appropriate measures with respect to, any participant approved by MCC who is found to have been convicted of a narcotics offense or to have been engaged in drug trafficking as defined in 22 CFR Part 140.

DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE

This certification is required by the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988 (Pub.L. 100-690, Title V, Subtitle D) and is implemented through additions to the Debarment and Suspension regulations, published in the Federal Register on January 31, 1989, and May 25, 1990.

(1) The grantee certifies that it will or will continue to provide a drug-free workplace by:

(a) Publishing a statement notifying employees that the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession, or use of a controlled substance is prohibited in the grantee's workplace and specifying the actions that will be taken against employees for violation of such prohibition;

(b) Establishing an ongoing drug-free awareness program to inform employees about:

(1) The dangers of drug abuse in the workplace;

(2) The grantee's policy of maintaining a drug-free workplace;

- (3) Any available drug counseling, rehabilitation, and employee assistance programs; and
- (4) The penalties that may be imposed upon employees for drug abuse violations occurring in the workplace; (c) Making it a requirement that each employee to be engaged in the performance of the grant be given a copy of the statement required by paragraph (a);
- (d) Notifying the employee in the statement required by paragraph (a) that, as a condition of employment under the grant, the employee will:
 - (1) Abide by the terms of the statement; and
 - (2) Notify the employer in writing of his or her conviction for a violation of a criminal drug statute occurring in the workplace not later than five calendar days after such conviction;
- (e) Notifying the agency, in writing, within ten calendar days after receiving notice under subparagraph (d)(2) from an employee or otherwise receiving actual notice of such conviction. Employers of convicted employees must provide notice, including position title, to every grant officer or other designee on whose grant activity the convicted employee was working, unless the Federal agency has designated a central point for the receipt of such notices. Notice shall include the identification number(s) of each affected grant;
- (f) Taking one of the following actions, within 30 calendar days of receiving notice under subparagraph (d)(2), with respect to any employee who is so convicted:
 - (1) Taking appropriate personnel action against such an employee, up to and including termination, consistent with the requirements of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; or
 - (2) Requiring such employee to participate satisfactorily in a drug abuse assistance or rehabilitation program approved for such purposes by a Federal, State or local health, law enforcement, or other appropriate agency;
- (g) Making a good faith effort to continue to maintain a drug- free workplace through implementation of paragraphs (a),(b),(c),(d),(e), and (f).
- (2) The grantee may insert in the space provided below the site(s) for the performance of work done in connection with the specific grant:

Place of Performance: (Street address, city, county, zip code)

CERTIFICATION REGARDING TERRORIST FINANCING, IMPLEMENTING EXECUTIVE ORDER 13224

The undersigned certifies that:

- (1) The Recipient, to the best of its current knowledge, did not provide, within the previous ten years, and will take all reasonable steps to ensure that it does not and will not knowingly provide, material support or resources to any individual or entity that commits, attempts to commit, advocates, facilitates, or participates in terrorist acts, or has committed, attempted to commit, facilitated, or participated in terrorist acts, as that term is defined in paragraph 3.
- (2) The following steps may enable the Recipient to comply with its obligations under paragraph 1:
 - (a) Before providing any material support or resources to an individual or entity, the Recipient will verify that the individual or entity does not (i) appear on the master list of Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons, which list is maintained by the U.S. Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) and is available online at OFAC's website : <http://www.treas.gov/offices/eotffc/ofac/sdn/t11sdn.pdf>, or (ii) is not included in any supplementary information concerning prohibited individuals or entities that may be provided by MCC to the Recipient.
 - (b) Before providing any material support or resources to an individual or entity, the Recipient also will verify that the individual or entity has not been designated by the United Nations Security (UNSC) sanctions committee established under UNSC Resolution 1267 (1999) (the "1267 Committee") [individuals and entities linked to the Taliban, Usama bin Laden, or the Al Qaida Organization]. To determine whether there has been a published designation of an individual or entity by the 1267 Committee, the Recipient should refer to the consolidated list available online at the Committee's website: <http://www.un.org/Docs/sc/committees/1267/1267ListEng.htm>.

(c) Before providing any material support or resources to an individual or entity, the Recipient will consider all information about that individual or entity of which it is aware and all public information that is reasonably available to it or of which it should be aware.

(d) The Recipient also will implement reasonable monitoring and oversight procedures to safeguard against assistance being diverted to support terrorist activity.

(3) For purposes of this Certification-

a. "Material support and resources" means currency or monetary instruments or financial securities, financial services, lodging, training, expert advice or assistance, safehouses, false documentation or identification, communications equipment, facilities, weapons, lethal substances, explosives, personnel, transportation, and other physical assets, except medicine or religious materials."

b. "Terrorist act" means-

i. an act prohibited pursuant to one of the 12 United Nations Conventions and Protocols related to terrorism (see UN terrorism conventions Internet site: <http://untreaty.un.org/English/Terrorism.asp>; or

ii. an act of premeditated, politically motivated violence perpetrated against noncombatant targets by subnational groups or clandestine agents; or

iii. any other act intended to cause death or serious bodily injury to a civilian, or to any other person not taking an active part in hostilities in a situation of armed conflict, when the purpose of such act, by its nature or context, is to intimidate a population, or to compel a government or an international organization to do or to abstain from doing any act.

CERTIFICATION REGARDING TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS, IMPLEMENTING TITLE XVII OF THE NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013

Note: This certification must be completed prior to receiving an award with an estimated value that exceeds US\$500,000, and must be submitted to the MCC Agreement Officer annually during the term of the award. By signing below, the applicant or recipient, as applicable, through its duly designated representative, after having conducted due diligence, hereby certifies that:

1. The applicant/recipient has implemented a compliance plan to prevent the prohibited activities identified in section (a) of the Mandatory Provision "Trafficking in Persons" and is in compliance with that plan;

2. The application/recipient has implemented procedures to prevent any activities described in section (a) of the Mandatory Provision "Trafficking in Persons" and to monitor, detect, and terminate any contractor, subawardee, employee, or other agent of the applicant/recipient engaging in any activities described in such section; and

3. To the best of the representative's knowledge, neither the applicant/recipient, nor any employee, contractor, or subawardee of the applicant/recipient, nor any agent of the applicant/recipient or of such a contractor or subawardee, is engaged in any of the activities described in section (a) the Mandatory Provision "Trafficking in Persons."

c. "Entity" means a partnership, association, corporation, or other organization, group or subgroup.

d. References in this Certification to the provision of material support and resources shall not be deemed to include the furnishing of MCC funds or ultimate beneficiaries of MCC assistance, unless the Recipient has reason to believe that one or more of these beneficiaries commits, attempts to commit, advocates, facilitates, or participates in terrorist acts, or has committed, attempted to commit, facilitated or participated in terrorist acts.

e. The Recipient's obligations under paragraph 1 are not applicable to the procurement of goods and/or services by the Recipient that are acquired in the ordinary course of business through contract or purchase, e.g., utilities, rents, office supplies, gasoline, etc., unless the Recipient has reason to believe that a vendor or supplier of such goods and services commits, attempts to commit, advocates, facilitates, or participates in terrorist acts, or has committed, attempted to commit, facilitated or participated in terrorist acts.

This Certification is an express term and condition of any agreement issued as a result of this application, and any violation of it shall be grounds for unilateral termination of the agreement prior to the end of its term.

Organization Name: _____
Name of Authorized Signatory: _____
Title of Authorized Signatory: _____
Signature: _____ Date _____

CERTIFICATION OF RECIPIENT

As the duly authorized representative of the applicant, I hereby certify that the applicant will comply with the above certifications.

These certifications and assurances are given in consideration of and for the purpose of obtaining any and all Federal grants, loans, contracts, property, discounts, or other Federal financial assistance extended after the date hereof to the recipient by the Agency, including installment payments after such date on account of applications for Federal financial assistance which was approved before such date. The recipient recognizes and agrees that such Federal financial assistance will be extended in reliance on the representations and agreements made in these assurances, and that the United States will have the right to seek judicial enforcement of these assurances. These assurances are binding on the recipient, its successors, transferees, and assignees, and the person or persons whose signatures appear below are authorized to sign these assurances on behalf of the recipient.

Request for Application or Application No. _____
Date of Application _____
Name of Recipient _____
Typed Name and Title _____
Signature _____
Date _____

KEY INDIVIDUAL CERTIFICATION NARCOTICS OFFENSES AND DRUG TRAFFICKING

I hereby certify that within the last ten years:

1. I have not been convicted of a violation of, or a conspiracy to violate, any law or regulation of the United States or any other country concerning narcotic or psychotropic drugs or other controlled substances.
2. I am not and have not been an illicit trafficker in any such drug or controlled substance.
3. I am not and have not been a knowing assistor, abettor, conspirator, or colluder with others in the illicit trafficking in any such drug or substance.

Signature: _____
Date: _____
Name: _____
Title/Position: _____
Organization: _____
Address: _____

Date of Birth: _____

NOTICE:

1. You are required to sign this Certification under the provisions of 22 CFR Part 140, Prohibition on Assistance to Drug Traffickers. These regulations were issued by the Department of State and require that certain key individuals of organizations must sign this Certification.
2. If you make a false Certification you are subject to U.S. criminal prosecution under 18 U.S.C. 1001.

STATEMENTS OF RECIPIENT

AUTHORIZED INDIVIDUALS

The recipient represents that the following persons are authorized to negotiate on its behalf with the Government and to bind the recipient in connection with this application or grant:

Name _____

Title _____

Phone Number _____

E-mail _____

TAXPAYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (TIN)

If the recipient is a U.S. organization, or a foreign organization which has income effectively connected with the conduct of activities in the U.S. or has an office or a place of business or a fiscal paying agent in the U.S., please indicate the recipient's TIN:

TIN: _____

DATA UNIVERSAL NUMBERING SYSTEM (DUNS) NUMBER

(a) Unless otherwise specified in the solicitation using an applicable exemption, in the space provided at the end of this provision, the recipient should supply the Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number applicable to that name and address. Recipients should take care to report the number that identifies the recipient's name and address exactly as stated in the proposal.

(b) The DUNS is a 9-digit number assigned by Dun and Bradstreet Information Services. If the recipient does not have a DUNS number, the recipient should call Dun and Bradstreet directly at 1-800-333-0505. A DUNS number will be provided immediately by telephone at no charge to the recipient. The recipient should be prepared to provide the following information:

- (1) Recipient's name.
- (2) Recipient's address.
- (3) Recipient's telephone number.
- (4) Line of business.
- (5) Chief executive officer/key manager.
- (6) Date the organization was started.
- (7) Number of people employed by the recipient.
- (8) Company affiliation.

(c) Recipients located outside the United States may email Dun and Bradstreet at globalinfo@dbisma.com to obtain the location and phone number of the local Dun and Bradstreet Information Services office and visit website www.dnb.com.

The DUNS system is distinct from the Federal Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) system. DUNS:

TYPE OF ORGANIZATION

The recipient, by checking the applicable box, represents that -

- (a) If the recipient is a U.S. entity, it operates as ☐ a corporation incorporated under the laws of the State of, ☐ an individual, ☐ a partnership, ☐ a nongovernmental nonprofit organization, ☐ a state or local governmental organization, ☐ a private college or university, ☐ a public college or university, ☐ an international organization,

or

☐ a joint venture; or

- (b) If the recipient is a non-U.S. entity, it operates as ☐ a corporation organized under the laws of _____ (country), ☐ an individual, ☐ a partnership, ☐ a nongovernmental nonprofit organization, ☐ a nongovernmental educational institution, ☐ a governmental organization, ☐ an international organization, or ☐ a joint venture.

VIII. SUBMISSION DATES AND TIMES

Applications shall be due at the time and date stated on the cover page of this NOFO. MCC will determine that any Applications that are not received by the Agreement Officer by one of the methods specified below by the time and date indicated will be late. Submission deadlines are important and late applications may not, at the sole discretion of the Agreement Officer, be considered.

IX. INTERGOVERNMENT REVIEW

Not applicable.

X. FUNDING RESTRICTIONS

Pursuant to 2 CFR 200.400, MCC will not to award profit under assistance instruments. However, all reasonable, allocable, and allowable expenses, both direct and indirect, which are related to the grant program and are in accordance with applicable cost standards per 2 CFR 200 may be paid under the grant.

None of the funds made available for this award can be used, obligated or expended for:

1. Alcoholic beverages; or
2. Entertainment expenses for activities that are substantially of a recreational character, including but not limited to entrance fees at sporting events, theatrical and musical productions, and amusement parks.
3. Payment for the performance of abortion as a method of family planning or to motivate or coerce any person to practice abortions:

That nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to alter any existing statutory prohibitions against abortion under section 104 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961:

That none of the funds made available under this Act may be used to lobby for or against abortion:

That in order to reduce reliance on abortion in developing nations, funds shall be available only to voluntary family planning projects which offer, either directly or through referral to, or information about access to, a broad range of family planning methods and services, and that any such voluntary family planning project shall meet the following requirements:

(1) service providers or referral agents in the Project shall not implement or be subject to quotas, or other numerical targets, of total number of births, number of family planning acceptors, or acceptors of a particular method of family planning (this provision shall not be construed to include the use of quantitative estimates or indicators for budgeting and planning purposes); (2) the Project shall not include payment of incentives, bribes, gratuities, or financial reward to: (A) an individual in exchange for becoming a family planning acceptor; or (B) program personnel for achieving a numerical target or quota of total number of births, number of family planning acceptors, or acceptors of a particular method of family planning; (3) the Project shall not deny any right or benefit, including the right of access to participate in any program of general welfare or the right of access to health care, as a consequence of any individual's decision not to accept family planning services; (4) the Project shall provide family planning acceptors comprehensible information on the health benefits and risks of the method chosen, including those conditions that might render the use of the method inadvisable and those adverse side effects known to be consequent to the use of the method; and (5) the Project shall ensure that experimental contraceptive drugs and devices and medical procedures are provided only in the context of a scientific study in which participants are advised of potential risks and benefits.

There are no other funding restrictions applicable to this NOFO at this time.

XI. OTHER SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

MCC Special Conditions will include:

1. MCC will conduct a risk assessment of the successful applicant at Phase II. The questionnaire will be sent to complete by the successful applicant (s). MCC will also require to review an HR manual and Operational manual. In case the prime applicant has Non-US Organization Pre-Award Survey (NUPAS) completed by USAID before, please submit a copy in your Phase II application.

In order for an award to be made, the Agreement Officer must review the risks posed by applicants, as discussed in 2 CFR 200.205. In evaluating risks posed by applicants, MCC will use a risk-based approach and consider any items such as the following:

- 1) Financial stability;
- 2) Quality of management systems and ability to meet the management standards prescribed in 2 CFR 200;
- 3) History of performance. The applicant's record in managing Federal awards, if it is a prior recipient of Federal awards, including timeliness of compliance with applicable reporting requirements, conformance to the terms and conditions of previous Federal awards, and if applicable, the extent to which any previously awarded amounts will be expended prior to future awards;
- 4) Reports and findings from audits performed under Subpart F—Audit Requirements of 2 CFR 200 or the reports and findings of any other available audits; and
- 5) The applicant's ability to effectively implement statutory, regulatory, or other requirements imposed on non-Federal entities.

2. Method of payment for this award.

Method of payment for these grants, cooperative agreements and fixed amount awards will be direct reimbursement or monthly advance reimbursement. MCC will make a decision about the specific allowed type of method of payment after the completion and review the results of the recipient risk assessment. The recipient will prepare quarterly advance requests based on the monthly/quarterly projected expenditures for the upcoming quarter by month 1, 2 and 3 (Standard Form 270 for the monthly advances, and form SF 425 for the reimbursement reports per 2 CFR 200.34). The recipient must have a separate insured interest bearing bank account for these funds.

Requests for advance payment will be limited to the recipient immediate cash needs and shall not exceed anticipated expenditures for one month period. At the end of each month recipient will submit a reimbursement report/liquidation voucher with actual expenses against the recurring advance. Both the advance and reimbursements reports will need to be detailed and organized by the main budget line items with detailed subcategories. MCC will allow for three month rolling advance – recipient will be able to submit an advance request simultaneously covering 30-day period of 90-day period for payment to allow the cash flow for the recipient and limiting availability of cash to the immediate needs.

It is the responsibility of MCC to monitor the cash management practices of the recipient to ensure that Federal cash is not maintained by recipient in excess of immediate disbursing needs. All interest earned by the recipient on advances from MCC funds will be remitted back to MCC and MCC will report the collection back to Treasury.

If MCC determines that advance funds or actual expenditures are disallowable, MCC will notify the recipient and will require the return of disallowed funds within 30 days of notification.

Cash advances made by the recipient to sub-recipients must substantially conform to the same requirements as those applicable to the prime recipient.

Sample of Monthly Advances/ Expenditures Report:

Expenditures	Approved Budget	Cumulative Advances thru XX Date	Cumulative Expenditures thru XX Date	Expenditures this month	Projected Expenditures for next month	Projected Cash Available as of XX	Advance Needed
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SECTION E. APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

FEDERALLY-FUNDED AWARDS

As noted in Section D, competition under this NOFO will consist of a two-step application process: Applicants will first submit a concept paper (Phase I) and successful Phase I applicants will be invited by MCC to submit a full application under Phase II. Each Application submitted in response to this NOFO for Phases I and II will be evaluated in accordance with the merit review criteria by the Selection Committee based on the process described in this section.

MERIT REVIEW CRITERIA IMPORTANCE

All applications will be evaluated based on the merit review criteria below and may also include the following areas:

- Alignment with MCC Compact, Threshold, or agency objectives
- Impact on beneficiaries
- Amount of resource contribution brought by the partner
- Commercial potential
- Social and economic impact
- Understanding and experience with local context
- Sustainability
- Social and gender inclusion
- Capacity of implementing organization(s)
- Partnerships with local organizations and engagement with relevant MCAs
- Collaboration and co-creation opportunities with MCC

PHASE I: CONCEPT PAPER - PASS OR FAIL

1. Technical Approach and Strategic Fit

- Demonstrated Strategic Fit and Consistency with MCA goals
 - a) Clearly defined likelihood that the partnership will make a significant contribution towards achieving goals outlined in this NOFO APS and will meet the objectives of MCC's requirements
 - b) Demonstrated relevance to compact themes and/or projects, and/or selected priority sectors
- Technical Approach
 - a) The degree to which the proposed technical approach and methodology can reasonably be expected to produce the intended outcomes.
 - b) Level of innovation and creativity in the program design and implementation.
 - c) The likelihood that activities being supported will continue beyond and without MCC funding.
 - d) Demonstrated relevant data use experience and clearly described the uses and limitations of technology.
 - e) Relevant past experience for each technical area.

2. Organizational Capacity

- Key Personnel
 - a) Clearly demonstrated evidence that the program will have the appropriate technical, managerial and financial staff to implement the program.

- b) Demonstrated Experience in Designing and Administering Development Programs, and Institutional Capacity
- c) The applicant and sub-recipients/partners have demonstrated organizational experience, and bring resources and expertise to successfully conduct and manage the partnership project enhanced by the demonstrated past successful performance on a similar project(s).

PHASE II: COMPLETE APPLICATION, BY MCC INVITATION ONLY

1. Professional Qualifications of the proposed final integrated team and consortium subpartners including local content

- a) Soundness and adequacy of the overall integrated staffing plan and allocation of responsibilities for key personnel to effectively and efficiently achieve partnerships objectives. Visual organogram present clear, lean and responsive organizational/partnership and staffing structures to support the approach. The roles, responsibilities, forms of collaboration and lines of authority on the project team and between any sub-partners are clearly articulated.
- b) Demonstrated level of all other proposed personnel qualifications and experience to effectively manage the project and provide quality control is feasible and clearly identified. The proposed Key Personnel has the experience, expertise and skill sets to effectively execute the roles and responsibilities, which are relevant and appropriate for the proposed partnerships approach.

2. Strategy and Technical Approach

- c) a. Level of innovation and creativity in the program design and implementation.
- d) b. Final strategy and technical approach are feasible and inclusive of innovative ideas, local knowledge, and community considerations to maximize outcomes and how the proposed partnership will meet the objectives of MCC's ongoing or proposed activities in a country.
- e) c. Soundness and reasonableness of the proposed partnership activities and how they will contribute to enhancing the impact and viability of MCC's proposed compact interventions.
- f) d. Proposed timeline and method for generating partnerships wins throughout the project, and continuing effects beyond the project end date, supported by the elements of partnership that are unique, innovative, or unusual.

3. Youth, Gender, and Social Inclusion are thoroughly identified and addressed in the partnerships approach

Realistic approach towards quick wins and innovative ideas to promote inclusion of youth, including young women and marginalized groups.

4. Past Performance of Final Proposed Team

Demonstrated quality, cost control, timeliness of performance, customer satisfaction, track record and relevancy of the work previously performed.

REVIEW AND SELECTION PROCESS

A Selection Committee (SC) comprised of MCC's employees will conduct a merit review of all applications using criteria listed in Section E, separately for Phase I (concept papers) and Phase II (full applications) as outlined below:

For the **Phase I process** applications will be evaluated based on a pass/fail status. All Applicants will submit concept papers in accordance with the due dates in the cover letter. MCC will then conduct a merit review of the concept papers based on the merit review criteria provided below. After a thorough review

of all concept papers received by the due date stated in the cover letter, Applicants whose concept papers will provide the best value to the Government will receive pass status and be invited by the Agreement Officer to submit full applications under Phase II.

Each criterion is listed in a descending importance making the first criterion the most important for the Phase I Merit Review Criteria. The sub-criteria within each criterion (if any) are of equal importance.

For the **Phase II process**, after evaluation of all applications under each review window and each technical area for Phase II, MCC will select the apparently successful Applicant(s). MCC reserves the right (but is under no obligation) to conduct oral presentations of the key personnel and/or key personnel interviews to select the winning applications. If determined necessary, the potentially successful Applicant(s), will be notified accordingly and invited to present to MCC, at either MCC's HQ or through an Internet-enabled conference call. Thereafter, MCC may engage in discussions or negotiations with the successful Applicant(s) regarding any matter to be covered in the final technical and cost application. MCC may also award without discussions with the selected Applicant(s). The Agreement Officer will make the final determination for an award to be made to successful Applicant(s) whose full application offers the best value to USG, considering both technical and cost review criteria. MCC plans to award multiple cooperative agreements, grants and fixed amount awards for each technical area from this NOFO.

For the Phase II, the first and second criteria are of equal importance, and the third and fourth criteria are less important than the first and second.

The SC will evaluate the applications based on the following Adjectival Ratings:

Rating	Definition	A good application is characterized as follows
OUTSTANDING	The application exceeds the fullest expectations of the Government. The Offeror has convincingly demonstrated that the evaluation requirements have been analyzed, evaluated, and its application should result in outstanding, effective, efficient, and economical performance. An assigned rating of "outstanding" indicates that, in terms of the specific factor (or subfactor), the application demonstrates an "outstanding" understanding of the factor, contains essentially no weaknesses, and exceeds the fullest expectations of the Government	The proposed approach indicates an exceptionally thorough and comprehensive understanding of the program goals, resources, schedules, and other aspects essential to performance of the program. In terms of the specific factor (or significant sub-factor), the application contains major strengths, exceptional features, or innovations that should substantially benefit the program. There are no weaknesses or deficiencies. The risk of unsuccessful performance is extremely low.
EXCELLENT	The application demonstrates an innovative and comprehensive approach. Fulfilling the definition of "excellent" indicates that, in terms of the specific factor (or subfactor), the application demonstrates an	The proposed approach indicates a thorough understanding of the program goals and the methods, resources, schedules, and other aspects essential to the performance of the program.

	approach that fully meets or exceeds the Evaluation's requirements in a way that should prove to be substantially beneficial to the program.	The application has major strengths and/or minor strengths which indicate the proposed approach will benefit the program. Weaknesses, if any, are minor and are more than offset by strengths. Risk of unsuccessful award performance is very low.
SATISFACTORY	The application meets the requirements. The application may contain weaknesses and/or significant weaknesses that are correctable but no deficiencies. An assigned rating of "satisfactory" indicates that, in terms of the specific factor (or subfactor), the application demonstrates a "satisfactory" understanding of the factor. If any weaknesses and/or significant weaknesses are noted, they should not seriously affect the Offeror's performance	The proposed approach indicates an adequate understanding of the program goals and the methods, resources, schedules, and other aspects essential to the performance of the program. There are few, if any, exceptional features to benefit the program. The risk of unsuccessful award performance is low. Weaknesses are generally offset by strengths.
MARGINAL	The application demonstrates a shallow understanding of the requirements and approach and marginally meets the minimum evaluation standard. The application contains weaknesses and/or significant weaknesses and may contain deficiencies. A rating of "marginal" indicates that, in terms of the specific factor (or subfactor), the application marginally meets the standard for minimal but acceptable performance. The applicant may complete the assigned tasks; however, there is at least a moderate risk that the applicant will not be successful.	The proposed approach indicates a superficial or vague understanding of the program goals and the methods, resources, schedules, and other aspects essential to the performance of the program. The application has weaknesses that are not offset by strengths. The risk of unsuccessful award performance is moderate.
UNSATISFACTORY	The application fails to meet a minimum requirement or contains a major deficiency or major deficiencies. The application is incomplete, vague, incompatible, incomprehensible, or so incorrect as to be unsatisfactory. The evaluator feels that the deficiency or deficiencies is/are uncorrectable without a major revision of the application. The assignment of a	The proposed approach indicates a lack of understanding of the program goals and the methods, resources, schedules, and other aspects essential to the performance of the program. Numerous weaknesses and deficiencies exist. The risk of unsuccessful award performance is high.

	rating of “unsatisfactory” indicates that in terms of the specific factor (or subfactor) the application fails to meet performance or capability standards. The specific factor to be evaluated contains deficiencies.	
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Any application receiving a “Marginal” or below rating will not be considered for Award.

MCC will use the following definitions for the applications’ evaluation:

“Strengths” is an aspect of an application that has merit or exceeds specified requirements in the program description in a way that will be advantageous to the Government during award performance.

“Weakness” means a flaw in the application that increases the risk of unsuccessful award performance. A “significant weakness” in the application is a flaw that appreciably increases the risk of unsuccessful award performance.

“Deficiency” is a material failure of an application to meet a Government requirement or a combination of significant weaknesses in an application that increases the risk of unsuccessful award performance to an unacceptable level.

Any application found to have a deficiency in meeting the stated requirements will be considered ineligible for award, unless the deficiency is corrected through negotiations. Applications may be found to have either a significant weakness or multiple weaknesses that impact either the individual factor rating or the overall rating for the application.

EVALUATION FOR COST EFFECTIVENESS AND COST REALISM (PHASE II ONLY)

MCC will review the cost/business application(s) of apparently successful Applicant(s) for Phase II for cost effectiveness (credibility and completeness) and cost realism (2 CFR 200.404) and for:

1. Allowability of Costs (2 CFR 200.403)
2. Reasonable Costs (2 CFR 200.404)
3. Allocable Costs (2 CFR 200.405)
4. Demonstration of management capability to meet a responsibility determination.

Per 2 CFR 200.306 cost sharing or matching by Applicant and/or partners is required to support the project objectives at a minimum of 2-10% of the estimated total proposed budget, though applicants that can demonstrate a more significant cost-share may be more competitive. The cost/business application must clearly demonstrate the Applicants cost share contributions. Applicants also can propose matching for up to 10% and leveraging 1:1 or higher.

Technical merit review are significantly more important than cost. While Cost is less important than technical and is not weighted in this NOFO, the cost applications of the apparently successful technical applications will be evaluated for cost effectiveness, including the level of proposed cost share. Other considerations are the completeness of the application, adequacy of budget detail and consistency with elements of the technical application. In addition, the organization must demonstrate adequate financial management capability, to be measured for a responsibility determination.

The application with the lowest estimated cost may not be selected if award to a higher priced technical application offers a greater overall benefit for the Project. All evaluation factors other than cost or price, when combined, are significantly more important than cost. However, estimated cost is an important factor and the estimated cost to the Government increases in importance as competing applications approach equivalence and may become the deciding factor when technical applications are approximately equivalent in merit.

Cost estimates will be analyzed as part of the application evaluation process for Phase II. Proposed costs may be adjusted, for purposes of evaluation, based on results of the cost analysis and its assessment of reasonableness, completeness, and credibility.

SECTION F. FEDERAL AWARD ADMINISTRATION

I. FEDERAL AWARD NOTICES

Following selection for award and successful negotiations, a successful applicant(s) will receive an electronic copy of the notice of the award signed by the MCC Agreement Officer which serves as the authorizing award document. The unsuccessful applicants for both Phases I and II will be notified.

The award will be issued to the contact as specified in the submitted application as the Authorized Individual in accordance with the requirements in the Representations and Certifications. For organizations that are new to working with USG and MCC or for organizations with outstanding audit findings, MCC may perform a pre-award survey (for PART II only) to assess the applicant's management and financial capabilities. In addition, MCC will conduct a risk assessment of the successful applicant in accordance with 2 CFR 200.205 Federal awarding agency review of risk posed by applicants, and a pre-award survey.

II. ADMINISTRATIVE AND NATIONAL POLICY REQUIREMENTS

All notification about this NOFO will be posted at [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov).

The relevant policies for PART I applications are:

1. 2 CFR 200 UNIFORM ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS, COST PRINCIPLES, AND AUDIT REQUIREMENTS FOR FEDERAL AWARDS
2. MCC's STANDARD PROVISIONS
3. MCC's GRANTS AND COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT MANUAL
4. PEPFAR STEWARDSHIP AND OVERSIGHT ACT OF 2013
<https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/113/s1545/text> (for PEPFAR funded programs only)

MCC Agreement Officer is the only authorized individual to obligate USG funds.

III. MCC TECHNICAL OFFICE INVOLVEMENT

Agreement Officer Representative (AOR), and any Government Project Monitors, (PM) will be specifically appointed, and responsibilities identified, by the Agreement Officer in writing in accordance with MCC policy and the Agreement Officer will provide a written notice of such designation of the AOR and PM to the partner.

- (a) The AOR/Government PM does not have the authority to, and shall not, issue any instructions that:
- (1) Constitutes an assignment of additional work outside the project description;
 - (2) Constitutes a change in the project description;
 - (3) Constitutes a basis for any increase or decrease in the total estimated cost, or the time;
 - (4) Changes any of the expressed terms and conditions of the Cooperative Agreement.
- (b) AOR and PM should follow the substantial involvement clause participation.

IV. REPORTING

The general reporting requirements for these award(s) are subject to:

1. 2 CFR 200, Appendix XII - Award Term and Condition for Recipient Integrity and Performance Matters.

General Reporting Requirement

If the total value of your currently active grants, cooperative agreements, and procurement contracts from all Federal awarding agencies exceeds US\$10,000,000 for any period of time during the period of performance of this Federal award, then you as the recipient during that period of time must maintain the currency of information reported to the System for Award Management (SAM) that is made available in the designated integrity and performance system (currently the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System (FAPIIS)) about civil, criminal, or administrative proceedings described in paragraph 2 of this award term and condition. This is a statutory requirement under section 872 of Public Law 110-417, as amended (41 U.S.C. 2313). As required by section 3010 of Public Law 111-212, all information posted in the designated integrity and performance system on or after April 15, 2011, except past performance reviews required for Federal procurement contracts, will be publicly available.

2. 2 CFR 180.335 - What information must I provide before entering into a covered transaction with a Federal agency?

Before you enter into a covered transaction at the primary tier, you as the participant must notify the Federal agency office that is entering into the transaction with you, if you know that you or any of the principals for that covered transaction:

- a) Are presently excluded or disqualified;
- b) Have been convicted within the preceding three years of any of the offenses listed in §180.800(a) or had a civil judgment rendered against you for one of those offenses within that time period;
- c) Are presently indicted for or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity (Federal, State or local) with commission of any of the offenses listed in §180.800(a); or
- d) Have had one or more public transactions (Federal, State, or local) terminated within the preceding three years.

3. 2 CFR 180.350 - What must I do if I learn of information required under §180.335 after entering into a covered transaction with a Federal agency?

At any time after you enter into a covered transaction, you must give immediate written notice to the Federal agency office with which you entered into the transaction if you learn either that—

- a) You failed to disclose information earlier, as required by §180.335; or
- b) Due to changed circumstances, you or any of the principals for the transaction now meet any of the criteria in §180.335.

Anticipated project and financial reporting requirements are:

- (1) Inception Report
- (2) Kick Off Meeting
- (3) Annual Work Plans
- (4) Annual Budget
- (5) Projected Quarterly expenditures

- (6) Monthly expenditures
- (7) Monthly Status Reports
- (8) Quarterly Reports Semi-annual Reports
- (9) Annual Performance Report
- (10) Final Program Completion Report with lessons learned
- (11) Technical Briefs/Reports, Special and Financial Reports
- (12) Success Stories

The details about each reporting requirement is specified in the project description above. All reports must be submitted to AOR and PM.

1. PROGRAM INCOME AND GENERATED INTEREST

Any program income generated under the award(s) will be returned to MCC on a quarterly basis. Any program income generated under the award(s) will be treated in accordance with 2 CFR 200.307.

Interest from dollar or dollar sourced foreign currency, shall be charged on advances at a rate established by the Secretary of Treasury under P.L. 92-41. The interest shall be computed on the amount of the outstanding principal advanced until it is refunded to or recovered by MCC. The interest earned for funds held in the bank interest bearing account are to be returned to MCC on a quarterly basis via the International Treasury System (ITS.gov).

2. MCC MARKING AND BRANDING POLICY

The policy is in draft and requirements will be added to PART II awards.

3. ENVIRONMENTAL PROCEDURES

The applications for PART I must comply with MCC's Environmental Guidelines requirements, as applicable.

SECTION G. FEDERAL AWARDING AGENCY CONTACT(S)

All questions about this NOFO must be submitted in writing to the following points of contact:

Mr. Taylor Wolf
Agreement Officer
E-mail: wolftj@mcc.gov

Ms. Nataliya Holl
Senior Contracting Specialist
E-mail: hollna@mcc.gov

Mr. Andrew Lee
Contracting Specialist
E-mail: leeae@mcc.gov

SECTION H. OTHER INFORMATION

I. OPEN CONTRACTING PRINCIPLES IMPLEMENTATION

MCC is seeking to implement this NOFO – and subsequent implementation - consistent, where feasible, with Open Contracting Principles (<http://www.open-contracting.org>). For example, MCC plans to share information about the solicitation process and project performance in the following ways.

Applications and Final Selection:

Milestone	Target Date
PART I	
Phase I: To encourage collaboration among organizations, MCC will post the list of organizations applied to this NOFO APS for each technical area, including contact information on www.grants.gov . Contact information to be posted will include organization name, primary point of contact name and email address. MCC will also post the list of organizations being invited to participate in Phase II with the same information as above.	Following each application window.
Phase II: To encourage collaboration among organizations for each technical area, the list of organizations who submit applications to Phase II will be posted, including the contact information. Contact information to be posted will include organization name, primary point of contact name and email address.	Following each application window.
Phase II: A list of prime and consortium members for each technical area that received the award will be posted on www.grants.gov .	Following each application window.

Implementation:

MCC will also be publically sharing project progress, including technical and financial milestones and, to the extent possible, connecting it to information specific to this solicitation requirement. We expect to do this through MCC's public website, our international aid transparency index (IATI) reporting process, amongst others.

II. SMALL BUSINESS UTILIZATION

Applicants are encouraged to use small business concerns on sub-awards as appropriate.