

**Questions and Answers for
Western Hemisphere Rule of Law Index and Analysis Program
SFOP0006981**

Date: June 3, 2020

Version 2 Date: June 22, 2020

Question 1:

On page 7 of the NOFO, INL has indicated that the “funding will be allocated in separate grants” and lists six projects. Please provide clarification as to whether Applicants should submit one proposal for each project, or can Applicants submit one proposal covering all projects or a cluster of projects.

Answer: Applicants may submit one proposal covering all grants or, if the applicant can not perform the work requested in each grant, it may submit separate proposals for each grant.

Question 2:

On page 7 of the NOFO, the CARSI project identified as “**Extended General Poll**” provides for a survey in six countries: Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Panama, Belize and Nicaragua, and the production of four graphical reports per year, summarizing the information contained in these surveys. Please provide clarification as to whether this should read “six graphical reports per year” to allow for one report per country surveyed.

Answer: The selected implementer will be required to produce six surveys, one for Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Panama, Belize, and Nicaragua

Question 3:

On page 8 of the NOFO, the CARSI project identified as “Inmate Survey” requests “Five short graphical reports and one regional report on inmate surveys in Honduras, El Salvador, Costa Rica.” Please provide clarification regarding the discrepancy between the number of graphical reports requested (five) and the number of countries identified (three).

Answer: The selected implementer will be required to produce three short graphical reports, one per country for Honduras, El Salvador, and Costa Rica. The implementer will also produce one regional report to assess results of the survey and trends across the Central America sub-region.

Question 4:

Can the same institution submit multiple applications in response to this NOFO? If this is permitted, should a separate application be sent for each of the six studies described in the document?

Answer: Applicants may submit one proposal covering all grants or, if the applicant cannot perform the work requested in each grant, it may submit separate proposals for each grant.

Question 5:

Does INL expect the selected implementers to design these studies, including the instruments and survey methodology, from scratch? Are these listed studies a continuation or expansion of some existing initiatives? If the answer is yes, would these existing instruments and methodologies be made available to the applicants?

Answer: Selected implementers are expected to build on previously executed studies, instruments, and survey methodology for these grants. This existing instruments and methodology are publicly available online.

Question 6:

What should the contents of the Extended General Poll be? Victimization? Access to justice? Legitimacy of the criminal justice system and processes?

Answer: The Extended General Poll should cover corruption (including individual perceptions and experiences) and access to justice (including perceptions on the legitimacy of the criminal justice system and processes) in model police precinct and non-model police precinct sites in Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Panama, Belize, Nicaragua.

Question 7:

Could more information be given about the Accusatorial Transition Study? Is it projected to be a survey of former and current prison inmates to probe about their perceptions of how each of the two systems works? What is goal of this study?

Answer: The Accusatorial Transition report will cover the survey of current inmates charged under the inquisitorial and the accusatorial systems in Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Panama and Costa Rica. The goal is to get data on due process under both systems, including a timeline from arrest to conviction and sentencing.

Question 8:

The NOFO asks for five short graphical reports and one regional reports for the Inmate Survey, but there are only three countries listed (i.e., Honduras, El Salvador, and Costa Rica). Could it be that you also want Guatemala and Panama to be included in the Inmate Survey too?

Answer: The selected implementer will be required to produce three short graphical reports, one per country for Honduras, El Salvador, and Costa Rica. The implementer will also produce one regional report to assess results of the survey and trends across the Central America sub-region.

Question 9:

You indicated that existing instruments and methodology used in previous surveys are publicly available online. Could you share the links to these pages?

Answer: The links to the instruments and methodology are available at: <https://worldjusticeproject.org/our-work/research-and-data/wjp-rule-law-index-2020/methodology> and <https://worldjusticeproject.org/our-work/research-and-data/wjp-rule-law-index-2020/2020-wjp-rule-law-index-questionnaires>

Question 10:

On page 6, the solicitation states that “INL is seeking applications for seven (7) grant projects to comprehensively assess rule of law and criminal justice systems in (29) countries in the Western Hemisphere, including seven (7) Central America countries.” Does that mean that INL would prefer a single application that covers all the countries? And does the decision of an organization to submit proposals for only two (2) of the seven grants (i.e. inmate surveys) reduce the likelihood of being selected compared to if an organization were to submit proposals for all seven (7) grants?

Answer: Applicants may submit one proposal covering all grants or, if the applicant cannot perform the work requested in each grant, it may submit separate proposals for each grant. Preference will be given to applicants who can perform the work for all seven grants. Applicants that cannot perform the work for all seven grants should state how they would work with other potential awardee(s) to meet project goals and objectives.

Question 11:

If an organization intends to apply for more than one (1) award, does the organization need to submit a separate technical proposal for each one, or should it consolidate the technical application within the 15-page proposal narrative limits?

Answer: Applicants applying for more than one award do not need to submit separate technical proposals for each award and should consolidate.

Question 12:

If an organization intends to apply for more than one (1) award, should the applicant submit one consolidated budget for the total combined amount of the grants, or would INL prefer a separate budget and cost narrative for each grant application that clearly delineates the costs to be assigned to each?

Answer: Applicants applying for more than one award should submit a separate budget and cost narrative for each grant application that delineates the costs to be assigned to each.

Question 13:

If INL receives a range of proposals, with some that focus on a single activity, and others that combine some or all of the proposed activity awards, can INL describe how the technical evaluation committee will compare, contrast and evaluate the merits of each separate application consistently across NOFO requirements including key concepts of sustainability, potential impact and complementarity to ongoing efforts? If INL receives a range of proposals how will you weigh and score a detailed and well-structured 15 page proposal aimed at addressing one (1) or two (2) of the components compared with a 15-page proposal narrative addressing all seven (7) components?

Answer: Preference will be given to applicants who can perform the work for all seven grants. Applicants that cannot perform the work for all seven grants should state how they would work with other potential awardee(s) to meet project goals and objectives. The technical evaluation committee will assess proposals based on the criteria on p. 31-33 of the NOFO, which serve as the standard against which all applications will be evaluated. In addition, where technical applications are considered essentially equal, cost may be the determining factor.

Question 14:

Will each of the grant applications be judged by their independent technical merits or would INL consider providing additional criteria related to the financial benefits or operational simplicity of having a single implementer conducting all the grants?

Answer: Applicants may submit one proposal covering all grants or, if the applicant cannot perform the work requested in each grant, it may submit separate proposals for each grant. Preference will be given to applicants who can perform the work for all seven grants. Applicants that cannot perform the work for all seven grants should state how they would work with other potential awardee(s) to meet project goals and objectives.

Question 15:

On page 6, the solicitation states “Specifically, the organization will develop and implement high-quality indicators to assess regional adherence to the rule of law; produce a comprehensive and robust comparative index of the indicators that relies on primary data.” In the event that INL should make awards separate implementers will INL convene and coordinate among these separate implementers to produce a single comprehensive and uniform set of indicators?

Answer: Applicants that cannot perform the work for all seven grants should state how they would work with other potential awardee(s) to meet project goals and objectives. In the event that there are separate implementers, INL will facilitate an introduction, but implementers should convene and coordinate on the production of indicators for the grants on their own.

Question 16:

Can applications be submitted for more than one of the projects referenced therein?

Answer: Yes, applicants may submit one proposal covering all grants or, if the applicant cannot perform the work requested in each grant, it may submit separate proposals for each grant

Answer 17:

If applying for the implementation of more than one project, should applications be submitted separately or can projects be addressed in one integrated application with only one set of supporting documents attached (Logic Model, M&E Plan, Roles and Responsibilities of Key Personnel, Time Line, List of Awards, Risk Analysis, INL Pre-Award / grantee award survey, Audit reports, NICRA, etc.) ?

Answer: Applicants applying for more than one award do not need to submit separate technical proposals for each award and should consolidate. Applicants applying for more than one award should submit a separate budget and cost narrative for each grant application that delineates the costs to be assigned to each.

Question 18:

Would INL allow the implementer to slightly expand the scope of work to achieve the overarching goal of assessing the rule of law in different contexts stated in the NOFO? For example, adding a secondary survey of prison administrators in the Inmate Survey or one of prosecutors in the Transition to the Accusatory System study.

Answer: Yes, but applicants should explain how the proposed activities will meet the objectives and overall project goal.

Question 19:

What support will INL provide for working with local government and/or NGOs or other community-based organizations for executing the project (e.g., in-country support from consular offices, embassies, and/or DOS headquarters country and region experts and specialists)?

Answer: INL will support introductions to relevant in-country staff at U.S. Embassies and staff at DOS headquarters, that may be able to provide support for working with the local government and/or community-based organizations. The awardee(s) should have some established contacts with relevant stakeholders independently.

Answer 20:

What is the process for receiving additional funding beyond the first 2 years? What will the criteria be?

Answer: Additional funding beyond the first two years of the project will depend on the availability of funding.

Question 21:

Can one proposal include applying for more than one project (e.g., more than one CARSI project)?

Answer: Applicants applying for more than one award do not need to submit separate technical proposals for each award and should consolidate. Applicants applying for more than one award should submit a separate budget and cost narrative for each grant application that delineates the costs to be assigned to each.

Question: 22

On page 7 of the NOFO under the Western Hemisphere Regional Security/Rule of Law – “ROL Index” Project, INL has indicated that it seeks “Administration of original ROL index survey and biannual graphic reports for each country”. The World Justice Project (WJP) requests clarification as to whether the word biannual (occurring twice a year) is a typographical error and the NOFO intended to read “biennial” (occurring every two years), as provided at page 8 of the NOFO under Project Purpose/Description “Collecting primary data from a representative sample of the general public and development of graphical reports produced with the data in the requested countries every two (2) years”.

Answer: Graphical reports using the data from the regional ROL index survey should be produced biannually, twice a year, as indicated on p. 7.

Question 23:

On page 7 of the NOFO under the Colombia – “ROL Index” Project, INL has indicated that it seeks “Administration of original ROL index survey and biannual graphic reports”. WJP requests clarification as to whether the word biannual (occurring twice a year) is a typographical error and the NOFO intended to read “biennial” (occurring every two years), as provided at page 8 of the NOFO under Project Purpose/Description “Collecting primary data from a representative sample of the general public and development of graphical reports produced with the data in the requested countries every two (2) years”.

Answer: Graphical reports using the data from the original ROL index survey in Colombia should be produced biannually, twice a year, as indicated on p. 7.