

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

For the Let Girls Learn Broad Agency Announcement

The information provided in this FAQ is meant to answer frequently asked questions. This FAQ is not a comprehensive discussion of the Let Girls Learn Challenge Fund, nor does it include all pertinent information for submitting an Expression of Interest. It is important that anyone wishing to submit an Expression of Interest consult the Broad Agency Announcement in full. The Broad Agency Announcement can be accessed at: <https://www.usaid.gov/letgirlslearn/challenge-fund>.

1. Why is the Let Girls Learn Challenge Fund different from USAID's other granting or procurement processes?

The Challenge Fund is not a traditional solicitation mechanism.

It is an opportunity for Let Girls Learn to co-develop new, innovative, and collaborative ideas with external organizations to take a multi-sectoral approach to helping adolescent girls enroll and stay in secondary school. Through this process we aim to co-create innovative solutions by bringing together organizations to contribute perspectives, expertise, and ideas to address our common goal.

2. Is my organization eligible to submit an Expression of Interest?

As stated in the Broad Agency Announcement under "Award Information" on page 7, Section VII:

"Eligibility Information. Public, private, for-profit, and nonprofit organizations, as well as institutions of higher education, public international organizations, non-governmental organizations, U.S. and non-U.S. governmental organizations, multilateral and international donor organizations are eligible under this BAA. All organizations must be determined to be responsive to the BAA and sufficiently responsible to perform or participate in the final award type."

3. Can my organization submit multiple Expressions of Interest?

Multiple Expressions of Interest may be submitted as long as they follow the guidelines as stated in the BAA.

However, please note that we are looking for not only innovative ideas but also organizations with expertise working on solutions to help adolescent girls stay in school. An Expression of Interest that demonstrates this experience, and which includes more than one program, idea, or approach may be as successful as an organization that submits multiple Expressions of Interest.

4. Can I submit an Expression of Interest if my organization does not work in, or is not located in, the Let Girls Learn pilot countries (Malawi and Tanzania)?

An Expression of Interest may be submitted by organizations that do not have programming in Malawi or Tanzania, but please note that it is stated in the BAA that the initial pilot countries are Malawi and Tanzania. It is therefore encouraged to focus on these countries while writing the Expressions of Interest, however, since it was not required to focus on the pilot countries, USAID will not bar a submission that incorporates another country.

Expressions of Interest will indicate the research or development idea that will work towards discovering potential solutions to the Problem and Challenge Statement(s). The research or ideas may: increase knowledge and understanding of potential solutions; exploit scientific discoveries or improvements in technology, materials, processes, methods, devices, or techniques; advance the state of the art; use scientific and technical knowledge in the design, development, testing or evaluate a potential new product or service (or of an improvement in an existing product or service).

5. How do I manage concerns surrounding Intellectual Property (IP) for my organization during the co-creation process?

When you submit an Expression of Interest, you should not disclose any IP that you wish to protect. Instead, please focus on the expertise you bring to the co-creation process. For example, many organizations describe their services and products through public marketing material that highlights what their IP can accomplish, without disclosing proprietary information. In the EOI, you may use such language.

If selected for the co-creation, all information provided in the EOIs will be disclosed and used as part of the co-creation process. To most effectively identify innovative and effective solutions, it is critical that organizations openly discuss what solutions they can contribute to a whole-of-girl approach that will eventually lead to a concept paper and project design.

After the co-creation process, USAID will work with the partner to protect IP that is required to be disclosed in the concept paper and subsequent award.

6. How many grants does the Challenge Fund expect to make?

As stated under page 6, Section VII the number of awards can vary. USAID does not have a target for the number of awards that will be made through the Challenge Fund. The intent of the Challenge Fund is to generate new and collaborative ideas. The outcome of the co-creation workshop and the stages of the process that follow will determine the number of awards made.

7. What is the average amount of funding that the Let Girls Learn Challenge Fund expects to grant per funded proposal?

At this time USAID cannot predict the amount of funding for a given project under the the Let Girls Learn Initiative. Page 4, Section VI of the BAA states the amount of resources made available under the BAA will depend on the concepts received and the availability of funds. As such, USAID cannot anticipate the kinds of projects or approaches that will result from the co-creation process. With this in mind, USAID does not have target funding amounts or an expected number of grants that will be made. Funding amounts will not be considered until later in the process.

Please note that participation in the co-creation stage does not guarantee funding. Funding will be determined by the concepts that result from the co-creation workshop and the following stages of developing these results. Funding will not be discussed until later in the Challenge Fund process.

8. How do I partner with the Let Girls Learn Challenge Fund?

You may submit an Expression of Interest by November 30, 2015.

9. How do I get involved in Let Girls Learn if the Challenge Fund doesn't apply to me?

If you are interested in volunteering with, donating to, or otherwise becoming involved in Let Girls Learn outside of the purview of the Challenge Fund, please visit the Let Girls Learn webpage: <https://letgirlslearn.gov/workwithus/>

10. What are the formatting and submission requirements for the Expressions of Interest?

Under Page 8, Section IX of the BAA, the format and submission information was listed as follows:

- A. In English;
- B. Submitted electronically to letgirlslearn@usaid.gov by November 30, 2015;
- C. Up to two pages in length, no smaller than 12 point font;
- D. Contain a header with the following information (included in the page count):
 - a. Respondent Name/Group and Contact Information
 - b. Response Title
 - c. BAA: The USAID Let Girls Learn Initiative BAA; BAA-WW-LGL-2015
 - d. Contain one optional graphic that fits on an 8.5"x11" or A4 piece of paper (included in the page limit); and
- E. In .pdf, .docx, or .odf format.

***If you have further questions? Please email us at the following email addresses:
letgirlslearn@usaid.gov and dcollier@usaid.gov.***