



March 31, 2010

Reference: Request for Application (RFA) USAID Nicaragua No. 524-10-006 for the implementation of the Preventing Transmission of HIV/AIDS from High Risk Groups in Nicaragua (PrevenSida) activities.

Subject: RFA Amendment Number One

Dear Potential Applicant:

The purpose of this RFA amendment number one is to provide questions with answers.

Answers to the questions are as follows:

1. [We] are interested in submitting an application in response to the subject RFA for the implementation of the Preventing Transmission of HIV/AIDS from High Risk Groups in Nicaragua (PrevenSida) activities. We are however requesting an extension of the due date from April 12, 2010 to April 26, 2010.

Answer: We regret to inform you that the closing date can not be extended due to time constraints on the part of technical personnel who will participate in the Technical Evaluation Committee.

2. As we would like to better understand the source for the estimated MSM population size, can you please clarify the basis for this estimate?

Answer: We estimate that about 10% of adult male population is MSM.

3. Can you please clarify if the indicator under Result 3 of 155,000 MARP individuals reached yearly can include multiple contacts with the same individual?

Answer: The 155,000 MARP individuals indicator does not include multiple contacts with the same individual.

4. Does the purpose indicator of a 30% reduction in the number of multiple partners among MARPs also include sex workers?

Answer: Yes, it includes all sex workers.

5. According to the document, the eligible applicants may be U.S. private voluntary organizations (U.S. PVOs) and/or U.S. or non-U.S. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs), private, non-profit organizations (or for-profit companies willing to forego

profits), including universities, research organizations, professional associations, and relevant special interest associations. [We] are a private corporation, dedicated to providing mobile technology, platform and solutions to operators, media companies and brand owners worldwide....and we would like to know if we can participate under the category of “Private”?

Answer: Yes, your organization can participate under that category.

6. Can you please send us an outline of the documents + attachments that the application should include.

Answer: You can find detailed explanation in pages: 36, 38-43, 49-58 of the RFA.

7. Should the organizational experience section included in the technical proposal also include the list of past performance references and be counted against the 30 page limit, or can these be included as annexes to the technical proposal?

Answer: There is a 30 page limit is for the Program Narrative (see section E.3 on page 39 of the RFA). The organizational experience section is part of the Program Narrative section (see section E.6 on page 39 of the RFA) and it includes past performance references per sub-sections a, b, c and d. This section has a 5 page limit, which would be counted against the 30 page limit. You can use the table outlined on page 45 of the RFA.

8. Should organizational experience for the past four years also be included for all partner and sub-recipient organizations named in the proposal and also count against the 30 page limit?

Answer: Yes, it should be included in accordance with section E.6 on page 39 of the RFA. In 5 pages or less you must include a description including requirements a, b, c and d. You can use the table outlined in page 45 of the RFA. This will count against the 30 page limit for the Program Narrative (see section E.3 on page 39 of the RFA).

9. Is there a page limit for the Management and Staffing section? For the implementation plan?

Answer: Potential applicants can use a page limit of 2 pages for the Management and Staffing section and 3 pages for the Implementation Plan. Both sections should be included as part of the Program Narrative.

10. On page 39, E.6, there is a description for the Organizational Experience section with points A, B, C and D. Are these just to be enclosed in the table, outlined on page 45, or is this to be a narrative with the tables included in the annex?

Answer: Regarding organizational experience, section E.6 of the RFA, the requirements are basically the same that are outlined on the table on page 45 of the

RFA. Information on past performance must be provided in accordance with that table. Also, see questions 7 and 8 above.

11. On page 19, in the last paragraph there is a detailed description of items to be included in the work plan, including a management plan and detailed budget. Can you clarify if this is for the illustrative work plan that is submitted in this application, or if that is for the work plan submitted within 30 days of winning?

Answer: The work plan that must be submitted as part of the application is an illustrative one. The detailed work plan must be submitted within 30 days of award. The illustrative first year annual work plan may not contain the level of detail that will be required of a work plan during implementation.

12. Under Section II – Award Information, on page 17, the RFA states, “... USAID intends to provide between \$4,000,000 to \$6,000,000 in total USAID funding for the life of the activity including a maximum of \$500,000 for sub-grants per year total.” Could USAID clarify whether the amount for sub-grants is \$500,000 per year or \$500,000 for the life of the activity (i.e. 5 years).

Answer: The maximum amount for sub-grants is \$500,000 per year or \$2,500,000 for the life of the project.

13. On page 37, the RFA requires the applicant to submit the technical application via email in Microsoft Word format. Is PDF also acceptable?

Answer: You must submit the application in Microsoft Word and Excel format as requested on page 37.

14. On page 37, the RFA requires the applicant to submit the cost application via email with text in Microsoft Word format and budgets/spreadsheets in Microsoft Excel. Please clarify if PDF is acceptable for those documents (Certifications, Assurances, etc.) including signatures.

Answer: PDF is acceptable for Annexes (Certifications, Assurances, etc), including signatures.

15. In relation to the electronic submission, please clarify if there is:

- a. A maximum number of attachments per email;
- b. A maximum email size.

Answer: There is no maximum number of attachments but the email size should be less than 2 MB. Applicants should try to reduce the number of emails without exceeding the 2 MB limit.

16. On page 40, number 3, the RFA states “The budget to be presented under Cost/Business Application should relate to results while also showing the inputs (see item

10 below)...” Item 10 describes information related to financial status and management. Please clarify the reference to “item 10”.

Answer: This was an error, please disregard reference to item 10, this should have read “(see item 9, below)” instead. Potential applicants should also submit a summary table with total number of person-days for U.S. and Cooperating Country Nationals (CCNs) proposed to implement this program. This applies to sub-recipients as well.

17. On page 37, the RFA states that the hard copy technical and cost applications should be “sent to the address stated below within three working days after the due date and time of receipt of electronic applications. Can USAID clarify whether hard copy applications should be postmarked within three working days after the due date and time of receipt of electronic applications or if applications should be received by USAID within three working days?

Answer: Hard copy applications should be postmarked within three working days after the due date and time of receipt of electronic applications.

18. According to page 17 of the RFA, the period of performance is 5 years. On page 40, the RFA states that “The cost application should be for a period of up to 24 months ...” Please clarify the period of the cost application.

Answer: This was an error, please disregard the reference to 24 months. The cost application should be for a period of 60 months or 5 years.

19. We understand that our [NGO] itself fulfills the category of “national-international consortium” as mentioned on page 7, section Program Objectives/Expected Results. Is this correct or does our NGO need to have a separate international support (other than a PVO member)---“a local organization with international support” in order to present a proposal a “prime implementer”?

Answer: It is correct your organization fulfills the category of national-international consortium and can present an application.

20. We understand that any organization that currently receives funding from USAID, may apply to this RFA (PrevenSida) if other requirements are fulfilled. Is this correct?

Answer: This is correct.

21. Our [NGO] is requesting to “extend” the deadline set for presenting the proposal since, for this RFA, which has some complexity in terms of involving several stakeholders, only 4 weeks have been established for proposal preparation. We are proposing to extend deadline two additional weeks, i.e., April 26th or at least one week, i.e., April 19th.

Answer: This will not be possible.

22. We understand that the total budget requested for the five-year period may be as high as 6 million US dollars (page 17, paragraph 1) and that this figure does not include the amount to be committed as cost-share. Is this correct?

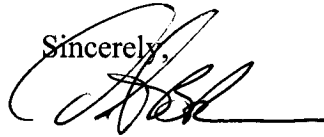
Answer: This is correct.

23. Regarding the percentage of importance that technology and new ideas have to be implemented on this project...what percentage of the budget are you considering to spend on traditional proposals, and how much on new technological proposals such as mobile interactive services, websites, internet communities, mobile communities, that is using social networking technologies to educate MARPS?

Answer: The technical applications will be evaluated in accordance with the Technical Evaluation Criterion set forth on page 44. There is no percentage of the budget assigned to spend on traditional or new technological proposals. The use of technology in programmatic approach is one of the evaluation criteria to be considered, as part of the technical approach, and technology and new ideas would fall under this.

The length of this amendment is 5 pages

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Brown', written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

David Brown
Director
Regional Office of Acquisition and Assistance
for Central America and Mexico