



ROUND 2 CALL FOR CONCEPT PAPERS

Under existing Advancing Equity and Equality of Marginalized Groups Activity in Serbia
Annual Program Statement (APS) No. 72016921APS0001

Issuance Date for Round 2:	<i>June 1, 2022</i>
Question Due Date and Time - Round 2:	<i>June 10, 2022, 5 PM Belgrade time</i>
Submission Due Date and Time - Round 2:	<i>June 30, 2022, 5 PM Belgrade time</i>

Subject: Addendum to the Annual Program Statement (APS) Number: 72016921APS0001 for the Advancing Equity and Equality of Marginalized Groups Activity in Serbia - Round 2

Dear Prospective Applicants:

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Mission in Serbia is seeking concept papers from qualified applicants for the **Round 2 to an existing USAID Annual Program Statement (APS) - Advancing Equity and Equality of Marginalized Groups Activity in Serbia**. Eligibility for this award is restricted to Serbian local entities.

This addendum to the Annual Program Statement (APS) -Round 2 publicizes the intention of the United States Government (USG), as represented by USAID/Serbia, to obtain concept papers, full applications and issue awards for the Advancing Equity and Equality of Marginalized Groups Activity in Serbia focused on **Economic Empowerment of LGBTQI+ People**. The purpose of this activity is to support various economic empowerment initiatives for marginalized communities to help advance Serbia's inclusive and sustainable development.

Please note: All interested organizations should carefully review both this round AND the full APS # **72016921APS0001**, which can be found here: www.grants.gov. Important information contained in the full issued APS in September 2021 is not repeated in this specific Round 2 documentation.

Issuance of this notice does not constitute a binding commitment on the part of the U.S. Government to issue an award, nor does it commit the U.S. Government to pay for costs incurred in the preparation and submission of any concept papers, engagement, collaboration, co-creation, or full applications. USAID reserves the right to fund any or none of the applications submitted under this round of the existing APS.

Sincerely,

Patricia Siaso
Agreement Officer

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SECTION A: PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

A.1 Round 2: Advancing Economic Opportunity for LGBTQI+ People in Serbia

Purpose

USAID/Serbia seeks to build partnerships with Serbian non-profit organizations, businesses, government institutions, and civil society organizations to help advance equity and prosperity for Serbia’s marginalized groups. The purpose of this call under Annual Program Statement (APS) No. 72016921APS0001 for the “Advancing Equity and Equality of Marginalized Groups Activity in Serbia” is to support initiatives aimed at promoting equity and economic empowerment of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and intersex (LGBTQI+) people in Serbia.

Introduction, background, and challenges

Under this call, USAID intends to fund **one or more** activities that will support a wide range of flexible, innovative, and experimental approaches to advance the social and economic well-being of LGBTQI+ people in Serbia.

Subject to funding availability, USAID intends to provide up to \$2,000,000 in total funding to be allocated over the activity period. The expected duration of activity/activities could be up to four (4) years.

Evidence from around the world shows that LGBTQI+ inclusion and economic growth are mutually reinforcing. At the same time, discrimination brings social and financial costs to societies and reduces their ability to advance.¹ There is also evidence indicating that countries and cities with stronger LGBTQI+ inclusion have stronger innovation ecosystems, higher levels of entrepreneurship, as well as greater concentration of talent. Additionally, research also finds that many of those that seek work in creative and innovative industries, or “jobs of the future”, prefer to work in countries with more affirmative LGBTQI+ environments. Countries are also losing foreign investments due to perceived discrimination of this population, and the latest trends confirm that investors scrutinize social factors, including inclusion of people of different sexual orientation and gender identities, more closely in their decision making.²

¹ Badgett, M.V. Lee, Kees Waaldijk, Yana van der Meulen Rodgers, “The relationship between LGBT inclusion and economic development,” *World Development* 120 (2019): 1-14.

² The Economic Case for LGBT+ Inclusion in Central and Eastern Europe, by Open for Business.

Simply put, the fuller enjoyment of human rights expands a country's economic development.³ Within businesses, inclusion is also important for attracting the best talent possible. Other research underscores that more diverse and inclusive companies have higher retention rates of talented employees. They also have increased innovation and creativity and are better positioned to anticipate a broader array of consumer preferences, thus having more effective access to markets. More diverse and inclusive companies have greater brand appeal and loyalty with consumers who want socially responsible brands. All this directly relates to companies' ability to benefit from the significant and growing global spending power of LGBTQI+ consumers and those who want to buy products from companies that support inclusion.

Serbian context

There are no official statistics on the number of LGBTQI+ citizens in Serbia. However, estimates suggest that LGBTQI+ together form one of the country's largest minority groups, representing somewhere between 3-12% of the working population of 2.2 million. Other estimates suggest the number of transgender people in Serbia to be around 20,000.⁴

Legal Protections: Serbia has made some notable legislative reforms over the years, which have removed discriminatory laws and established legal protections for LGBTQI+ people. The first legal reform, passed in 2002, was the Broadcasting Law, which prohibits Serbian broadcasting agencies from spreading information encouraging discrimination, hate and violence based on sexual orientation (among other categories). In 2003, the Information Law was passed to counter verbal discrimination based on sexual orientation within the media. In 2005, changes in the Labor Law banned discrimination based on sexual orientation in employment. That same year, the Law on Higher Education guaranteed equal rights in post-secondary education. In 2009, the Anti-Discrimination Act established common definitions of discrimination and discriminatory behavior to prohibit, among other categories, discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and transgender status in all areas. In 2012, the Penal Code was amended to cover hate crimes, including on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. With the adoption of the new amendments to the Anti-Discrimination Law in 2021, sex characteristics were included as a basis for prohibition of discrimination. However, to date, same-sex marriage is not recognized, adoption is prohibited, and discrimination against LGBTQI+ individuals remain prevalent in Serbia.⁵

³ *Ibid*

⁴ Luhur, Winston, Ivana Krstic, Ari Shaw, "Public Opinion of Transgender Rights in Serbia," Williams Institute (June 2021).

⁵ U.S. Department of State, 2020 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Serbia.

<https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/SERBIA-2020-HUMAN-RIGHTS-REPORT.pdf>

Social and Economic Conditions: Poverty rates are unusually high for a country of Serbia’s level of development, indicating that economic gains are not well distributed across income groups and geographies. As of 2016, the latest year of official World Bank data, Serbia’s poverty headcount ratio at the \$5.50 per day level was 23.4%, among the highest in Eastern Europe.⁶ Unemployment is also significant, at 10.9% for the working age population (15-64) in 2019, of which 10.4% for men and 11.5% for women. Labor markets continue to show significant inequality. Multiple segments of the population—in particular youth, Roma, persons with disabilities, LGBTQI+ people, and rural populations—face additional hurdles in accessing employment. Unemployment among youth (15-24) for 2019 was at 27.5%, of which 26.1% for men and 29.9% for women.⁷ Many of these inequalities are also mirrored in access to other resources, including property, land, financial markets, transport, and support programs for businesses.

Despite the establishment of legal protections in many domains, LGBTQI+ people face bias, discrimination and violence and high levels of stigma and a lack of acceptance of the LGBTQI+ community are prominent in Serbia. Surveys of the general Serbian public continue to demonstrate low, though improving, social acceptance of LGBTQI+ people and low acceptance of gender expression, especially in the context of their own family. Most report not knowing any LGBTQI+ people. Survey respondents also continue to demonstrate little knowledge or understanding of queer or intersex people.⁸

Of the 175 countries analyzed by the LGBTI Global Acceptance Index (GAI), which measures acceptance across countries and over time, Serbia ranks 97. The GAI defines acceptance as a broad concept that includes social beliefs and opinions about laws and policies that aim to protect LGBTQI+ individuals from discrimination and violence and foster equality.⁹ On the GAI’s ten-point scale, with higher scores indicating greater acceptance, Serbia most recently scored a 3.71. Stigmatization causes many LGBTQI+ people to fear coming out, particularly youth that face non-acceptance by family and the risk of homelessness. This is particularly true for Roma LGBTQI+ people and LGBTQI+ people living with and affected by HIV, who face the highest levels of stigmatization and discrimination across Serbia, according to a report from

⁶ The World Bank Group. Serbia Systematic Country Diagnostic Update 2020. Washington, DC: The World Bank Group, December 2019. <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/33736>

⁷ United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Serbia. Final Gender Analysis Report 2020. Belgrade: 2020. https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00WNPZ.pdf

⁸ International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association: The Personal and the Political: Attitudes to LGBTI People Around the World (Geneva; ILGA, October 2016)

⁹ The Williams Institute. Social Acceptance of LGBTI People in 175 Countries and Locations: 1981 - 2020. <https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/publications/global-acceptance-index-lgbt/>

the United Nations Development Programme.¹⁰

There is very limited available data on the experiences of the intersex community in Serbia, but activist sources likewise indicate high levels of stigmatization and self-stigmatization of intersex people, particularly in rural areas.

LGBTQI+ people surveyed generally agree that conditions have improved in Serbia. However, most hide their gender identity, where possible, with only 20% being fairly or very open. In 2019, 45% felt discriminated against in at least one area of life, with 24% reporting workplace discrimination.¹¹ 41% say they were harassed the year before the survey; and 1 in 5 trans and intersex people were physically or sexually attacked in the five years before the survey, double that of other LGBTQI+ groups.

All available research suggests that LGBTQI+ workers still face discrimination when seeking jobs and in the workplace. Issues range from workplace harassment to roadblocks in starting and running independent businesses. More broadly, a number of policy areas do not effectively address LGBTQI+ issues. Healthcare practices do not meet the needs of many LGBTQI+ people (especially transgender and intersex people). There is still a lack of parental and family rights akin to opposite sex couples and families.¹² And perhaps most importantly, significant social stigma persists against LGBTQI+ within the workplace, reinforcing the tendency of LGBTQI+ persons to hide their gender identity when seeking employment and advancement.¹³

Examples of development programming

Development programming related to the special challenges experienced by LGBTQI+ people has largely focused on human rights, legal reforms, and anti-discrimination initiatives. However, completed and ongoing programs related to improving livelihoods do indicate potential pathways that may be relevant to the Serbian context.¹⁴ A recent review of these programs suggests that skills building, job search support, entrepreneurship training, financial support, and impact investing are all approaches that are thought to be effective.¹⁵ These programs generally followed strategies that are similar to those employed in economic empowerment

¹⁰ United Nations Development Programme. Being LGBTI in Serbia, 2017.
<https://www.rs.undp.org/content/serbia/en/home/library/poverty/being-lgbti-in-serbia.html>

¹¹ EU LGBTI survey II: A long way to go for LGBTI equality (2019)
<https://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2020/eu-lgbti-survey-results>

¹² Guide for trade unions on engaging with LGBTI workers in the Western Balkans, by ERA (<https://www.lgbti-era.org>)

¹³ <https://ideje.rs/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Dostojanstvo-na-radu-IDEAS.pdf>

¹⁴ MarketLinks: Women's Economic Empowerment and Gender Equality Wiki,
<https://www.marketlinks.org/weege-wiki>

¹⁵ USAID Toolkit for Integrating LGBT Rights Activities into Programming in the E&E Region,
<https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1863/LGBT%20Toolkit%20092414.pdf>

programs for women and girls, with the notable exception that they did not focus on household bargaining power.¹⁶ To the extent to which it is possible to assess program effectiveness, skills training appears to be especially important in countries with high levels of educational attainment like Serbia, as barriers to education for LGBTQI+ people often make them less competitive for jobs later in life.¹⁷

Through this call, USAID/Serbia seeks to support activities that advance equity and economic opportunities for LGBTQI+ people in Serbia, by creatively addressing specific challenges that limit their opportunities.

Additional Considerations

Alignment with CDCS and guiding principles: This new activity will support USAID/Serbia’s 2020-2025 Country Development Cooperation Strategy (CDCS) objectives, by supporting the objective of improving equitable prosperity (Development Objective 2) through equity improvements for disadvantaged communities.¹⁸ USAID believes that engagement with the LGBTQI+ community holds significant opportunities to advance this goal. USAID’s engagement with this population throughout its programming will help mainstream this group in society, reduce discrimination, stigma and exclusion experienced by this group in society, assist them in meeting their career potential, gain influence in government and society, and achieve greater prosperity.

In addition to USAID’s strategic goal, the following principles should guide applicant programmatic approaches:

Supporting locally-led development: The proposed activity should make the best use of Serbia’s existing local expertise and capacity to foster locally-led development to ensure sustainability and local ownership. Proposed approaches should ensure full inclusion and participation of LGBTQI+-led organizations and people in the design, implementation and evaluation of proposed programming.

¹⁶ Badgett, M.V. Lee, Katya Burns, Claire Gheerbrant, and Pawan Dhall, “Identifying Effective Strategies to Improve Livelihoods of LGBTI People,” Working Paper (December, 2021)

¹⁷ Koehler, Dominik et al. Discrimination against sexual minorities in education and housing: evidence from two field experiments in Serbia (English). December 2017. World Bank Group:
<http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/161011522071811826/Discrimination-against-sexual-minorities-in-education-and-housing-evidence-from-two-field-experiments-in-Serbia>

¹⁸ See USAID/Serbia’s 2020-2025 Country Development Cooperation Strategy, especially Intermediate Result 2.2 (pp. 29-30).
https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/External_Serbia_CDCS_2020.pdf

Private Sector Engagement: The proposed activity should explore opportunities for engaging private sector actors in developing and implementing viable solutions to enhance economic empowerment of LGBTQI+ people and promote related inclusion principles. It should also support the mobilization of domestic financial resources and the development of financing mechanisms to allow for more significant investments in this community. USAID recognizes that the private sector shares values and objectives and goals that could advance the inclusion of LGBTQI+ people. Social responsibility is one of the critical areas in which both international corporations operating in Serbia and domestic companies invest their corporate social responsibility and responsible business development resources. Inclusion of marginalized groups is one of the priority areas when seen in this context, thus opportunities to collectively tackle this issue exist. Any solution designed with the engagement of the private sector in this context will be seen as an asset to the proposed approach.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to explore the following private sector contributions:

- understanding of market behaviors and dynamics,
- specialized knowledge and expertise,
- access to target beneficiaries and local networks, and
- funding to share intervention costs.

Gender: Programming will necessitate careful consideration and attention to gender dynamics throughout the life of this activity. Proposals are expected to integrate appropriate recommendations from [USAID/Serbia's Gender Analysis](#) in their technical approach and monitoring and evaluation plan. However, the design and targeting of activities, along with the monitoring of program reach and effectiveness, is expected to require the far more detailed assessments of need. As such, concepts should consider the inclusion of a research component and additional gender analysis focused on gender-related constraints and opportunities that could inform the design of interventions. In particular, successful applications will demonstrate the ways that all activities and interventions will address the needs of lesbian and bisexual women, transgender people, and intersex people.

Areas of Interest

USAID/Serbia seeks concepts for development activities that **promote the economic inclusion, advancement, and related empowerment of LGBTQI+ people in the Serbian marketplace.**

Concepts should reflect on the premise that adequate inclusion of LGBTQI+ signals a creative and diverse environment, thus creating better conditions for sustainable economic growth and development.

USAID welcomes all concepts for programs that improve economic opportunities for LGBTQI+

people in Serbia. Concepts may focus on a variety of areas. For example, concepts may focus on filling unmet business demand for specialty skills by providing training to LGBTQI+ people. Concepts may also focus on developing workplace programs directly with businesses to address internal systems that potentially inhibit hiring, retention and promotion of LGBTQI+ employees. Such programs could include training and capacity-building for hiring professionals, managers and staff on diversity fundamentals, bias, and principles of inclusion -- all of which contribute to a respectful, safe, and inclusive work environment that enhances retention. Similarly, programs may focus on internal business practices that enhance accountability for promoting and sustaining a diverse workforce and an inclusive culture. Programs may also focus on the development of independent businesses by LGBTQI+ people through mentorship, training, resource mobilization, or other interventions. Finally, USAID also welcomes concepts that include efforts to work with both national and subnational government institutions on affirmative policy frameworks and programs and with private sector actors on increasing their commitment to inclusivity and non-discrimination in the workplace or broader market.

Illustrative examples of activities that may be supported include, but are not limited to:

- Support to private sector actors in taking proactive steps to advance inclusivity and diversity in their workforce;
- Identify and utilize opportunities for more significant government and corporate commitments to advancing economic opportunities for LGBTQI+;
- Identify and utilize opportunities for reducing discrimination of LGBTQI+ persons in the workplace;
- Supplemental skills development programs aligned to existing, unmet business demand;
- Promote and educate business owners, general population, youth about open, diverse, inclusive working environments that consequently have higher levels of motivation;
- Educate businesses, relevant authorities and general public about different forms and consequences of discrimination based on SOGIESC in the workplace;
- Promote access to information so that employers understand their legal obligations concerning prospective and current LGBTQI+ employees and how best to comply;
- Support private sector actors in developing internal diversity/anti-discrimination policies/mechanism;
- Create public outreach campaigns and promotion of success stories that demonstrate the benefits of protections for and inclusion of LGBTQI+ people in the workforce or business development;
- Improving the ability of LGBTQI+ persons to utilize existing economic opportunities for individual business development; and

- Connecting LGBTQI+ entrepreneurs to mentors and networks that can promote entrepreneurial skills and mobilize necessary resources.

Crosscutting

USAID encourages concepts to include a learning component to improve understanding of the scale and type of challenges LGBTQI+ people face and of the relative utility of specific program interventions.

Based on the special focus of this program and the breadth of expertise required to implement it, USAID/Serbia expects that the objectives of this activity can only be achieved through joint action. As such, concepts that include partnerships that combine organizations with convening power with organizations with technical expertise will be viewed favorably. To reach target populations, concepts must include LGBTQI+ organizations as partners or must demonstrate a robust participation and involvement of local LGBTQI+ organizations. This involvement can be in forms of partnership between LGBTQI+ organizations and businesses or NGOs or other models that confirm significant involvement of the LGBTQI+ community in the proposed solution(s) and the design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of the activity.

Finally, concepts that envision partnerships with multiple LGBTQI+ organizations and build upon their individual strengths will be viewed as stronger than concepts that include only one LGBTQI+ organization.

[End of Section A]

SECTION B: FEDERAL AWARD INFORMATION

B.1 Funding

For **Round 2**, USAID intends to issue **one or more** Assistance Awards with a total estimated amount of up to **\$2 million**. USAID reserves the right to fund any or none of the applications submitted. As determined by the source of funding, awardee(s) will be expected to comply with specific USAID regulations governing particular funding streams.

B.2 Period of performance

The period of performance anticipated for the Assistance Award under **Round 2** of this APS is not expected to exceed **four (4) years** in duration. For Round 2, the anticipated start date for the award(s) is on or about September 2022.

B.3 Scope

For **Round 2's** concept papers and full applications, applicants must propose approaches to achieve all stated areas of interest under program description, Section A of this addendum.

B.4 Expected implementation mechanism

For **Round 2**, USAID intends to issue one or more Assistance Awards. USAID will make a determination on the intended substantial involvement by the Agency upon award. The specific areas of USAID substantial involvement will include, but not be limited to, approval of the recipient's implementation plans, approval of Key Personnel, as well as Agency and recipient collaboration and joint participation, including approval of the substantive provisions of subawards, Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) Plans, and other activities as determined, based on the selected Program, and as negotiated with the recipient prior to award.

B.5 Authorized Geographic Code

The geographic code for the procurement of commodities and services under this program is 937, as described in [ADS Chapter 310](#).

In anticipation of final implementation guidance issued by USAID, the Applicant is notified of recent changes to cost allowability regulations - specifically 2 CFR 200.216, finalized on August 13, 2020 - concerning the procurement of prohibited technology goods and services under assistance awards.

B.6 Nature of the Relationship between USAID and the Recipient

The principal purpose of the relationship with the Recipient and under the subject program is to transfer funds to accomplish a public purpose of support or stimulation of the Strengthening Citizen Engagement Activity which is authorized by Federal statute. The successful Recipient will be responsible for ensuring the achievement of the program objectives and the efficient and effective administration of the award through the application of sound management practices. The Recipient will assume responsibility for administering Federal funds in a manner consistent with underlying agreements, program objectives, and the terms and conditions of the Federal award.

B.7 Title to Property

Property title under the resultant agreement shall vest with the recipient in accordance with the requirements of Mandatory Standard Provision for Non-US Organizations, [Title To And Use Of Property \(December 2014\)](#).

B.8 Special Award Requirement Relating to the Prohibition on Certain Telecommunication and Video Surveillance Services or Equipment (November 2020)

USAID has been granted a temporary waiver under Section 889(d)(2) that will allow the recipient to use award funds through September 30, 2022, to procure certain telecommunications and video surveillance services or equipment as specified in the standard provision “Prohibition on Certain Telecommunication and Video Surveillance Services or Equipment (NOVEMBER 2020).” Based on this waiver, all costs incurred for covered telecommunications and video surveillance services or equipment will be allowable through September 30, 2022, without regard to the cost principle at 2 CFR 200.471. Procurements made on or after October 1, 2022, will be unallowable in accordance with 2 CFR 200.471

[End of Section B]

SECTION C: ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

C.1 Eligible Entities

In addition to Section C of the Advancing Equity and Equality of Marginalized Groups APS #72016921APS0001 for Concept Paper submission, eligibility for this award is restricted to Serbian **local entities**, as defined by USAID.¹⁹

Specific to Round 2 requirements

The Lead organization submitting the concept paper must have an organizational focus on LGBTQI+ rights and proven record of helping advance equity and prosperity for Serbia’s marginalized groups. Concepts that envision partnerships with multiple LGBTQI+ organizations and build upon their individual strengths will be viewed as stronger than concepts that include only one LGBTQI+ organization.

[End of Section C]

¹⁹ <https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/303.pdf>

SECTION D: CONCEPT PAPER SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Applicants are encouraged to visit <https://www.workwithusaid.org/> to learn more about submitting concept notes and applications to USAID.

D.1 Round 2 Point of Contact and Package Distribution

The preferred method of distribution of USAID assistance information is www.grants.gov. This addendum as well as the APS #72016921APS0001 contains all necessary information, web links, and materials to submit a complete concept paper for Round 2. Full applications are **not** requested at this time. The most highly rated applicant(s) will be contacted directly for the following phase of the process. Instructions for submitting a full application will be provided to organizations invited to the Full Application phase.

All inquiries and communication, including questions on this addendum of the APS must be submitted to the points of contact below, with “**Questions for Round 2, Marginalized Groups APS**” included in the subject line.

Armend Aliu
A&A Specialist
aaliu@usaid.gov

Branislav Bulatovic
A&A Specialist
bbulatovic@usaid.gov

D.2 Submission Dates and Times

Please refer to the Key Information and Dates on the Cover Page. Concept papers must be submitted electronically via email only to points of contact above, before the respective due dates and times. Please include “**Round 2, Marginalized Groups APS - [Name of Organization]**” in the subject line. Late submissions will NOT be accepted. Hard copies, whether hand delivered or by postal mail, will NOT be accepted.

D.3 Application Process

This APS utilizes a three-phase process:

Phase 1: Concept Paper submission

Applicants must submit concept papers in accordance with the due dates stated in the cover page of this addendum. USAID will then conduct a Merit Review of all timely submitted concept

papers based on the Merit Review criteria provided in Section E: Application Review Information.

Phase 2: Co-creation

After review of the concept papers, USAID may issue an invitation to co-creation meetings with the most highly rated applicant(s). Co-creation meetings, if needed, may occur over the phone, via videoconferencing, or in person in Belgrade at locations identified by USAID. However, it may be determined that co-creation meetings are not necessary, and in that case, USAID may move directly to request full applications after review of the concept papers. Further details on the co-creation process (if determined necessary) will be shared with the most highly rated applicant(s).

Phase 3: Full Application

After review of the concept papers, full applications will be requested from those applicants with the most highly rated concept papers. Full application submission instructions and review criteria will be provided to organizations invited to the Full Application phase.

Applicants with concept papers not advancing to full application will be notified. If an organization submits a concept paper that is not successful and thereby is not invited to submit a full application in Round 2, that organization still may submit another concept paper in a future Round under the APS #72016921APS0001.

To be considered for funding under Round 2 of this APS, applications must meet all of the requirements for the concept paper as well as for the full application respectively.

D.4 Concept Paper Required Content and Instructions

D.4.1 Concept Paper Technical Instructions for Round 2

Concept papers are limited to five (5) pages total, excluding the cover page. Concept papers must follow the required content and format below.

D.4.1.1 Cover Page (not included in the 5-page limit)

- Project title;
- Funding opportunity number;
- Name and address of the applicant organization;
- Type of organization (e.g., for-profit, non-profit, university, etc.);
- Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) from www.sam.gov;
- Contact point (name, telephone, and e-mail);
- Names of subrecipient organization(s) and types of organization(s).

D.4.1.2 Concept Paper Content

1. In the concept paper, the applicant must describe a clear and realistic **approach to achieve the Round 2 goal and address the areas of interest**. As the length of the concept note suggests, applicants should be concise in their response and focus on the overall strategy to achieve the Round 2 goal, as well as to outline the expected results and impact.
2. In addition, the applicant must describe its **technical expertise and institutional capacity** to address Round 2 areas of interest.

D.4.2 Concept Paper Cost Instructions

Along with the concept note, USAID is requesting basic cost/budget information including administrative cost and program activities cost. No specific format is required. **Not included in the 5-page limit.**

D.5 Instructions for the preparation of the Full Application

Instructions for submitting a full application will be provided to organizations invited to the Full Application phase.

[End of Section D]

SECTION E: APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

Merit Review Criteria

The merit review criteria prescribed here are tailored to the requirements of this particular Round of the APS. Applicants should note that these criteria serve to: (a) identify the significant matters which the applicants should address in their applications, and (b) set the standard against which all applications will be evaluated.

Technical and other factors will be evaluated relative to each other, as described here, and prescribed by the Technical Application Format. The Technical Application will be rated by a Selection Committee (SC) using the criteria described in this section.

Review and Selection Process

E.1 Concept Paper Merit Review Criteria for Round 2

USAID will review the concept papers according to the following concept paper merit review criteria. The degree to which:

- 1) The applicant presents a clear and realistic overall technical approach to achieve the Round 2 goal described in the section A of this addendum.
- 2) The applicant presents a team with the appropriate technical expertise and institutional capacity to achieve the Round 2 goal described in the section A of this addendum.
- 3) The applicant presents a realistic basic budget plan that represents the overall cost followed by the information for administrative cost and program activities cost.

E.2 Full Technical Application Merit Review

Information for full technical application Merit Review will be provided to the organizations invited to the Full Application phase.

E.3 Full Business (Cost) Review

Information for full cost application review will be provided to the organizations invited to the Full Application phase.

[End of Section E]

SECTION F: FEDERAL AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

F.1 Federal Award Notices

USAID cannot make awards under this APS until it has appropriated, allocated, and committed funds through internal USAID procedures. While USAID anticipates successfully completing these procedures, potential applicants are notified of these requirements and conditions. The AO is the only individual who may legally commit the USG to the expenditure of public funds. Applicants are prohibited from charging or incurring costs to the proposed award prior to receipt of either a fully executed Award or a specific, written authorization from the AO.

F.2 Administration

The resulting award from this RFA will be administered in accordance with the following policies and regulations.

For US organizations: [ADS 303](#), [2 CFR 700](#), [2 CFR 200](#), and [Standard Provisions for U.S. Non-governmental organizations](#).

For Non-US organizations: [Standard Provisions for Non-U.S. Non-governmental Organizations](#).

F.3 Additional Information and Requirements

The request for full application will contain additional information in this section, such as the type, frequency, and means of submission of award reporting requirements. Information about program income and information detailing how the Agency will ensure environmental soundness and compliance in design and implementation will be included.

F.4 Program Income

Program Income earned under the resultant awards will be added to the Total Estimated Amount (exclusive of cost share) in accordance with 2 CFR 200.307(e)(2).

F.5 Environmental Compliance

Any resultant awards under this APS will be subject to the Environmental Compliance policy in 22 CFR 216. Please review the Initial Environmental Examination in Appendix B of this APS.

[End of Section F]

SECTION G: FEDERAL AWARDING AGENCY CONTACT(S)

1. APS Points of Contact

See Section D.1 of this addendum.

2. Acquisition and Assistance Ombudsman

The A&A Ombudsman helps ensure equitable treatment of all parties who participate in USAID's acquisition and assistance process. The A&A Ombudsman serves as a resource for all organizations who are doing or wish to do business with USAID. Please visit this page for additional information: <https://www.usaid.gov/work-usaid/acquisition-assistance-ombudsman>

[The A&A Ombudsman may be contacted via: Ombudsman@usaid.gov](mailto:Ombudsman@usaid.gov)

[End of Section G]

SECTION H: OTHER INFORMATION

USAID reserves the right to fund any or none of the applications submitted. The Agreement Officer is the only individual who may legally commit the Government to the expenditure of public funds. Any award and subsequent incremental funding will be subject to the availability of funds and continued relevance to Agency programming.

Applications with Proprietary Data

Applicants who include data that they do not want disclosed to the public for any purpose or used by the U.S. Government except for evaluation purpose, should mark the cover page with the following:

“This application includes data that must not be duplicated, used, or disclosed – in whole or in part – for any purpose other than to evaluate this application. If, however, an award is made as a result of – or in connection with – the submission of this data, the U.S. Government will have the right to duplicate, use, or disclose the data to the extent provided in the resulting award. This restriction does not limit the U.S. Government’s right to use information contained in this data if it is obtained from another source without restriction. The data subject to this restriction are contained in sheets {insert sheet numbers}.”

Additionally, the applicant must mark each sheet of data it wishes to restrict with the following:

“Use or disclosure of data contained on this sheet is subject to the restriction on the title page of this application.”

[END OF SECTION H]

SECTION I: STANDARD PROVISIONS

Note: the full text of these provisions may be found at:

<https://www.usaid.gov/ads/policy/300/303maa> and
<https://www.usaid.gov/ads/policy/300/303mab>

The actual Standard Provisions included in the award will be dependent on the organization that is selected. The award will include the latest Mandatory Provisions for either U.S. or non-U.S. Nongovernmental organizations. The award will also contain the following “required as applicable” Standard Provisions:

Please note that the resulting award will include all standard provisions (both mandatory and required as applicable) in full text.

[END OF SECTION I]

[END SOLICITATION]