

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Notice of Funding Opportunity (NFO) No. 7204402ORFA00001

Q1. The deadline for submission is February 4, 2020 at 16:00 hours Hanoi Time, the proposal preparation period thus covers Xmas/New Year and Tet holidays, which may impact quality of the proposals as per previous calls. Would it be better to move the deadline to allow sufficient time for consultations?

A1. While the application preparation period does include several important holidays, the overall length of the application preparation period is not unreasonable given the limited information USAID is requesting (the Summary Application) in response to the solicitation.

Q2. What role does the National Steering Committee for Overcoming the Post-war Unexploded Ordnance and Toxic Chemical Consequences in Vietnam (Committee 701) have in approving the eventual award (from the GoV perspective) and in the monitoring and evaluation of the project?

A2. USAID is working closely with GVN counterparts throughout the life of the project. Our commitment is to cooperate with and support the GVN agencies in charge to implement their role of public administration as assigned by GVN.

GVN approval of the future award(as) will follow the Vietnamese relevant regulations. The details of project management, including monitoring and evaluation will be determined later in agreement with GVN counterparts.

Q3. Do the proposed sub-awardees need to be named in the initial proposal and if so can then be changed as the project progresses?

A3. Subawardees need not be named in the Summary Application unless the Prime is seeking to share their project management responsibilities.

Q4. Can the sub-awardees include Government bodies, mass-organisations and public medical service providers, i.e. hospitals and district clinics?

A4. Subawardees may include any type of non-governmental organization (NGO), public or private entities that have proven expertise and experience in one or more required areas, including (i) health and rehabilitation services; (ii) social services; (iii) disability policies and law implementation; and (iv) capacity building in project management and implementation.

Q5. Can a private-sector entity be an awardee?

A5. Yes, though no awardee will be paid any fee/profit.

Q6. Does USAID have a specific process or guideline to select and evaluate sub-awardees or does the Prime need to determine this?

A6. The subawardee selection process will be discussed as part of the Stage II of collaboration exercise and will be managed by the Prime.

Q7. Does the overall grant amount awarded cover just the initial 30-month period or does it cover the 30 month period + the intended renewal?

A7. The amount listed in Section B.1 refers to the amount available for the initial performance period (30 months) only.

Q8. Given the potential size of the award it is likely that regulatory sign-off and approval may take a significant proportion of time? Has this been allowed for in the timing of award milestones e.g. evaluation after 24 months and renewal at 30 months? Is there any contingency allowed should regulatory approval be difficult?

A8. The highlighted issue was considered and may be reassessed during activity implementation.

Q9. Can an organisation submit an application as a prime AND be a sub-awardee under another proposal?

A9. Yes, this is possible for an organization to submit an application as a prime and be listed as a sub on another's application. We ask that one organization only submit one prime application.

Q10. How is the role of NACCET and COM 701 in decision making of selecting the prime awardees and management of the prime awardees?

A10. USAID is working closely with GVN counterparts throughout the life of the project to ensure the effective management of the project.

The details of the process and management mechanism will be determined later in agreement with NACCET and Office 701.

Q11. When the prime awardee is the local entity, it should follow the ODA management or enterprise management policy of the government, so how the financial management will be applied for the prime awardee following both ODA management and USAID compliance?

A11. USAID requires compliance with the terms and conditions of the award. At this point and time, USAID is unaware of any conflict between USAID requirements and any other requirements imposed on local organizations, though we would acknowledge that compliance with USAID terms and conditions may result in additional requirements over and above others. The costs associated with such may be included in the Recipient's award budget. If there are circumstances by which compliance with both sets of requirements is not possible, the Recipient should identify such and discuss this with the USAID Agreement Officer.

Q12. Is an INGO eligible to submit for the Sub-grantee?

A12. We are not seeking applications for subawards.

Q13. Can an INGO work as the sub-contractor for the Sub-grantee?

A13. This is possible.

Q14. Is construction work acceptable for this grant? Specifically:

- Renovate/repair (and build new) houses, latrines or build simple and appropriate housing structures/features, which improve accessibility for PWD to add value to occupational therapy interventions
- Renovate and/or build public facilities or build simple structures (communal center, public health centers, public schools) which improve accessibility for PWD

A14. Limited construction is possible and this is a matter that may be discussed in Stage II of this process.

Q15. Will the sub-grantee submit the application to the Prime Grantee or USAID?

A15. Applications for subawards will be submitted to the Prime Awardee.

Q16. As a possible sub-contractor or sub-grantee, can we pitch our credentials directly/separately to USAID or should we do so with the Prime grantee only?

A16. Subcontractors or subgrantees will be dealing primarily with the Prime.

Q17. Kindly share the timelines for these milestones

Item	Expected timeline
Selection of the Prime Grantee	?
Call for sub-contract from the Prime Grantee	?
Time to submission to the Prime Grantee	?
Announcement the selection of the sub-contractor	?

A17. See Attachment G of the NOFO for the current milestone timeline. The timeline for subawards has yet to be determined.

Q18. What are the roles and responsibilities of the Prime Awardees and Sub Awardees respectively?

A18. The Prime Awardee's responsibilities are: Sub-award making, financial management, monitoring, evaluation and learning, quality assurance, and providing capacity building.

Roles and responsibilities of Sub Awardees are implementing activities to contribute to the goal and objectives of Disability Project including 1) expanding rehabilitation services, 2) expanding social services, 3) improving disability policies. Details of the activities, services provided to persons with disabilities and expected results will be determined in the co-creation process, in consultation and coordination with relevant Government of Vietnam stakeholders including but not limited to Office 701, NACCET, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs, Provincial People's Committees, Provincial Departments, hospitals, academia, etc.

Q19. The expected results described in page 8 (percentage of beneficiaries reporting the improvement of their life as a result of the project support, number of PWD receiving the project assistance, number of rehabilitation units established in each priority province, etc.) are fixed already?

A19. As stated in the document, this are illustrative results and scope of work of sub-awardees and details will be determined in the co-creation process with the Prime Awardee(s) and NACCET.

Q20. We are a financial institution established by the Government of Vietnam. It operates for non-profit purpose. From my understanding, it is eligible for the application. However, I still want to have feedback from the USAID.

A20. While governmental organizations are not eligible to apply for funding under this Notice of Funding Opportunity (NFO), we welcome you to review the Section C.1 of the NFO carefully to decide if your organization is eligible to submit an application.
