

Questions and Answers for
Mexican Attorneys' General Offices Technical Assistance and Support
INL21CA0005-WHPMexico-AGTAS-120720
Date: January 11, 2021

Question 1:

Could INL please confirm if there is a current incumbent implementer providing INL-funded support to the Mexican Attorneys' General Offices?

INL Response #1:

There is no incumbent implementer at this time.

Question 2:

Is INL providing current support to the Mexican Attorney General's Office in any capacity (e.g., litigation skills, training, etc.)? This information will help us avoid duplication and develop programming synergies with other INL efforts that support the AGOs.

INL Response #2:

INL is providing support to Mexican AGOs, but cannot detail the support in this response.

Question 3:

INL indicates that "the purpose of this project is to increase prosecution rates of high impact crime at the state level in Mexico through improved management practices within AGOs." Could INL please indicate what they consider to be "high impact crimes"?

INL Response #3:

High impact crimes can include homicide, kidnapping, extortion, theft, and *narcomenudeo*.

Question 4:

The NOFO indicates that INL expects the implementer to "increase the number of AGOs with clear policies and procedures detailing prosecutorial priorities and guidelines...". Can INL please elaborate how many state AGOs they expect the implementer to support over the life of this project? Does INL consider any particular states as priority targets for support? Does INL have priority regions they want covered under this program?

INL Response #4:

The number of AGOs is for the implementer to propose. Also, INL is looking for implementers to propose states to work with and explanations as to why the implementer proposed those states.

Question 5:

The NOFO references “prosecutorial priorities and guidelines for thirteen, previously identified, key prosecutorial decisions.” Can INL please provide us with the list of the thirteen key prosecutorial decisions?

INL Response #5:

INL will share this information with the selected recipient upon awarding of the federal assistance agreement.

Question 6:

The technical requirements in the NOFO indicate that “all Microsoft Word documents are single-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font, with a minimum of 1-inch margins.” Can INL confirm that offerors may use other than Times New Roman 12-point font for graphs, tables, and charts?

INL Response #6:

INL has no objections to the request regarding other fonts for graphs, tables, and charts. However, INL kindly requests all applicants comply with all other requirements established in the NOFO.

Question 7:

Can INL please confirm whether our non-profit organization is allowed to offer a small sub-grant to a for-profit organization so long as the for-profit sub-grantee agrees not to accept payment of fees and/or profits?

INL Response #7:

INL has no objections with applicants using vendors/contractors under federal assistance awards. The organization must provide details as to how the vendor was selected per the procurement policies in place. Additionally, please review the requirements and responsibilities for sub-awards in the 2 CFR 200, especially sections §200.331 - Sub-recipient and contractor determinations, and §200.332 - Requirements for pass-through entities.

Question 8:

We are a non-U.S., non-profit organization and we comply with all eligibility criteria. We are interested in submitting a combined proposal with a non-US, highly-specialized, for-profit consulting firm as a sub-grantee. The sub-grantee would include no profit in the proposal (i.e. it would ask exclusively for the reimbursement of actual costs). This consortium arrangement, which would enable INL to seize the sub-grantee's deep knowledge of the Mexican criminal

justice system, has been approved previously by other U.S. Government agencies, including USAID for a current (Cooperative Agreement) project. We would appreciate it if you could confirm whether the described situation is acceptable?

INL Response #8:

INL has no objections with applicants using vendors/contractors under federal assistance awards. The organization must provide details as to how the vendor was selected per the procurement policies in place. Additionally, please review the requirements and responsibilities for sub-awards in the 2 CFR 200, especially sections §200.331 - Sub-recipient and contractor determinations, and §200.332 - Requirements for pass-through entities.

Question 9:

The NOFO specifies that, in the case it is considered a sub-grantee, it is needed to specify its budget. (p.24. "complete budgets include..." and p.25. Contractual . A) Subgrants)

Then, we would like to know if it is needed to separate subgrantee budgets from the lead applicant's budget in the same Excel tab or if it would be fine if we have the full budget proposal (including the subgrantee budget) in an Excel tab and we present the sub-grantee budget in another tab just for clarification?

INL Response #9:

INL has no objections with applicants presenting the total budget proposal (including the subgrantee budget) in an Excel tab. INL recommends including a separate tab, within the same excel document, with the subgrantee's detailed budget.

Question 10:

We would like to clarify the following regarding the NICRA:

If we are considering to work with a sub-grantee, do we need to create, sign and share with INL an agreement regarding the distribution of indirect costs even if the agreement is not preexistent to this application? In that case, do you have a sample of such an agreement that can be taken as a reference?

INL Response #10:

Please review the provisions established on 2 CFR 200 section §200.332 Requirements for pass-through entities - subsection (4)(i). An agreement between the recipient and subrecipient is not a requirement to determine the indirect cost rate applicable to the subaward, nevertheless said rate can be determine based on negotiated rate between the recipient and subrecipient.

Question 11:

With respect to program delivery, to what extent should we plan for online vs. in-person content? Currently, our various programs are 100% online due to Covid-19, but before we did many in-person events in both Mexico and the United States. We had hoped to do some in-person events in January and/or February of 2021 but—given the circumstances—we won't be. In our proposal, should we continue with the online program delivery or also plan for in-person events? We can do either or a hybrid.

INL Response #11:

The on-line or in-person training decision is up to each grantee. Although a mixed-model approach seems appropriate given what we have all learned through the ongoing pandemic.

Question 12:

Is this NOFO related to RFI INL-10156020? This RFI was published in October 2020 to identify sources capable of providing subject matter experts in public administration and criminal justice for Mexican AGOs. Is this the same or similar project?

INL Response #12:

Yes, this is related to the RFI published in October. It is the same project.

Question 13:

Will previous studies or diagnostics from other INL programs be made available to applicants or to the future implementer?

INL Response #13:

Previous studies and diagnostics will be made available to the selected implementer.

Question 14:

Is there a minimum number of state AGOs expected to be supported under this program? Are there states that must be included?

INL Response #14:

No minimum number or mandatory states.

Question 15:

Is there a guideline for selection criteria of state AGOs to be supported under this program, or should applicants provide criteria in their proposals?

INL Response #15:

Applicants should provide selection criteria in their proposals.

Question 16:

With reference to page 6 – Objective 1, could INL clarify the 13 key prosecutorial decisions referenced? Are the 13 linked with the strategies adopted by the Secretariado Ejecutivo del Sistema Nacional de Seguridad Publica?

INL Response #16:

The thirteen key decisions will be made available to the selected implementer upon award.

Question 17:

With reference to page 18 – Program Risk Analysis, should risks and remedies in response to COVID19 be addressed only in the Program Risk Analysis or be incorporated throughout the proposal and activity timeline?

INL Response #17:

It might be a good idea to also incorporated throughout the proposal.