

March 18, 2011

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS NO. RFA-118-11-000001

US-RUSSIA CIVIL SOCIETY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

AMENDMENT NO. 1

The subject RFA is hereby modified as follows:

Add the following after ANNEX D:

“ANNEX E

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR RFA NO. RFA-118-11-000001

Question: We are thinking about collaborative work dealing with human trafficking. Our university is located in (America). We have limited connections with persons, agencies, universities, etc in Russia but have a collaborative ability to work on the issue of human trafficking. We have experts in human trafficking, human rights, international relations, domestic and international law. We are able to provide partners in law enforcement, NGOs, and government within the U.S. Do your grant requirements expect us to have already established contacts or a relationship in Russia? Or, will you be able to assist us in this regard. Our university is one that is quite willing to develop new ties and relationships but we would like to know if you can help us.

Answer: Human rights and anti-trafficking would be excellent areas for collaboration via both new and established partnerships. This competition does not require that applicants have already established relationships with counterpart Russian organizations. However, applicants should provide a plan for establishing such contacts and developing the necessary relationships, including information on any preliminary connections they may have. USAID/Russia is interested in promoting synergy between this program and our existing network of grantees, but developing the network of organizations in both the US and the Russian Federation will be the responsibility of the successful applicant.

Question: We are also curious about the timing of the grant. Your solicitation indicates that the grants are to be awarded mid-year 2011 and that the first conference to be hosted by recipients in the summer of 2011, would it be possible to have a later start date for new partners – like in the Fall of 2011?

Answer: Organization of conferences and the partnership grants program are two separate programs. As such, awarding grants is not a prerequisite for selecting and administering the conference with civil society leaders. The first conference should be organized in the summer of 2011. The timing of grant competitions and awards are more flexible, though USAID/Russia would expect to have partnership grants made in a timely manner.

Question: Given that the anticipated award date is mid-calendar year (p. 9), please confirm that the proposed program is not expected to deliver a civil society conference in conjunction with an anticipated bilateral meeting in the summer of 2011. (p. 6)

Answer: USAID/Russia is aware of the tight timeframe involved; however, the applicant should indeed demonstrate the capacity and readiness to arrange this initial conference in the summer of 2011.

Question: Please confirm that of the \$5 million estimated for the program budget (p. 1), a 20% cost share of \$600,000 (p. 10) is expected from the applicant, local counterpart organizations, project clients, and other donors, and an additional \$1.4 million is to be leveraged (p.10) by the applicant, local counterpart organizations, project clients, and other donors.

Answer: Yes, this is an accurate statement of the cost share and leveraging objectives under this award.

Question: Please describe the distinction between the recommended cost share and the leveraging requirement mentioned on p. 10.

Answer: In accordance with ADS 303.3.10.2 “Cost Sharing and Leveraging,” leveraging represents all of the non-USAID resources that are expected to be applied to a program. It may include cost sharing, but may also include resources that third-parties bring to the program without necessarily providing them to the recipient. These parties may include the host government, private foundations, businesses, or individuals. Applicants are reminded that cost share is legally binding (per 22 CFR 226), whereas leveraging is not.

For more information on the distinction between cost share and leveraging, please refer to the following resources:

USAID Global Partnerships site:

http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/global_partnerships/gda/

Acquisition & Assistance Policy Directive (AAPD) 04-16:

http://www.usaid.gov/business/business_opportunities/cib/pdf/aapd04_16.pdf

Question: Are NGOs working in subject areas other than the twelve listed on p. 5 eligible for representation on the Steering Committee?

Answer: Yes.

Question: Are organizations represented on the Steering Committee eligible to apply for partnership grants offered by the program? (p. 5-6)

Answer: The applicant should be cognizant of and take steps to eliminate any perceived conflicts of interest arising within the framework of the program. These steps include developing procedures to ensure fair and unbiased award of sub-grants and recusal from any aspect of competition design and selection by members who wish to apply.

Question: Please confirm that it is not necessary to submit applications in hard copy. (p. 12)

Answer: It is not necessary to submit applications in hard copy.”

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF AMENDMENT NO. 1:

Signature

Printed Name

Organization Name

Date