



Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)



2026 Alumni Engagement Innovation Fund

U.S Embassy Amman, Department of State

Opportunity number: PAS-JOR-FY26-001

Application deadline: May 19, 2026

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**U.S Department of State
U.S. Embassy Amman, Public Diplomacy Section
Notice of Funding Opportunity**

A. BASIC INFORMATION

1. Overview

Funding Opportunity Title	2026 Alumni Engagement Innovation Fund
Funding Opportunity Number	PAS-JOR-FY26-001
Announcement Type	Initial Announcement
Deadline for Applications	Tuesday, May 19, 2026 / 5:00 p.m., (Amman time)
Assistance Listing Number	19.022 – Educational and Cultural Exchange Programs Appropriation Overseas Grant
Length of performance period	1 to 12 months
Number of awards anticipated	One or two awards (dependent on amounts)
Award amounts	Awards may range from a minimum of \$5,000 to a maximum of \$35,000 (approximately)
Total available funding	\$35,000 pending availability of funds
Type of Funding	FY26 Fulbright Hays
Anticipated project start date	October 1, 2026

Funding Instrument Type: Grant.

Project Performance Period: Proposed projects should be completed in 12 months or less.

This notice is subject to availability of funding. The Public Diplomacy Section reserves the right to award less or more than the funds described under circumstances deemed to be in the best interest of the U.S. government, pending the availability of funds and approval of the designated grants officer.

2. Executive Summary

The Embassy of the United States in Jordan announces an open competition for alumni of U.S. government-funded and U.S. government-sponsored exchange programs to submit applications to the 2026 Alumni Engagement Innovation Fund (AEIF 2026). We welcome proposals from teams consisting of at least **two alumni** that meet all program eligibility requirements below, with one team member designated as the lead applicant. Exchange alumni interested in participating in **AEIF 2026 should submit proposals to (JordanAlumni@state.gov) by May 19, 2026 / 5:00 p.m. (Amman time).**

B. ELIGIBILITY

1. Eligible Applicants

The following individuals are eligible to apply:

- **Individual Applicants must be alumni of U.S. government-funded academic or professional exchange program** (<https://alumni.state.gov/list-exchange-programs>) or a U.S. government-sponsored exchange program under BridgeUSA (<https://j1visa.state.gov/>).
- Projects teams must include **teams of at least two (2) alumni**, with one member designated as the lead applicant for the program.

Not-for-profit organizations, non-governmental organizations, think tanks, and academic institutions are not eligible to apply. These entities may serve as partners for implementing project activities but not as primary implementers. To avoid any real or perceived conflict of interest, individuals who own a private business may not use that business as a partner.

For-profit entities, even those that may fall into the categories listed above, are **not** eligible to apply for this NOFO. When sub-contracting with other entities, the responsibilities of each entity must be clearly defined in the proposal. For more information on the difference between sub-contract and sub-recipient, please refer to 2 CFR 200.[331](#).

2. Cost Sharing or Matching

Inclusion of cost share is **not a requirement** of this opportunity.

3. Other Eligibility Requirements

All organizations must have a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) issued via SAM.gov as well as a valid registration in SAM.gov. Please see Section E.3 for more information. **Individuals are not required to have a UEI or be registered in SAM.gov.**

4. *This opportunity will not support:*

- Projects relating to partisan political activity;
- Charitable or development activities; including direct social services such as medical, psychological, and/or humanitarian support
- Construction projects;
- Projects that support specific religious activities;
- Fund-raising campaigns;
- Lobbying for specific legislation or programs
- Scientific research or surveys;
- Commercial projects;
- Projects intended primarily for the growth or institutional development of the organization;
- Projects that duplicate existing projects;
- Illegal activities

C. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

1. Project Background, Goals, and Objectives

The 2026 Alumni Engagement Innovation Fund is designed to increase the impact of the U.S. government's investment in exchange participants and programs by helping alumni develop and implement projects that support U.S. policy objectives.

In recognition of the 250th anniversary of the United States, AEIF 2026 will prioritize alumni-led projects that actively promote American excellence, innovation, and global leadership.

Projects must deliver visible, time-bound, and public-facing outcomes that highlight how U.S. history, institutions, industries and commercial achievements, technology, and innovation benefit global partners and reinforce America's position as a world leader.

The U.S. Embassy grants team will engage with the award recipient on all aspects of project implementation, including but not limited to approving partners, program themes and activities, locations for activities and events, lists of participants, and the implementation timeline.

All proposals must clearly demonstrate how activities support the goal of the program while producing measurable impact during the period of performance under one of the listed focus areas.

Project Audience(s): Primary beneficiaries for this project could include youth, established leaders, entrepreneurs, and academics, representing various segments of Jordanian society.

Geographic location: All governorates in Jordan.

Audience/beneficiary age group: 20-40 years old.

Project Goal:

Freedom 250 in Action — Telling America’s Story Through Digital Media, Dialogue, and Public Engagement

This theme supports projects that **actively communicate the American story**—its states, institutions, people, innovation, and opportunities—through modern media and direct community engagement. Freedom 250 in Action is the overarching theme of this Notice of Funding Opportunity. Proposals must align under this theme and clearly identify the specific focus area they will address from the sections below:

Project Objectives:

Focus Area 1: Celebrating 250 Years of American Economic Opportunity and Global Commerce

Priority Focus Areas:

- 250 years of American economic opportunity, innovation, and business leadership;
- The United States as a destination for business expansion, investment, and commercial partnerships;
- American industries, franchise systems, and innovation ecosystem that drive global economic growth and global competitiveness.

Activities May Include:

- **Social media campaigns** highlighting U.S. industries, investment opportunities, and ecosystems across different states;
- **Digital storytelling series** profiling American companies, entrepreneurs, and industries that demonstrate the strength of the U.S. economy;
- **Public “America Dialogues”** exploring opportunities to do business with the United States, including investment pathways, commercial partnerships, etc.;
- **Podcast or video series** featuring alumni discussions with U.S. entrepreneurs, investors, and industry leaders on opportunities for business collaboration and expansion into the U.S. market.

Examples of Projects:

- A six-month multimedia campaign highlighting “50 States of Opportunity” featuring industries, states, investment opportunities, and innovation hubs across the United States;
- A digital platform introducing U.S. franchise opportunities, American companies seeking international partnerships, and pathways to expanding business to the U.S. market.

Focus Area 2: American Technological and Space Leadership — Advancing STEM, Innovation, and Global Competitiveness

Priority Focus Areas:

- Space exploration and aerospace innovation;
- Artificial intelligence, semiconductors, and advanced computing;
- Biotechnology and medical technologies;
- Energy technologies and advanced manufacturing;
- Cybersecurity and data systems.

Priority Activities May Include:

- **“Race to Mars” or Space Innovation campaigns** featuring NASA programs or U.S. aerospace leadership;
- **STEM showcase events** highlighting American research institutions and companies;
- **Tech-demonstration series** using U.S.-developed tools or platforms;
- **Virtual exchanges with U.S. labs, startups, or researchers.**

Examples of Projects:

- A national “U.S. Space and Innovation Week” featuring talks, exhibitions, and online content;
- A STEM media campaign highlighting American breakthroughs and career pathways.

Focus Area 3: American Sports and Entertainment— Showcasing U.S. Leadership in Global Sports and Live Entertainment

Priority Areas:

- Olympic and mega-event hosting models;
- Esports;
- Sports technology and analytics;
- Concert and entertainment production;
- Athlete and event management systems.

Priority Activities May Include:

- **Sports diplomacy campaigns** showcasing American training and management models;
- **Esports program development** or competition highlighting U.S. leadership in sports;
- **Event-production workshops** based on U.S. entertainment standards;
- **Public forums on hosting mega-events** and sports tourism;
- **Media campaigns** on U.S. sports and entertainment leadership.

Examples of Projects:

- A “How America Hosts” exhibition on major sporting and entertainment events;
- Esports exhibitions or tournaments demonstrating U.S. innovation;
- Squash debut at the 2028 Olympics in Los Angeles or other emerging Olympic sports.

2. Substantial Involvement

The funding instrument type for this award will be a grant to an individual, which does not require substantial involvement.

D. APPLICATION CONTENTS AND FORMAT

Please follow all instructions below carefully. Proposals that do not meet the requirements of this announcement or fail to comply with the stated requirements will be ineligible.

Content of Application

Please ensure:

- The proposal clearly addresses the goals and objectives of this funding opportunity
- All documents are in English
- All budgets are in U.S. dollars
- All applicant authorized signatures are provided where indicated on the various, required forms.

The following documents are **required**:

1. Mandatory application forms

- SF-424-I (Application for Federal Assistance --individuals) at [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov)
- SF-424A (Budget Information for Non-Construction programs) at [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov)
- SF-424B (Assurances for Non-Construction programs) at [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) (note: the SF-424B is only required for individuals, organizations exempt from registration, and for organizations not required to fully register in SAM.gov)

2. Proposal (10 pages maximum)

Applicants must submit a complete narrative proposal in a format of their choice, or they may use the attached proposal template if they like (**Attachment 1- AEIF Proposal template**). The proposal should contain sufficient information that anyone not familiar with it would understand exactly what the applicant wants to do. The proposal must include all the items below:

- **Proposal Summary:** Short narrative that outlines the proposed project, including project objectives and anticipated impact.
- **Introduction to the Individual applying:** A description of past and present operations, showing ability to carry out the program, including information on all previous grants from the State Department and/or U.S. government agencies as well as experience with and expertise in areas related to those described in the NOFO.
- **Problem Statement:** Clear, concise and well-supported statement of the problem to be addressed and why the proposed program is needed
- **Program Methods, Design, Activities, and Deliverables:** The “goals” describe what the program is intended to achieve. The “objectives” refer to the intermediate accomplishments on the way to the goals. These should be achievable and measurable. Describe the program activities and how they will help achieve the objectives.
- **Proposed Project Schedule and Timeline:** The proposed timeline for the program activities. Include the dates, times, and locations of planned activities and events.
- **Key Personnel:** Names, titles, roles and experience/qualifications of key personnel involved in the program. What proportion of their time will be used in support of this program?
- **Project Partners:** List the names and type of involvement of key partner organizations and sub-awardees (if applicable).
- **Alumni Involvement: Incorporating alumni at multiple stages of your project can greatly enhance its impact and reach. Projects with high alumni engagement are encouraged,** whether alumni serve as trainers, mentors, collaborators, or beneficiaries. If your team already includes alumni, consider involving additional alumni in the implementation process to leverage their diverse skills and networks, maximizing the

project's effectiveness and community impact. Indicate the alumni involvement and if you have alumni serving as trainers, mentors, etc.

- **Future Funding or Sustainability** Applicant's plan for continuing the program beyond the grant period, or the availability of other resources, if applicable.
- **Monitoring & Evaluation Plan:** Proposals must include a Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Performance Monitoring Plan (PMP) that explains how the applicant plans to track project performance and measure progress toward the project's goals and objectives. The PMP should include "If-Then" statements to illustrate how the project activities will lead to the intended results, along with a short datasheet outlining proposed project activities and the indicators that will be used to measure success.

3. *Budget Justification Narrative*

- **Detailed Budget** - Applicants must submit a detailed line-item budget. Applicants are encouraged to utilize the template provided with the funding opportunity but are not required to do so (**Attachment 2- AEIF Budget**). Line-item expenditures should be listed in the greatest possible detail. The budget must identify the total amount of funding requested, with a breakdown of amounts to be spent in the following budget categories: personnel; fringe benefits; travel; equipment; supplies; consultants/contracts; other direct costs; and indirect costs. See Annex Section I for a description of the types of costs that should be included in each category. Personnel salaries should include the level of effort and the rate of pay, which should cover the percentage of time each staff member will dedicate to grant-based activities. If an organization is charging an indirect cost rate without a NICRA, it must apply it to the modified total budget costs (MTDC), refer to [2CFR§200.1](#). **Budgets shall be submitted in U.S. dollars** and final grant agreements will be conducted in U.S. dollars.
- **Budget Justification Narrative** – Applicants must submit a budget justification narrative to accompany the detailed line-item budget. The purpose of the budget justification narrative is to supplement the information provided in the detailed budget spreadsheet by justifying how the budget cost elements are necessary to implement project objectives and accomplish the project goals. The budget justification narrative is a tool to help Embassy staff fully understand the budgetary needs of the applicant and is an opportunity to provide descriptive information about the requested costs beyond the constraints of the budget template. Together, the detailed budget spreadsheet, the budget justification narrative, and the SF-424A should provide a complete financial and qualitative description that supports the proposed project plan and should be directly relatable to the specific project components described in the applicant's proposal.

Additional Budget Notes:

- Awards to Individuals: Please note the following budget guidelines for the Individual Award:
 - Salary/Honoraria: Only the award recipient may receive salary/honoraria from this funding mechanism. The Recipient must be the primary point of contact and manage all programmatic activities.

- Contractual Costs: Additional individuals working on the award are only permissible through contracted services, as long as the services are not related to the core programmatic activities. Expenses for services such as accounting, legal support, social media management, website designer, etc., are allowable.
- Other Direct Costs: Expenses related to securing venues, managing logistics, catering, etc. are allowable.
- **Audit Requirements:** Please note the audit requirements for Department of State awards in the Standard Terms and Conditions <https://www.state.gov/m/a/ope/index.htm> and [2CFR200](#), Subpart F – Audit Requirements. The cost of the required audits may be charged either as an allowable direct cost to the award OR included in the organization’s established indirect costs in the award’s detailed budget.
- **Visa Fees:** Include all visa application and related fees in your budget as applicable. Please note DS-2019s for post-funded programs must be submitted directly by the award recipient. If you anticipate your program will include the DS-2019 visa processing, your organization must be a registered Designated Sponsoring Organization. For more information go to: <https://j1visa.state.gov/sponsors/become-a-sponsor/>

4. *Attachments*

- **Key Personnel Resumes:** A résumé, not to exceed one page in length, must be included for the proposed key staff persons, such as the **Project Director and Finance Officer**, as well as any speakers or trainers (if applicable). If an individual for this type of position has not been identified, the applicant may submit a 1-page position description, identifying the qualifications and skills required for that position, in lieu of a résumé.
- **Letters of support from program partners:** Letters of support should be included for sub-recipients or other partners. The letters must identify the type of relationship to be entered into (formal or informal), the roles and responsibilities of each partner in relation to the proposed project activities, and the expected result of the partnership. The individual letters cannot exceed 1 page in length.
- **Official permission letters, if required for program activities.**

E. SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS AND DEADLINES

1. *Address to Request Application Package*

Application forms required above are available at [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov)

2. *Department of State Contacts*

If you have any questions about the grant application process, please contact:
JordanAlumni@state.gov

If you would like to take part in an information session, **please download the Alumni Mobile Application (US Alumni Jo)** to remain up to date with all alumni related programs.

3. Unique entity identifier and System for Award Management (SAM.gov)

Required Registration: All organizations, whether based in the United States or in another country, must have a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) and an active registration in SAM.gov. A UEI is one of the data elements mandated by Public Law 109-282, the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA), for all Federal awards.

An applicant must maintain an active registration while it has a proposal under review by the Department and must continue to keep the registration active for the entire duration of the period of performance of any Federal award that results from this NOFO.

The 2 CFR 200 also requires subrecipients to obtain a UEI. Please note the UEI for subrecipients is not required at the time of application but will be required before an award is processed and/or directed to a subrecipient.

Note: The process of obtaining or renewing a SAM.gov registration may take anywhere from 4-8 weeks. Please begin your registration as early as possible.

- Organizations **based in the United States** or that pay employees within the United States will need an Employer Identification Number (EIN) from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and a UEI prior to registering in SAM.gov.
- Organizations **based outside of the United States** and that do not pay employees within the United States do not need an EIN from the IRS but do need a UEI prior to registering in SAM.gov.
- **Organizations based outside of the United States that do not intend to apply for U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) awards are no longer required to have a NATO Commercial and Government Entity (NCAGE) code to apply for non-DoD foreign assistance funding opportunities.** If an applicant organization is mid-registration and wishes to remove an NCAGE code from their SAM.gov registration, the applicant should [submit a help desk ticket \(“incident”\)](#) with the Federal Service Desk (FSD) online at www.fsd.gov using the following language: “I do not intend to seek financial assistance from the Department of Defense. I do not wish to obtain an NCAGE code. I understand that I will need to submit my registration after this incident is resolved in order to have my registration activated.”

Organizations based outside of the United States and that DO NOT plan to do business with the DoD should follow the below instructions:

- Step 1: Proceed to SAM.gov to obtain a UEI and complete the SAM.gov registration process. SAM.gov registration must be renewed annually.

Exemptions

An exemption from the UEI and sam.gov registration requirements may be permitted on a case-by-case basis. See [2 CFR 25.110](#) for a full list of exemptions.

Organizations requesting exemption from UEI or SAM.gov requirements must email the point of contact listed in the NOFO at least two weeks prior to the deadline in the NOFO providing a justification of their request. Approval for a SAM.gov exemption must come from the warranted Grants Officer before the application can be deemed eligible for review.

Please note: Any applicant with an exclusion in the System for Award Management (SAM) is not eligible to apply for an assistance award in accordance with the OMB guidelines at 2 CFR 180 that implement Executive Orders 12549 (3 CFR, 1986 Comp., p. 189) and 12689 (3 CFR, 1989 Comp., p. 235), “Debarment and Suspension.”

4. Submission Dates and Times

Submission Deadline: All applications must be received via email by **May 19, 2026 / 5:00 p.m. (Amman time)**. For the purpose of determining if an award is submitted on time, PDS will utilize the timestamp provided by Outlook. This deadline is firm and is not a rolling deadline. If organizations fail to meet the deadline noted above their application will be considered ineligible and will not be considered for funding.

Submission Method: All application materials must be directly submitted to the following email address: JordanAlumni@state.gov with the email subject “AEIF2026_Alumni Name_Project Name.”

5. Funding Restrictions

- i. **AEIF 2026 does not support the following activities or costs, and the selection committee will deem applications involving any of these activities or costs ineligible:**
 - Staff salaries, office space, and overhead/operational expenses
 - Social travel/visits
 - Charging a fee for participation in the project
 - Large items of durable equipment (vehicles, large mechanical equipment) or construction
 - Alcohol, excessive meals and refreshments, or entertainment
 - Academic or scientific research
 - Gifts/prizes or individual scholarships
 - Provision of direct social services to a population
 - Support or opposition of partisan political activity or lobbying for legislation
 - Activities that take place in the United States and its territories
 - Travel for international alumni to the U.S.

AEIF 2026 can support:

- In-country transportation
- Rental for venues for project activities
- Reasonable speaker honoraria expenses – i.e., maximum \$250/day fee, travel, lodging, per diem)
- Reasonable equipment and materials
- Meals/refreshments integral to the project (i.e. working lunch)
- Communication and publicity materials, such as manuals or project advertisements
- Reasonable costs to support virtual programming (i.e., subscription to Zoom, WebEx, camera/microphones for virtual meetings, mailing services, etc.)
- Camera and microphones for virtual meetings

- ii. Funding Restrictions for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA): None of the funds awarded resulting from this Notice of Funding Opportunity may be made available for subawards, direct financial support, or otherwise used to provide any payment or transfer to United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA).
- iii. Certification Regarding Compliance with Applicable Federal Anti-Discrimination Laws
If the place of performance or delivery of any award made under this NOFO will be within the United States, applicants are advised that they will be required to certify the following at the time of award:
 - a. Its compliance in all respects with all applicable Federal anti-discrimination laws is material to the government's payment decisions for purposes of section 3729(b)(4) of title 31, United States Code and;
 - b. It does not operate any programs promoting Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion that violate any applicable Federal anti-discrimination laws. A program promoting Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion means a program whose purpose is to promote preferences based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origins, such as in training or hiring.
- iv. Certification of Trafficking in Persons Compliance and Compliance Plan: Applicants are advised that they will be required to certify the following at the time of award for awards where the estimated value of services to be performed outside the United States exceeds \$500,000:
 - a. To the best of the Recipient's knowledge, neither the Recipient, nor any subrecipient, contractor, or subcontractor of the Recipient or any agent of the recipient or of such a subrecipient, contractor, or subcontractor, is engaged in any of the activities described in 2 CFR 175.105(a);
 - b. The recipient has implemented a Trafficking in Persons compliance plan to prevent activities described in 2 CFR 175(a) and is compliant with this plan; and the compliance plan must follow the minimum requirements described in 2 CFR 175(b)(5).
 - c. That the Recipient has and will implement procedures to prevent activities described in 2 CFR 175.105(a) and to monitor, detect, and terminate any subrecipient, contractor, subcontractor, or employee of the recipient engaging in these activities.
 - i. Recipients do not need to submit a copy of the plan. However, they must provide it to the Grants Officer upon request, and as appropriate, must post the useful and relevant contents of the plan or related materials on its website and at the workplace. Recipients must re-certify on an annual basis for the entire award period of performance.
- v. Prohibition on Unmanned Aircraft Systems Manufactured or Assembled by American Security Drone Act-Covered Foreign Entities

- a. (a) *Definitions.*
 - i. *American Security Drone Act-covered foreign entity* means an entity included on a list developed and maintained by the Federal Acquisition Security Council (FASC) and published in the System for Award Management (SAM) at <https://www.sam.gov>
 - ii. *FASC-prohibited unmanned aircraft system* means an unmanned aircraft system manufactured or assembled by an American Security Drone Act-covered foreign entity.
 - iii. *Unmanned aircraft* means an aircraft that is operated without the possibility of direct human intervention from within or on the aircraft.
 - iv. *Unmanned aircraft system* means an unmanned aircraft and associated elements (including communication links and the components that control the unmanned aircraft) that are required for the operator to operate safely and efficiently in the national airspace system.
 - b. (b) *Prohibition.* Recipients of funding under this Notice of Funding Opportunity (including subawards and subcontracts issued by the recipient) will be prohibited from:
 - i. delivering any FASC-prohibited unmanned aircraft system, which includes unmanned aircraft (i.e., drones) and associated elements
 - ii. Operating a FASC-prohibited unmanned aircraft system in the performance of the award; and
 - iii. Using Federal funds for the purchase or operation of a FASC-prohibited unmanned aircraft system.
 - c. (c) *Exemptions, exceptions, and waivers.* The prohibitions described above will not apply if the agency determines that an exemption, exception, or waiver applies and the award indicates that such a determination has been made. [See sections 1823 through 1825 and 1832 of Public Law 118-31 ([41 U.S.C. 3901](#) note prec.) for statutory requirements pertaining to exemptions, exceptions, and waivers.].
- vi. Pre-Award Costs: Pre-award costs are not an allowable expense for this funding opportunity.
 - vii. Construction: Any award made as a result of this NOFO will not allow for construction activities or costs.
 - viii. Direct Social Services: Costs that cover and provide direct social services, such as welfare, charity, health or economic relief, are unallowable. Medical assistance, such as costs to include medical professionals, including but not limited to doctors, nurses, and psychiatrists to participate in the project activities are not allowed.

6. Other Submission Requirements: Copyrights and Proprietary Information

If any of the information contained in your application is proprietary, please note in the footer of the appropriate pages that the information is Confidential – Proprietary. Applicants should also note what parts of the application, program, concept, etc. are covered by copyright(s), trademark(s), or any other intellectual property rights and provide copies of the relevant documentation to support these copyrights.

Applicants must acquire all required registrations and rights in the United States and Jordan. All intellectual property considerations and rights must be fully met in the United States and Jordan.

Any sub-recipient organization must also meet all the U.S. and Jordan requirements described above.

F. APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

1. Review Criteria

Criteria: Each application submitted under this announcement will be evaluated and rated on the basis of the criteria enumerated below. The criteria are designed to assess the quality of the proposed project, and to determine the likelihood of its success.

<p>Relevance to U.S. Policy Priorities <i>(Please refer to the themes listed in this Notice of Funding Opportunity)</i></p> <p>The proposal provides sufficient information on how the activities will celebrate and promote the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States and how the project advances objectives outlined in this Notice of Funding Opportunity. The narrative explains any relevant local context or Mission priorities the D.C. Selection Committee may not be aware of in relation to this project and your post. Proposed project ideas must be public diplomacy and public service oriented in nature (i.e., not development or military).</p>
<p>Purpose and Summary, Description, and Implementation Plan</p> <p>When developing the purpose, summary, description, and implementation plan, applicants should aim to make all descriptions clear, concise, and compelling. Reviewers will judge the proposals based on the likelihood of the project to exert a sustained, powerful influence on the community where it is undertaken. Does the project address an important gap of understanding or need? If the aim of the project is achieved, how will existing knowledge or practice be improved? What audience do the applicants hope to reach with this project? How many will participate? How will they be selected?</p>
<p>Degree of Alumni Involvement</p> <p>Projects must include the involvement of at least two (2) exchange alumni. More than two alumni may comprise the team; however, the minimum is two with one member assigned as the team lead. As the team leaders, the alumni must be closely involved in project planning, implementation, etc. Applicants should ensure that the proposal includes the following information for each alumni team member: first name, last name, exchange program, country of citizenship, roles and responsibilities, and degree of time spent on the project.</p>
<p>Participation and Support from Local Partners</p> <p>The proposal demonstrates buy-in and support from the community where the project will take place. Local partner involvement is a strong sign that there is community support and that the project will engage a broad array of experts, such as subject matter experts, community centers, academic institutions, businesses, local/national government, non-governmental organizations, American Spaces, etc.</p>

Monitoring and Evaluation of the Project

A monitoring & evaluation (M&E) plan is pivotal to project implementation and important tracking of progress towards the project's objectives and goals. An M&E plan should consider the data needed to effectively monitor progress toward specific outputs and outcomes as well as how that data collection will be accomplished. Well-crafted indicators should be used to understand a program's progress toward the desired results. An M&E plan should be reviewed for the following:

- Completeness
- Applicability and logic of objectives and indicators
- Clear approach to monitoring
- Adherence to SMART criteria
- Data quality plan
- Capacity to implement plan

Communication, Media, and Outreach Plan

The project should include a clear plan and timeline for how and when the team will share information about the project. It is important to ensure that the U.S. Embassy gets recognition throughout the process, if circumstances permit.

Budget and Budget Narrative

The budget and narrative justification are sufficiently detailed. Costs are reasonable in relation to the proposed activities and anticipated results. The budget is realistic, accounting for all necessary expenses to achieve proposed activities. The results and proposed outcomes justify the total cost of the project. Budget items are reasonable, allowable, and allocable.

2. Indirect Costs

If two or more applications receive equivalent scores based on the evaluation criteria outlined in this NOFO, preference will be given to the applicant with the lower indirect cost rate, as consistent with Executive Order 14332, Section 4(b)(iii). This preference will only be applied as a tie-breaking mechanism and does not supersede the primary evaluation criteria.

3. Review and Selection Process

- a. Acknowledgement of receipt. Applicants will receive acknowledgment of receipt of their proposal.
- b. Review. All submissions are screened for technical eligibility. **If a submission is missing any required forms/documents listed above in [Section D. Application Contents and Format](#), it will be considered ineligible and will not be reviewed by the grants review committee.** A technical review panel will review eligible proposals based upon the criteria noted in this NOFO.
- c. Follow up notification. Applicants will generally be notified no later than October 1, 2026 regarding the results of the review panel.

1. Risk Review

- i. Under the merit review as required by 2 CFR 200.206, prior to making a Federal Award the Department will review and consider the following risk factors:
 - a. Financial stability
 - b. Management systems and standards
 - c. History of performance
 - d. Audit reports and findings
 - e. Ability to effectively implement project requirements

ii. High Risk Designation

Awardees that are deemed to be high risk based on the above risk factors will be held to special award conditions. At a minimum, the recipient and/or project designated as High Risk will be required to submit monthly narrative reports and/or quarterly detailed financial reports. Recipients may also be required, upon request of the Grants Officer or Grants Officer Representative, to provide electronic copies of receipts or other supporting documentation (e.g., timesheets, travel documents) for costs incurred. The Grants Officer may withhold 10% of the award amount until final reports have been reviewed and approved by the GO. The recipient may be required to pay all salaries supported by the grant via electronic funds transfer. Other special award conditions may also be included if deemed appropriate by the Grants Officer.

G. AWARD NOTICES

The award or cooperative agreement will be written, signed, awarded, and administered by the Grants Officer. The award agreement is the authorizing document, and it will be provided to the recipient for review and counter-signature. The recipient may only start incurring project expenses beginning on the start date shown on the award document signed by the Grants Officer.

If a proposal is selected for funding, the Department of State has no obligation to provide any additional future funding. Renewal of an award to increase funding or extend the period of performance is at the discretion of the Department of State.

Issuance of this NOFO does not constitute an award commitment on the part of the U.S. government, nor does it commit the U.S. government to pay for costs incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals. Further, the U.S. government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals received.

Payment Method:

Recipients will be required to request payments by completing form SF-270—Request for Advance or Reimbursement and submitting the form to the Grants Officer and Grants Officer Representative.

Recipients may not draw down funds without the affirmative authorization of the Department of State. In addition, recipients must submit, with each SF-270 payment request, a detailed explanation justifying the request.

H. POST-AWARD REQUIREMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION

1. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

Before submitting an application, applicants should review all the terms and conditions and required certifications which will apply to this award, to ensure that they will be able to comply. These include:

In accordance with the Office of Management and Budget's guidance located at 2 CFR part 200, all applicable Federal laws, and relevant Executive guidance, the Department of State will review and consider applications for funding, as applicable to specific programs, pursuant to this notice of funding opportunity in accordance with the following:

- [Guidance for Grants and Agreements in Title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations \(2 CFR\)](#), as updated in the Federal Register's 89 FR 30046 on April 22, 2024, particularly on:
 - Selecting recipients most likely to be successful in delivering results based on the program objectives through an impartial process of evaluating Federal award applications (2 CFR part 200.205),
 - Promoting the freedom of speech and religious liberty in alignment with *Promoting Free Speech and Religious Liberty* (E.O. 13798) and *Improving Free Inquiry, Transparency, and Accountability at Colleges and Universities* (E.O. 13864) (§§ 200.300, 200.303, 200.339, and 200.341),
 - Providing a preference, to the extent permitted by law, to maximize use of goods, products, and materials produced in the United States (2 CFR part 200.322), and
 - Terminating agreements pursuant to the U.S. Department of State Standard Terms and Conditions, including, to the greatest extent authorized by law, if an award no longer effectuates the program goals or agency priorities (2 CFR part 200.340).
For the avoidance of doubt, the Department has sole discretion over the determination that an award no longer effectuates program goals or agency priorities, and this provision permits awards to be terminated at the Department's convenience, including when it determines that the award no longer advances the national interest.

- [2 CFR 25 - UNIVERSAL IDENTIFIER AND SYSTEM FOR AWARD MANAGEMENT](#)

- [2 CFR 170 - REPORTING SUBAWARD AND EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION INFORMATION](#)

- [2 CFR 175 - AWARD TERM FOR TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS](#)

- [2 CFR 182 - GOVERNMENTWIDE REQUIREMENTS FOR DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE \(FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE\)](#)
- [2 CFR 183 - NEVER CONTRACT WITH THE ENEMY](#)
- [2 CFR 600 – DEPARTMENT OF STATE REQUIREMENTS](#)
- [U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE STANDARD TERMS AND CONDITIONS](#)
- Recipients must comply with all applicable Executive Orders. A searchable list can be found in the Federal Register: <https://www.federalregister.gov/> .

2. *Reporting*

Reporting Requirements: Recipients will be required to submit financial reports and program reports. The award document will specify what reports are required and how often these reports must be submitted. *Note:* most recipients will be required to submit quarterly program progress and financial reports throughout the project period. The quarterly progress report must include updated M&E data for that quarter. Progress and financial reports are due 30 days after the reporting period. Final certified programmatic and financial reports are due 120 days after the close of the project period.

All reports are to be submitted electronically.

The Awardee must also provide the Embassy on an annual basis an inventory of all the U.S. government provided equipment using the SF428 form.

Foreign Assistance Data Review: As required by Congress, the Department of State must make progress in its efforts to improve tracking and reporting of foreign assistance data through the Foreign Assistance Data Review (FADR). The FADR requires tracking of foreign assistance activity data from budgeting, planning, and allocation through obligation and disbursement. Successful applicants will be required to report and draw down federal funding based on the appropriate FADR Data Elements, indicated within their award documentation. In cases of more than one FADR Data Element, typically program or sector and/or regions or country, the successful applicant will be required to maintain separate accounting records.

3. *Branding and Marking*

The Department of State, its programs, and U.S. Government funding and assistance should be easily identifiable to the Department's global audiences.

Recipients of federal assistance awards must follow the branding guidance published at Guidance for Contracts and Grants - U.S. Department of State Brand System. Branding policy exceptions are outlined in the U.S. Department of State Foreign Affairs Manual 10 FAM 416, Policy Exceptions. For more information, visit: <https://brand.america.gov/>

In addition to the Department of State branding guidance referenced above, recipients of new Public Diplomacy awards promoting Freedom 250 activities will also be required to incorporate the Freedom 250 logos in all program materials, activities, and communications.

The recipient will be expected to follow all existing marking and branding requirements in accordance with Department branding guidance. The Freedom 250 logos would be used in addition to, not in place of, these requirements.

I. OTHER INFORMATION

Guidelines for Budget Justification

Personnel and Fringe Benefits: Describe the wages, salaries, and benefits of temporary or permanent staff who will be working directly for the applicant on the program, and the percentage of their time that will be spent on the program.

Travel: Estimate the costs of travel and per diem for this program, for program staff, consultants or speakers, and participants/beneficiaries. If the program involves international travel, include a brief statement of justification for that travel.

Equipment: Describe any machinery, furniture, or other personal property that is required for the program, which has a useful life of more than one year (or a life longer than the duration of the program), and costs at least \$10,000 per unit.

Supplies: List and describe all the items and materials, including any computer devices, that are needed for the program. If an item costs more than \$10,000 per unit, then put it in the budget under Equipment.

Contractual: Describe goods and services that the applicant plans to acquire through a contract with a vendor. Also describe any sub-awards to non-profit partners that will help carry out the program activities.

Other Direct Costs: Describe other costs directly associated with the program, which do not fit in the other categories. For example, shipping costs for materials and equipment or applicable taxes. All “Other” or “Miscellaneous” expenses must be itemized and explained.

Indirect Costs: These are costs that cannot be linked directly to the program activities, such as overhead costs needed to help keep the organization operating. If your organization has a Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate (NICRA) and includes NICRA charges in the budget, attach a copy of your latest NICRA. Organizations that have never had a NICRA may request indirect costs of 15% of Modified Total Direct Costs (MTDC) as defined in [2 CFR 200.1](#).

“Cost Sharing” refers to contributions from the organization or other entities other than the U.S. Embassy. It also includes in-kind contributions such as volunteers’ time and donated venues.

Alcoholic Beverages: Please note that award funds cannot be used for alcoholic beverages and other entertainment related expenses.

STEP Enrollment

U.S. citizens who travel to Jordan are encouraged to enroll in the Department of State's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) available at: <https://step.state.gov/step/>. Enrollment enables citizens to receive security-related messages from the Embassy and makes it easier for us to locate you in an emergency. The Embassy also recommends that all travelers review the State Department's [travel website at travel.state.gov](https://travel.state.gov) for the [Travel Warnings](#), Travel Alerts, and Jordan Specific Information.