

U.S. Department of State
Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation, Office of Cooperative Threat Reduction
(ISN/CTR)
Notice of Funding Opportunity

Funding Opportunity Title:	Strengthening International Nonproliferation Norms
Announcement Type:	Cooperative Agreement – Initial
Funding Opportunity Number:	SFOP0006253
Deadline for Applications:	January 31, 2020
Funding Available:	\$2,000,000

ELIGIBILITY

The following organizations are eligible to apply (both domestic and international):

- *Not-for-profit organizations*
- *Public and private educational institutions*
- *For-profit organizations*
- *Public International Organizations*

Cost Sharing or Matching

Providing cost sharing, matching or cost participation is not an eligibility requirement for this Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) though ISN/CTR does encourage such approaches. Applicants are encouraged to include third-party contributions in their proposals but applicants who do not demonstrate cost-sharing or matching approaches will not be penalized.

Other Special Eligibility Criteria

Not Applicable.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For assistance with the requirements of this solicitation, please contact:

CTRSpecialProjectsProposals@state.gov

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Department of State's Office of Cooperative Threat Reduction (ISN/CTR) is pleased to announce an open competition for assistance awards through this Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). ISN/CTR invites non-profit/non-governmental organizations and educational institutions to submit proposals for projects that will advance the mission of the Department's Office of Cooperative Threat Reduction (CTR). ISN/CTR prefers projects that cost less than \$300,000 though awards may involve multiple projects that cumulatively exceed \$500,000. All applications and submission costs are at the Applicants' expense. ISN/CTR will not pay for any costs incurred in preparation of the applications.

II. BACKGROUND AND PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

ISN/CTR sponsors foreign assistance activities funded by the Nonproliferation, Anti-terrorism, Demining and Related Programs (NADR) account, and focuses on mitigating proliferation and security risks from state and non-state actors.

The world has recently seen the asymmetric use of weapons of mass destruction, including proliferator state use of chemical and radiological weapons as tools of assassination, accompanied by active measures to spread disinformation and undermine various nonproliferation regimes. When deterrence and accountability fail, it lowers the costs to use of WMD. To that, ISN/CTR seeks to deter asymmetric WMD use, increase accountability, and disrupt malign influence campaigns.

ISN/CTR seeks programmatic proposals supporting the following lines of effort:

Deter Asymmetric WMD Usage:

- Build Foreign Partner Capacity to Deter Asymmetric Dissemination of WMD Agents: Organizing subject matter expert-led trainings, regional workshops, and table top exercises to promote inter-ministerial and inter-governmental coordination aimed at deterring the asymmetric dissemination of WMD materials.
- Promote Foreign Partner Capacity to Detect, Disrupt, and Respond to WMD Plots: Ensuring relevant public health, law enforcement, and other security sector personnel coordination to identify, disrupt, and prevent asymmetric WMD dissemination. Strengthening technical capabilities of foreign entities to detect, report, and respond to the usage of WMD in ways that mitigate the harm to first responders. Strengthen linkages between foreign governments and international nonproliferation organizations.

Strengthening International Nonproliferation Organizations:

- Increase Foreign Partners' Capacity to Prevent Efforts by Proliferator State Actors to Undermine WMD Detection and Reporting Legitimacy: Hardening evidentiary and analytical chains of custody for suspected chemical, biological, and radiological samples, supporting technical trainings, enhancing relevant security measures, and promoting capacity to respond to malign nonproliferation-related influence campaigns.

Disrupt Malign Influence Campaigns:

- Enhance Partner Countries Capacity to Identify and Prevent State-Based Efforts to Undermine Nonproliferation Norms: Organizing subject matter expert-led trainings, regional workshops, and table top exercises to train key regional partners to reinforce the importance of nonproliferation regimes, and to identify and halt proliferator state efforts to undermine nonproliferation initiatives.

Countries of interest for engagement could include the following with a focus on states that could be vulnerable to exploitation by malign actors to include, but is not limited to:

- Europe (Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Kosovo, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Turkey, and Ukraine);

- South and Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan);
- Middle East and North Africa (Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, and Tunisia);
- East Asia and the Pacific (India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Marshall Islands, Mongolia, Thailand, and Vietnam);
- Africa (Angola, Cameroon, Central Africa Republic, Ethiopia, Guinea, Liberia, Niger, and Democratic Republic of Congo); and
- the Western Hemisphere (Antigua and Barbados, Argentina, Bahamas, Bermuda, Brazil, British Virgin Islands, Costa Rica, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines).

Objectives

By the end of the award's period of performance, the recipient will have successfully developed and implemented a project to advance one or more of the following ISN/CTR objectives:

- Enhance foreign partners' ability to identify and disrupt malign influence campaigns that undermine nonproliferation norms.
- Enhance foreign partners' ability to detect and authoritatively report on asymmetric dissemination of WMD material.
- Enhance foreign partner capability to deter asymmetric dissemination of WMD material through robust inter-ministerial and inter-governmental coordination, policy and technical developments.

III. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Eligibility is limited to not-for-profit organizations subject to 501 (c) (3) of the tax code, for-profit organizations, and educational institutions. Direct funding for both U.S. and non-U.S. organizations is available under this announcement.

IV. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Award Period: 12 months.

Award Amount: ISN/CTR prefers projects that cost less than \$300,000 though awards may involve multiple projects that cumulatively exceed \$500,000. ISN/CTR will prioritize proposals that efficiently meet NOFO and programmatic goals in a cost effective manner.

Application Submission Process: Applicants should submit project proposals electronically using Grants.gov. Thorough instructions on the Grants.gov application process are available at <http://www.grants.gov>. For questions relating to Grants.gov, please call the Grants.gov Contact Center at 1-800-518-4726.

Application Deadline: The deadline is 11:59PM EST on January 31, 2020. Begin the application process early, as this will allow time to address any technical difficulties that may arise.

All applicants must register with Grants.gov prior to submitting an application. Registering with Grants.gov is a one-time process; however, it could take as long as two weeks to have the registration validated and confirmed. Please begin the registration process immediately to ensure that the process is completed. Until that process is complete, you will not be issued a user password for Grants.gov, which is required for application submission. There are four steps that you must complete before you are able to register: (1) Obtain a Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number from Dun & Bradstreet (if your organization does not have one already) by calling 1-866-705-5711; (2) Register with Central Contractor Registry (CCR); (3) Register yourself as an Authorized Organization Representative (AOR); and (4) Be authorized as an AOR by your organization. For more information, go to www.grants.gov. Please note that your CCR registration must be annually renewed. Failure to renew your CCR registration may prohibit submission of an application through Grants.gov. Application Content: Applicants must follow the NOFO instructions and conditions contained herein and supply all information required. Failure to furnish all information or comply with stated requirements will result in disqualification from the competition. Applicants must set forth full, accurate, and complete information as required by this NOFO. The penalty for making false statements in proposals to the U.S. government is prescribed on 18 U.S.C.1001.

The completed submission must consist of the following four parts:

Section 1 - Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424):

This form is part of the NOFO proposal package:

Section 2 – Consolidated Project List

This outlines the individual project proposals within your overall proposal submission

Section 3 – Project Proposal(s):

Using the provided template, the applicant must provide a completed project proposal. The proposal form must be completed in its entirety and clearly specify the proposed scope, deliverables, and timeline. Applicants must specify a point of contact for each project that is proposed.

Section 4 - Budget:

Also using the provided project proposal template, applicants must provide a budget for the project. The budget must identify the total amount of funding requested, with a breakdown of amounts to be spent in the following budget categories:

- Personnel and fringe benefits;
- Travel;
- Equipment and supplies;
- Contractual services;

- Construction;
- Other direct costs; and
- Indirect costs

Applicants must adhere to the requirements of the Federal Travel Regulation (FTR), including Fly America Act requirements, when proposing and conducting travel. For further information and current foreign per diem rates, please visit: https://aoprals.state.gov/web920/per_diem.asp

V. AWARD SELECTION CRITERIA

Applicants should note that the following criteria serve as a standard against which all project proposals will be evaluated and identify significant considerations that should be addressed in all proposals. ISN/CTR will award a cooperative agreement to the applicant whose offer represents the best overall value to the government from both a technical and cost perspective.

ISN/CTR will evaluate proposals against the stated criteria. Criteria are listed in descending order of importance.

- **Proposed Activity or Activities:** Applicants should clearly describe what they propose to do and how they will do it. The proposed project(s) must directly relate to meeting the specified objectives and applicants should include specific information on how they will systematically meet ISN/CTR's global threat reduction mission. ISN/CTR will evaluate the project proposal in terms of how well it addresses the issues at hand, relevance and feasibility of the proposed activities, the timeline for completion, and the extent to which the impact of the project will continue beyond the conclusion of the period of performance.
- **Organizational Capability:** Applicants must demonstrate how their resources, capabilities, and experience will enable them to achieve the stated goals and objectives in an international technical context. The proposal(s) must identify all key partners and organizations that will be involved in implementation of this project.
- **Budget:** Proposed costs will be evaluated for feasibility, fiscal control practices, and efficiency. ISN/CTR must be able to determine that proposed costs are reasonable, allowable, and allocable to the proposed project activities. ISN/CTR will evaluate the budget to determine if the overall costs are realistic for the work to be performed, if the costs reflect the applicant's understanding of the allowable cost principles established by OMB Circulars A-122 and/or A-21, and if the costs are consistent with the program narrative.
- **Past Performance:** In reviewing proposals, ISN/CTR will evaluate the organization's past performance on other federal and non-federal grants and cooperative agreements, including prior performance for ISN/CTR. This will include a review of whether objectives for past awards were met; whether the organization complied with the terms of conditions of past awards, including reporting and financial management requirements; and the timeliness of project implementation.

- **Impactful and Measurable Engagements:** Although complex nonproliferation objectives demand persistent engagement with partner countries, discrete projects should individually advance progress toward a particular objective. Proposals should describe the end-state the project aims to achieve, along with specific, measurable, and realistic benchmarks by which to gauge progress toward that end-state. Compelling project proposals will establish milestones to be met during the training period, and describe observable progress in the adoption, implementation, or enhancement of nonproliferation or sanctions enforcement and compliance best practices.
- **Cyber Security:** Recipients and subcontractors are required to maintain NIST 800 IT Security Standards – (e.g. protective measures that are commensurate with the consequences and probability of loss, misuse, or unauthorized access to, or modification of information) on all covered information systems, and to report cyber incidents directly to the grantor within 48 hours of the incident. Proposals must describe the applicant’s computer and cyber security practices and capabilities.

VI. AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

Award Notices:

ISN/CTR will provide a separate notification to applicants on the result of their applications. Successful applicants may receive a letter electronically via email requesting that the applicant respond to review panel conditions and recommendations (if applicable). This notification is not an authorization to begin activities and does not constitute formal approval or a funding commitment.

At this point, ISN/CTR will provide additional guidance on the specific countries where the proposed activities will occur.

Final approval is contingent upon the applicant successfully responding to the review panel’s conditions and recommendations (if applicable), being registered in required systems, including the U.S. government’s Payment Management System (PMS), unless an exemption is provided, and completing and providing any additional documents requested by ISN/CTR or AQM. Final approval is also contingent on Congressional notification requirements being met and final review and approval by the Department’s warranted grants officer. All awards will also be assessed for risk prior to their issuance.

An award agreement shall be written, signed, awarded, and administered by the Grants Officer. The Grants Officer is the Government official delegated the authority by the U.S. Department of State Procurement Executive to write, award, and administer grants and cooperative agreements. The award agreement is the authorizing document and it will be provided to the Recipient through SAMS Domestic.

Anticipated Time to Award: Applicants should expect to be notified of the recommended concepts within 30 days after the submission. Following this initial notification, selected

applicants will be expected to submit a full application within 30 days. ISN/CTR staff will provide information at the point of notification about the requirements for the full application, which may include revisions to the activities. The full applications will not be subject to further competition, but must incorporate any suggested changes made by ISN/CTR.

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

Project Implementation Meeting: The recipient should expect to have a pre-project implementation meeting with ISN/CTR within thirty days after the cooperative agreement is awarded and before any work is performed for the award.

Reporting Requirements: As a cooperative agreement, reporting and deliverable requirements for this project exceed those of typical grants administered by ISN/CTR. Applicants should pay special attention to these enhanced reporting and deliverable requirements. Specifically:

- Using a template provided by ISN/CTR, the Recipient shall submit quarterly progress reports to the designated Grants Officer Representative (GOR) detailing:
 - Assistance activities conducted during the reporting period;
 - Milestones and successes achieved to date;
 - Key assistance activities remaining to be implemented with a projected timetable;
 - Details of any problems encountered with proposed solutions; and
 - Any other pertinent information requested by ISN/CTR.
- The Recipient shall provide the GOR with copies of all materials developed under this cooperative agreement.
- In addition to regular quarterly reports, the Recipient shall furnish the GOR with ad hoc reports as requested from time to time.

In addition to the above, the Recipient shall submit quarterly financial reports throughout the project period. Financial reports are due 30 days after the reporting period. Final programmatic and financial reports are due 90 days after the close of the project period.

VII. DISCLAIMER

Organizations that submit applications in response to this announcement acknowledge and accept all of the requirements contained herein. All submissions in response to this announcement are voluntary and do not obligate the Department of State to fund any application or application preparation costs. Renewal of an award to increase funding or extend the period of performance is at the discretion of the Department of State and will be based upon the availability of funds.