



The U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) and the Office of Sudan Affairs (OSA) announce the launch of the **2026 Alumni Engagement Innovation Fund (AEIF) competition.**

**AEIF** provides alumni of U.S. government-sponsored exchange programs the opportunity to expand on skills gained during their exchange experiences and develop innovative public service-oriented projects that support U.S. foreign policy priorities. ***In fiscal year 2026, all AEIF proposals must celebrate and promote the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of America’s independence, and projects must align with the U.S. administration priorities of promoting peace, security, and mutual prosperity.***

This year, OSA is prioritizing proposals with objectives that focus on the following goals:

- Promote and celebrate American leadership by highlighting American values, music, literature, sports, etc.
- Promote media capacity building with a focus on prioritizing truth and defending freedom of speech

- Promote and celebrate America’s leadership in energy, technology, science, and cybersecurity

Proposals generally should be in the range of **\$5,000 to \$35,000** and must include the involvement of *at least two alumni*.

**Note:** Applications must have a full project description, including a detailed narrative that outlines the plan of action and describes the scope of the proposed work and how it will be accomplished. Applicants must also complete and submit a detailed budget (using the required templates) with all program costs.

Project proposals and budgets are to be submitted **in English only** to the OSA public diplomacy section at the following email address:

**[KhartoumEmbassyGrants@state.gov](mailto:KhartoumEmbassyGrants@state.gov)**.

**Applications will be reviewed based on their completeness, coherence, clarity, and attention to detail.**

Project and budget periods: Projects must be completed in one year or less.

**Deadline: Proposals should be submitted no later than April 20, 2026.**

Alumni applicants should expect to be notified of the decision within two to three months after submission.

Inspiration for project proposals can be found at [alumni.state.gov/aeif](http://alumni.state.gov/aeif) by clicking on the links for previous winning teams and AEIF success stories. Please review the attached sample AEIF project examples document.

Please note that final project selection is conducted by ECA’s Office of Alumni Affairs.