

**Frequently Asked Questions
IO-CPIF-FY23-DFOP0016772
PRC Activities in International Organizations**

Q: Is a joint application allowed?

A: Yes, a joint application is allowed. However, the grant is made to only one organization or individual as follows:

When the parties in the joint application are part of the same university, organization, or research institution, the grant would be to the parent organization and the budget would include costs associated with each researcher or organization and their activities.

If the parties share no organization in common, the grant would be to one individual or organization as the lead. The partners in the project would be sub-awards. This is analogous to treating the other participating parties as subcontractors.

There are several requirements for this type of award:

- The lead grantee must play a substantive role in the execution of the project (i.e., it cannot be a pass-through entity that only exists to channel funds to the subaward organization.)
- There must be a written agreement between the lead and the sub-awardee(s).
- Provisions that apply to the lead also apply to all sub-awardees, such as requirements for prior approval before substantive changes to the project. These requirements would be managed through the relationship between the Grants Officer and the lead grantee. The sub-awardees would work through the lead grantee to make changes to the project.
- Financial processes would be handled through the lead grantee. Payments would be made to the lead, who would be responsible under the terms of the written agreement between the parties to make payments to the sub-awardees. The Grants Officer must approve those arrangements in advance to ensure they comply with U.S. Government requirements.

Budget narratives for a joint application should clearly delineate which costs associated with the lead grantee and for each sub-award.

Q: How is the “benefitting country” requirement evaluated?

A: The main factor in determining the benefitting country is the subject of the study. The subject must include at least one of the benefitting countries but does not need to be constrained to only those countries listed.

Another factor is the relationship between the grantee and the benefitting country or countries. For example, the Merit Review Panel will consider factors such as the nationality of the researcher(s), the location of the grantee institution, and the affiliations of the researcher(s) with an institution in one of the benefitting countries. This is not an exhaustive list, however. If the relationship is not obvious, the proposal should address the relationship of the researchers and research topic to the benefitting countries, and a determination will be made during the merit review process.

A relationship to the benefitting countries does not have to be satisfied for every person involved in the project. However, the degree to which it can be demonstrated that the researchers, institutions, and the subjects of the study meet the benefitting countries criteria is one of the merit review factors and is a component of the overall ranking of the proposal.

Please submit additional questions via email to IO-Funding@groups.state.gov.