Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)

Ensuring Resilient Seafood Supply Chains: Countering Forced Labor and any associated Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing

Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor - Department of State

Opportunity number: DFOP0019538

Application deadline: **September 3, 2026 at 23:59:59 EST**

Contents

U.S Department of State
Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor
Notice of Funding Opportunity

A. Basic Information

1. Overview

Funding Opportunity Title	Ensuring Resilient Seafood Supply Chains: Countering Forced Labor and any associated Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing
Funding Opportunity Number	DFOP0019538
Announcement Type	Initial Announcement
Deadline for Applications	September 3, 2026, at 23:59:59 EST
Assistance Listing Number	19.345
Length of performance period	24 months
Number of awards anticipated	One award
Award amounts	$1,973,359
Total available funding	$1,973,359
Type of Funding	FY25 Democracy Fund
Anticipated project start date	September 30, 2026

Funding Instrument Type: Grant

Project Performance Period: Proposed projects should be completed in 24 months or less.

This notice is subject to availability of funding.

2. Executive Summary

Priority Region: EAP, WHA, excluding Philippines and Indonesia

Executive Summary

This program will counter forced labor in seafood supply chains associated with countries that have signed Agreements on Reciprocal Trade (ART) in East Asia and the Pacific (excluding Indonesia and the Philippines) and the Western Hemisphere, as well as other strategically important countries and prospective ART partners where engagement advances U.S. economic, trade, and maritime interests. The program will leverage global data sources and innovative analysis technologies to identify, scrape, verify, analyze, and then publicly disseminate information on forced labor abuses and any related IUU fishing activities across the seafood supply chain. Activities may use satellite monitoring of fishing fleets, investigating seafood harvesting and processing operations, documenting and verifying labor violations, supporting data-driven advocacy and accountability efforts, and engaging civil society, industry, and government stakeholders to strengthen detection, prevention, and remediation mechanisms across the seafood supply chain. By increasing transparency and accountability in global seafood supply chains, the program will help combat unfair competition, support responsible business practices, protect marine resources, and reinforce a level playing field for the U.S. seafood sector.

B. Eligibility

1. Eligible Applicants

The following organizations are eligible to apply*:*

- U.S.-based non-profit organizations/nongovernmental organizations (NGOs)
- Foreign organizations/NGOs
- Private or public institutions of higher education
- For-profit organizations or businesses

The Department of State does not allow for-profit or commercial organizations to make a profit from its assistance awards. Profit is defined as any amount more than allowable direct and indirect costs. The allowability of costs for commercial organizations is determined by the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) at 48 CFR 30, Cost Accounting Standards Administration, and 48 CFR 31 Contract Cost Principles and Procedures.

2. Cost Sharing or Matching

Providing cost sharing, matching, or cost participation is not required for this NOFO and will not improve competitive ranking of an application. Any budget items proposed for cost share must be allowable per 2 CFR 200, Subpart E—Cost Principles.

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 D.3 for more information. Individuals are not required to have a UEI or be registered in SAM.gov.

Applicants are only allowed to submit one proposal per organization. If more than one proposal is submitted from an organization, all proposals from that institution will be considered ineligible for funding.

C. Program Description

1. Goals and Objectives

Illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing and forced labor across the seafood supply chain, including seafood harvesting and processing**,** are interconnected challenges that undermine sustainable fisheries management, distort global markets, threaten marine ecosystems, and create unfair competition for law-abiding businesses, including U.S. seafood producers. The program will focus on East Asia and the Pacific (excluding Indonesia and the Philippines) and Western Hemisphere countries that have signed Agreements on Reciprocal Trade (ARTs) with the United States, while also allowing for engagement in additional countries within these regions that advance U.S. strategic interests and program objectives, including countries with prospective ART agreements. In these regions, weak enforcement, opaque supply chains, limited transparency, and insufficient accountability mechanisms allow illicit actors to profit from exploitative labor practices and IUU fishing activities while evading detection and remediation. These practices harm vulnerable workers, contribute to resource depletion, and undermine responsible economic development and legitimate trade. Both IUU fishing and forced labor enable illicit actors to artificially lower production costs, distort global seafood markets, and disadvantage law-abiding producers and businesses, including those operating within the United States.

The United States has a strong interest in promoting transparent, market-oriented seafood supply chains that are free from forced labor and seafood caught by IUU fishing. Strengthening detection, documentation, and accountability mechanisms can help reduce market distortions, support responsible businesses, improve compliance with labor and fisheries laws, and advance broader U.S. economic, trade, and maritime security interests. Emerging data sources and technologies, including satellite monitoring, public vessel tracking systems, artificial intelligence-enabled data analysis, web scraping, and digital reporting tools, create new opportunities to identify, verify, and expose illicit practices across seafood supply chains and support more effective remediation and enforcement efforts.

In the absence of effective monitoring and accountability mechanisms, malign actors, including state-linked entities operating with limited transparency and weak labor and environmental standards, can gain competitive advantages that undermine responsible businesses and weaken the effectiveness of U.S. economic engagement. Targeted assistance is therefore needed to strengthen effective monitoring and analysis tools that expose forced labor across the seafood supply chain, increase transparency across seafood supply chains, improve stakeholder capacity to identify and respond to abuses, and inform punitive actions to hold perpetrators accountable while protecting U.S. seafood sector equities.

Program Goal: Increase transparency, accountability, and compliance in seafood harvesting and processing sectors in ART partner countries in East Asia and the Pacific (excluding Indonesia and the Philippines) and the Western Hemisphere, as well as other strategically important countries and prospective ART partners where engagement advances U.S. interests. This will be achieved by strengthening the detection, prevention, and remediation of forced labor in the seafood supply chain, including in vessel-based fishing operations, seafood processing, and other seafood supply chain activities, with particular attention to risks associated with illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing where applicable, through innovative analysis, data-driven advocacy, and multi-stakeholder engagement, thereby supporting fair competition, a resilient seafood supply chain, and U.S. economic and maritime interests.

Objective 1: Strengthen detection, monitoring, and public reporting of forced labor in the seafood supply chain, including vessel-based fishing operations, seafood harvesting, seafood processing, and associated IUU fishing activities where applicable.

Illustrative activities:

- Developing cutting-edge systems to identify, scrape, aggregate, analyze, and verify data related to forced labor risks and incidents both on the water and in post-harvest activities.
- Using satellite imagery, vessel tracking data, artificial intelligence tools, open-source intelligence, and other digital technologies to identify suspicious fishing activities, labor abuses, and other indicators of forced labor risk across the seafood supply chain.
- Producing public-facing reports, dashboards, risk assessments, and analytical products that document trends, hotspots, actors, and patterns of suspected abuse.
- Supporting independent verification methodologies and data quality assurance mechanisms to strengthen the credibility and usability of collected information.

Objective 2: Increase the capacity of civil society, labor rights organizations, investigative researchers, and other stakeholders to identify, document, and respond to forced labor abuses in the seafood supply chain.

Illustrative activities:

- Providing training on innovative monitoring tools, evidence collection, data analysis, investigative methodologies, and secure documentation practices.
- Supporting local organizations to document labor abuses, labor recruitment risks, and fisheries-related violations.
- Developing secure reporting and referral mechanisms for workers, fishers, whistleblowers, and affected communities.
- Facilitating collaboration among labor rights organizations, environmental organizations, investigative journalists, and other relevant stakeholders engaged in accountability efforts.

Objective 3: Strengthen market-based accountability and remediation mechanisms that incentivize responsible business conduct and reduce the competitiveness of seafood products linked to forced labor, including links to IUU fishing where applicable.

Illustrative activities:

- Developing tools, risk assessments, and due diligence resources that enable seafood importers, processors, retailers, and other market actors to identify, assess, and mitigate forced labor risks in their supply chain.
- Supporting the creation or enhancement of traceability systems, supplier monitoring frameworks, and transparency mechanisms that improve visibility into seafood sourcing practices.

- Producing targeted analyses and public reporting that identify high-risk actors, vessels, fleets, recruitment networks, processing facilities, or supply chain nodes associated with forced labor or IUU fishing.
- Facilitating engagement among seafood industry stakeholders, worker organizations, civil society organizations, and relevant government entities to strengthen remediation pathways and encourage corrective actions.
- Supporting initiatives that incentivize responsible sourcing practices and reward companies that demonstrate compliance with labor standards and fisheries management measures.
- Promoting information-sharing among stakeholders to improve market responses to identified risks and strengthen accountability throughout the seafood supply chain.

Expected outcomes may include:

- Increased identification and verification of forced labor, including links to IUU fishing where applicable, across the seafood supply chain.
- Enhanced public availability of credible data and analysis related to the seafood supply chain.
- Strengthened capacity of civil society and other stakeholders to monitor and document abuses.
- Increased adoption of responsible sourcing, traceability, and due diligence practices by seafood industry actors.
- Improved engagement among industry, civil society, and government stakeholders on accountability and remediation efforts.
- Improved transparency and accountability across the seafood supply chain.
- Strengthened efforts to address forced labor and IUU fishing practices that undermine fair competition, sustainable fisheries management, and responsible business conduct.

In addition, competitive proposals will meet the following criteria:

Applicants should propose clear performance indicators, targets, baseline data, and data collection methodologies appropriate to the local operating environment and aligned with program objectives.

Target beneficiaries and participants may include seafood workers, fishers, labor rights organizations, environmental organizations, investigative journalists, researchers, supply chain monitoring organizations, industry stakeholders, and civil society organizations operating in ART partner countries in East Asia and the Pacific (excluding Indonesia and the Philippines) and the Western Hemisphere, as well as other strategically significant countries and prospective ART partners where activities advance U.S. economic, trade, and maritime interests. Applicants should demonstrate experience working on labor rights, seafood supply chain transparency, fisheries governance, supply chain transparency, anti-trafficking, anti-corruption, or related issues.

Applicants should budget for all program-related costs necessary to implement proposed activities, which may include technology development and maintenance, data acquisition and analysis, research and documentation, trainings, workshops, exchanges, stakeholder convenings, translation and interpretation, outreach materials, monitoring and evaluation, and travel costs where appropriate.

Proposed activities should comply with applicable U.S. Government regulations, policies, and award requirements, including restrictions related to allowable costs, participant support, and subawarding. Activities should incorporate appropriate safeguards to protect workers, whistleblowers, researchers, and other participants who may face legal, security, or retaliation risks associated with documenting and exposing forced labor and IUU fishing practices.

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 pages are numbered
- All documents are formatted to fit 8 ½ x 11 paper, and
- All Microsoft Word documents are single-spaced, 12 point Times New Roman font, with a minimum of 1-inch margins.

The following documents are **required**:

1. Mandatory application forms

- SF-424 (Application for Federal Assistance – organizations)
- SF-424A (Budget Information for Non-Construction programs)
- SF-424B (Assurances for Non-Construction programs)

2. Summary Page (optional)

Cover sheet stating the applicant's name and organization, proposal date, program title, program period proposed start and end date, and brief purpose of the program.

3. Proposal Narrative (15 pages maximum)

The proposal should contain sufficient information that anyone not familiar with it would understand exactly what the applicant wants to do. You may use your own proposal format, but it must include all the items below.

- **Proposal Summary:** Short narrative that outlines the proposed project, including project objectives and anticipated impact.

- **Introduction to the Organization or 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.
- **Problem Statement:** Clear, concise and well-supported statement of the problem to be addressed and why the proposed program is needed
- **Project Goals and Objectives:** 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.
- **Project Activities**: Describe the program activities and how they will help achieve the objectives.
- **Project Methods and Design**: A description of how the program is expected to work to solve the stated problem and achieve the goal. Include a logic model as appropriate.
- **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:** Resumes are not required at this time. Instead, provide only the selection criteria your program will apply throughout the grant period of performance when filling key positions.
- **Project Partners:** List the names and type of involvement of key partner organizations and sub-awardees.
- **Project Monitoring and Evaluation Plan:** This is an important part of successful grants. Throughout the timeframe of the grant, how will the activities be monitored to ensure they are happening in a timely manner, and how will the program be evaluated to make sure it is meeting the goals of the grant?
- **Future Funding or Sustainability:** Applicant's plan for continuing the program beyond the grant period, or the availability of other resources, if applicable.

4. Budget Justification Narrative

After filling out the SF-424A Budget (above), use a separate file to describe each of the budget expenses in detail. See section *I. Other Information: Guidelines for Budget Submissions* below for further information.

5. *Attachments*

- A line-item budget, expanding upon the summary categories found in the SF-424A. Subgrantee budgets, if known at time of submission, should also be included as tabs (please see template attached to NOFO).
- Key personnel position descriptions. Resumes are not required at this time. Instead, provide only the selection criteria your program will apply throughout the grant period of performance when filling key positions.
- Letters of support from program partners describing the roles and responsibilities of each partner.
- If your organization has a Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA) and includes NICRA charges in the budget, include your latest NICRA as a PDF file.
- Official permission letters, if required for program activities.
- Other documents a required listed below:

Successful applicant(s) may be required to submit the following documents prior to award. Please **do not** include any of these documents in your application.

Organizational Policies

- o Personnel Policy
- o Employee Handbook
- o Travel Polices
- o Procurement Polices
- o Sub-Award Manual
- o Sample Sub-Award Agreement (if applicable Financial Management Policies/ SOP)
- o Completion of the Financial Management Survey

E. Submission Requirements and Deadlines

1. Address to Request Application Package

Application forms required above are available at grants.gov and MyGrants.

2. Department of State Contacts

If you have any questions about the grant application process, please contact: DRL-PRU-Solicitation@state.gov

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

Required Registrations

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 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. <u>Please begin your registration as early as possible</u>.

- 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.

Organizations based outside of the United States and that DO plan to do business with the DoD in addition to Department of State should follow the below instructions:

Step 1: Apply for an NCAGE code by following the instructions on the NSPA NATO website linked below:

NCAGE Homepage:
https://eportal.nspa.nato.int/AC135Public/sc/CageList.aspx
NCAGE Code Request Tool (NCRT):
NCAGE Code Request Tool (nato.int)

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.

4. Submission Dates and Times

Applications are due no later than **Thursday, September 3, 2026 at 23:59:59 EST.**

5. *Funding Restrictions*

i. 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).

ii. Prohibition on Funding Activities that Encourage Mass-Migration Caravans towards the United States Southwest Border:

None of the funds awarded under this grant may be made available to encourage, mobilize, publicize, or manage mass-migration caravans towards the United States southwest border. Funds may not be made available for legal counseling on the United States asylum process; and/or for referrals to legal representation in the United States.

Funds may only be used for cash cards for use in the country in which they are provided or to facilitate assisted voluntary returns and other purposes that do not encourage, mobilize, publicize, or manage mass migration caravans towards the United States southwest border. The provision of humanitarian assistance is permitted.

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:

1) 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;

2) 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 Regarding Compliance with 20 U.S.C. 1011f and any other applicable foreign funding disclosure requirements (only include in NOFOs in which Institutes of Higher Education (IHEs) are an eligible applicant type or potential subrecipient).

Applicants are advised that IHEs must certify the following at the time of award, and that this certification requirement must be included in any subaward agreements to IHEs:

1) Its compliance in all respects with section 1011f of title 20, United States Code, and any other applicable foreign funding disclosure requirements is material for purposes of section 3729 of title 31, United States Code, and for receipt of appropriate Federal grant funds.

v. 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 <u>for awards where the estimated value of services to be performed outside the United States exceeds $500,000:</u>

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1) 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);

   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).

2) 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.

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 their website and at the workplace. Recipients must re-certify on an annual basis for the entire award period of performance.

vi. Prohibition on Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS). If your project involves the purchase or use of an UAS, see this link for requirements and information you must include in your application.

vii. Promoting Human Flourishing in Foreign Assistance (PHFFA)

Applicants for foreign assistance awards should be aware of requirements in 2 CFR Part 602, 603, and 604.

These policies are referred to collectively as the Promoting Human Flourishing in Foreign Assistance (PHFFA) Policy.

602: The award term imposes certain abortion-related requirements on foreign nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), United States NGOs, public international organizations, foreign governments, and parastatals.

603: The award term imposes certain requirements relating to gender ideology on foreign nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), United States NGOs, international organizations, foreign governments, and parastatals.

604: The award term imposes certain requirements relating to discriminatory equity ideology on foreign nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), United States NGOs, international organizations, foreign governments, and parastatals.

The Department recognizes there are costs associated with these policies. Potential one-time and recurring costs the Department identifies for recipients and grantees are for familiarization with the policy, development and delivery of organizational training and implementation guidance, routine compliance monitoring, and recordkeeping and reporting requirements.

6. *Other Submission Requirements*

Applications may be submitted electronically through www.Grants.gov or MyGrants.

F. Application Review Information

1. *Review Criteria*

Each application will be evaluated and rated based on the evaluation criteria outlined below.

Quality and Feasibility of the Program Idea: The program idea is well developed, with detail about how program activities will be carried out. The proposal includes a reasonable implementation timeline. The proposal does not include any activities contrary to any standing Executive Orders. For a full list, see https://www.federalregister.gov/.

Organizational Capacity and Record on Previous Grants: The organization has expertise in its stated field and has the internal controls in place to manage federal funds. This includes a financial management system and a bank account. If sub-awards are proposed, applicant demonstrates experience managing subawards.

Program Planning/Ability to Achieve Objectives: Goals and objectives are clearly stated and program approach is likely to provide maximum impact in achieving the proposed results.

Budget: The budget justification is 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.

Monitoring and evaluation plan: Applicant demonstrates it is able to measure program success against key indicators and provides milestones to indicate progress toward goals outlined in the proposal. The program includes output and outcome indicators and shows how and when those will be measured.

Sustainability: Program activities will continue to have positive impact after the end of the program.

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 review committee will evaluate all eligible applications.

4. Risk Review

i. Risk factors

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 requirements
f. If there are any program specific risk factors that will be considered, describe them here.

ii. Responsibility/Qualification Information in SAM.gov

The Federal awarding agency, prior to making a Federal award with a total amount of Federal share greater than the simplified acquisition threshold, is required to review and consider any information about the applicant that is in the U.S. government designated integrity and performance system accessible through SAM.gov (see 41 U.S.C. 2313)

An applicant can review and comment on any information in the responsibility/qualification records available in SAM.gov.

Before making decisions in the risk review required by 2 CFR 200.206, the Department will consider any comments by the applicant, along with information available in the responsibility/qualification records in SAM.gov.

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.

Unsuccessful applicants: Unsuccessful applicants will be notified by via email.

Payment Method:

Payments under this award will be made through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Payment Management System (PMS).

Recipients may not draw down funds without the affirmative authorization of the Department of State. In addition, recipients must submit, with each PMS 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.

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.

Applicants should be aware of the post award reporting requirements reflected in 2 CFR 200 Appendix XII—Award Term and Condition for Recipient Integrity and Performance Matters.

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/

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 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.