

NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY (NOFO)
Bureau of Counterterrorism (CT)
U.S. Department of State

Announcement Type:	New Announcement
Funding Opportunity Title:	PROACT: Community-Based Intervention Program
Assistance Listing:	19.701
Funding Amount:	\$2,250,000
Number of Awards:	One (1)
Cost Sharing Requirement:	Not Required
Assistance Type:	Cooperative Agreement
Funding Type:	Discretionary
Authority:	Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 as amended
Source of Funding	Economic Support Funds (ESF)
Funding Activity Category:	Other
NOFO Issuance Date:	June 5, 2019
Closing Date for Submission of Applications:	Complete proposal packages must be submitted through www.grants.gov or by July 30, 11:59 pm EST
Electronic Requirement:	Yes E-mailed, faxed or mailed proposal packages, or individual documents that failed to transmit during application submission, will <u>NOT</u> be considered.
Deadline for Receipt of Questions:	July 19, 5:00 pm, EST
Eligibility Category:	U.S. - based non-profit/non-governmental organizations having a 501(c) (3) status with the IRS ; overseas non-governmental non-profit organizations; Foreign Public Entities (FPEs) and Public International Organizations (PIOs).

For-profit commercial firms are **not** eligible to apply in response to this NOFO. No exceptions.

Type of Applicant: Organizations. Individuals are not eligible to apply.

Number of Applications: One (1) per applicant organization

Note: Organizations may form consortia and submit a combined proposal. However, only **one** organization may be designated as the lead applicant. The lead applicant must meet the eligibility criteria listed in this NOFO.

Anticipated Award Date: The successful applicant will receive notification within approximately three to four weeks of the closing of this announcement. The U.S. Department of State is under no obligation to fund any of the proposals submitted under this funding opportunity.

Est. Project Start Date: September 2019

Est. Project End Date: September 2022

Project Duration: 36 months

This funding opportunity is posted on www.grants.gov, and may be amended. Answers to questions from potential applicants will be posted as an attachment to this NOFO. Applicants should regularly check the www.grants.gov website for the most recent information pertaining to this NOFO. **Department of State bears no responsibility for data errors resulting from transmission or conversion processes associated with electronic submissions via either www.sam.gov or www.grants.gov. Incomplete application packages will not be considered.** Missing e-mailed, faxed or mailed documents will NOT be considered.

Applicants must provide a Unique Entity Identifier, or Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS), when submitting their application on www.sam.gov or www.grants.gov in response to this NOFO.

SAM.gov registration (www.sam.gov) is required. **Applicants that do not have a valid DUNS number and completed www.sam.gov registration will NOT be eligible for consideration.**

It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that the application package has been received by Grants.gov in its **entirety**. Incomplete applications will be considered **ineligible**. Individual e-mailed or faxed documents that failed to transmit during application submission will **not** be considered.

The decision for the final eligibility and award determination rests with the Grants Officer.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The United States Department of State's Bureau of Counterterrorism announces a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for a project that aims to reduce terrorist radicalization in **one** of the following terrorism-affected countries: Cameroon, Chad, Indonesia, Jordan, Kenya, Mali, Niger, Philippines, and Tunisia.

Pending availability of funds and satisfactory performance, including compliance with the award's terms and conditions, CT may consider adding funds to the award. CT intends to support one (1) award as a result of this NOFO. CT will **not** issue an award to applicants who propose work in more than **one** of the target countries identified in this NOFO. CT will **not** consider applications that propose programming in a country not listed in this NOFO.

Department of State reserves the right to fund any or none of the proposals submitted and reserves the right to reduce, revise, or increase the budget in accordance with the needs of the project and the availability of funds.

This award is intended to be issued as a Cooperative Agreement with substantial involvement from the awarding bureau (CT) in the management of this program.

The Federal award signed by the State Department Grants Officer is the **only** authorizing document.

This NOFO consists of the following sections:

- I. Funding Opportunity Description
- II. Award Information and Application Evaluation and Scoring
- III. Eligibility Information
- IV. Agency Contacts

Eligible organizations interested in submitting an application are encouraged to review this NOFO thoroughly to understand the type of project sought and the application submission requirements and review process as outlined in this NOFO.

I. FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

BACKGROUND

The Bureau of Counterterrorism (CT) works to strengthen partnerships, civilian capacity, and information sharing around the world to counter terrorist threats and prevent the spread of terrorist radicalization and recruitment. CT designs, manages, and oversees foreign assistance programs to build the civilian capabilities of foreign government and community-level partners to prevent and counter terrorism in an effective and sustainable fashion.

Preventing terrorist radicalization is often most effective when planned and implemented at the local level. Community-level intervention programs are proving to be valuable grassroots mechanisms to prevent vulnerable individuals from radicalizing to commit terrorist acts. The 2018 U.S. National Strategy for Counterterrorism (NSCT) highlights the dangers of terrorist radicalization and emphasizes the importance of intervention -- and reintegration -- efforts for individuals becoming more committed to and acting on terrorist ideologies. While a nascent area of Preventing/Countering Violent Extremism (P/CVE) programming, interventions can fill a strategic gap between broader prevention and rehabilitation/reintegration efforts in the lifecycle of terrorist radicalization.

PROJECT'S GOALS

CT seeks to develop a new, tailored, community-based interventions program in a country facing credible threats from foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs) or homegrown terrorists. Programs must be designed to address individuals who appear to be highly vulnerable to or demonstrate signs of terrorist radicalization, but who have not yet committed terrorism-related crimes. Program proposals should encourage local actors – social workers, educators, religious and community leaders, mental health professionals, families, youth, and relevant local authorities, including law enforcement, where relevant – to work together to appropriately “intervene” with such individuals in social service-based partnerships and mentorship. Intervention-based programming appears to be most successful when implemented in communities that have come to recognize that they have a problem with terrorist radicalization. Attempts to impose interventions frameworks from the outside, without community buy-in or leadership on terrorist radicalization issues, are likely to fail; however, outside approaches likely will be useful in shaping and informing activities under this project.

PROJECT'S DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

This project has six (6) key objectives:

Objective 1: Develop a sustainable, community-driven strategy to sensitize local stakeholders (e.g., social service providers, mental health practitioners, educators, faith leaders, local government officials, NGOs, etc.) to the early warning signs of terrorist radicalization within the local context.

- Proposals should clearly articulate both a process and product that raises awareness and engages community actors on the sensitive topic of terrorist radicalization.
- CT will more favorably consider those proposals that provide a detailed description of how the applicant intends to approach the issue of terrorist radicalization in communities that either do not recognize it as a problem, believe it is too sensitive a subject on which to engage directly, or are initially unwilling to engage on it.
- Applicants should articulate how the strategy and associated product will be owned by and institutionalized into community structures. The product should be easy to update and maintain by project beneficiaries.

Objective 2: Recruit and build a diverse range of local stakeholders and service providers to form a multidisciplinary team to address cases of individuals assessed to be on the path to terrorist radicalization, referred by the community, including through the team, local schools and universities, families, and other community-based sources.

- Proposals should articulate the best composition of a community interventions team depending on the country/locality for the program. Team members may include, but not be limited to, social service providers, mental health practitioners, educators and/or schools and university administrators, faith leaders, local government officials, NGOs, and law enforcement officials.
- The proposal should articulate a process by which a community interventions team is formed, including how best to enlist the team members, how to create a team dynamic and address team member concerns regarding security or risk.
- The proposal should articulate how best community teams should address cases referred to them and the types of support services accessible in the community.

Objective 3: Build awareness and increase trust between relevant community stakeholders (including law enforcement) and among service providers within the community interventions team.

- Proposals should demonstrate knowledge of services and service providers that already exist in the local context(s) and/or a strategy for identifying and reaching out to providers.
- Applicants should thoughtfully outline their approach to strengthening community stakeholder and service providers' working and personal relationships within the community team or taskforce, especially in instances where no prior relationship exists.
- Proposed activities targeted toward the community team/taskforce should also include opportunities for service providers to learn more about one another's professions, relevant skill sets, and existing "intervention" or prevention programs and services.

Objective 4: Build or strengthen community team stakeholders' capacities and confidence to respond effectively to instances of terrorist radicalization and recruitment through the delivery of training and technical assistance.

- CT will more favorably consider those applications that incorporate case-based mentoring and multi-disciplinary approaches to training and technical assistance for project beneficiaries.
- CT will more favorably consider applications that ascertain what training/capacity building is needed for community teams or team members to provide effective support or services to referred cases.
- The proposal should address assisting the community team in establishing a case management system to track and monitor all cases referred to the team for support.

- Activities should also be designed to enable local stakeholders (both the taskforce and service providers) to independently strengthen existing or design new ‘interventions’ models that are based on good practices and relevant to the local context.
- The proposal should include identification of possible risks and possible approaches or techniques to mitigate such risks.

Objective 5: Develop and implement a sustainability strategy for the community team model.

- Proposals should describe if/how activities will support broader stakeholder practitioner and policy awareness of the program experience and model.
- Proposals should articulate how the sustainability strategy will promote the community-team model with local and/or national partners, and who local/national partners may be.

Objective 6: Develop a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation framework to assess the project’s effectiveness in sustaining stakeholder engagement, institutionalizing local partnerships, promoting the community-team model with local and/or national partners, and reducing support for terrorism within beneficiary populations.

- Proposals should clearly articulate how the applicant intends to track case referrals and monitor subject’s progress, if/when possible.
- Proposals should describe how the applicant intends to assess and promote stakeholder engagement and participation in community teams over time.
- The M&E framework should include mapping of cases handled, successes achieved, challenges faced, lessons learned, and opportunities for future programming.

II. AWARD INFORMATION AND APPLICATION EVALUATION AND SCORING

CT will issue an award to the applicant whose proposal represents the best value to the U.S. Government on the basis of technical merit, efficient use of U.S. Government funds, and satisfactory organizational capacity.

The Department of State reserves the right to make an award on the basis of initial application received with or without discussion or negotiations. Therefore, applications should contain the applicants’ best terms from both cost and technical standpoints.

Leahy Vetting Requirement: Leahy vetting is required when training or assistance is provided to foreign security forces, including when such assistance is provided under a grant or cooperative agreement. Leahy vetting requirements will be fully outlined in the final award agreement.

It is Department of State policy that English is the official language and U.S. dollar is the controlling currency. Proposal and related supporting documents must be English and

accompanying budget in U.S. dollars.

The following criteria will serve as a standard which all **eligible** applications will be evaluated against: Not Competitive, Competitive, and Very Competitive.

CT will conduct a merit review of all eligible applications as outlined in this NOFO. Applications will be reviewed by an independent review panel consisting of qualified subject matter experts, including from other DOS bureaus and offices, U.S. Embassies, qualified external organizations/institutions, or other USG agencies. Final approval resides with the DOS Grants Office.

The independent review panel will evaluate each eligible application individually against the following criteria, listed below in order of importance.

The review panel will apply the following criteria when rating proposals:

1. Quality of Project Idea

- The proposal addresses the CVE challenges identified in the programming objectives and describes appropriate goals, objectives, and activities to address these challenges.
- Proposal provides a detailed description of how the applicant intends to approach the issue of terrorist radicalization and recruitment in communities that either do not recognize it as a problem, believe it is too sensitive a subject on which to engage directly, or are initially unwilling to engage on it.
- Proposal incorporates case-based mentoring and multi-disciplinary approaches to training and technical assistance for project beneficiaries.
- Proposal clearly identifies what training/capacity building is needed for community teams or team members to provide effective support or services to referred cases.
- Proposal clearly identifies specific communities and/or populations as intended beneficiaries of planned programming.
- The proposal demonstrates a logical approach and presents project objectives that are targeted, measurable, and achievable during the proposed project period.
- The proposal describes and identifies existing or proposed partnerships with thematic or in-country partners and stakeholders.
- The proposal demonstrates a clear understanding of the role that local organizations and institutions are playing or can play in countering terrorist radicalization and recruitment, and describes how the applicant will engage with local partners to increase sustainability and ensure programming is context appropriate.
- The proposal explains possible risks in the local context and how those risks – be they security, political, social or otherwise – will be managed and/or mitigated.

2. Project Planning/Ability to Achieve Objectives

- The proposal provides a detailed work plan of proposed project activities and includes a clear articulation of how these activities will contribute to the overall project's goals and objectives.
- Activities and associated performance measures outlined in the proposal are specific, measurable, attainable, relevant, and placed in a reasonable time frame (SMART).

3. Organizational Capability and Record of Performance

- The proposal demonstrates an institutional record of previous, successfully-implemented programming in the selected country.
- The proposal clearly articulates past performance and experience in working with target host communities, local organizations, and/or host government entities.
- Applicant demonstrates strong knowledge of prevention-based, CVE methodologies, as well as the current terrorism profile in the target country.
- Applicant clearly establishes their ability to implement PVE, CVE, and interventions programming in the target country, and within the specific communities identified in the project proposal.
- Key personnel for the project are well-qualified to manage the project and oversee its implementation, and have clearly-defined roles and responsibilities.
- Proposal addresses how the project will engage or obtain support from relevant stakeholders and beneficiaries.

4. Cost Effectiveness

- The administration of the proposal budget, including salaries and honoraria, are explained and justified for the work proposed.
- Proposed costs are reasonable and necessary and clearly linked to program objectives, and demonstrate efficient use of U.S. Government funds.

NOTE: This NOFO does not require cost-share. Applicants may voluntarily offer cost share; however, cost share will not be factored in during proposal review.

5. Project Monitoring and Evaluation

- The Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Plan includes narrative explaining how monitoring and evaluation will be conducted and by whom (including potential contracted M&E experts, if applicable).
- The M&E Plan includes a logical framework that sequentially maps how project activities are expected to produce results.
- The M&E Plan includes output and outcome indicators that are clearly linked to project goals and objectives.
- The M&E Plan includes a detailed performance monitoring plan.
- The project demonstrates the applicant's capacity for conducting evaluation, including of the project's potential impact on the P/CVE response in the target country.

6. Sustainability of Impact

- Proposed activities promote local ownership over sustainable intervention practices and build the capacity of communities to prevent or reduce terrorist radicalization and/or recruitment.
- Proposal articulates a plan to advance sustainability through engagement with one or more local and/or national partners.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION INFORMATION:

Please refer to the Proposal Submission Instructions (PSI) for additional application submission instructions, including information on required documents and format.

Please follow both, the PSI and the NOFO, to ensure that the proposal package submission is in full compliance with the requirements. Proposal submissions that do not meet all of the requirements outlined in this NOFO and PSI will **not** be considered.

FEDERAL AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION:

Issuance of this NOFO does **not** constitute a commitment on the part of the Department of State to issue an award nor does it commit the U.S. Government to pay for costs incurred in the preparation and submission of an application. Furthermore, award cannot be issued until funds have been fully appropriated, allocated, and committed through internal DOS procedures. While it is anticipated that these procedures will be successfully completed, potential applicants are hereby notified of these requirements. All preparation and submission costs are at the applicant's expense.

Pursuant to 2 CFR 200.400 g, it is U.S. Department of State policy **not** to award profit under assistance instruments.

2 CFR §200.501 requires domestic/US non-federal entities that *expend* \$750,000, or more, in federal assistance during organization's fiscal year to have a single or program-specific audit conducted for that year. In addition, the entity must report the collected audit data elements on the form SF-SAC and submit it to the FAC. Any findings such as material weaknesses, significant deficiencies, or material noncompliance are reported on the SF-SAC.

The Federal award signed by the Grants Officer is the only authorizing document.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

Recipient will be required to submit Quarterly Progress and Quarterly Financial Reports (SF-425), unless special conditions apply, describing key activities undertaken during the reporting period towards accomplishment of the stated objectives. Financial Reports provide a means of monitoring expenditures.

NOTE: It is Department's of State policy that English is the official language of all award documents. If reports or any other supporting documents are provided in both English and a foreign language, it must be stated in each version that the **English language version is the controlling version. U.S. dollar is the controlling currency.** Financial reports must be submitted in U.S. dollars.

OTHER INFORMATION:

Mandatory disclosures (2 CFR 200.113)

Non-federal entity, recipient or applicant for a federal award must disclose, in a timely manner, in writing to the federal awarding agency or pass-through entity all violations of federal criminal law involving fraud, bribery, or gratuity violations potentially affecting the federal award. Non-federal entities that have received a Federal award including the term and condition outlined in Appendix XII of the 2 CFR 200—Award Terms and Conditions for Recipient Integrity and Performance Matters -- are required to report certain civil, criminal, or administrative proceedings to www.sam.gov.

Failure to make required disclosures can result in any of the remedies described in §200.338 Remedies for Noncompliance, including suspension or debarment.

Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System (FAPIIS)

A federal awarding agency, prior to making a federal award, will review and consider any information about the applicant that is in the designated integrity and performance system accessible through www.sam.gov (currently FAPIIS) (see 41 U.S.C. 2313). Applicant, at its option, may review information in the designated integrity and performance systems accessible through www.sam.gov and comment on any information about itself that a Federal awarding agency previously entered and is currently in the designated integrity and performance system accessible through www.sam.gov. Federal awarding agency will consider any comments by the applicant, in addition to the other information in the designated integrity and performance system. Applicant organizations must demonstrate adherence to equal opportunity employment practices and commitment to non-discrimination with respect to beneficiaries. Non-discrimination includes equal treatment without regard to race, religion, ethnicity, gender, and political affiliation. Applicants are reminded that U.S. Executive Orders and U.S. law prohibits transactions with or support to individuals or organizations associated with terrorism.

Proposals that reflect any type of support for any member, affiliate, or representative or a designate to terrorist organization or narcotics trafficker, including elected members of government, will NOT be considered. This provision must be included in any sub-awards/sub-contracts issued under this award.

III. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

See the cover page, Eligibility Category.

Applicants should demonstrate expertise with training in sensitive environments, particularly in regions prone to terrorist activity – including mitigating risk in undertaking sensitive efforts to prevent radicalization to terrorism. Applicants should also demonstrate in-depth understanding of (specify country or region) cultural contexts and governance structures.

IV. AGENCY CONTACTS

Any prospective applicant desiring an explanation or interpretation of this NOFO must request it in writing by the *deadline for questions* specified on page 1 (cover page). Information given to a prospective applicant concerning this NOFO will be furnished promptly to all other prospective applicants as a 'Questions and Answers' attachment to this NOFO.

Any questions concerning this NOFO should be submitted in writing, by email, to Connor Gary (GaryC@state.gov) along with the project's title, "PROACT: Community-Based Intervention Program ;" the funding opportunity number; and applicant's legal name and organizational status.