

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Secretary's Office of Global Women's Issues (S/GWI) Request for Statements of Interest:
Global Girls Climate Coalition (G2C2)

Statement of Interest (SOI) Deadline:	March 10, 2023 11:59 PM EST
Federal Agency Contact:	SGWIProjectProposals@state.gov
Date Opened:	January 13, 2023
Questions Deadline:	February 10, 2023 11:59 PM EST
Funding Mechanism Type:	Cooperative Agreement
Estimated Number of Awards:	1-2
Estimated Funding Amount:	\$3,000,000
Cost Sharing:	Not required
Length of Project Period:	Up to 3 years
Fiscal Year of Funding:	FY 2022
Type of Funding	Economic Support Fund
CFDA Number	19.801
Anticipated Award Date:	August 2023
Estimated Program Start Date:	No later than September 30, 2023

1. Funding Opportunity Synopsis

S/GWI announces a Request for Statements of Interest (RSOI) outlining concepts and capacity to design, implement, manage, and evaluate a project that will build a movement of girl-centered climate action, leveraging the power and potential of girls, in all their diversity, to shape and inform policies and actions to combat climate change and related social and environmental issues. Competitive RSOIs may propose a consortium of U.S.-based and/or international organizations with global reach, with one lead organization serving as the primary recipient/applicant. Consortium members must demonstrate strong ties to local non-

governmental organizations (NGOs) and/or community-based organizations (CBOs) across chosen countries (particularly those specified for “In-Country Programming”) who can serve as local partners as appropriate. Project activities will support girls in communities across different regions of the world with tailored training in science and technology as well as holistic support in economic skills and social and emotional learning to further their innovations in solutions to the negative effects of climate change. The project will also form a global coalition of young innovators and change agents, supporting them to engage in policy and decision-making at local and international levels. Project activities must support girls from historically marginalized groups, particularly girls from groups and geographies that are disproportionately affected by climate change. Please carefully follow all instructions below.

Note: S/GWI strongly encourages applicants to immediately access [SAMS Domestic](#), the required system for submission, in order to obtain a username and password. For further instructions, please see Section IV below.

The submission of the Statement of Interest (SOI) is the first step in a two-step process. Applicants must first submit a SOI consisting of a concise, five-page concept note that clearly communicates a program idea and its objectives. This is not a full proposal. The purpose of the SOI process is to allow applicants to submit program ideas for evaluation prior to requiring the development of a full proposal application. Upon a merit review of eligible SOIs, selected applicants will be invited to expand on their program idea(s) by submitting a full proposal application. Full proposals will go through a second merit review before final funding decisions are made.

Each **prime** applicant may submit up to two SOIs. There is no limit to the number of SOIs on which an applicant may serve as a **sub**-awardee. Upon review of eligible SOIs, S/GWI will invite selected applicants to expand their ideas into full proposal applications. In the event that a prime applicant has submitted two SOIs and both are deemed competitive, the applicant will be asked to submit a full proposal for the more competitive of the two.

This notice is subject to availability of funding.

Priority Regions and Countries. Final country selection will be confirmed in consultation between the successful applicant and S/GWI. Country selections will be subject to additional approvals and/or vetting. Applicants must propose a minimum of three countries from at least three different geopolitical regions to benefit from the holistic package of services to girls from communities affected by climate change (**henceforth referred to as “In-Country**

Programming”). Applicants must also propose up to sixty additional countries to include in the mentorship, networking, and advocacy components of the project activities (**henceforth referred to as “Coalition Programming”**).

Applicants must select a minimum of three illustrative target countries benefitting from In-Country Programming that are demonstrably at risk due to the effects of climate change, with clear justification for country selection.

Applicants to this RSOI should be aware of, complement, build on, and not overlap with existing in-country programming.

Cost Sharing or Matching: optional

Eligible Applicants:

Organizations submitting SOIs must meet the following criteria: ***[include all that apply, and indicate US, foreign, or both.]***

- Be a U.S.- or foreign-based non-profit and non-governmental organization (NGO); or
- Be a private, public, or state institution of higher education; and
- Have existing, or the capacity to develop, active and **equitable** partnerships with in-country partners, entities, and relevant stakeholders, including NGOs and private sector actors; and
- Have demonstrable experience administering successful and preferably similar programs in size, scope, and focus. S/GWI reserves the right to request additional background information on organizations that do not have previous experience administering federal awards. These applicants may be subject to limited funding on a pilot basis.

Public International Organizations (PIOs) are not eligible to apply as prime applicants under this RSOI, though they may partner on a proposal as a sub-awardee.

S/GWI maintains an anti-discrimination policy in all its programs and activities. S/GWI welcomes SOI submissions irrespective of race, ethnicity, heritage, color, creed, national origin, gender, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, or other status. S/GWI is dedicated to promoting human rights, fundamental freedoms, and equality for all and seeks partners that do as well.

S/GWI works to ensure the integration of gender equality and the advancement of women and girls in U.S. foreign policy. S/GWI programs are designed to incubate locally informed and implemented civil society-based solutions, inspiring and providing promising practices to

advance women's equality and empowerment as a keystone of U.S. foreign policy. Learning from this program will inform other U.S. policy, programs, and partnerships.

Required Registrations:

All prime organizations, whether based in the United States or in another country, must have a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) and an active registration with the SAM.gov **before submitting an application**. DRL may **not** review applications from or make awards to applicants that have not completed all applicable UEI and SAM.gov requirements. 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.

Note: As of April 2022, a DUNS number is no longer required for federal assistance applications.

The 2 CFR 200 requires that sub-grantees obtain a UEI number. Please note the UEI for sub-grantees is not required at the time of application but will be required before the award is processed and/or directed to a sub-grantee.

Note: The process of obtaining or renewing a SAM.gov registration may take anywhere from 4-8 weeks. Please begin your registration as early as possible.

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), a Commercial and Government Entity (CAGE) code, and a UEI number 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 number prior to registering in SAM.gov. **Please note that as of December 2022, 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 CAGE (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 to seek guidance on how to do so.

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 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):

<https://eportal.nspa.nato.int/Codification/CageTool/home>

For NCAGE help from within the United States, call +1 (888) 227-2423.

For NCAGE help from outside the United States, call +1 (269) 961-7766.

Or, email NCAGE@dlis.dla.mil for any problems in applying for an NCAGE code.

Step 2: After receiving an NCAGE code, proceed to SAM.gov to obtain a UEI and complete the SAM.gov registration process. SAM.gov registration must be renewed annually.

All prime organizations must also continue to maintain active SAM.gov registration with current information at all times during which they have an active Federal award or application under consideration by a federal award agency. SAM.gov requires all entities to renew their registration once a year in order to maintain an active registration status in SAM.gov. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure it has an active registration in SAM.gov and to maintain that active registration. If an applicant has not fully complied with the requirements at the time of application, the applicant may be deemed technically ineligible to receive an award and use that determination as a basis for making an award to another applicant.

Please refer to 2 CFR 25.200 for additional information.

Note: SAM.gov is not the same as SAMS Domestic. It is free of charge to register in both systems, but the registration processes are different.

Information is included on the SAM.gov website to help international registrations, including “Quick Start Guide for International Registrations” and “Helpful Hints.” Navigate to www.SAM.gov, click “HELP” in the top navigation bar, then click “Explore” and “New to SAM.gov?” for general information. Please note, guidance on SAM.gov and the guidance on GSA’s website about requirement for registering in SAM.gov is subject to change and is currently being updated. Applicants should review the website for the most up-to-date guidance.

The attached “AQM Guidance for NCAGE-SAM.gov for Grant Applicants as of Dec. 2022” is a compilation of resources gathered by the Department’s Office of Acquisitions Management (AQM). Any content shown from SAM.gov is not owned by the Department of State. This guidance and instruction are to the best of our knowledge based at the time of posting this solicitation. **Where guidance in these attachments differs from the SAM.gov website, SAM.gov prevails and the applicant is encouraged to seek and document responses provided by the SAM.gov help desk.**

II. Requested Objectives for Statements of Interest

Background Information:

The impacts of the climate crisis are not gender neutral, and climate impacts will be felt most acutely in developing countries that are least able to adapt quickly to such changes. Women and girls, in all their diversity, are on the front lines of the climate crisis, both in their disproportionate experience with the negative environmental and social impacts of climate change, and in their ability to meaningfully contribute to localized responses, spanning both climate adaptation (a topic of significant importance at the recent COP27) and mitigation (an area in which women and girls are often underrepresented). According to UNDP, women and children are 14 times more likely to be physically endangered due to natural disasters. Women in low- and middle-income countries are often dependent on agriculture and natural resources for their livelihoods, leaving them more vulnerable to effects of climate change such as drought, flooding, and other natural disasters. Many women and girls in these contexts are responsible for providing food, water, and fuel for their households, which becomes more time consuming and unsafe when natural resources are depleted. Girls are often forced to leave school to complete these household tasks. Traveling further distances or to unfamiliar locations to obtain food, water, and firewood increases women and girls' risk of experiencing gender-based violence (GBV). Girls are also at increased risk of child, early and forced child marriage in the face of scarcity.¹⁰

Despite being among the most impacted by the climate crisis, women and girls' unequal participation in decision-making, limited access to resources, and susceptibility to GBV, often limit their ability to meaningfully contribute to and benefit from mitigation and adaptation efforts. Not only do women and girls have a significant stake in mitigating the negative impacts of climate change, but they are also key change agents in their households and communities, and critical to our overall success in achieving climate adaptation and mitigation objectives. Integrating investment in girls' education with targeted support to their roles in climate solutions and activism has been identified as both a gap in current approaches and a promising strategy for overall achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.¹¹ As outlined in the U.S. National Strategy on Gender Equity and Equality and in the Global Women's Economic Security Strategy, strengthening women's economic security and full economic participation is essential to the global economy and to enable women and girls' leadership and participation in every aspect of economic, political, and social life. These realities are also reflected in the President's [Emergency Plan for Adaptation and Resilience](#) (PREPARE), launched in November 2021 with an [Action Plan](#) issued in September 2022, which consists of a whole-of-government effort to help more than half a billion people in developing countries—including women, girls, Indigenous peoples, and low income and marginalized groups—adapt to and manage the impacts of climate change.

This project will address the gap in investment in girls' education and leadership in climate change solutions by supporting girls in all their diversity in communities across different regions of the world with holistic and tailored training in science and technology as well as economic and soft skills. This training, coupled with mentorship and small grant opportunities, will provide girls from diverse backgrounds with the skills and confidence to lead climate solutions and innovations in their communities and advocate for their needs globally. The girls participating in this project will be connected across borders to form a coalition of young innovators and change agents, ready to engage in policy, decision-making, and action at local and international levels.

Policy Statement

The project resulting from this RSOI will support S/GWI's implementation of the National Strategy on Gender Equity and Equality as well as the U.S. Strategy on Global Women's Economic Security and the 2022 U.S. Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gender-Based Violence Globally. It will also further the priorities of the Gender Equity and Equality Action (GEEA) Fund, which advances the economic security of women and girls globally. The project will support human rights and inclusive democracy by furthering gender equity and equality. The project will support the objectives of the President's Emergency Plan for Adaptation and Resilience (PREPARE), including building the capacity of the next generation of female decision-makers and professionals who have the skills, knowledge, and solutions to adapt to today's climate impacts and build a climate resilient future for all.

Inclusive Programming Approach

S/GWI is committed to equity, equality, and respect for human rights. S/GWI programs are expected to foster and/or address:

- **Inclusive Environments**, which means programs that foster involvement, respect, and connection in which the richness of diverse ideas, backgrounds, and perspectives are valued for all individuals.
- **Social Inclusion**, which means improving how individuals and groups take part in society – enhancing the ability, opportunity, and dignity of those disadvantaged on the basis of their identity.
- **Intersectional** nature of power and identity, which means how intersecting aspects of identity (sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, sex characteristics, class, religion, race, ethnicity, age, disability, nationality, etc.) interact with overlapping systems of discrimination and the need to address the impact these have on systemic access.

RSOI Results Framework:

Theory of Change: If girls develop their skills and capacities to lead in climate activism and innovation, while receiving peer, academic, and professional mentorship and access to capital to kickstart innovative climate solutions in their communities, and are supported to participate in global networks and platforms, **then** a movement of girl-centered climate action will be elevated to shape equitable policies and actions to combat the negative environmental and social impacts of climate change.

Goal: To elevate a movement of girl-centered climate action, leveraging the power and potential of girls, in all their diversity, to shape equitable policies and actions to combat climate change and related social and environmental issues.

Objectives:

(I) Girls develop their skills and capabilities to lead in climate activism and innovation (supported by In-Country Programming)

Through trainings in advocacy, leadership, career skills, financial inclusion, and science and technology (i.e., related to climate science, environmental science, biodiversity, food systems, health, etc.), girls will receive tailored, relevant curricula to support their needs to pursue a

successful future in combatting climate change from a range of vantage points. Girls and their communities will engage in dialogues addressing unequal gender norms preventing progress in girls' contributions to climate solutions. Topics may also include preventing and responding to GBV and GBV risk mitigation, international and domestic laws and norms relating to the rights of women and girls, menstrual hygiene, and safety planning.

(II) Girls are mentored through peer support groups and relevant academic and professional coaches (supported by both In-Country and Coalition Programming)

Girls will access a range of mentorship opportunities to receive support as they navigate difficult decisions and challenges in their path toward pursuing climate activism and innovation, both through virtual, global, and/or regional peer support groups and through individualized connections with experts in their fields locally and/or abroad. Where possible, S/GWI will encourage implementers to leverage existing State Department networks, for example, through the Academy for Women Entrepreneurs and International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) programs as well as S/GWI's Innovation Station series experts and private sector partners.

(III) Girls participate in global networks and platforms to promote equitable policies and actions to combat the negative impacts of climate change (supported by both In-Country and Coalition Programming)

A diverse cohort of girls from around the world will be supported to participate collectively as a coalition in global networks working on climate change adaptation, mitigation, and resilience, as well as high-level platforms and events to deliver key messages around policy solutions and actions to decision-makers from governments, the private sector, and civil society.

(IV) Girls have access to innovation grants and/or technical support for action to combat the negative effects of climate change in their communities (supported by In-Country Programming)

An innovation fund will be established to which girls can apply to kickstart their ideas in business, community initiatives, or advocacy campaigns and promote girl-led solutions to climate adaptation, mitigation, and related social and environmental challenges in their communities. Partners will support the girl recipients of funding through funds management as well as additional targeted technical support by matching them with either local or international experts in the relevant sectors or fields.

The project will undertake a highly participatory approach to prioritize local, including indigenous, solutions and the inclusion of historically marginalized or underrepresented groups. Project participants will benefit from and contribute to the design of interventions catered to the local context and needs while simultaneously engaging across borders to share knowledge and best practices in order to grow a global movement. Illustrative project activities include:

- Participatory needs assessments in benefitting communities facilitated and led by local organizations focused on girls' empowerment and climate solutions.
- Establishment of a project advisory committee, including diverse girl representatives working on relevant climate initiatives and innovations and private sector representatives,

to contribute their expertise and networks as well as key decisions throughout project implementation.

- Capacity building and knowledge sharing between local organizations working on girls' empowerment and climate solutions.
- Facilitation of virtual peer support groups connecting girls working on similar climate-related solutions across borders.
- Establishment of mentor-mentee matches, tailored to mentee interests and needs, utilizing existing State Department women networks (i.e., AWE and IVLP alumni; Innovation Station network; Fortune, etc.) where possible and appropriate.
- In-person girls climate coalition event (potential as side event to relevant multilateral policy event, i.e., COP, APEC, etc.), which would convene girls from participating countries with girls from countries around the world (i.e., in all six geopolitical regions).
- Pitch competition for innovation grant opportunity, including local civil society, public, and private sector participation for grantee selection.

Intended Results:

Possible intended results may include:

- Girls from diverse backgrounds in communities affected by climate change have improved knowledge and skills to lead climate adaptation and mitigation solutions in their communities.
- Communities affected by climate change understand the importance of women and girls' engagement in climate solutions and support girls' education and career advancement in science and technology and other relevant climate and environmental fields.
- Local organizations working toward girls' empowerment have improved understanding of and capacity to deliver trainings and support in climate solutions.
- Girls from diverse backgrounds in communities affected by climate change are supported by their communities, peers, and experts in their chosen fields to pursue climate solutions.
- Girls from diverse backgrounds in communities affected by climate change have the resources and assets to realize their proposed climate innovations and solutions.
- Experts and existing networks in climate and environmental science and activism value and uplift the contributions of girls from diverse backgrounds in communities affected by climate change.
- A girls climate coalition develops and advocates for gender equitable policy change in high level policy dialogues and discourse.

Indicators:

Indicators for inclusion in a monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) plan at the later full proposal stage should include at least some of the following as relevant:

- GNDR-1: Number of legal instruments drafted, proposed or adopted with USG assistance designed to promote gender equality or non-discrimination against women or girls at the national or sub-national level

- GNDR-2: Percentage of female participants in USG-assisted programs designed to increase access to productive economic resources (assets, credit, income or employment)
- GNDR-4: Percentage of participants reporting increased agreement with the concept that males and females should have equal access to social, economic, and political resources and opportunities
- EG 11-5: Number of people supported by the USG to adapt to the effects of climate change
- EG 11-6: Number of people using climate information or implementing risk-reducing actions to improve resilience to climate change as supported by USG assistance
- EG-11/.12/.13-1: Number of people trained in climate change adaptation/clean energy/sustainable landscapes supported by USG assistance
- EG-11/.12/.13-3: Number of laws, policies, regulations, or standards addressing climate change adaptation/clean energy/sustainable landscapes formally proposed, adopted, or implemented as supported by USG assistance
- EG-11.6: Number of people using climate information or implementing risk-reducing actions to improve resilience to climate change as supported by USG assistance
- YOUTH-1: Number of youth trained in social or leadership skills through USG assisted programs
- YOUTH-3: Percentage of participants in USG-assisted programs designed to increase access to productive economic resources who are youth (15-29)
- YOUTH-5: Percentage of youth who participate in civic engagement activities following soft skills/life skills training or initiatives from USG assisted programs

Applicants may also propose other indicators relevant to the proposed activities for consideration. S/GWI eventually expects at least four outcome indicators, or one per each objective, in the final MEL plan to reflect the overarching logic model for the proposal, but respects that those will be finalized during the start-up stages of an award.

SOI Requirements:

Applicants should propose sufficient yet lean and scalable staffing structures that provide adequate oversight and central management, but maximize appropriate and local expertise and leadership (rather than defaulting to in-house experts). S/GWI welcomes creative partnership structures, such as rosters of smaller NGOs or technical experts that can serve as short-term consultants to complement existing local leadership and expertise. **As a general guideline however, at least 20 percent of funding under the award should go to local organizations and their activities (inclusive of the innovation fund)—this may include Contractual and Other Direct Costs in support of local organizations, for example, but generally should not include prime grantee staffing, travel, overhead etc. Support for the establishment of new in-country offices is not envisioned under this RSOI.**

While landscape assessments; gender and inclusion analyses; monitoring, learning, and evaluation (MEL) plans; risk assessment and mitigation plans including safeguards to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) of project beneficiaries and their communities; provision of psychosocial support for staff and beneficiaries; and detailed sustainability plans are **not**

required as part of the SOI, all organizations that are invited to submit a full proposal **will** be required to submit this information at that time. Full proposals, once solicited, should also seek to minimize the harmful effects of local competition for resources in their program designs. Please review this RSOI in full – including all annexes – to inform your SOI design and ensure your requested budget amount sufficiently covers these award requirements.

Applicants are advised that an award may be conditioned upon vetting to evaluate the risk that funds may benefit terrorists or their supporters.

Substantial Involvement:

Applicants submitting SOIs should be aware that if their application results in an award, S/GWI will be involved in the program and management performance of the grant in the form of a cooperative agreement, which allows S/GWI consultation and technical collaboration rights on specified project activities. Examples of substantial involvement can include:

- a) Approval of Recipient annual work plan, including planned activities for the following year and changes to any activity to be carried out under the agreement;
- b) Collaboration in identifying/developing/approving additional countries/projects for implementation in consultation with U.S. embassies, as appropriate;
- c) Collaboration on identifying/approving additional international partner organizations who may work in coordination with S/GWI and recipient.
- d) Approval of sub-award recipients, concurrence on the substantive provisions of the sub-awards, and coordination with other cooperating agencies;
- e) Review of any notice of funding opportunities and selection of recipients;
- f) Approval of the MEL plan for the Recipient and sub-award recipients;
- g) Approval of Terms of Reference (TOR) for program evaluations;
- h) Approval of hiring/opportunity announcements and selection/assignment of technical experts in areas such as gender, climate, including but not limited to key personnel;
- i) Collaboration in assessing progress and identifying issues that might affect the success of the program; and
- j) Other approvals that will be included in the award agreement.

Program Performance Period: The Department of State will entertain applications for continuation grants funded under these awards beyond the initial budget period on a non-competitive basis subject to availability of funds, satisfactory progress of the program, and a determination that continued funding would be in the best interest of the U.S. Department of State.

III. Funding Restrictions

This cooperative agreement will be funded from money appropriated under the “Economic Support Fund” (ESF) heading in the Department of State and Foreign Operations Appropriations Act, 2022 (Div. G, P.L. 117-103) (SFOAA). ESF is available for foreign assistance programs supporting economic or political stability. Under section 531(e) of the Foreign Assistance Act of

1961 (FAA), as amended, ESF may not be used for military or paramilitary purposes. Given restrictions under section 660 of the FAA, assistance may be provided to law enforcement forces only under certain circumstances. Activities that involve assistance to law enforcement will be subject to vetting to ensure compliance with section 620M of the FAA (“[Leahy Vetting](#)”).

The recipient is reminded that funds provided under this agreement must be used in a manner fully consistent with U.S. law. The recipient agrees that none of the funds provided by this award shall be used to lobby for or against abortion. The recipient agrees that none of the funds provided by this award shall be used to pay for the performance of abortion as a method of family planning or to motivate or coerce any person to practice abortions.

All beneficiaries and country locations must be approved in advance by S/GWI.

The following activities and costs **will not** be entertained under this announcement in SOIs or in subsequent proposals submitted by applicants to S/GWI:

- Construction
- Activities that appear partisan or that support individual or party electoral campaigns.
- Engagement with religious leaders and communities is encouraged; however, direct support or the appearance of direct support for any religious organization for the sole purposes of promoting religious beliefs cannot be included for funding.
- Duplication of services immediately available through municipal, provincial, or national government.
- Funds for market research, advertising (unless public service related to grant program) or other promotional expenses.
- Initiatives directed towards a permanent diaspora community as ultimate beneficiaries.
- Projects that have a predominant academic or basic research focus.
- Social welfare projects that purely provide service-delivery or humanitarian assistance.
- Costs incurred to complete activities begun with other funds.
- Medical and psychological research or clinical studies using human subjects.
- Projects exclusively of a commercial or profit-making nature.
- Cultural presentations, cultural research, cultural clubs, or festivals, etc. unless they have a specific programmatic purpose.
- Entertainment costs (e.g., receptions, social activities, ceremonies, guided tours) unless they have a specific programmatic purpose.

IV. Submission Instructions and Technical Eligibility

Required Documents:

Complete SOI submissions **must** include the following:

1. Completed and signed SF-424 and SF424B and SF-LLL, as directed on SAMS Domestic; and,

2. Program Statement (not to exceed five [5] pages in Microsoft Word) that includes:

a) A table listing:

- i. Name of the prime organization and consortium partners;
- ii. Illustrative target countries, indicating which countries will benefit from the holistic package of project activities (**In-Country Programming**), and which countries may benefit from participation in the global network, mentorship, and advocacy component (**Coalition Programming**) of the project;
- iii. The total amount of funding requested from S/GWI, total amount of cost-share (if any; cost share is NOT required), and total program amount (S/GWI funds + cost-share); and,
- iv. Program length

b) A synopsis of the program, including a brief statement on how the program will have a demonstrated impact and engage relevant stakeholders. The synopsis must address how the applicant will conduct gender and inclusion analysis and MEL as well as foster sustainability. The SOI should identify local partners as appropriate;

c) A concise breakdown explicitly identifying the program's objectives and the activities and expected results that contribute to each objective; and,

d) A brief description of the applicants, inclusive of consortium partners, that demonstrates relevant organizational and staff expertise and capacity to implement the program and manage a U.S. government award.

Applicant Questions:

Questions must be submitted by the Questions Deadline to SGWIPProjectProposals@state.gov using the email subject line, "Global Girls Climate Coalition (G2C2): [Applicant Organization Name] Questions." To maintain fairness and transparency in competition, S/GWI will compile any substantive questions received along with the responses and post them in a document on grants.gov and SAMS Domestic. Substantive questions will not be fielded outside of this process or after the deadline.

With the exception of technical submission questions, during the solicitation period, U.S. Department of State staff in Washington D.C. and overseas will not discuss this competition with applicants until the entire proposal review process has been completed and rejection and approval letters have been transmitted.

Technical Eligibility:

S/GWI reserves the right to award more or less than the funds requested, including estimated individual award floor and ceiling amounts, under such circumstances as it may deem to be in the best interest of the U.S. government.

Technically eligible SOIs are those which:

1. Arrive electronically via SAMS Domestic (see below) by the deadline, under this announcement.
2. Are in English.
3. Heed all instructions and do not violate any of the guidelines stated in this solicitation

For all SOI documents please ensure:

1. All pages are numbered;
2. All documents are formatted to 8 ½ x 11 paper; and,
3. All documents are single-spaced, 12 point Times New Roman font, with 1-inch margins. Captions and footnotes may be 10-point Times New Roman font. Font sizes in charts and tables can be reformatted to fit within one page width.

SAMS Domestic automatically logs the date and time a submission is made, and the Department of State will use this information to determine whether it has been submitted on time. Late submissions are neither reviewed nor considered unless SGWIProjectProposals@state.gov is contacted prior to the deadline and is provided with a screenshot or other evidence of a system error caused by SAMS Domestic (<https://mygrants.servicenowservices.com>) that is outside of the applicant's control and is the sole reason for a late submission. Applicants should not expect a notification from S/GWI upon receiving their SOI(s). It is the sole responsibility of the applicant to ensure that all material submitted in the SOI package is complete, accurate, and current.

Submission:

All application submissions must be made electronically via [SAMS Domestic \(https://mygrants.servicenowservices.com\)](https://mygrants.servicenowservices.com). S/GWI will **not** accept SOIs submitted via grants.gov, email, fax, the postal system, delivery companies, or couriers.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that it has an active registration in SAMS Domestic. Applicants are required to document that the application has been received by SAMS Domestic or Grants.gov in its entirety. S/GWI bears no responsibility for disqualification that result from applicants not being registered before the due date, for system errors in either SAMS Domestic or Grants.gov, or other errors in the application process. Additionally, S/GWI strongly encourages applicants to save a screen shot of the checklist showing all documents submitted in case any document fails to upload successfully.

Faxed, couriered, or emailed documents will **not** be accepted. Reasonable accommodations may, in appropriate circumstances, be provided to applicants with disabilities or for security

reasons. Applicants must follow all formatting instructions in the applicable NOFO and these instructions.

S/GWI encourages organizations to **submit applications during normal business hours** (Monday – Friday, 9:00AM - 5:00PM Eastern Standard Time [EST]). If an applicant experiences technical difficulties and has contacted the appropriate helpdesk but is not receiving timely assistance (e.g., if you have not received a response within 48 hours of contacting the helpdesk), you may contact the S/GWI point of contact listed on page 1 of this RSOI. The point of contact may assist in contacting the appropriate helpdesk.

SAMS Domestic Applications:

Applicants using SAMS Domestic for the first time should complete their “New Organization Registration.” To register with SAMS Domestic, click “Login to <https://mygrants.servicenowservices.com>” and follow the “create an account” link.

Organizations **must** remember to save a screen shot of the checklist showing all documents submitted in case any document fails to upload successfully.

SAMS Domestic Help Desk:

For assistance with SAMS Domestic accounts and technical issues related to the system, please contact the ILMS help desk by phone at +1 (888) 313-4567 (toll charges apply for international callers) or through the Self Service online portal that can be accessed from <https://afsitsm.service-now.com/ilms/home>. Customer support is available 24/7.

V. Application Review and Selection Process

The Grants Officer will determine technical eligibility for all SOI submissions. All technically eligible SOIs will then be reviewed against the same five criteria by an S/GWI Review Panel: Organizational Capacity and Past Performance; Program Strategy; Gender Analysis, Inclusion and Do No Harm; Performance Monitoring, Learning, and Evaluation; and Sustainability.

Additionally, the Panel will evaluate how the SOI meets the solicitation request, U.S. foreign policy goals, and S/GWI’s overall priority needs. Panelists review each SOI individually against the evaluation criteria, not against competing SOIs. To ensure all SOIs receive a balanced evaluation, the S/GWI Review Panel will review each document up to the specified page limit and no further. All Panelists must sign non-disclosure agreements and conflict of interest agreements.

S/GWI Review Panels generally include representatives from S/GWI policy and program teams as well as other State Department offices; it may also include external expertise. Once a SOI is approved, selected applicants will be invited to submit full proposal applications based on their SOIs. Unless directed otherwise by the applicant organization, S/GWI may also refer SOIs for possible consideration for other U.S. government related funding opportunities.

The Panel may provide conditions and/or recommendations on SOIs to enhance the proposed program, which must be addressed by the organization in the full proposal application. To ensure effective use of limited S/GWI funds, conditions and recommendations may include requests to increase, decrease, clarify, and/or justify costs and program activities.

S/GWI reserves the right to make a final determination regarding all funding matters, pending funding availability.

Review Criteria:

The following criteria are listed in no particular order of importance:

1. Organizational Capacity and Past Performance (25/100 points):

- Applicant demonstrates an institutional record of successful relevant programs in areas such as girls' empowerment; climate, science, and technology education; women's economic empowerment, including financial education and mentorship; global advocacy.
- Applicant has experience successfully leading a diverse global consortium including INGOs and local partners.

2. Program Strategy (25/100 points):

- Applicant proposes evidence-based approaches to addressing the objectives of the RSOI.
- Applicant demonstrates concrete approaches for equitable partnership with a range of existing women and/or girl-led or –serving civil society organizations to further their impact.
- Application complements / builds on / does not overlap with existing in-country efforts.
- Applicant proposes sufficient yet lean and scalable staffing structures that leverage appropriate internal and external expertise, but maximize support and funding for local leadership. At least 20 percent of funding goes to local organizations and their activities.

3. Gender and Inclusion Analysis, Do No Harm (20/100 points):

- Applicant demonstrates plans and capacity for effectively applying a gender and inclusion analysis to program design and implementation.
- Applicant describes sound approaches to inclusion, including but not limited to ethnic and religious minorities and other historically marginalized groups.
- Applicant demonstrates application of Do No Harm and conflict sensitivity principles.

4. Performance Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) (15/100 points):

- Applicant clearly describes the results to be achieved and demonstrates capacity to measure progress towards those results in a way that reflects local perspectives.
- Proposed outcomes are tangible and achievable within the grant program period.

5. Sustainability (15/100 points):

- Applicant articulates an approach to building local partner capacity to continue their work once funding from this program ends.

VI. Additional Information

S/GWI will not consider SOIs that reflect any type of support for any member, affiliate, or representative of a designated terrorist organization.

S/GWI may ask successful applicant(s) to incorporate coordination of an implementer and stakeholder meeting into the Scope of Work of the final project. S/GWI will discuss this possibility with particular applicant(s) during the proposal negotiation phase.

Organizations should be aware that S/GWI understands that some information contained in SOIs may be considered sensitive or proprietary and will make appropriate efforts to protect such information. However, organizations are advised that S/GWI cannot guarantee that such information will not be disclosed, including pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) or other similar statutes.

The applicant/recipient of the award and any sub-recipient under the award must comply with all applicable terms and conditions, in addition to the assurance and certifications made part of the Notice of Award. Before submitting the SOI, applicants should review all the terms and conditions and required certifications which will apply if a full proposal application is requested and awarded, to ensure that they will be able to comply. These include: 2 CFR 200, 2 CFR 600, and the Department of State Standard Terms and Conditions which are available at:

<https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/U.S.-Department-of-State-Standard-Terms-and-Conditions-10-21-2020.pdf>.

Organizations should be aware that if ultimately selected for an award, the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards set forth in 2 CFR Chapter 200 (Sub-Chapters A through F) shall apply to all non-Federal entities, except for assistance awards to Individuals and Foreign Public Entities. Please note that as of December 26, 2014, 2 CFR 200 (Sub-Chapters A through E) now applies to foreign organizations.

In addition, applicants/recipients of the award and any sub-recipient under the award must comply with the S/GWI-specific award provisions included in Annex B.

The information in this solicitation including its Annexes is binding and may not be modified by any S/GWI representative. **Explanatory information provided by S/GWI that contradicts this language will not be binding.** Issuance of the solicitation and negotiation of SOIs or applications does not constitute an award commitment on the part of the U.S. government.

S/GWI reserves the right to reduce, revise, or increase proposal budgets in accordance with the needs of the program evaluation requirements.

This solicitation will appear on www.grants.gov and SAMS Domestic (<https://mygrants.servicenowservices.com>) although SOI submissions will only be accepted through SAMS Domestic.

ANNEX B: Bureau-Specific Award Provisions

I. Gender Analysis

Prior to implementing activities, the Recipient must document a gender analysis in consultation with local partners for each of the countries or geographic areas where they propose to program. The gender analysis must demonstrate how activities account for the different ways in which they might impact, and be impacted by men, women, boys, and girls¹ of all backgrounds how this has been integrated into the program design in order to narrow existing gender inequities. S/GWI may approve the Recipient to do the initial gender analysis either before or during a project start-up / assessment phase.

The Recipient shall regularly monitor and reflect upon the gender analysis together with local partners and propose in writing any significant adjustments to the program design for S/GWI concurrence. This process shall take place at the frequency set out in the Recipient's proposal, unless otherwise agreed with S/GWI in writing.

Within its Quarterly Progress Reports (QPRs) and its final evaluation(s), the Recipient will report specifically on progress towards addressing the gaps and opportunities identified in the gender analysis.

II. Risk Assessments and Do No Harm

In line with Do No Harm principles, Recipient risk assessment and mitigation plans must address risk to project beneficiaries in addition to risks to staff and project implementation. These should explicitly address gender-related risks and mitigating actions, as identified in the gender analysis.

III. Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

The recipient will take all practical steps in accordance with their internal controls and existing policies and procedures to address the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA). In accordance with the internal control requirements in 2 CFR 200.303, which require the recipient to establish standards of conduct for its employees, the recipient must ensure that all its employees adhere to these standards of conduct in a manner that incorporates safeguarding against the sexual exploitation and abuse of beneficiaries, including but not limited to updating

¹ This list is a starting point of people to include, but other communities or countries may have or prefer different titles or breakdowns, such as "youth," "children," "elders," "Kinnar," "fa'afafine" or many more groups/categories. This list is not meant to limit your analysis, but to be a helpful reminder to consult for the program context.

internal policies and procedures, as applicable and appropriate, and conducting appropriate monitoring of beneficiaries, as required by 2 CFR 200.329, which stipulates that the “non-Federal entity must monitor its activities under Federal awards to assure compliance with applicable Federal requirements.” If the recipient determines that the conduct of any recipient employee is not in accordance with this requirement, the recipient must address the situation in accordance with the recipient’s internal policies and procedures.

IV. Non-Discrimination

S/GWI policy requires that the recipient not discriminate against any beneficiaries in implementation of this award, such as, but not limited to, by withholding, adversely impacting, or denying equitable access to the benefits provided through this award on the basis of any factor not expressly stated in the award. This includes, for example, race, color, religion, sex (including gender identity, sexual orientation, and pregnancy), national origin, disability, age, genetic information, marital status, parental status, political affiliation, or veteran’s status. Nothing in this provision is intended to limit the ability of the recipient to target activities toward the assistance needs of certain populations as defined in the award.

V. Program Impact, Highlights, Success Stories

In quarterly reporting, the Recipient shall share success stories and/or highlights--or confirm that there were none for that quarter. Examples include program impact stories about (a) individual beneficiaries; (b) organizational, project, or program-level highlights; and (c) lessons learned and adapted to during implementation. The Recipient should indicate whether the information can be used in public communications by S/GWI and/or the broader U.S. Government. This may include, but is not limited to, use in remarks, social media, and website text. The privacy and safety of program beneficiaries is paramount; the Recipient shall ensure that appropriate permissions have been granted by those included in text and photos and that risks have been assessed and mitigated prior to including the information in quarterly reporting. The reporting should include high-resolution photos, photo credit information, and confirmation that appropriate permissions have been obtained from subjects/photographers for using the photos, where applicable.

VI. Program Evaluations

The Recipient is required to budget and arrange for independent program evaluations in accordance with its approved proposal and any subsequent changes agreed with S/GWI in writing. In the spirit of the Evidence Act,² S/GWI ask that evaluation reports be written with the

² <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/4174>

expectation that they will be made public. **S/GWI prioritizes the safety and security of partners, participants, and beneficiaries of its work.** The Recipient should therefore aim to limit the amount of sensitive, potentially sensitive, or personal identifying information (PII) in evaluation narratives to allow this information to be easily redacted. Alternatively, this type of information can be placed in an annex that can be withheld from publication. In the event that this is not feasible or there is any concern for partners', participants', or beneficiaries' safety, an evaluation will not be made public. S/GWI will make this determination on a case-by-case basis in consultation with the Recipient.