

**Questions and Answers for
Western Hemisphere Regional Transnational Crime Assessment and Analysis
SFOP0007196**

Date: July 28, 2020

Question 1:

Our organization is interested in applying to the attached NOFO, however, in the eligibility criteria, it lists "U.S.-based educational institutions subject to section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. tax code". While a public institution of higher education that is not a 501(c)(3) institution, are we still eligible to apply to this program, or would it be possible to amend the NOFO to include public and private institutions of higher education to the eligibility criteria?

Answer:

As stated in Section III of the NOFO: Applicants that qualify to receive U.S. grants (such as U.S. not-for-profit/non-governmental organizations (NGOs) or U.S.-based educational institutions subject to section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. tax code; foreign not-for-profits/non-governmental organizations (NGOs) or foreign based educational institutions, with the ability to develop and successfully implement a project in the Western Hemisphere region and meet INL's reporting requirements.

Question 2:

In addition to the required deliverables (i.e., written reports), will INL accept the inclusion of the creation of a virtual GIS dashboard to visualize and track reported homicide, drug and arms trafficking, and corruption cases as well as the activities of organized crime activities in Latin America and the Caribbean in real-time?

Answer:

Applicant efforts to promote sustainability of the project through a virtual dashboard with open source information or other activities are welcome and should be included in the proposal for consideration. Any additional visualization dashboards should be accessible by State Department personnel and the data used in these dashboards should be provided to the State Department at the conclusion of this project.

Question 3:

We would like to know how long we should budget and plan for. On p. 11 it says the period of performance is one year. On p.9, under Desired Results and Illustrative Indicators, it reads: "By the end of the two years of the project..." Therefore, do we plan for one or two years?

Answer:

The period of performance for the project for one year. Additional years may be awarded depending on INL priorities, recipient performance, and the availability of funding.

Question 4:

Addressing Target Populations: The NOFO requests that proposals must detail the approximate number of beneficiaries, **both direct and indirect. If applicants are not providing any service to anybody, how do we include this?**

Answer:

Applicants should estimate the audiences (e.g. think tanks, educational institutions, and similar organizations) to which the research and comprehensive reports from the project would be distributed and determine the approximate number of beneficiaries from that estimate.

Question 5:

The proposal states that applicants are to include how plans fit into other efforts that are currently underway, and if there are overlappings. How are applicants to ensure that efforts are not being replicated? How do we know what else is happening in the field? Does this refer to efforts financed by State? Or does this refer to the broader academic and NGO communities?

Answer:

Applicants may need to do some research prior to submitting a proposal to determine academic, government, and non-governmental agencies working in the fields identified in the solicitation. Overlapping with previous efforts from other organizations is allowed, but the applicant should explain the unique aspect that it will add to previously publicized efforts that are already underway.

Question 6:

Does allowability of acceptable proposal depend on which territorial level? Do you consider improving the research and map of the scope of corruption by accoupling two different cities proposals?

Answer:

Successful applicants will be able to provide an assessment and analysis of corruption and the impact of anti-corruption interventions across the subregions indicated in the solicitation - the Caribbean, Central America, Mexico, and South America - at the national level.