

SFOP0008920

Counterterrorism Financing Communications Initiative

Department of State

Bureau of Counterterrorism

Q&A:

Question 1: “Is it acceptable for organizations to submit two separate concepts per country?”

- **Response:** Page 3 of the RSOIC states that “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.” Please only submit one SOIC per organization, even if you propose concepts for work in more than one country.

Question 2: Does Kyrgyzstan and / or Morocco fall under the eligibility countries list?

- **Response:** Page 2 of the RSOIC states priority countries and regions are “Africa, South or Southeast Asia, or the Near East.” Those are the regions where CT is currently most interested in supporting this type of work. CT will, however, consider SOICs for countries outside of those regions (including Kyrgyzstan).

Question 3: Are for-profit organizations eligible (only if allowed by appropriation; pursuant to 2 CFR 200.400g, it is U.S. Department of State policy not to award profit under assistance instruments.).

- **Response:** For-profit companies are not eligible to apply for this opportunity.

Question 4: What is the approximate budget? At what stage in the process will a final budget be provided to inform program design?

- **Response:** CT seeks concepts outlining how applicants propose to achieve the objectives outlined in the RSOIC; in those concepts, applicants can provide a rough estimate of the overall projected cost but do not need to prepare a budget. As stated in Page 1 of the RSOIC, “The submission of a Statement of Interest and Capacity (SOIC) is the first step in a two-part process... After a review of eligible SOICs against the below criteria, CT will invite select applicants to expand their statements into full applications.” The invitation for a full application must include a final budget.

Question 5: Should applicants propose specific countries within the priority regions as part of their first-round application, or will the focus areas for the program be selected in consultation with State CT at a later stage?

- **Response:** Applicants should propose to work in one or more specific countries, ideally within the priority regions, as part of their first-round application.

Question 6: Will the CT Bureau arrange a Co-Creation Workshop with organizations whose SOICS have been selected for the next stage of the competitive tender process?

- **Response:** No; there will not be a co-creation workshop as part of this process. CT will review SOICs and then invite one or more applicants to submit full proposals and budgets.

Question 6: The RSOIC does not identify a cost range, is there a floor and ceiling for the awards emanating from the funding opportunity?

- **Response:** At this stage we are only interested in concepts. Applicants should propose an approach in one or more countries, ideally within the prioritized regions. The amount of funding available will be listed in the second stage of the process, when select organizations are invited to submit full proposals and budgets.

Question 7: The RSOIC states to “Please ensure: All budgets are in U.S. dollars”, but does not seem to require a budget or cost figure. Is a budget or cost estimate required? If so, should it be included in the 4-pages of the Concept Paper?

- **Response:** At this stage, no budget is required.

Question 8: The RSOIC refers to “Priority Countries or Regions”. Can a single Concept Paper be submitted addressing multiple countries and/or multiple regions? Or, should multiple Concept Papers be submitted?

Response: Page 3 of the RSOIC states that “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.” A single SOIC can address multiple countries and/or regions. Please only submit one SOIC per organization, even if you propose concepts for work in more than one country.

Question 9: Is a cover page allowed in addition to the four pages of the Concept Note?

- **Response:** A cover page will count towards the four page limit of the Concept Note.

Question 10: [My organization has a UEI.] Can you pls kindly confirm that there is nothing else that we are required to do in terms of registration?

- **Response:** Please review pages 4-6 of the RSOIC for directions pertaining to various required registrations. In addition to UEI, SAM.gov registration is also required.

Question 11: In order to apply, do we do so through SAMS Domestic? Or grants.gov? Can we just choose either one?

- **Response:** Page 6 of the RSOIC states that “All application materials must be submitted electronically through www.Grants.gov or SAMS Domestic.”

Question 12: The document that we are required to submit at this first stage is ONLY the Concept note as outlined below? Do we need to submit a budget? Performance Management

Plan? SF 424? SF 424A? SF 424 B? Or are all these other docs required if we are invited through to the next stage?

- **Response:** Page 7 of the RSOIC states “The submission of a SOIC is the first step in a multi-phased process. Applicants must first submit a SOIC, which is a concise concept note designed to clearly communicate a program idea and its objectives. Next, CT will conduct a merit review of all eligible SOICs and invite select applicants to expand their statements into full applications through a limited competition process. CT will then convene a second merit review panel to make a final recommendation for one or more awards.” Based on this, to be considered, you first need to submit only a SOIC, a concise concept note designed to clearly communicate a program idea and its objectives. The budget, PMP, SF-424, and other documents would be required if invited to submit a full proposal.

Question 13: Does CT have a preference between SOICs that tackle one country and SOICs that tackle multiple countries?

- **Response:** CT has no preference.

Question 14: Can you please confirm that concepts note are not expected to include a budget summary?

- **Response:** That is correct; concepts are not expected to include a budget at this stage.

Question 15: NOFO p.1 states that “CT seeks concept notes regarding (...) interactions with designated non-financial businesses and professions”. However, DNFBPs are not mentioned under program objectives listed on p.2. Could you please confirm if DNFBPs should be included in the program? If so, should they be included across all three objectives?

- **Response:** DNFBPs can be but do not need to be included in the proposed concepts.

Question 16: Can applicants work on raising awareness on sanctions lists and sanctions implementation?

- **Response:** How the applicant proposes to meet the program objectives as outlined on Page 2 of the RSOIC is left to the applicant’s discretion.

Question 17: Can applicants work on designing and printing of outreach material? And on creating or updating websites?

- **Response:** How the applicant proposes to meet the program objectives as outlined on Page 2 of the RSOIC is left to the applicant’s discretion.

Question 18: Can applicants build participants’ general communication skills?

- **Response:** How the applicant proposes to meet the program objectives as outlined on Page 2 of the RSOIC is left to the applicant’s discretion.

Question 19: Are partnerships with local organizations encouraged?

- **Response:** How the applicant proposes to meet the program objectives as outlined on Page 2 of the RSOIC is left to the applicant's discretion.