

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF COUNTERTERRORISM
Request for Statements of Interest and Capacity (RSOIC)**

Funding Opportunity Title: Counterterrorism Financing Communications Initiative

Funding Opportunity Number: SFOP0008920

Deadline for Applications: June 1, 2022, 23:59 ET

Assistance Listing Number: 19.701

Deadline for Receipt of Questions: May 13, 2022, 17:30 ET

A. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Bureau of Counterterrorism (CT) of the U.S. Department of State announces a Request for Statements of Interest and Capacity (RSOIC) from organizations interested in implementing projects under CT's Counterterrorism Financing Communications Initiative. Specifically, CT seeks concepts regarding building law enforcement capacity to promote public awareness on countering the finance of terrorism (CFT), including but not limited to charitable giving, counterfeit or illicit goods, interactions with designated non-financial businesses and professions, and public corruption as it relates to terrorist financing.

The submission of a Statement of Interest and Capacity (SOIC) is the first step in a two-part process. As outlined in more detail below, prospective applicants must first submit a SOIC designed to briefly communicate a project concept as well as the organization's capacity to implement activities as described herein. After a review of eligible SOICs against the below criteria, CT will invite select applicants to expand their statements into full applications through a limited competition process. This two-step process allows organizations to submit project ideas to CT before investing significantly more time in assembling full proposals and budgets.

The Challenge:

Awareness of the proper functioning of and need for robust anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) regimes and money laundering (ML) and terrorist financing (TF) typologies and trends is generally limited to government entities involved in combating ML and TF and private sector actors regulated for AML/CFT compliance. In many developing nations, however, TF occurs outside the formal regulated financial sector, such as the use of informal remittance systems, "tax" collection by local warlords or terrorist actors, cash contributions to sham charities supporting malicious causes, or the use of other proceeds of localized crimes by terrorist actors.

CT seeks program concepts outlining how to counter TF and ML in a jurisdiction or region where the applicant believes TF or ML occurs in the informal financial sector and where there is opportunity to improve law enforcement's (LE) collaboration with the public to reduce the threat. Program concepts should focus on how to build LE capacity to educate the public on the importance of AML/CFT regimes and explain how the public can help report TF and ML activities to the proper authorities. Finally, if warranted in a jurisdiction or region, a program should also educate the public and non-profit organizations (NPOs) on TF and ML risks associated with charitable giving, identify red flags, and explain how to best share information

and cooperate with LE efforts to prevent or disrupt TF and ML. Ultimately, the concepts should outline how, in a particular jurisdiction, the organization would help build LE capacity to design and implement a plan to inform the public and NPOs about TF and ML risks in their communities, emphasize the importance of combating TF and ML, and encourage the public and NPOs to assist LE to prevent or ameliorate TF and ML activities. These efforts depend on the threat and political/security context, and could include but are not limited to setting-up tip lines, the creation of a specialized vetted person or unit to collect tip information, the creation of a TF and ML offense asset recovery fund or other mechanisms to reward tipsters for cooperation with LE or other AML/CFT government actors or any other creative method to encourage public and NPO participation in combatting TF and ML.

Priority Countries or Regions: Africa, South or Southeast Asia, or the Near East.

Program Objectives:

1. Build law enforcement capacity to inform the public about TF and ML trends and risks associated with charitable giving and encourage the public to assist LE in combating TF and ML.
2. Build law enforcement capacity to assist NPOs in identifying and mitigating TF and ML risks and encourage NPOs to assist LE in combating TF and ML.
3. Build law enforcement capacity to design and implement a plan to promote public and NPO cooperation with AML/CFT authorities.

Participants and Audiences: LE, public, prosecutors, financial intelligence units, and NPOs.

B. FEDERAL AWARD INFORMATION

Length of performance period: 18 to 24 months

Number of awards anticipated: At least one (1) award (dependent on amounts)

Type of Funding: FY21 NADR/CTF

Anticipated programs start date: September 2022

This notice is subject to availability of funding.

Funding Instrument Type: Cooperative agreement

Program Performance Period: Proposed programs should be completed in two (2) years or less.

C. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

1. Eligible Applicants

The following organizations are eligible to apply:

- Not-for-profit organizations, including think tanks and civil society/non-governmental organizations
- Public and private educational institutions
- For-profit organizations (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.)
- Public International Organizations (PIOs) and Governmental institutions

2. Cost Sharing or Matching

Providing cost sharing, matching, or cost participation is not an eligibility factor or requirement for this RSOIC and providing cost share will not result in a more favorable competitive ranking.

3. Other Eligibility Requirements

In order to apply, each applicant must have a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI), formerly referred to as DUNS, and an active registration with the SAM.gov. Please see Section D for information on how to obtain these registrations.

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.

D. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

- Address to Request Application Package

Application forms required below are available at SAMS Domestic.

- Content and Form of Application Submission

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 one or more of the 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 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**:

Concept Note (4 pages maximum): The concept should contain sufficient information that anyone not familiar with it would understand exactly what the applicant wants to do. You may use your own format, but it must include all the items below.

- **Introduction to the Organization Applying:** A description of past and present operations showing ability to carry out the proposed project.
- **Problem Statement:** Clear, concise, and well-supported statement of the problem to be addressed and why the proposed project is needed
- **Program Concept:** A description of *how* the organization proposes to help meet the challenge and objectives described above. What are the goals, objectives, theory of change, and illustrative activities of the proposed project?

Attachment:

- Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management (SAM.gov)
- All prime organizations, whether based in the United States or in another country, must have a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI), formerly referred to as DUNS, and an active registration with the SAM.gov **before submitting an application**. CT 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.

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 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 NATO CAGE (NCAGE) code and UEI number prior to registering in SAM.gov.

All organizations applying for grants (except individuals) must obtain these registrations. All are free of charge:

- Unique entity identifier from SAM.gov
- NCAGE/CAGE code
- www.SAM.gov registration

Step 1: Apply for a UEI and an NCAGE number (these can be completed simultaneously)

UEI guide: Organizations must have a UEI from SAM.gov. If your organization is already registered on SAM.gov, you have been automatically assigned a UEI. If your organization is not registered on SAM.gov, you will receive a UEI upon registering on SAM.gov.

Additional information on UEI replacing DUNS is available from the GSA:
<https://www.gsa.gov/about-us/organization/federal-acquisition-service/office-of-systems-management/integrated-award-environment-iae/iae-systems-information-kit/unique-entity-identifier-update>

Additional information on how to register for a UEI is available from the Federal Service Desk:
https://www.fsd.gov/gsafsd_sp?id=kb_article_view&sysparm_article=KB0049214&sys_kb_id=4a26988e1bdf78106397ec21f54bcbf6&spa=1

NCAGE application: Application page here:
<https://eportal.nspa.nato.int/AC135Public/scage/CageList.aspx>
Instructions for the NCAGE application process:
<https://eportal.nspa.nato.int/AC135Public/Docs/US%20Instructions%20for%20NSPA%20NCA%20GE.pdf>

For NCAGE help from within the U.S., call 1-888-227-2423
For NCAGE help from outside the U.S., call 1-269-961-7766
Email NCAGE@dlis.dla.mil for any problems in getting an NCAGE code.

Step 2: After receiving the NCAGE Code, proceed to register in SAM.gov by logging onto:
<https://www.sam.gov>. SAM 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. 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.

Note: SAM.gov is not the same as SAMS Domestic. It is free 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 “International Registrants” in the left navigation panel. Please note, guidance on SAM.gov and the guidance on GSA’s website about requirement for registering in SAM.gov is subject to change. Applicants should review the website for the most up-to-date guidance.

Exemptions

An exemption from these requirements may be permitted on a case-by-case basis if:

- An applicant's identity must be protected due to potential endangerment of their mission, their organization's status, their employees, or individuals being served by the applicant.

Organizations requesting exemption from UEI or SAM.gov requirements must email the point of contact listed in the RSOIC at least **two weeks prior to the deadline in the RSOIC 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.

Note: Foreign organizations will be required to register with the NATO Support Agency (NSPA) to receive a NCAGE code in order to register in SAM.gov. NSPA will forward your registration request to the applicable National Codification Bureau (NCB) if your organization is located in a NATO or Tier 2 Sponsored Non-NATO Nation. As of September 2021, NATO nations included Albania, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Montenegro, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey, United Kingdom, and the United States of America. As of September 2021, Tier 2 nations included Argentina, Australia, Austria, Brazil, Colombia, Finland, India, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Morocco, New Zealand, Serbia, Singapore, Sweden, Ukraine, and United Arab Emirates.

*NSPA and/or the appropriate NCB forwards all NCAGE code information to all Allied Committee 135 (AC/135) nations, which as of September 2021 also included Algeria, Belarus, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Brunei Darussalam, Chile, Egypt, Georgia, Jordan, Oman, Pakistan, Peru, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, and Thailand. **All organizations are strongly advised to take this into consideration when assessing whether registration may result in possible endangerment.***

- Submission Dates and Times

SOICs are due no later than 11:59 ET on June 1, 2022.

- Funding Restrictions

This program will be funded from the Department of State's Nonproliferation, Anti-terrorism, Demining, and Related Programs (NADR) foreign assistance funding account, which is intended to enhance partner nations' law enforcement counterterrorism capacities.

- Other Submission Requirements

All application materials must be submitted electronically through www.Grants.gov or SAMS Domestic.

E. APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

1. Criteria

Each SOIC will be evaluated and rated on the basis of the evaluation criteria outlined below. Criteria are listed in order of importance.

1. Quality and Feasibility of the Program Idea:

- The concept responds to the RSOIC and is appropriate in the context of the proposed countries/region.
- The concept exhibits originality but is feasible.
- The concept includes a reasonable implementation timeline.
- The concept directly connects proposed activities with the desired outcomes (goals and objectives) listed above.

2. Program Planning/Ability to Achieve Objectives:

- The concept outlines how organization will mitigate risk and security concerns.
- The concept addresses how the project will engage or obtain support from relevant stakeholders, including host government, to obtain access and conduct programming.

3. Organizational Capacity and Record on Previous Grants:

- The concept demonstrates an institutional record of previous successfully implemented projects in counterterrorism LE capacity building, especially related to TF.

2. Review and Selection Process

CT will conduct a merit review of all eligible SOICs as outlined in this RSOIC. SOICs will be reviewed by an independent review panel consisting of qualified subject matter experts from other Department of State bureaus and offices, U.S. Embassies, or other U.S. Government agencies.

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.

The amount of resources made available for this project will depend on the concepts received and the availability of funds. CT reserves the right to fund any or none of the concepts or subsequent applications submitted.

The RSOIC process is to allow applicants the opportunity to submit program ideas for CT to evaluate prior to development of full proposal applications.

3. Federal Awardee Performance & Integrity Information System (FAPIIS)

For any Federal award under a notice of funding opportunity, if the Federal awarding agency anticipates that the total Federal share will be greater than the simplified acquisition threshold on any Federal award under a notice of funding opportunity may include, over the period of

performance (see §200.88 Simplified Acquisition Threshold), this section must also inform applicants:

- i. That 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 designated integrity and performance system accessible through SAM (currently FAPIIS) (see 41 U.S.C. 2313);
- ii. That an applicant, at its option, may review information in the designated integrity and performance systems accessible through SAM 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 SAM;
- iii. That the Federal awarding agency will consider any comments by the applicant, in addition to the other information in the designated integrity and performance system, in making a judgment about the applicant's integrity, business ethics, and record of performance under Federal awards when completing the review of risk posed by applicants as described in §200.206 Federal awarding agency review of risk posed by applicants.

4. Anticipated Announcement and Federal Award Dates

For the first step of this multi-step process, RSOIC applicants will receive notification by June 24 if they are invited to submit full applications for funding, with the successful applicant or applicants receiving notification of award by September 2022. The U.S. Department of State is under no obligation to fund any of the proposals submitted under this funding opportunity.

F. FEDERAL AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

1. Federal Award Notices

The grant award will be written, signed, awarded, and administered by the Grants Officer. The assistance award agreement is the authorizing document and it will be provided to the recipient for review and signature by email. The recipient may only start incurring program expenses beginning on the start date shown on the grant 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 RSOIC 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. Furthermore, the U.S. government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals received.

Payment Method: The Department has mandated PMS to be the sole electronic payment method for domestically awarded Federal financial assistance to U.S.-based organizations where

the recipient is expected to receive multiple payments. PMS is not usually used for awards where the recipient will receive a single lump-sum payment.

2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

Before submitting an application, applicants should review all the terms and conditions and required certifications that will apply to this award to ensure that they will be able to comply.

These include:

- [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](#)

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: NOTE:

- President’s September 2, 2020 memorandum, entitled *Memorandum on Reviewing Funding to State and Local Government Recipients of Federal Funds that Are Permitting Anarchy, Violence, and Destruction in American Cities*;
- *Executive Order on Combating Race and Sex Stereotyping* (E.O. 13950);
- *Executive Order on Protecting American Monuments, Memorials, and Statues and Combating Recent Criminal Violence* (E.O. 13933); and
- [Guidance for Grants and Agreements in Title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations](#) (2 CFR), as updated in the Federal Register’s 85 FR 49506 on August 13, 2020, particularly on:
 - Selecting recipients most likely to be successful in delivering results based on the program objectives through an objective process of evaluating Federal award applications (2 CFR part 200.205),
 - Prohibiting the purchase of certain telecommunication and video surveillance services or equipment in alignment with section 889 of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2019 (Pub. L. No. 115—232) (2 CFR part 200.216),
 - 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 in whole or in part to the greatest extent authorized by law, if an award no longer effectuates the program goals or agency priorities (2 CFR part 200.340).

G. FEDERAL AWARDING AGENCY CONTACTS

If you have any questions about the grant application process, please contact BallardM2@state.gov.

Questions and Answers or FAQ will be posted on SAMS Domestic.