

June 15 Information Session Questions and Written Questions Submitted to INL

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1. Q: Please speak to the issue of vetting and the issue of corruption in the region.

- A: INL is looking for ideas on examining the type of corruption and what the scale and scope is with regards to transnational organized crime. We are interested in looking at vetting and the selection process of high-level, elected justice sector officials, and how these nominated individuals are vetted given the numerous opportunities for corruption to occur throughout the selection process of these officials. We are looking to identify where those pain points exist, and how INL can help create a more transparent process.

Technical Questions

2. Q: The NOFO notes that INL intends to make two to three awards, providing a funding floor and ceiling amount for each award. Would INL consider making a single award to an applicant for all three objectives? Do all applicants have to apply to all three, or could applicants apply to only one or two objectives instead?

- A: Applicants can address one or more objectives within their application. Applications that address one or more objectives will not be given preference over ones that address only one – instead, applications will be evaluated on their merit and their capacity to address corruption with a region-wide approach through broadly applicable interventions, including judicial vetting, country corruption scorecards, and on-demand training and technical assistance.

3. Q: Under Objective 2, please clarify what INL means by sub-region.

- A: This refers to specific sub-regions within the Western Hemisphere, such as the Caribbean, Central America, Mexico, and South America. Applicants are also welcome to propose specific countries within the Western Hemisphere – except those

countries listed as not eligible under the NOFO – as well, providing a justification for their prioritization and recommendation based on their expertise.

4. Q: Is it possible for applicants to select the countries or sub-regions to focus on?

- A: As specified in the NOFO, for Objectives 1 and 2, INL welcomes applicants to propose target sub-regions or countries along with an accompanying rationale for why those countries are recommended for assistance.

5. Q: Can INL please clarify if there is a minimum number of countries per subregion required for an applicant to be considered as including a subregion, rather than individual countries in a subregion?

- A: There is no minimum number of countries per sub-region required from applicants, to be considered as including a sub-region. As stated in the NOFO, INL welcomes applicants to recommend either a sub-region within the hemisphere or selected countries for Objectives 1 or 2, along with a rationale as to why these countries should be prioritized for this effort.

6. Q: NOFO p.10 establishes a 15-page limit for the proposal narrative and lists six sub-sections (cover page, table of contents, etc.) that comprise the proposal narrative. However, if each of these sections is included in the 15-page limit, offerors may find themselves with 10 pages or fewer for a technical description of the program. Would INL consider excluding some of these sub-sections—at least the cover page, table of contents and acronyms, and the executive summary—from the 15-page limit?

- A: As specified in the NOFO, the proposal narrative, which does contain multiple sections, should not exceed 15 pages.

7. Q: Several of the proposal sections that appear on NOFO pages 10-12 (logic model, M&E plan, and project risk analysis) do not specify include page limits. Can offerors safely assume, then, that these sections do not have set page limits?

- A: If a page limit is not specified within the NOFO, there is no page limit requirement. However, INL encourages applicants to closely review the requirements of the NOFO, including page limits for each section.

8. Q: Page 1 of the NOFO lists the Application Floor as “at least \$400,000 - \$600,000 U.S. Dollars (each award)” and the Total Funding available as \$1,214,927 U.S. Dollars. Could INL please clarify if there is a ceiling for each individual award?

- A: There is no ceiling for each individual award. While an applicant may choose to apply for one or all objectives, although INL does anticipate funding each of the three objectives. The final decision regarding the number of awards will be determined by the Technical Evaluation Panel during the evaluation process.

9. Page 4, Section A. Project Description of the NOFO states “Applicants should demonstrate their ability to address all objectives of this grant in Spanish and English, as well as Dutch for activities that may be carried out in Suriname.” Can INL confirm that applicant projects do not need to address all three objectives in the NOFO ?

- A: Applicants are not required to apply to all three objectives in the NOFO and may apply for one or two objectives. **Applications that address one or more objectives will not be given preference over ones that address only one.** The final decision regarding the number of awards will be determined by the Technical Evaluation Panel during the evaluation process.
- As specified in the NOFO, for Objectives 1 and 2, INL welcomes applicants to propose target countries along with an accompanying rationale.

10. Could you please clarify whether it is possible to select different countries for the individual project objectives, e.g. implement activities under objective 1 in a selected group of countries that is different to countries involved in Objective 3 and Objective 2, whilst ensuring that all countries involved are in the target region?

- A: Applicants may choose to select different countries for each individual objective. Applicants are not required to apply to all three objectives in the NOFO and may apply for one or two objectives. **Applications that address one or more objectives will not be given preference over ones that address only one.** The final decision regarding the number of awards will be determined by the Technical Evaluation Panel during the evaluation process.

Language Requirements

11. Q: Is the language requirement only be necessary to demonstrate in the specific sub-region/countries that are specified?

- A: For Objectives 1 and 2, the applicant would need to demonstrate, at a minimum, the language requirement for the specific sub-region/countries being proposed. Applicants applying for Objective 3 should demonstrate their preparedness to deploy interventions in Spanish, English, Dutch, and/or Portuguese.

12. Can INL confirm that applicants need to demonstrate their ability to implement in the languages spoken in their selected countries?

- A: For Objectives 1 and 2, the applicant would need to demonstrate, at a minimum, the language requirement for the specific sub-region/countries being proposed. Applicants applying for Objective 3 should demonstrate their preparedness to deploy interventions in Spanish, English, Dutch, and/or Portuguese.

COVID-19 Related

13. Q: Given COVID-19 related travel restrictions, will you be willing to consider hybrid interventions (virtual capacity building), or does INL require all in-person interventions?

- A: INL is willing to consider hybrid interventions that incorporate virtual training, in light of COVID-19 travel restrictions.

Objective 3

14. Q: For Objective 3, how are applicants intended to budget costs if a particular intervention is expensive? Is there a general number of interventions INL is considering within the proposal cap? Will additional funding be available above and beyond the grant amount?

- A: INL is unable to instruct applicants how to budget costs for interventions, as this would depend on, among other things, the amounts an applicant decides to budget for each objective of the NOFO, if applying for more than one. INL welcomes applicants to propose a sub-region or a group of countries in the region that could be targeted in this pilot effort, as long as applicants demonstrate their capacity to address the range of anticorruption programming areas specified on page 6. Applicants should also ensure that language requirements will be addressed within the proposed countries.
- Given that this objective would be demand driven, with flexibility and rapidity in mind, INL envisions interventions likely falling within a potential spectrum, ranging from specific, ad hoc capacity building for a one or two countries, to a series of sustained regional interventions that could support multiple countries, on the opposite end of this spectrum. One hypothetical example might be supporting several countries with the implementation of compliance with international anticorruption conventions, such as the UN Convention Against Corruption.
- INL does envision contributing additional funding for this objective in the future, but this ultimately depends on a variety of factors, including the availability of funds and fulfillment of Congressionally mandated reporting requirements.

15. Q: On p.6, in the description of “Objective 3: Capacity Building,” the NOFO notes that “For assistance requests, the implementer will submit a detailed technical proposal to the INL GOR, to include a work plan and M&E plan. Pending funds availability, a cost proposal may be required...” Given the 12-month initial timeframe for implementation, would INL consider streamlining what it will require for offerors to respond to each assistance request so as not to cut down the time available for the response itself?

- A: INL looks to applicants to demonstrate their capacity to address the range of anticorruption programming areas specified on page 6. Given significant interest in monitoring and evaluation and performance management from Congress, OMB, and Department of State stakeholders, a work plan and M&E plan are required components for each technical proposal under Objective 3 in the post-award/execution stage of the grant, and a cost proposal may also be required as stated in the NOFO.
- For Objective 3, INL welcomes applicants to propose a sub-region or a group of countries in the region that could be targeted in this pilot effort, ensuring that language requirements will be addressed within the proposed countries.