

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Notification of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)**

**U.S. Embassy KSA PUBLIC AFFAIRS
Empowering Saudi Women and Youth through Sports**

Announcement Type:	Grant
Funding opportunity number:	DOS-SAU-PD-2203
Closing Date and Time for Submission of Application:	June 1, 2022 (KSA time)
Eligibility Category:	Saudi-based civil-society organizations, think tanks, non-governmental organizations, and academic institutions or similar U.S.-based organizations with a partner organization based in Saudi Arabia.
Award Ceiling:	U.S. \$125,000
Award Floor:	U.S. \$50,000
Electronic Requirement:	Proposals must be submitted by email to the email address listed below.
Announcement Type:	New Announcement
Federal Agency Contact:	Najwa Mounir
Email:	riyadhgrants@state.gov

I. Funding Opportunity Description

The U.S. Embassy in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Public Affairs Section (PAS) of the U.S. Department of State is pleased to announce that limited funding is available through the Embassy's Public Affairs grants program to support activities that promote U.S.-Saudi bilateral relations in the following priority area:

- 1) Empowering women and youth in Saudi Arabia through sports.

This is a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) outlining our funding priorities, the strategic themes we focus on, and the procedures for submitting requests for funding. Please follow all instructions below carefully:

Eligibility is limited to those who qualify to receive U.S. grants and have the ability to develop and implement their proposed programs in Saudi Arabia within the timeframe indicated on their applications. The U.S. Embassy in the Kingdom Saudi Arabia and the Department of State encourage organizations that have not previously received international program funding from the U.S. government to apply. Applicants must have demonstrated expertise in one or more of the following subject areas: sports business or academic programming, sports management and entrepreneurship, sports training, sports entrepreneurship training, building sports-related institution-to-institution partnerships.

II. Purpose of Grant

The U.S. Embassy in the Kingdom Saudi Arabia requests proposals for projects aimed at empowering women and youth in Saudi Arabia through sports. While a wide range of project proposals will be considered, successful projects will incorporate many of the following elements:

- A clearly defined project objective, with specific supporting goals and quantifiable project milestones.
- A focus on sports programming that complements, rather than competes with, programs already active in Saudi Arabia by reaching currently underserved populations, working in areas where little training is currently offered, or addressing important topics underrepresented in current programs. For example, priority will be given to proposals that include participants from outside of the major cities (Riyadh, Jeddah, Dhahran/Damman) and/or that focus on sports disciplines such as (but not limited to) **soccer, basketball, motorsports, American football**, or other sports where Saudi women and youth are traditionally underrepresented.
- The creation, strengthening, or expansion of a women's sports or sports federations network that encourages and facilitates the transfer of skills and sharing of resources between members.
- The expansion and the creation of a diverse group of certified referees and coaches in different sports disciplines with a priority on training and certifying women referees.
- A mentorship program that aims to accelerate initial success in women/girl-focused Saudi sports federations by pairing them with related, successful sports federations in the United States in an organized and sustainable fashion.
- A sustainable strategic plan to provide program participants with knowledge or skills of lasting value and application beyond the term of the project.
- Use of traditional and innovative educational programs and networking tools in the pursuit of broader goals such as empowering women, economic development, job creation, understanding the value of diversity, sports business development, acquisition of sports leadership skills, etc.

- An integrated project messaging/media plan designed to amplify the reach of key program messages to Saudi participants who do not participate in the program.
- An innovative approach that highlights American expertise or U.S.-Saudi partnerships and creates/strengthens networks between Americans and Saudis.

All project proposals must carefully follow the instructions in the following sections.

III. Award Information

The Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy in the Kingdom Saudi Arabia reserves the right to determine award amounts for the projects described in the proposals based on the Embassy's determination of the best interest of the U.S. government.

Eligible organizations interested in submitting a project proposal are encouraged to thoroughly read this Notification of Funding Opportunity to understand the type of project of interest, the proposal submission requirements, and the evaluation process.

The U.S. government may make the award on the basis of initial applications received. Therefore, each initial application should contain the applicant's best terms from a cost and technical standpoint. The U.S. government reserves the right, however, to enter into discussions with one or more applicants in order to obtain clarifications, additional detail, or refinements in the program description, budget, or other aspects of a proposal.

IV. Eligibility Information:

The U.S. Embassy in the Kingdom Saudi Arabia Public Affairs Section (PAS) encourages proposals from registered not-for-profit Saudi-based civil-society organizations, including think tanks, non-governmental organizations, and academic institutions or similar U.S.-based organizations with a partner organization based in Saudi Arabia with programming experience.

The U.S. Embassy in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is committed to an anti-discrimination policy in all of its projects and activities and welcomes applications irrespective of race, ethnicity, color, creed, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, or other status. Any applicant listed on the Excluded Parties List System in the System for Award Management (SAM) (www.sam.gov) and/or has a current debt to the United States Government is not eligible to apply for an assistance award in accordance with the OMB guidelines at 2 CFR 180 that implement Executive Orders 12549 (3 CFR, 1986 Comp., p. 189) and 12689 (3 CFR, 1989 Comp., p. 235), "Debarment and Suspension." Additionally, no entity or person listed on the Excluded Parties List System in SAM.gov can participate in any activities under an award. All applicants are strongly encouraged to review the Excluded Parties List System in SAM.gov to ensure that no ineligible entity or person is included in their application. By law, commercial firms are ineligible to receive funding through this award mechanism.

For-profit or commercial entities are not eligible to apply. Individual applicants are not eligible to apply.

Cost Sharing or Matching:

1. Cost Sharing or Matching – There is no minimum or maximum percentage required for this competition. However, PAS KSA encourage applicants to provide maximum levels of cost sharing or in-kind funding in support of its programs.

When cost sharing is offered, it is understood and agreed that the applicant must provide the amount of cost sharing as stipulated in its proposal and later included in an approved agreement. Cost sharing may be in the form of allowable direct or indirect costs. For accountability, the Recipient must maintain written records to support all costs which are claimed as the Recipient's contribution, as well as costs to be paid by the Federal government. Such records are subject to audit.

The basis for determining the value of cash and in-kind contributions must be in accordance with the Office of Management and Budget Circular 2 CFR Pars 200 and 600 entitled the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards. In the event the Recipient does not provide the amount of cost sharing as stipulated in the approved budget, PAS KSA contribution will be reduced in like proportion.

2. Other Eligibility Requirements

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.

V. Application and Submission Information

a. Content and Form of Application Submission

Complete applications must include the following:

Mandatory Forms: All mandatory forms must be submitted in English

- Completed and signed **SF-424**
- **SF-424A** (Budget Information for Non-Construction programs) All budgets are in U.S. dollars.
- **SF-424B** (Assurances for Non-Construction programs) (Note: The SF-424B is required only for those applicants which have not registered in SAM.gov or recertified their registration in SAM.gov since February 2, 2019 and completed the online representations and certifications. Please document the SAM.gov exception.)

Summary Coversheet: Cover sheet stating the applicant's name and organization, proposal date, program title, program period proposed start and end date, and brief purpose of the program.

A proposal narrative (three pages maximum): The proposal must be submitted **in English**. The proposal must clearly address the goals and objectives of this funding opportunity. Applicants may use their own format but must ensure the proposal includes the following information:

- **Introduction to the Organization applying:** A description of past and present operations, showing ability to carry out the program, including information on all previous grants from the U.S. Embassy and/or U.S. government agencies.
- **Problem Statement:** Clear, concise and well-supported statement of the problem to be addressed and why the proposed program is needed.
- **Program Goals and Objectives:** The "goals" describe what the program is intended to achieve. What aspect of the relationship between the U.S. and Indonesia will be improved? The "objectives" refer to the intermediate accomplishments on the way to the goals. These should be achievable and measurable.
- **Program Activities:** Describe the program activities and how they will help achieve the objectives.
- **Program Methods and Design:** A description of how the program is expected to work to solve the stated problem and achieve the goal. **Proposed Program Schedule:** The proposed timeline for the program activities. Include the dates, times, and locations of planned activities and events.
- **Key Personnel:** Names, titles, roles and experience/qualifications of key personnel involved in the program. What proportion of their time will be used in support of this program?
- **Program Partners:** List the names and type of involvement of key partner organizations and sub-awardees. Include letters of support/commitment.
- **Program Monitoring and Evaluation Plan:** This is an important part of successful grants. Throughout the time-frame of the grant, how will the activities be monitored to ensure they are happening in a timely manner, and how will the program be evaluated to make sure it is meeting the goals of the grant?
- **Future Funding or Sustainability:** Applicant's plan for continuing the program beyond the grant period, or the availability of other resources, if applicable.

Budget (preferably as an Excel workbook) proposal including three [3] columns containing the request. Alcoholic Beverages: Please note that award funds cannot be used for alcoholic beverages.

Contractual: Describe goods and services that the applicant plans to acquire through a contract with a vendor. Also describe any sub-awards to non-profit partners that will help carry out the project activities.

“Cost Sharing” refers to contributions from the organization or other entities other than the U.S. Embassy. It also includes in-kind contributions such as volunteers’ time and donated venues.

Equipment: Describe any machinery, furniture, or other personal property that is required for the project, which has a useful life of more than one year (or a life longer than the duration of the project), and costs at least \$5,000 per unit.

Fringe Benefits: Fringe benefits include costs such as pension plans, health benefits, or other benefits that conform to an organization established policy. The fringe benefits would be for personnel directly working on the project. Often, this is shown as a percentage of salary or wages and would conform to the organization’s established policy.

Indirect Costs: These are costs that cannot be linked directly to the project activities, such as overhead costs needed to help keep the organization operating. If your organization has a Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate (NICRA) and includes NICRA charges in the budget, attach a copy of your latest NICRA. Organizations that have never had a NICRA may request indirect costs of 10% of the modified total direct costs as defined in 2 CFR 200.68.

Other Direct Costs: Describe other costs directly associated with the project, which do not fit in the other categories. For example, shipping costs for materials and equipment or applicable taxes. All “Other” or “Miscellaneous” expenses must be itemized and explained.

Personnel: Describe the wages, salaries, and benefits of temporary or permanent staff who will be working directly for the applicant on the project, and the percentage of their time that will be spent on the project.

Supplies: List and describe all the items and materials, including any computer devices, that are needed for the project. If an item costs more than \$5,000 per unit, then put it in the budget under Equipment.

Travel: Estimate the costs of travel and per diem for this project. If the project involves international travel, include a brief statement of justification for that travel.

Budget Narrative (preferably as a Word Document) that includes substantive explanations and justifications for each line-item in the detailed budget spreadsheet, as well as the source and a description of all cost-share offered. Please see *Budget Guidelines* Section E.2 below for more information.

Your organization’s most recent audit, if applicable. This should be a single audit, program-specific audit, or other audit in accordance with Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards (GAGAS).

Optional: Other Attachments (suggested examples only)

- **1-page CV** or resume of key personnel who are proposed for the program.
- **Official permission letters**, if required for program activities. **Lessons Learned** from past programs that demonstrate how the implementer has safely operated and responded to programmatic challenges, learning from both successes and failures, in the operating environment.

Applications that do not include the elements listed above, as mandatory, will be deemed technically ineligible.

U.S. Embassy KSA reserves the right to request additional documents not included in this NOFO. Additionally, to ensure that all applications receive a balanced evaluation, Embassy KSA's Merit Review Panel will review from the first page up to the page limit and no further.

b. Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) and System for Award Management (SAM)

All 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.**

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

- If you are based **in the United States** or pay employees within the United States, prior to registering in SAM.gov you will need an Employer Identification Number (EIN) from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and a Commercial and Government Entity (CAGE) code.
- If you are based **in Saudi Arabia**, you do **not** need an EIN from the IRS. However, you will need a NATO CAGE (NCAGE) code before you can have an active registration in SAM.gov. See information on how to receive an NCAGE code in section "Exemptions".

All organizations must also continue to maintain active SAM.gov registration with current information at all times while 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 unqualified to receive an award and use that determination as a basis for making an award to another applicant.

For further guidance on the registration process, please refer to [2 CFR 25.200](#) for guidance on SAM.gov Registration.

Note: It is free to register on www.SAM.gov. Information is available on the www.SAM.gov website to help international registrations, including “Quick Start Guide for International Registrations” and “Helpful Hints.” Navigate to SAM.gov, click HELP in the top navigation bar, then click International Registrants in the left navigation panel

c. 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 NOFO (JakartaPASgrants@state.gov) at least two weeks prior to the deadline in the NOFO providing a justification of their request. Approval for a SAM.gov exemption must come from the warranted Grant 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 March 2016, NATO nations included Albania, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey, United Kingdom, and the United States of America; and Tier 2 nations included Australia, Austria, Brazil, Finland, Israel, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Morocco, New Zealand, Serbia, and Singapore.

*NSPA and/or the appropriate NCB forwards all NCAGE code information to all Allied Committee 135 (AC/135) nations, which as of March 2016 also included Afghanistan, Argentina, Belarus, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Brunei Darussalam, Chile, Colombia, Egypt, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Japan, Jordan, Montenegro, Oman, Papua New Guinea, Peru, **Saudi Arabia**, South Africa, Sweden, Thailand, Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine, and the United Arab Emirates. **All organizations are strongly advised to take this into consideration when assessing whether registration may result in possible endangerment.***

d. Grant funds generally may not be used for the following:

- Long-term infrastructure needs and construction projects.

- Materials and equipment (unless purchased for the purpose of providing training to the participants and contingent on a maintenance plan)
- Expenses incurred outside of the territory of Saudi Arabia and the United States, such as travel to international conferences, or the purchase of goods or payment of services in other countries.
- Provision of direct social services to a population (i.e. food or housing assistance, etc.)
- Partisan political activity (Note: non-partisan election education and public information activities are allowable.)
- Funding of charitable activity and humanitarian aid, commercial projects, or fund-raising campaigns
- Individual scholarships
- Personal development
- Programs that support specific religious activities
- Salaries
- For profit endeavors
- Programs intended primarily for the growth or institutional development of the organization

Completeness of Proposal: Proposals should include all of the information requested in the application guidelines. Proposals will not be considered until all information is received in electronic form. Budget numbers must be provided in U.S. dollars. Questions should be addressed to riyadhgrants@state.gov.

Technical Format Requirements: All pages must be numbered including budgets and attachments. All documents are formatted to 8.5 x 11 paper and all Microsoft Word documents, 12-point Times New Roman font, with a minimum of 1-inch margins. **Proposals should be kept to a maximum of 15 pages. Curriculum vitae (CVs) of the principles submitting the proposal should be included and photos, if appropriate.**

VII. Review and Selection Process

Each application submitted under this announcement will be evaluated and rated on the basis of the following evaluation criteria. The criteria are designed to assess the quality of the proposed project, and to determine the likelihood of its success. The criteria are closely related and are considered as a whole in judging the overall quality of an application. Points are awarded only to applications that are responsive within the context of this program announcement.

Proposal Evaluation Criteria:

Goals and Objectives – The project is likely to provide maximum impact meeting the proposed overall objective of developing leadership potential among Saudi women and youth through educational and networking programs. Applicant demonstrates he/she is able to measure program success against key indicators and provide timely milestones to indicate progress toward U.S. Embassy goals. (30 points)

Strengths and Innovation – Applicant clearly describes how his/her proposal will address the requested program within the proposed time frame and articulates an innovative strategy or plan. The project builds leadership and capacity and demonstrates sustainability beyond the term of the project. (25 points)

Organizational Capacity – The organization has expertise in one or more of U.S. Embassy Saudi Arabia's thematic priorities and demonstrates the ability to perform the proposed activities. Where partners are described, the applicant details each partner's respective role and provides curriculum vitae for persons responsible for the project and financial administration. Each key person responsible for the proposed project and its financial administration is listed and CVs for these persons are provided. (25 points)

Budget and Budget Justification – The budget and narrative justification are reasonable in relation to the proposed activities and anticipated results, and the plan for services is realistic and allowable. (20 points)

Personnel: Describe the wages, salaries, and benefits of temporary or permanent staff who will be working directly for the applicant on the program, and the percentage of their time that will be spent on the program.

Travel: Estimate the costs of travel and per diem for this program. If the program involves international travel, include a brief statement of justification for that travel.

Equipment: Describe any machinery, furniture, or other personal property that is required for the program, which has a useful life of more than one year (or a life longer than the duration of the program), and costs at least \$5,000 per unit.

Supplies: List and describe all the items and materials, including any computer devices, that are needed for the program. If an item costs more than \$5,000 per unit, then put it in the budget under Equipment.

Contractual: Describe goods and services that the applicant plans to acquire through a contract with a vendor. Also describe any sub-awards to non-profit partners that will help carry out the program activities.

Other Direct Costs: Describe other costs directly associated with the program, which do not fit in the other categories. For example, shipping costs for materials and equipment or applicable taxes. All "Other" or "Miscellaneous" expenses must be itemized and explained. Indirect Costs: These are costs that cannot be linked directly to the program

activities, such as overhead costs and administration costs needed to help keep the organization operating. If your organization has a Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate (NICRA) and includes NICRA charges in the budget, attach a copy of your latest NICRA. Organizations that have never had a NICRA may request indirect costs of 10% of the modified total direct costs as defined in 2 CFR 200.68.

Cost Sharing: Cost Sharing refers to contributions from the organization or other entities other than the U.S. Embassy. It also includes in-kind contributions such as volunteers' time and donated venues.

Alcoholic Beverages: Please note that award funds cannot be used for alcoholic beverages.

Risk Analysis – All programs inherently contain both internal and external risks. However, with proper identification and management, risks can be prepared for, minimized or mitigated. The purpose of a risk analysis is to identify the internal and external risks associated with the proposed program in the application, rate the likelihood of the risks, rate the potential impact of the risks on the program, and identify actions that could help mitigate the risks. Applicants should include all assumptions and external factors identified in the logic model in the risk analysis. Applicants should rate the likelihood of a risk and potential impact of the risk as "High," "Medium," or "Low." Note: PAS KSA require organizations to conduct adequate risk analysis and remediation throughout the life of a program and provide revisions to risk analysis documents and processes as necessary.

Review and Selection Process

A Grants Review Committee will evaluate all eligible applications.

FAPIS/CPARS

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 FAPIS -CPARS) (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 §200.205 Federal awarding agency review of risk posed by applicants.

VIII. Award Administration

Award Notices: A U.S. government Grants Officer will award, sign, and administer the grant award or cooperative agreement. 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. **No actions or costs can be incurred before the grant is approved and 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 NOFO 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. Further, the U.S. government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals received.

Anticipated Time to Award: By **July 30, 2022** applicants should expect to be notified whether their proposal will proceed beyond the initial review stage.

Reporting Requirements: All awards issued under this announcement will require both program and financial reports on a frequency specified in the award agreement. A final grant report and budget/accounting in English is due 90 days after completion of the award end date. All other details related to award administration will be specified in the award agreement.

Payment Method: Payments will be made in at least two installments, as needed to carry out the program activities.

Upon Receipt of a Federal Assistance Award

Recipients of a U.S. Embassy Public Affairs grant are required to submit a final certified Federal Financial Report (SF-425) and a Narrative Report (SF-PPR) within 90 calendar days of the end of the period of performance delineated in the award. Some grants may also require quarterly reports. Grantees will be informed of their reporting responsibilities upon the grant award. Failure to comply with the reporting requirements may jeopardize eligibility for future awards

or will result in suspension of any future payments under this award until such time as this deficiency has been corrected. The required forms include:

- Project basics, including title, project dates, and focus area.
- Narrative Report SF-PPR
- [Federal Financial Report SF-425](#) [PDF, 575 kB]
- [Instructions for the Federal Financial Report](#) [PDF, 160 kB]
- [Request for Advance or Reimbursement SF-270](#) [PDF, 192KB]

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

- 2 CFR 200,
- 2 CFR 600,
- Certifications and Assurances, and
- Department of State Standard Terms and Conditions, all of which are available at: <https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/U.S.-Department-of-State-Standard-Terms-and-Conditions-10-21-2020-508.pdf>. Note the U.S Flag branding and marking requirements in the Standard Terms and Conditions.

Reporting Requirements: Recipients will be required to submit financial reports and program reports. The award document will specify how often these reports must be submitted.

DISCLAIMER

Explanatory information provided by the PAS KSA team that contradicts published language is not binding. Issuance of this NOFO does not constitute an award commitment on the part of the U.S. Government. The PAS KSA reserves the right to waive program formalities and to reduce, revise, or increase proposal budgets in accordance with the needs of the program and the availability of funds. Awards made will be subject to periodic reporting and evaluation requirements as specified above and in the Notice of Award.