

U.S. Department of State

Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)

Program Office: Bureau of International Security and
Nonproliferation, Office of Cooperative Threat
Reduction (ISN/CTR)
CFDA 20.033
Funding Opportunity Title: Global Chemical Security Engagement Activities
Announcement Type: Cooperative Agreement – Initial
Funding Opportunity Number: SFOP0006244
Deadline for Applications: January 31, 2020
Available Funding: \$13,250,000

ELIGIBILITY

The following organizations are eligible to apply (both domestic and international):

- *Not-for-profit organizations*
- *Public and private educational institutions*
- *For-profit organizations*
- *Public International Organizations*

Cost Sharing or Matching

This program does not require cost sharing, however proposals which demonstrate cost sharing will be welcomed.

Other Special Eligibility Criteria

Not Applicable.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For assistance with the requirements of this solicitation, please contact: ISN-CTR-CPFY20@state.gov

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Department of State's Office of Cooperative Threat Reduction (ISN/CTR) is pleased to announce an open competition for assistance awards through this Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). ISN/CTR invites non-profit/non-governmental organizations, international organizations, educational institutions, and for-profit organizations to submit proposals for projects that will advance the mission of the Department's Chemical Security Program. ISN/CTR prefers projects that cost less than \$250,000 including overhead, though awards may involve multiple projects that cumulatively exceed \$250,000.

II. BACKGROUND AND PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Office of Cooperative Threat Reduction (CTR), part of the Department's Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation (ISN), sponsors foreign assistance activities funded by the Nonproliferation, Anti-terrorism, Demining and Related Programs (NADR) account, and focuses on mitigating proliferation risk in frontline states and regions where terrorist threats are on the rise, such as in the Middle East, Eastern Europe, Africa, and South and Southeast Asia.

CTR's Chemical Security Program (CSP) partners with law enforcement, government, academic, and industrial communities in the Middle East, Eastern Europe, Africa, and South and Southeast Asia to strengthen their ability to prevent, detect, and mitigate chemical attacks and the proliferation of weaponizable chemicals. CSP secures and prevents the transfer of chemical weapons-related assets (such as chemicals, equipment, technologies, expertise, and infrastructure) to terrorist networks and proliferator states that may conduct chemical attacks. CSP also sponsors efforts to identify and address chemical security vulnerabilities and to detect and investigate early warning signs of chemical weapon (CW) production and attack planning. CSP focuses its resources in countries where non-state actors and proliferator states have demonstrated an ability or interest in developing or using chemical weapons and acquiring relevant materials and expertise. CSP values the use of innovative strategies and novel tools to adapt and address top chemical weapon threats.

In Fiscal Year 2020 (FY20), CSP will fund activities that align with and support one or more of its three goals.

CSP Goals:

Strengthen the ability of partner governments to disrupt non-state actor chemical attacks, including from toxic gasses made from commercially available material

Funded activities will emphasize:

- Helping partner governments identify and prevent CW attacks against public transportation and other targets;
- Preventing mass-casualty chemical attacks through trainings on CW detection and identification of red flags associated with non-state CW attacks;
- Facilitating information sharing between law enforcement and other partner country stakeholders – including industry, technical, and academic communities – on adopting measures to prevent CW attacks;
- Training on locally relevant strategies to prevent CW attacks and planning, such as advanced insider threat trainings for law enforcement, industry personnel, and university officials to identify signs of radicalization, especially in remote locations;
- Developing national and facility-level policies and programs to strengthen oversight of chemical weapon-related assets.

Secure chemical weapons-related assets throughout the chemical supply chain

Funded activities will emphasize:

- Training partners to adopt employee vetting and know-your-customer (KYC) programs to ensure chemicals are not diverted to nefarious groups;
- Training on identifying and addressing threats of infiltration and exploitation by terrorist networks, such as insider threat mitigation and law enforcement early-prevention programs;
- Preventing unauthorized access to chemical weapons-related assets through chemical neutralization programs, especially in remote locations;
- Advancing cross-sector collaboration and information sharing between government (including intra-government agencies), law enforcement, industry, and academic stakeholders;
- Trainings which advance international standards for materials management, transportation, and storage of chemicals to ensure partners adopt sustainable practices for monitoring and security of weaponizable precursors.

Disrupt acquisition of chemicals procured by state-based proliferators

Funded activities will emphasize:

- Disrupting procurement networks for precursors of highly potent pharmaceuticals, including fentanyl;
- Know-your-customer (KYC) programs and adoption of due diligence measures that identify front companies procuring chemicals for state programs;
- Analyzing commercial data to provide clear case studies and red flags for state procurement networks;
- Enhancing government oversight of contract chemical producers, especially in South East Asia;
- Disrupting proliferator states from acquiring materials to conduct research on advanced chemical weapon capabilities.

FY20 Proposal Considerations:

FY20 Priority Countries: CSP priority countries, which span the Middle East, Eastern Europe, Africa, and South and Southeast Asia, face a range of chemical threats as listed below. CSP encourages proposal submissions that address vulnerabilities associated with the threat environments in each country. Some CSP priority countries can benefit from programmatic efforts highlighted within multiple categories.

Major ISIS Branches and Networks: Pakistan, Turkey, Libya, Egypt, Nigeria, and Afghanistan

Other Non-State Actor Presence: Philippines, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, Somalia, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Saudi Arabia, Mali (Sahel), Algeria, Morocco, and Yemen

Supply Chains that Could be Exploited by Proliferator States: Turkey, Egypt, India, Jordan, Lebanon, Bulgaria, Romania, and Singapore

Contract Chemical Production: Turkey, Philippines, India, Malaysia, and Singapore

Flow of Foreign Fighters: Turkey, Libya, Egypt, Philippines, Indonesia, Jordan, Afghanistan, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Saudi Arabia, Algeria, Morocco, Yemen, and Tunisia

All proposals must make a clear and compelling case for how they will address a chemical threat, how they will address partner-specific political, technical, and/or logistical realities, and how they will support one or more CSP goals and complement existing activities. Sustainability is paramount to CSP's long-term strategy for each project funded.

CSP will view the following attributes favorably in the FY20 proposal process:

- Outcomes that go beyond basic chemical safety and security awareness raising, and address challenging threats such as attacks using rudimentary chemicals;
- Effective mechanisms for long-term sustainment post-engagement, including follow-up activities every three to six months;
- New materials that address the current landscape and threat environment -- not presentations from previous years;
- Proposals that engage law enforcement partners on preventative measures, and not response-oriented techniques and planning;
- Nonproliferation benefit clearly evidenced by data-driven analysis and targeted approaches to current threat information;
- Proposals that emphasize train-the-trainer methodologies, build indigenous capacity within a partner country, and establish relationships between partner countries;
- Leveraging chemical security champions from international partners to expand CSP's reach in priority countries and ability to work in difficult environments;
- Multi-phased proposals to scope vulnerabilities and develop country-specific targeted solutions and exercises;
- Proposals tailored to fit local technical capacities as well as threat environment;
- Financial and/or in-kind cost-sharing, including but not limited to subject matter expertise, facilities, equipment, technology, or other forms of cost-sharing;
- Proposals that leverage multiple implementers together to deliver innovative, technical, and/or logistical solutions;
- Virtual or web-based activities and low-cost equipping solutions for difficult operating environments.

III. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

The following organizations are eligible to apply (both domestic and international):

- *Not-for-profit organizations*
- *Public and private educational institutions*
- *For-profit organizations*

- *Public International Organizations*

Applicants are not required to include funding from other donors. However, applications that include additional in-kind and/or cash contributions from non-U.S. Government sources will be more competitive, since cost-sharing demonstrates a strong commitment to the planned activities and will be considered to show great cost effectiveness.

All potential applicants should be knowledgeable of existing programs in the proposed countries/regions, including those funded by USG, in order to avoid duplication of effort.

IV. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Award Period: 12 months, though longer periods of performance will be considered on a case-by-case basis. ISN/CTR will provide an additional 3 months for project close out.

Award Amount: Multiple awards will be granted, with the maximum amount per award determined by the number of discrete projects funded. ISN/CTR prefers projects that cost less than \$250,000, though awards may involve multiple projects that cumulatively exceed \$250,000. CTR will prioritize proposals that efficiently meet programmatic goals at the lowest technically acceptable cost.

Application Submission Process: Applicants should submit project proposals electronically using Grants.gov. Thorough instructions on the Grants.gov application process are available at <http://www.grants.gov>. For questions relating to Grants.gov, please call the Grants.gov Contact Center at 1-800-518-4726.

Application Deadline: All applications must be submitted on or before January 31, 2020, 11:59 p.m. eastern time. Applications submitted after 11:59 p.m. will be ineligible for consideration. **Begin the application process early**, as this will allow time to address any technical difficulties that may arise in advance of the deadline. There will be no exceptions to this application deadline.

All applicants must register with Grants.gov prior to submitting an application. **Registering with Grants.gov is a one-time process; however, it could take as long as two weeks to have the registration validated and confirmed. Please begin the registration process immediately to ensure that the process is completed well in advance of the deadline for applications.** Until that process is complete, you will not be issued a user password for Grants.gov, which is required for application submission. There are four steps that you must complete before you are able to register: (1) Obtain a Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number from Dun & Bradstreet (if your organization does not have one already) by calling 1-866-705-5711; (2) Register with Central Contractor Registry (CCR); (3) Register yourself as an Authorized Organization Representative (AOR); and (4) Be authorized as an AOR by your organization. For more information, go to www.grants.gov. Please note that your CCR registration must be

annually renewed. Failure to renew your CCR registration may prohibit submission of an application through Grants.gov.

Application Content: Applicants must follow the NOFO instructions and conditions contained herein and supply all information required. **Failure to furnish all information or comply with stated requirements will result in disqualification from the competition.** Applicants must set forth full, accurate, and complete information as required by this NOFO. The penalty for making false statements in proposals to the U.S. government is prescribed on 18 U.S.C.1001.

The completed submission must consist of the following four parts:

Section 1 - Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424):

This form can be found on-line at: <http://apply07.grants.gov/apply/FormLinks?family=15>

Section 2 – Consolidated Project List

This outlines the individual project proposals within your overall proposal submission

Section 3 – Project Proposal(s):

Using the provided template, the applicant must provide a completed project proposal. The proposal form must be completed in its entirety and clearly specify the proposed scope, deliverables, and timeline. Applicants must specify a point of contact for each project that is proposed.

Section 4 - Budget:

Also using the provided project proposal template, applicants must provide a budget for each project. The budget must identify the total amount of funding requested, with a breakdown of amounts to be spent in the following budget categories:

- Personnel and fringe benefits;
- Travel;
- Equipment and supplies;
- Contractual services;
- Construction;
- Other direct costs; and
- Indirect costs.

Applicants must adhere to the requirements of the Federal Travel Regulation (FTR), including Fly America Act requirements, when proposing and conducting travel. For further information and current foreign per diem rates, please visit: https://aoprals.state.gov/web920/per_diem.asp

V. AWARD SELECTION CRITERIA

Applicants should note that the following criteria serve as a standard against which all project proposals will be evaluated and identify significant considerations that should be addressed in all proposals. ISN/CTR will award a cooperative agreement to the applicant(s) whose offer represents the best overall value to the government from both a technical and cost perspective.

ISN/CTR will evaluate proposals against the stated criteria. Criteria are listed in descending order of importance.

- **Proposed Activity or Activities:** Applications should be responsive to the program framework and policy objectives identified in the solicitation, appropriate in the country/regional and organizational context, and should clearly describe what they propose to do and how they will do it. The proposed project(s) must directly relate to meeting the specified objectives and applicants should include specific information on how these objectives will advance ISN/CTR's mission. ISN/CTR will evaluate the project proposal in terms of how well it addresses the issues at hand, relevance and feasibility of the proposed activities, the timeline for completion, and the extent to which the impact of the project will continue beyond the conclusion of the period of performance.
- **Organizational Capability:** Applicants must demonstrate how their resources, capabilities, and experience will enable them to achieve the stated goals and objectives in an international technical context. The proposal(s) must identify all key partners and organizations that will be involved in implementation of this project.
- **Budget:** Proposed costs will be evaluated for realism, fiscal control practices, and efficiency. ISN/CTR must be able to determine that proposed costs are reasonable, allowable, and allocable to the proposed project activities. ISN/CTR will evaluate the budget to determine if the overall costs are realistic for the work to be performed, if the costs reflect the applicant's understanding of the allowable cost principles established by OMB Circulars A-122 and/or A-21, and if the costs are consistent with the program narrative.
- **Past Performance:** In reviewing proposals, ISN/CTR will evaluate the organization's past performance on other federal and non-federal grants and cooperative agreements. This will include a review of whether objectives for past awards were met; whether the organization complied with the terms of conditions of past awards, including reporting and financial management requirements; and the timeliness of project implementation.
- **Cyber Security:** Recipients and subcontractors are required to provide adequate security – (e.g. protective measures that are commensurate with the consequences and probability of loss, misuse, or unauthorized access to, or modification of information) on all covered information systems, and to rapidly report cyber incidents directly to the grantor.

VI. AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

Award Notices: The cooperative agreement shall be written, signed, awarded, and administered by the Grants Officer. The Grants Officer is the government official delegated the authority by the U.S. Department of State Procurement Executive to write, award, and administer grants and cooperative agreements. The assistance award agreement is the authorizing document and it will be provided to the Recipient through either mail or facsimile transmission. Organizations whose applications will not be funded will also be notified in writing.

Anticipated Time to Award: Applicants should expect to be notified of the *recommended* concepts within 90 days after the submission deadline. Following this initial notification, **selected applicants will be expected to submit a full application within 30 days.** ISN/CTR staff will provide information at the point of notification about the requirements for the full application, which may include revisions to the activities. The full applications will not be subject to further competition, but must incorporate any suggested changes made by ISN/CTR.

Issuance of this NOFO does not constitute an award commitment on the part of the Government, nor does it commit the Government to pay for costs incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals. Further, the Government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals received.

Project Implementation Meeting: The Recipient will have a pre-project implementation meeting with ISN/CTR within 30 days after the cooperative agreement is awarded and before any work is performed for the award.

Reporting Requirements: As a cooperative agreement, reporting and deliverable requirements for this project exceed those of typical grants administered by ISN/CTR. Applicants should pay special attention to these enhanced reporting and deliverable requirements. Specifically:

- Using a template provided by ISN/CTR, the Recipient shall submit quarterly progress reports to the designated Grants Officer Representative (GOR) detailing:
 - Assistance activities conducted during the reporting period;
 - Milestones and successes achieved to date;
 - Key assistance activities remaining to be implemented with a projected timetable;
 - Details of any problems encountered with proposed solutions; and
 - Any other pertinent information requested by ISN/CTR.
- The Recipient shall provide the GOR with copies of all materials developed under this cooperative agreement.
- In addition to regular quarterly reports, the Recipient shall furnish the GOR with ad hoc reports as requested from time to time.

In addition to the above, the Recipient shall submit quarterly financial reports throughout the project period. Financial reports are due 30 days after the reporting period. Final programmatic and financial reports are due 90 days after the close of the project period

VII. DISCLAIMER

If a proposal is selected for funding, the Department of State has no obligation to provide any additional future funding in connection with the award. Renewal of an award to increase funding or extend the period of performance is at the total discretion of the Department of State.