

Date: June 16, 2022

Opportunity Title: Employment Pathways for Youth Addendum Number 72061522APS00002

Subject: Amendment No. 01

Dear Prospective Applicants:

The purpose of this amendment number one (1) is to update Section C of the Addendum, revise Attachment A (Concept Note Template) and provide answers to questions raised by prospective applicants, as reflected on Pages 2 through 5 of this Amendment. The length of this amendment is 5 pages, including this cover page.

This amendment does not obligate USAID to execute an award, nor does it commit USAID to pay any costs incurred in the preparation and submission of concept notes and/or applications. Furthermore the U.S. Government reserves the right to reject any and all concept notes and/or applications, if such action is considered to be in the best interest of the U.S. Government. All other terms and conditions remain unchanged.

Thank you for your interest in USAID programs.

Sincerely,

Sandra Asiedu
Agreement Officer
Office of Acquisition & Assistance (OAA)
USAID/Kenya and East Africa

I. SECTION C ‘ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

Incorporate the below information under Section C of the Addendum.

C.3 System for Award Management (SAM) Registration Requirements

USAID may not award to an applicant unless the applicant has complied with all applicable unique entity identifier (UEI) and System for Award Management (SAM) requirements. Each applicant (unless the applicant is an individual or Federal awarding agency that is exempted from requirements under 2 CFR 25.110(b) or (c), or has an exception approved by the Federal awarding agency under 2 CFR 25.110(d)) or Required As Applicable Standard Provision (RAA6) ‘Universal Identifier and System for Award Management (November 2020) is required to:

1. Be registered in SAM (www.sam.gov) before submitting its application;
2. Provide a valid UEI number for the applicant and proposed subrecipients;
3. Continue to maintain an active SAM registration with current information at all times during which it has an active Federal award or an application under consideration by a Federal awarding agency.

The registration process may take many weeks to complete. Therefore, applicants are encouraged to begin the process early. If an applicant has not fully complied with the requirements above by the time the application is submitted, USAID will reject the application.

Applicants can find additional resources for registering in SAM and obtaining an unique entity identifier (UEI) on www.sam.gov.

In addition, organizations will be required to register in Kenya to operate in the country. This can take several weeks to finalize, so it is recommended to start this process early.

II. CONCEPT NOTE TEMPLATE (REVISED)

Attachment A Concept Note Template is revised. The revised Attachment A is on www.grants.gov; please refer to the ‘Related Documents’ tab under the Addendum.

III. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

General Questions

1. I am interested in the advertised HELIX research grant scholarship. Can you kindly tell me more about it?

USAID Response: Please refer to the HELIX Addendum ‘Employment Pathways for Youth’ Opportunity number 72061522APS00002 as posted on www.grants.gov for detailed information on the opportunity.

2. What are the requirements for the above opportunity?

USAID Response: Please refer to USAID response to Question 1.

3. I have tried accessing the opportunity so that I can do the application and the feedback we are receiving is displayed below:

“There are currently no Opportunity Packages available for submission through Grants.gov. Refer to Synopsis tab and Related Documents tab for additional information about this Opportunity”.

USAID Response: Please note that submission of responses (concept notes) to the subject opportunity should be sent electronically via email and not through www.grants.gov. Refer to the 'Related Documents' tab to access the full announcement and refer to Section D for Application and Submission Information.

Eligibility and Partnership(s) Questions

4. I'm an Accountant professionally, I'm I eligible for the grant?

USAID Response: Individuals, unregistered, or informal organizations are not eligible.

5. Our organization offers technical crafts to marginalized groups in rural areas and informal settlements, with keen focus on youths and women. Do we qualify in this line as a higher education provider? Would this kind of activity be considered for financial support?

USAID Response: Eligibility for this Addendum is limited to a higher education institution as the primary applicant (“Prime”).

USAID defines a ‘higher education institution’ as an organization that provides educational opportunities that build on secondary education, providing learning activities in specialized fields. It aims at learning at a high level of complexity and specialization. Higher education includes what is commonly understood as academic education but also includes advanced vocational or professional education. This may include public or private universities, colleges, community colleges, academically affiliated research institutes, and post-secondary training institutes, including teacher training institutes.

Further, concept notes must include at minimum a partnership between at least one U.S. community college; at least one Kenyan higher education institution which can include TVETs, colleges, and/or universities; and at least one private sector employer partner. Applicants may propose additional partners as appropriate. Higher education partners must be accredited.

Please refer to Section C of the HELIX Addendum ‘Employment Pathways for Youth’ Opportunity number 72061522APS00002 as posted on www.grants.gov for detailed information on eligibility.

6. Our organization would like to apply for the subject opportunity. While we are not technically a higher education institution, we play a very critical higher education role, and have a Collaborative Agreement with the National Industrial Training Authority. We are pioneering a very innovative program to bring TVET skills to very remote pastoralist communities (where there are very few higher education institutions anyway). Would we be eligible to apply for this grant considering the circumstances of the ASALs?

USAID Response: Please refer to USAID response to Question 5.

7. I am seeking clarification on the issue of partnership as proposed in the proposal. It is stated that one of the partners will be a community college in the US. Please clarify on whether the applicant is the one to look for the US college partnership or this will be provided upon successful application of the proposal.

USAID Response: All Applicants should submit their concepts with proposed partnerships to USAID for review.

8. The call for concept notes requires partnership with a US based Community College. Do you have preferences for any such institution? Could you link me up with such a college in the US?

USAID Response: USAID has no preferred institutions and does not anticipate linking Applicants to any institutions. All Applicants should submit their concepts with proposed partnerships to USAID for review.

9. Is it in order for the Primary applicant to engage more than one local TVET institution in the concept?

USAID Response: Concept Notes must include at minimum a partnership between at least one U.S. community college; at least one Kenyan higher education institution which can include TVETs, colleges, and/or universities; and at least one private sector employer partner. Applicants may propose additional partners as appropriate.

10. Can a PhD awarding U.S. HEI serve as the primary Applicant (“Prime”) of a partnership consisting of at least one U.S. community college, at least one Kenyan HEI, and at least one private-sector employer partner?

USAID Response: Yes, subject to meeting all the other eligibility criteria detailed in Sections C of the Addendum and the HELIX APS. Please see the response to question number 5 above for additional information on the definition of Higher Education Institutions.

11. Do the Vocational Training Centers under the County Governments in Kenya qualify for the Program?

USAID Response: Yes; please see the response to Question number 5 above.

12. Is Nyeri County eligible?

USAID Response: Please refer to Section A.3 (Programmatic and Geographic Focus) of the Addendum.

Technical Questions

13. Can one select a single priority sector (such as ICT), or must one select several priority sectors (such as ICT and manufacturing related to pharmaceuticals and textiles)?

USAID Response: USAID/Kenya and East Africa (KEA) seeks to establish high-quality, industry-endorsed training directly connected to employment opportunities in priority sectors (e.g. ICT and manufacturing related to pharmaceuticals and textiles).

Applicants should describe their proposed sectors and provide evidence demonstrating the capacity of those sectors to absorb youth employment. Applicants should note, however, that final identification of sectors will be determined during co-creation with USAID.

14. Has any assessment been done to identify employability and economic potential for each of the priority sectors in Kisii (Bomet, Nyamira, Migori) or Makueni (Machakos, Kilifi)?

USAID Response: Please see the response to Question number 13 above.

15. Is it an allowable budget expense to stimulate livelihood opportunity growth (i.e., the demand side of the equation), in addition to supporting youth entrepreneurship (i.e., the supply side of the equation)? The manufacturing sector (especially pharmaceuticals) is undeveloped in Kenya.

USAID Response: Projected expenses in line with the program description as detailed in the Addendum are allowable.

16. Is it an allowable budget expense to purchase a piece of equipment for a TVET for training the youth and for the professional development of the TVET instructors?

USAID Response: Please refer to USAID response to Question 15.

17. On page 8 of 27 of the Addendum, the link provided for the government of Kenya's "National ICT Policy 2016" does not work. Is it allowable to refer instead to the "National ICT Policy 2019"?

USAID Response: Please see the link for the correct ICT Policy document Government of Kenya [National ICT Policy 2019](#) under Policies and Guiding Documents.

18. Must a proposed training program yield credentials of a certificate, diploma, or degree?

USAID Response: When designing both the classroom and distance learning approaches, Applicants should recognize that shorter courses and pathways to skills certification and employment that offer maximized flexibility are more desirable to learners. USAID is interested in concept notes that propose opportunities that allow for stacking modular shorter-term training and credentials gained over time towards higher level certification (i.e., short-term trainings that, when combined, equate to a certificate; multiple certificates that equate to a diploma; multiple diplomas that equate to a degree). Applicants should also consider the capabilities of TVET instructors to teach with these new modalities and propose appropriate capacity building to ensure optimum effectiveness.

[END OF AMENDMENT # 01]