

NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY (NOFO)
CT
U.S. Department of State

Announcement Type:	New Announcement
Funding Opportunity Title:	Countering Violent Extremism – Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Returning Families of FTFs
Assistance Listing:	19.701
Funding Amount:	Approximately \$395,061 per project
Number of Awards:	Up to three (3) awards
Cost Sharing Requirement:	Not Required
Assistance Type:	Cooperative Agreement
Funding Type:	Discretionary
Authority:	Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 as amended
Source of Funding:	ESF
Funding Activity Category:	Foreign Assistance
NOFO Issuance Date:	April 22, 2020
Closing Date for Submission of Applications:	Complete proposal packages must be submitted through SAMS Domestic or www.grants.gov by June 5, 11:59 pm EST
Electronic Requirement:	Yes E-mailed, faxed or mailed proposal packages, or individual documents, that failed to transmit during application submission, will <u>NOT</u> be considered.
Deadline for Receipt of Questions:	May 22, 5:00 pm, EST
Eligibility Category:	U.S. - based non-profit/non-governmental organizations having a 501(c) (3) status with the IRS; overseas non-governmental non-profit organizations; Foreign Public Entities (FPEs); and academic institutions. For-profit commercial firms are not eligible to apply in

response to this NOFO. No exceptions.

Type of Applicant: Organizations. Individuals are not eligible to apply.

Number of Applications: Three (3) per applicant organization.

Note: Organizations may form consortia and submit a combined proposal. However, only **one** organization may be designated as the lead applicant. The lead applicant must meet the eligibility criteria listed in this NOFO.

Applicants are free to submit applications for either Project 1, 2, or 3, or a combination. If an organization submits a proposal for more than one project, separate application packages must be submitted.

Anticipated Award Date: The successful applicant will receive notification within approximately four to five weeks of the closing of this announcement. The U.S. Department of State is under no obligation to fund any of the proposals submitted under this funding opportunity.

Est. Project Start Date: September 2020

Est. Project End Date: September 2022

Project Duration: 24 months

This funding opportunity is posted on SAMS Domestic and www.grants.gov and may be amended. Answers to questions from potential applicants will be posted as an attachment to this NOFO. Applicants should regularly check the SAMS Domestic and www.grants.gov website for the most recent information pertaining to this NOFO. **Department of State bears no responsibility for data errors resulting from transmission or conversion processes associated with electronic submissions via www.grants.gov or SAMS Domestic.**

Incomplete application packages will not be considered. Missing e-mailed, faxed or mailed documents will NOT be considered.

Applicants, including U.S. affiliates of international organizations incorporated in the U.S., must provide a Unique Entity Identifier, or Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS), and **completed** www.sam.gov registration when submitting application on www.grants.gov in response to this NOFO.

Applicants that do not have a valid DUNS number and completed www.sam.gov registration will NOT be eligible for consideration.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that the application package has been received

by www.grants.gov in its **entirety**. Incomplete applications will be considered **ineligible**. Individual e-mailed or faxed documents that failed to transmit during application submission will **not** be considered.

The decision for the final eligibility and award determination rests with the Grants Officer.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The United States Department of State's Bureau of Counterterrorism (CT) announces a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for a project to support the rehabilitation and reintegration of families of foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs) repatriated from Syria and Iraq to Kazakhstan, and/or the Maldives, and/or globally.

Pending availability of funds and satisfactory performance, including compliance with the award's terms and conditions, CT may consider adding funds to the award. CT may support up to three (3) awards as a result of this NOFO.

Department of State reserves the right to fund any or none of the proposals submitted and reserves the right to reduce, revise, or increase the budget in accordance with the needs of the project and the availability of funds.

The Federal award signed by the State Department Grants Officer is the **only** authorizing document.

This NOFO consists of the following sections:

- I. Funding Opportunity Description
- II. Award Information and Application Evaluation and Scoring
- III. Eligibility Information
- IV. Agency Contacts

Eligible organizations interested in submitting an application are encouraged to review this NOFO thoroughly to understand the type of project sought and the application submission requirements and review process as outlined in this NOFO.

I. FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

BACKGROUND

Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) is an essential counterterrorism tool, consisting of a broad spectrum of activities that range from preventing radicalization and recruitment to supporting the rehabilitation and reintegration of disavowed terrorists or their family members. With this Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), the Bureau of Counterterrorism (CT) seeks proposals for projects that promote the reintegration and rehabilitation of families of foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs).

Since the territorial defeat of ISIS in Iraq and Syria, a small number of countries are developing and implementing plans to repatriate their citizens from the conflict zone. Families, the majority of which include children, are amongst some of the most vulnerable populations of returnees and often represent a complex combination of victim, perpetrator, and witness. Multi-stakeholder approaches that appropriately respond to the individual psychosocial needs and risks of the families – including age, gender, and cultural considerations – are needed to prevent stigmatization and further radicalization. Returning women pose particular challenges, as governments must determine whether they were FTFs themselves, or if they have committed crimes that warrant prosecution or, alternatively, whether to place them directly (along with any children) into some form of intervention, rehabilitation, or de-radicalization program. Such programs, responses and intake measures require a whole-of-society approach including engagement from national and local governments, civil society, community and family support organizations, and international organizations. To address these challenges, CT seeks proposals for efforts to build national and local government and/or civil society capacity to implement community-led rehabilitation and reintegration of returning families in countries that have repatriated or are committed to repatriating FTFs and family members. Proposals should outline how proposed activities will increase cooperation between local and national governments and host communities, including implementation of best practices identified by the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF), the Strong Cities Network (SCN), or other relevant regional and international organization frameworks, instruments, agreements and documents.

PROJECT GOAL

To reduce terrorist recruitment and radicalization by supporting community-led rehabilitation and reintegration of FTF family members.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

Community-Led Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Families of Foreign Terrorist

Fighters: CT Bureau seeks to address the challenges posed by family members of foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs) returning home from conflict zones – such as women and young children exposed to terrorist ideology and brutality while in ISIS-controlled territory. Project proposals must support the development and implementation of community-led rehabilitation and reintegration efforts in one or more countries that are taking back or have committed to repatriating FTFs and/or their family members from foreign conflict zones. Projects may involve deploying experts to advise local counterparts on reintegrating families of FTFs through targeted input and training on matters such as training case workers, assistance with risk assessment methodology, guidance on conducting systematic monitoring and evaluation, and preparation of data for publication/presentation. Activities to build local capacity to provide psychosocial support, bolster community preparedness, and promote reintegration into community are also priorities. Proposals should outline ways training will highlight and encourage implementation of best practices on cooperation between local and national governments and host communities, including implementation of best practices identified by the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF) the Strong Cities Network (SCN), and other relevant regional and international organization frameworks, instruments, agreements and documents.

CT seeks to fund up to three projects, listed below. Applicants may submit one (1) proposal per project, not to exceed three (3) proposals per applicant organization in response to this NOFO.

Project A: Kazakhstan.

Project B: Maldives. In addition to the description above, proposals should outline how the project will support the Maldives National Reintegration Center (NRC) on developing screening tools and training NRC staff.

Project C: Other foreign assistance eligible countries that have repatriated or are committed to repatriating FTFs and/or family members.

NOTE: Countries that are not eligible for foreign assistance for legal or policy reasons may not benefit. Developed countries with per capita income over \$12,375 may not benefit except under certain circumstances and with the express written permission of the Bureau of Counterterrorism.

II. AWARD INFORMATION AND APPLICATION EVALUATION AND SCORING

CT will issue up to three awards to the applicant(s) whose proposal represents the best value to the U.S. Government on the basis of technical merit, efficient use of U.S. Government funds, and satisfactory organizational capacity.

The Department of State reserves the right to make awards on the basis of initial application received with or without discussion or negotiations. Therefore, applications should contain the applicants' best terms from both cost and technical standpoints.

It is Department of State policy that English is the official language and U.S. dollar is the controlling currency. Proposal and related supporting documents must be English and accompanying budget in U.S. dollars.

Eligible applications will be evaluated by an independent review panel consisting of subject matter experts from other Department of State bureaus/offices, or other U.S. Government agencies.

CT will conduct a merit review of all eligible applications as outlined in this NOFO. Applications 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. Final approval resides with the Department of State Grants Office.

The independent review panel will evaluate each application individually against the following criteria, listed below in order of importance.

The review panel will apply the following criteria when rating proposals:

1. Quality of Project Idea

- The proposal responds to the NOFO and is appropriate in the context of the proposed country/region;
- The proposal exhibits originality but is feasible;
- The proposal directly connects proposed activities with the desired outcomes (goals and objectives).
- The proposal demonstrates understanding of individual countries' access to psychosocial services and cultural stigmas surrounding mental health.
- The project idea seeks to create long-term impacts.

2. Project Planning/Ability to Achieve Objectives

- The proposal provides a detailed work plan of proposed project activities specific to individual country contexts and includes a clear articulation of how these activities will contribute to or align with the overall project's goals and objectives.
- The proposal demonstrates nuanced understanding of and buy-in from local partners in proposed location(s), including federal and local officials and community based organizations.
- The project activities articulated in the proposal are specific, measurable, attainable, relevant, and time bound (SMART).
- The proposal provides a plan to de-conflict (or complement, if appropriate) with other organizations active in the rehabilitation and reintegration space, especially in the context of working with law enforcement and correction institutions, in the proposed project country.
- The proposal addresses how the project will engage or obtain support from relevant stakeholders, including host government to obtain access and conduct programming.

3. Organizational Capability and Record of Performance

- The proposal demonstrates an institutional record of previous successfully implemented projects in issues and regions outlined in this NOFO;
- The proposal articulates past performance and experience in working with relevant host governments, local organizations, and communities.
The proposal provides resumes of staff members who have a background in a combination of psychosocial, trauma, or CVE expertise;
- The proposal clearly defines the roles and responsibilities of primary staff under this project and CVE expertise;
- The proposal describes the division of labor among the recipient organization and potential implementing partner organization(s) and identifies local partner organization(s) that would assist with implementation, where appropriate;

4. Cost Effectiveness

- The administration of the proposal budget, including salaries and honoraria, are explained and justified for the work involved;

- Proposed costs are reasonable and necessary and linked to program objectives and demonstrate efficient use of U.S. Government funds.
- Proposals emphasize cost savings, including by leveraging existing global or in-country programs, implementing partner in-kind contributions if appropriate, partnering with government, civil society, or other donor country cost-sharing, or soliciting private sector support.

NOTE: This NOFO does not require cost-share. Applicants may voluntarily offer cost share; however, cost share will not be factored in during proposal review.

5. Project Monitoring and Evaluation

- The Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Plan includes narrative explaining how monitoring and evaluation will be carried out and who will be responsible for monitoring and evaluation activities (including potential contracted M&E experts, if applicable).
- The M&E Plan provides realistic methods for measuring changes in ideological perceptions, that can be correlated with project implementation. These methods may include pre/post testing of assistance recipients or target audiences, and public perception polling.
- The M&E Plan includes a logical framework that sequentially maps how project activities are expected to produce results.
- The M&E Plan also includes a detailed performance monitoring plan (PMP), with targeted indicators that directly link to project goals and objectives. The PMP is to be reported against quarterly.

6. Sustainability of Impact

- Clearly delineates how impact will be sustainable beyond the life of the grant.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION INFORMATION:

Please refer to the Proposal Submission Instructions (PSI) for additional application submission instructions, including information on required documents and format.

Please follow both, the PSI and the NOFO, to ensure that the proposal package submission is in full compliance with the requirements. Proposal submissions that do not meet all of the requirements outlined in this NOFO and PSI will **not** be considered.

FEDERAL AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION:

Issuance of this NOFO does **not** constitute a commitment on the part of the Department of State to issue an award nor does it commit the U.S. Government to pay for costs incurred in the preparation and submission of an application. Furthermore, award cannot be issued until funds have been fully appropriated, allocated, and committed through internal DOS procedures. While it is anticipated that these procedures will be successfully completed, potential applicants are hereby notified of these requirements. All preparation and submission costs are at the

applicant's expense.

Pursuant to 2 CFR 200.400 g, it is U.S. Department of State policy **not** to award profit under assistance instruments.

2 CFR §200.501 requires domestic/US non-federal entities that *expend* \$750,000, or more, in federal assistance during organization's fiscal year to have a single or program-specific audit conducted for that year. In addition, the entity must report the collected audit data elements on the form SF-SAC and submit it to the FAC. Any findings such as material weaknesses, significant deficiencies, or material noncompliance are reported on the SF-SAC.

The Federal award signed by the Grants Officer is the only authorizing document.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

Recipient will be required to submit Quarterly Progress and Quarterly Financial Reports (SF-425), unless special conditions apply, describing key activities undertaken during the reporting period towards accomplishment of the stated objectives. Financial Reports provide a means of monitoring expenditures.

NOTE: It is Department of State's policy that English is the official language of all award documents. If reports or any other supporting documents are provided in both English and a foreign language, it must be stated in each version that the **English language version is the controlling version. U.S. dollar is the controlling currency.** Financial reports must be submitted in U.S. dollars.

OTHER INFORMATION:

Adherence to Establishment Clause

The Establishment's Clause prohibits the U.S. Government from expressing preference of one religion over another. All activities of this award, including content produced and disseminated as part of regional counter-messaging efforts, must adhere to these requirements.

Mandatory disclosures (2 CFR 200.113)

Non-federal entity, recipient or applicant for a federal award must disclose, in a timely manner, in writing to the federal awarding agency or pass-through entity all violations of federal criminal law involving fraud, bribery, or gratuity violations potentially affecting the federal award. Non-federal entities that have received a Federal award including the term and condition outlined in Appendix XII of the 2 CFR 200—Award Terms and Conditions for Recipient Integrity and Performance Matters -- are required to report certain civil, criminal, or administrative proceedings to www.sam.gov.

Failure to make required disclosures can result in any of the remedies described in §200.338 Remedies for Noncompliance, including suspension or debarment.

Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System (FAPIIS)

A federal awarding agency, prior to making a federal award, will review and consider any information about the applicant that is in the designated integrity and performance system accessible through www.sam.gov (currently FAPIIS) (see 41 U.S.C. 2313). Applicant, at its option, may review information in the designated integrity and performance systems accessible through www.sam.gov 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 www.sam.gov. Federal awarding agency will consider any comments by the applicant, in addition to the other information in the designated integrity and performance system. Applicant organizations must demonstrate adherence to equal opportunity employment practices and commitment to non-discrimination with respect to beneficiaries. Non-discrimination includes equal treatment without regard to race, religion, ethnicity, gender, and political affiliation. Applicants are reminded that U.S. Executive Orders and U.S. law prohibits transactions with or support to individuals or organizations associated with terrorism.

Proposals that reflect any type of support for any member, affiliate, or representative or a designate to terrorist organization or narcotics trafficker, including elected members of government, will NOT be considered. This provision must be included in any sub-awards/sub-contracts issued under this award.

III. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

See the cover page, Eligibility Category.

Applicants should demonstrate expertise with training in sensitive environments, particularly in regions prone to terrorist activity – including mitigating risk in undertaking sensitive efforts to prevent radicalization to terrorism. Applicants should also demonstrate in-depth understanding of cultural contexts and governance structures in the country or countries where proposing to work.

IV. AGENCY CONTACTS

Any prospective applicant desiring an explanation or interpretation of this NOFO must request it in writing by the *deadline for questions* specified on page 1 (cover page). Information given to a prospective applicant concerning this NOFO will be furnished promptly to all other prospective applicants as a ‘Questions and Answers’ attachment to this NOFO.

Any questions concerning this NOFO should be submitted in writing, by email, to Mia DiBenedetto (DiBenedettoM@state.gov), along with the project’s title as outlined in the NOFO; the funding opportunity number; and applicant’s legal name and organizational status.