

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

Announcement Type:	New Announcement
Funding Opportunity Title:	Countering Violent Extremism – Countering Terrorist Ideology
Assistance Listing:	19.701
Funding Amount:	\$546,914
Number of Awards:	One award (1)
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 30, 2020
Closing Date for Submission of Applications:	Complete proposal packages must be submitted through SAMS Domestic or www.grants.gov by June 12, 11:59 pm EST
Electronic Requirement:	Yes E-mailed, faxed or mailed proposal packages, or individual documents, that failed to transmit through www.grants.gov , will <u>NOT</u> be considered.
Deadline for Receipt of Questions:	June 2, 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 Public International Organizations (PIOs).

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: One (1) 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.

Anticipated Award Date: The successful applicant will receive notification within approximately three to four 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: August/September 2020

Est. Project End Date: August/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 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 projects to counter terrorist ideology and the mechanisms of propagation that enable it.

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 intends to support one (1) award 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 CVE projects that counter terrorist ideology.

The spread of terrorist ideology involves a combination of "supply" and "demand" factors. Supply factors include ideas, persons, and materials that spread terrorist ideology and encourage individuals to radicalize to violence. Examples include proselytizers, ideologues, and educational and other materials that reject pluralism, promote sectarianism and intolerance of others, and encourage hostility toward the West. Additionally, the use of the internet has

facilitated the sharing of terrorist propaganda videos, images, and other content via social media platforms and encrypted applications. Demand factors are those that motivate an individual to embrace terrorist ideology, and make them more likely to sympathize with, join, or kill in the name of a terrorist organization. Those who embrace terrorist ideology are often seeking a larger group identity, adventure, or meaning and purpose in a transnational struggle. Terrorist groups often propagate their ideologies through messaging campaigns – creating slick, resonant propaganda, using social media for rapid dissemination, and still recruiting face to face. To address these challenges, CT seeks proposals for efforts to build government and/or civil society capacity to counter terrorist ideology – focusing on supply factors but with demand ones in mind.

PROJECT GOAL

To reduce terrorist recruitment and radicalization to violence by countering the spread of terrorist ideology.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

CT seeks to support programming to counter the spread of terrorist ideologies – particularly propagated or enabled by foreign actors notoriously recognized in affected countries and regions. Efforts to build the capacity of teachers, youth workers, religious figures and other community leaders to counter and offer alternatives to terrorist ideologies are particularly welcome. Proposals should innovatively and effectively integrate different community-based actors, a combination of in person and traditional media and online activities, and government-civil society partnerships. Efforts should be cognizant of foreign narratives and influencers and how host-country actors can proactively, creatively, and feasibly address them. These efforts can be achieved in a variety of ways, such as by exploiting messaging opportunities from disillusioned and disengaged former terrorists, building resilience to terrorist narratives among vulnerable audiences, dissuading potential recruits from joining or supporting terrorist organizations, enhancing the capacity of youth to think critically about terrorist narratives, or challenging the influence of terrorist ideologues. Education-based proposals and approaches that directly address supply and demand factors are particularly encouraged.

Programming locations/beneficiaries should focus on one country in either (1) Southeast Asia – especially Indonesia; or (2) Sahel or Littoral States.

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 an award 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 an award 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 project idea seeks to create long-term impacts that will help the country/region implement similar CVE plans.

2. Project Planning/Ability to Achieve Objectives

- The proposal provides a detailed work plan of proposed project activities and includes a clear articulation of how these activities will contribute to or align with the overall project's goals and objectives;
- 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 CVE space writ large or 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 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.

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 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 counter-ideology 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.