

Questions and Answers – June 12, 2017
Strengthening Law Enforcement's Partnerships with Women's Justice Centers
[INL17CA0031-INLWHPMexico-05022017]

1. On page 2 of the NOFO, INL indicates that each study tour will include two locations in the U.S. Could INL clarify whether each tour will go to the same two locations or whether these could change for each tour?

Answer: Each city will preferably change for each study tour. From the two cities in each study tour the first one can be the same for all of them and the other one can be different.

2. On page 14, the NOFO requests that cover pages include the name and number of the Target Themes. Is the reference to Target Themes deliberate and if so, could INL please clarify what these are?

Answer: The cover page must include the proposal title of applicant and the Target Themes which will be to build mutual understanding between Mexican law enforcement and Mexican Women's Justice Center, through carefully designed visits, professional meetings, and activities that reflect the visitors' professional interests like forensics and SGBV, domestic violence, victim's emergency response, victims' services, and victims' advocates, among others.

3. On page 24 of the NOFO, offerors are requested not to include indirect charges against participant expenses. In accordance with 2 CFR 200.75, our organization interprets participant expenses to be costs for "participants or trainees (but not employees) in connection with conferences, or training projects." The program described by INL refers to professional study tours rather than conferences or trainings. Therefore, our organization understands that participants' expenses related to the study tours are not subject to this restriction. Could INL please confirm this interpretation?

Answer: The statement on no indirect costs against participant expenses is only applicable to applicants without a NICRA and who are charging a de minimis rate of 10% of the modified total direct costs (MTDC).

4. In Section I, Program Description, Target Population, you indicate that applicants should "identify target audiences, specific demographics, and the region(s) in which the project will be implemented. It is particularly important to specify the approximate number of beneficiaries to be directly and indirectly impacted by project activities." Given that INL will be substantially involved in the selection of the potential Mexican participants, can INL provide guidance from which states the participants in the program will be selected?

Answer: INL will consider including first the states that have a WCJ in order to reinforce the linkage: Aguascalientes, Campeche, Chihuahua, Colima, Yucatán, Zacatecas, Guerrero, Morelos, Chiapas, San Luis Potosí, Nayarit and Mexico State. And then INL will look forward to include the states such as Tlaxcala.

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5. From the illustrative targets in the table in the Desired Results and Illustrative Indicators Section, it seems that INL anticipates having 24 cities total participate in the Program. We believe that there would be efficiencies if one city were to host two sets of study tours. Would INL consider a range of 12-24 cities as a target?

Answer: Yes

6. In Tab C Budget Guidelines, Section H: Indirect Charges, we would like to know if there is a special statute authorizing the Agency to refuse to pay indirect costs on participant expenses even if there is no such exclusion on the NICRA negotiated with USAID.

Answer: The statement on no indirect costs against participant expenses is only applicable to applicants without a NICRA and who are charging a de minimis rate of 10% of the modified total direct costs (MTDC).

7. Our organization has an affiliate in Mexico which has been fully registered under the laws of Mexico since 2003. Although we would serve as a prime, given the relationship, even if we were to win the award, we would implement this project through this organization, using its existing infrastructure in Mexico. Does this satisfy the eligibility requirement for this award as stated in Section III?

Answer: Could you please ask applicant what type of affiliate are they talking about? Is it a not-for-profit/non-governmental organization (NGOs) or U.S. based educational institution?