

NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Opportunity Title: SMALL GRANTS FOR CONTENT PRODUCTION
Opportunity Number: PAS-CHISINAU-FY19-12-MEDIA
CFDA Number: 19.900
CFDA Title: AEECA PD Programs
Program: Media Program (AEECA)
Announcement Type: Open Competition
Announcement Date: Tuesday, March 05, 2019
Submission Deadline: Friday, April 05, 2019
Anticipated Award Date: Wednesday, May 01, 2019
Agency Contact: Alexandru Leanca, LeancaAI@state.gov

A. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Background Information

The U.S. Embassy in Moldova seeks to support independent voices in the Moldovan media landscape. Specifically, this initiative seeks to support the development of a community of filmmakers and digital content creators who use their medium to tell powerful and engaging stories. This initiative focuses on the **narrative short format (live action, maximum running time of five minutes - 5:00)**.

The embassy seeks a partner to implement a **48-hour film challenge** that will allow emerging filmmakers from Moldova (and possibly neighbor countries) to showcase their talent and develop a community of creative content producers. Emerging filmmakers would be professionals in the early to middle stages of their career (at least one year of experience working in a professional media environment).

During the activity, filmmakers will receive instructions on a theme, write a script, produce a short film (under five minutes in duration), and then present the final product to peers in the final hours of the event. All of this is to take place within 48 hours. The films will then be evaluated and recognized for excellence accordingly by a small panel.

The activity should include at least five production teams (team generally includes 5-10

people, including screenwriter/director, director of photography, editor, actors, etc...from Moldova and two teams of filmmakers from a neighboring country. There is a possibility of bringing a U.S. expert to assist in implementation. Those costs should be included in proposal if relevant.

The assistance will be in the form of a grant or cooperative agreement, and the U.S. Embassy will be involved in the project implementation. Enlistment of a media partner, ideally a TV outlet that can broadcast the final projects and making-of, is strongly encouraged.

Implementing partner will be responsible for overall logistical coordination, including promotion of the event, selection of participants, travel and lodging for international participants. Proposed venue is the America House in Chisinau, but other options will be considered.

We anticipate the project to run 3-4 months.

Program Objectives:

The hereby project aims for the following objectives:

1. Build capacity for local content production among emerging filmmakers
2. Provide the next generation of producers, directors, editors and actors a foundation to develop ties within the creative community, both locally and regionally.

B. FEDERAL AWARD INFORMATION

Funding Instrument Type: Grant or Cooperative Agreement

Funding per grant: \$50,000

Expected award date: May 1, 2019

The Department also reserves the right to award more or less funding as deemed in the best interest of the U.S. Government. The performance period for funded projects will be for up to 4 months. Recipients of funding under this announcement will be subject to the Department of State terms and conditions and the terms set forth in this announcement. Additional terms and conditions may apply as warranted. Quarterly or Semi-annual technical and financial reports may be required during the term of the project. A final assessment at the end of the project is mandatory for all grants.

Award recipients must comply with Executive Order 13224, Blocking Property and Prohibiting Transactions with Persons who Commit, Threaten to commit, or Support Terrorism. Information about this Executive Order can be found at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2001-09-25/pdf/01-24205.pdf>.

Cost Sharing or Matching

Applicants are not required to include funding from other donors

C. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

Eligibility is limited to not-for-profit organizations (NGOs, CSOs, Think-Tanks) and independent mass media (often registered as Limited Liability Companies) officially registered in the Republic of Moldova.

Direct funding for U.S. and third-country institutions is not available under this funding opportunity. The organizations without Moldovan registration can apply only as partners through an eligible organization.

Organizations submitting proposals must meet the following criteria:

- Organizations may submit only one proposal.
- Public Affairs Section reserves the right to request additional background information on applicants that do not have previous experience administering federal grant awards, and these applicants may be subject to limited funding on a pilot basis.
- Please note: the Department of State prohibits profit under its assistance awards to for-profit or commercial organizations. No funds will be paid as profit to any recipient. Profit is defined as any amount in excess of allowable direct and indirect costs. The permissibility of costs incurred by commercial organizations is determined in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) at 48 CFR Part 31, Cost Accounting Standards, and Part 31 Contract Cost Principles and Procedures. Program income earned by the recipient must be deducted from the total project or program allowable cost in determining the net allowable costs on which the federal share of costs is based.

Please note: no entity listed on the Excluded Parties List System in the System for Award Management (SAM) is eligible for any assistance or can participate in any activities under an award in accordance with the OMB guidelines at 2 CFR 180 that implement Executive Orders 12549 (3 CFR Part 1986 Comp., p. 189) and 12689 (3 CFR Part 1989 Comp., p. 235), “Debarment and Suspension.” All applicants are strongly encouraged to review the Excluded Parties List System in SAM (www.sam.gov) to ensure that no ineligible entity is included.

D. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

A complete application must contain the following mandatory elements:

1. **Application Format** in MS Word format (Please download from Related Documents)
2. **Detailed Budget** in MS Excel format (Please download from Related Documents)
3. **Budget Narrative** (free form)

Unsolicited attachments will not be read and should not be submitted for this award.

Do not archive documents and do not send links to external storages such as Google

Drive or Dropbox. The documents must be attached as individual files and sent in one email before the deadline. Do not send the application package more than one time.

Please send the application electronically to moldovagrants@state.gov including the Funding opportunity Number and Name of the Organization in the subject of your email.

Example: *PAS-CHISINAU-FY19-12-MEDIA Asociatia Moldova*

It is the responsibility of all applicants to ensure that proposals have been submitted on time the emails specified. The U.S. Embassy bears no responsibility for data errors during the transmission or conversion processes.

We encourage the applicants to use the downloadable forms. If Internet access is limited, please contact us to arrange an alternative way of receiving the application package.

Please use only Microsoft Word to fill out the project form. If you do not have Microsoft Office software, feel free to use the computers at the America House (find address on the Embassy's website) or any other public access center (e.g., Novateca's nationwide library network, Internet cafés, etc.).

Please contact us at rusus@state.gov if you experience technical problems or are unable to submit an electronic version of the application.

Successful applicants may be required to register in SAM.GOV (System for Award Management) before an award can be made.

In designing your proposal, you might consider addressing the following questions:

- How will you promote 48-hour film festival?
- How will you select participants?
- What will the rules be?
- How do we attract a professional-level group of participants? Will there be a prize?
- How will films be uploaded and viewed in final hours of the event?
- How will films be evaluated and awarded?
- How will you enforce timeliness and make sure that there are no delays in order to accomplish everything in 48 hours?
- Why do you want to implement this project? Why are you qualified?

What ideas do you have that might enhance what is presented in this announcement?

E. APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

Evaluation Criteria

Successful proposals for the Media Grants Program will contain **accurate and well-developed implementation plans** and clear explanations of how the project goals will be achieved.

Cost effectiveness. The overhead and administrative components of the proposal, including salaries and honoraria, should be kept as low as possible. All other items should be necessary and appropriate.

The Embassy will consider the past performance of prior recipients and the demonstrated potential of new applicants. Proposals should demonstrate an institutional record of **successful program administration, including responsible fiscal management and full compliance with all reporting requirements for past grants.** Proposed personnel and institutional resources should be adequate and appropriate to achieve the project's goals. Roles and responsibilities of primary staff should be provided.

Project selection is competitive.

Your proposal will be evaluated on **creativity, logistical coordinating competence, innovative use of technology and a proven ability to keep to a schedule** - timeliness and punctuality for this event are critical, given compressed time schedule. .

Programs should demonstrate the capacity for **evaluating impact** of project in both qualitative and quantitative terms.

Your proposal will be judged by a panel of members of the U.S. Embassy in Chisinau.

Extra consideration will be given to viable project sites outside of Chisinau.

Review and Selection Process

The Grants Program Review Committee is made up of heads of sections or delegates of the U.S. Embassy and American agencies present in Moldova. The panel members have at least 10 working days to read the projects and then convene to review and discuss the project proposals and recommend selected projects for funding.

F. FEDERAL AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

Applicants will be notified electronically about selection results. An email message will be sent to the email account included in the application form. Grants Program Staff may also contact the applicants to request additional information or clarify certain aspects of the application documents; therefore it is important to provide accurate contact information.

Successful program applicants will have to sign a Notice of Award (grant agreement) before receiving the funds. No costs should be incurred by the applicant prior to signing a Notice of Award. The notice of Federal award signed by the grants officer is the authorizing document.

Unsuccessful program applicants will receive an email notification. The grants program may provide a signed rejection letter upon request; however, the Grants Program will not provide reasons for rejection. The grants program is highly competitive and may not be able to fund all good applications.

Reporting

During the grant implementation the recipient will have to inform the Embassy about the events and activities carried out under the grant.

The recipient will have to provide a final performance report (narrative) submitted in electronic format in English via email at the end of the project, however, often the Embassy may choose to request semiannual or quarterly reporting. The U.S. Embassy reserves the right to request other proofs such as photos from events, participants' lists, copies of publications, etc., as well as request access to financial information related to the grant.

G. FEDERAL AWARDING AGENCY CONTACT(S)

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H. OTHER INFORMATION

All Federal Government-financed international air transportation must be accomplished by U.S. Flag air carriers or U.S. code sharing to the extent that service by those carriers is available. These circumstances are outlined below:

1. The United States – European Open Skies Air Transport Agreement (U.S.-E.U. Open Skies Agreement) is a bilateral/multilateral agreement that allows federal funded transportation services to use foreign air carriers under specific circumstances. Due to recent modifications to the U.S. – E.U. Open Skies Agreement, the Department's travel policy has been amended.

2. The modified agreement allows travelers to:

a. Use EU carriers if the travelers are not eligible to use City Pair Fares. Examples would be non-Federal entities and sub non-Federal entities of Federal Awards traveling between points not reflected in the approved Federal Award budget.

b. Use EU carriers between points in the United States and points OUTSIDE of the EU when there is no City Pair Fare on the route or the traveler is not eligible to use the fare. In essence, this allows travelers to compare costs and select between an EU and U.S. flag carrier when the flight originates, arrives in, or stops in any of the EU countries.

Disclaimer

Organizations that submit applications in response to this announcement acknowledge and accept all of the requirements contained herein. This announcement serves as notice to select interested parties to have equal opportunity to submit project proposals for funding consideration. All submissions in response to this announcement are

voluntary and do not obligate the Department of State to fund any proposal or proposal preparation costs.

Issuance of this Request for Proposals 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. 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.