U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
U.S. EMBASSY Abidjan Public Diplomacy Section
Notice of Funding Opportunity

Funding Opportunity Title: Building Community Cohesion through Radio
Funding Opportunity Number: DOS-AF-ABIDJAN-YEAR-FY23-of-FY22-01
Deadline for Applications: *August 18, 2023* (11:59pm, EDT)
Assistance Listing Number: 19.979
Statutory Authority: Foreign Assistance Act, Regional Peace and Security
Total Amount Available: $*500,000*

A. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The *U.S. Embassy Abidjan* of the U.S. Department of State announces an open competition for organizations to submit applications to create and broadcast radio programs that foster peace and community cohesion in northern Côte d'Ivoire. Please follow all instructions below.

Priority Region: Côte d'Ivoire

Executive Summary

Through this cooperative agreement, U.S. Embassy Abidjan seeks to support Ivoirian projects that help open dialogue among diverse communities, security forces, and government through up to two cooperative agreements for up to $250,000 each.

This program aims to foster peace and build community cohesion through creating and transmitting radio programming in one of the primary languages native to northern Côte d'Ivoire (i.e., Senoufo, Dioula, Peuhl). Radio programming will include a minimum of three hours of broadcast time per week, at set times each week, for 52 weeks. Programming should include peace-building conversations with and among relevant and influential religious leaders, government officials, security forces, civil society members, community leaders, or other influential proponents of community cohesion in the region. Programming should also include educational content related to government assistance and other resources, including but not limited to information related to registering to vote in local and national elections, registering for schools, receiving healthcare, vaccinating livestock, reporting criminality, and filing legal proceedings. Project resources may also be dedicated to targeted media training for government officials, religious leaders, and other community influencers participating in radio programming. Applicants must demonstrate the ability to transmit the messages to broad audiences throughout areas of northern Côte d'Ivoire at risk of violent extremism. In addition, applicants must be able to provide proof of message transmission in the required monthly reports.

U.S. Embassy Abidjan intends to issue 1-2 awards. for a period of 12 months. The Department of State will entertain applications for continuation grants funded under these awards beyond

the initial budget period on a non-competitive basis subject to availability of funds, satisfactory progress of the program, and a determination that continued funding would be in the best interest of the U.S. Department of State.

Background

Several violent extremist organizations profoundly affect people's daily lives in Mali, Burkina Faso, and Côte d'Ivoire border regions. Organizations and individuals participating in, facilitating, or otherwise enabling violent extremism undermine the government's credibility, hamper economic development, and create or reinforce tensions among local populations. These consequences of violent extremism lead to increased unemployment, corruption, poverty, social inequality, and religious intolerance. Moreover, the instability makes it easier for extremist groups to recruit and radicalize youth, creating a negatively self-reinforcing cycle.

Many inhabitants of northern Côte d'Ivoire have little or no access to radio programming in their native languages. The information void could leave residents with an unclear understanding of government and its partners' actions, distrustful of other communities, and unaware of available resources and assistance, creating space for malign actors to advance harmful narratives. Some inhabitants of northern Côte d'Ivoire, especially those with little or no media access, may benefit from a having stronger sense of national identity. This cooperative agreement will focus on public diplomacy efforts to counter violent extremism.

Program Objectives:

The program goal is to build a consistent, informative, and trustworthy radio source for those in northern Côte d'Ivoire who are most comfortable in their native language to foster community cohesion, build trust between civilians and security forces, and reinforce national cohesion.

The objectives are as follows:

- *Produce and broadcast three hours of peace-building radio programing per week in local languages potentially including Senoufo, Dioula, Peuhl, Lobi, and Koulango.*

- *Broadcast information related to receiving government services, such as registering to vote and attending school, receiving health care or security services, or engaging the judicial system.*

- *Utilize 'local voices' and capture local perspectives. Recordings should occur in villages and marketplaces.*

- *Host cohesion-fostering conversations on topics relevant to inhabitants of northern Côte d'Ivoire.*

- *Increase the capacity of community radio stations to create peace-building programming.*

Participants and Audiences:

This program's audience is communities and individuals who are members of or interact with transhumance communities in northern Côte d'Ivoire.

B. FEDERAL AWARD INFORMATION

Length of performance period: 12 months
Number of awards anticipated: ***Two*** awards (dependent on amounts)
Award amounts: Awards may range from a minimum of *$100,000* to a maximum of *$250,000*
Total available funding: $500,000
Type of Funding: FY22 Economic Support Funds under the Foreign Assistance Act
Anticipated program start date: October 1, 2023

This notice is subject to availability of funding.

Funding Instrument Type: Cooperative Agreement

As a cooperative agreement, the Government of the United States will have substantial involvement in this project. For more information on the USG's role please see Section A. Program Description.

Program Performance Period: Proposed programs should be completed in 12 months.
Note: The Department of State will entertain applications for continuation grants funded under these awards beyond the initial budget period on a non-competitive basis subject to availability of funds, satisfactory progress of the program, and a determination that continued funding would be in the best interest of the U.S. Department of State.

C. ELIGILIBITY INFORMATION

1. Eligible Applicants

The following organizations are eligible to apply:
U.S. and Ivoirian non-profit AND private organizations, consortia of organizations, and accredited post-secondary U.S. education institutions meeting the provisions described in Internal Revenue Code section 26 USC 501(c)(3).

2. Cost Sharing or Matching: Cost sharing is not required for this opportunity.

3. Other Eligibility Requirements

In order to be eligible to receive an award, all organizations must have a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) number issued via www.SAM.gov as well as a valid registration on www.SAM.gov. Please see Section D.3 for more information. Individuals are not required to have a UEI or be registered in SAM.gov.

Applicants are only allowed to submit one proposal per organization. If more than one proposal is submitted from an organization, all proposals from that institution will be considered ineligible for funding.

Organizations must have a commitment to equal opportunity employment practices and to non-discrimination practices with regard to beneficiaries, without regard to race, religion, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, or political affiliation.

D. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

1. Address to Request Application Package

Application forms required below are available at https://www.grants.gov.

2. Content and Form of Application Submission

Please follow all instructions below carefully. Proposals that do not meet the requirements of this announcement or fail to comply with the stated requirements will be ineligible.

Content of Application
Please ensure:

- The proposal clearly addresses the goals and objectives of this funding opportunity
- All documents are in English
- All budgets are in U.S. dollars
- All pages are numbered
- All documents are formatted to 8 ½ x 11 paper, and
- All Microsoft Word documents are single-spaced, 12 point Calibri font, with a minimum of 1-inch margins.

The following documents are **required**:

1. Mandatory application forms

- **SF-424** ***(Application for Federal Assistance – organizations)*** at grants.gov.
- **SF-424A** ***(Budget Information for Non-Construction programs)*** at grants.gov.
- **SF-424B** ***(Assurances for Non-Construction programs) at*** grants.gov. ***(note: the SF-424B is only required for individuals and for organizations not registered in SAM.gov)***

2. Summary Page: Cover sheet stating the applicant name and organization, proposal date, program title, program period proposed start and end date, and brief purpose of the program.

3. Proposal (*10* pages maximum): The proposal should contain sufficient information that anyone not familiar with it would understand exactly what the applicant wants to do. You may use your own proposal format, but it must include all the items below.

- **Proposal Summary:** Short narrative that outlines the proposed program, including program objectives and anticipated impact.
- **Introduction to the Organization or Individual applying**: A description of past and present operations, showing ability to carry out the program, including information on all previous grants from the U.S. Embassy and/or U.S. government agencies.
- **Problem Statement:** Clear, concise and well-supported statement of the problem to be addressed and why the proposed program is needed
- **Program Goals and Objectives:** The "goals" describe what the program is intended to achieve. The "objectives" refer to the intermediate accomplishments on the way to the goals. These should be achievable and measurable.
- **Program Activities**: Describe the program activities and how they will help achieve the objectives.
- **Program Methods and Design**: A description of how the program is expected to work to solve the stated problem and achieve the goal. Include a logic model as appropriate.
- **Proposed Program Schedule and Timeline:** The proposed timeline for the program activities. Include the dates, times, and locations of planned activities and events.
- **Key Personnel:** Names, titles, roles and experience/qualifications of key personnel involved in the program. What proportion of their time will be used in support of this program?
- **Program Partners:** List the names and type of involvement of key partner organizations and sub-awardees.
- **Program Monitoring and Evaluation Plan:** This is an important part of successful grants. Throughout the time-frame of the grant, how will the activities be monitored to ensure they are happening in a timely manner, and how will the program be evaluated to make sure it is meeting the goals of the grant?
- **Future Funding or Sustainability** Applicant's plan for continuing the program beyond the grant period, or the availability of other resources, if applicable.

4. Budget Justification Narrative: After filling out the SF-424A Budget (above), use a separate file to describe each of the budget expenses in detail. See section *H. Other Information: Guidelines for Budget Submissions* below for further information.

5. Attachments:

- 1-page CV or resume of key personnel who are proposed for the program
- Letters of support from program partners describing the roles and responsibilities of each partner
- If your organization has a Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA) and includes NICRA charges in the budget, your latest NICRA should be included as a PDF file.
- Official permission letters, if required for program activities

3. Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management (SAM.gov)

Required Registrations:

All organizations, whether based in the United States or in another country, must have a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) and an active registration with the SAM.gov. A UEI is one of the data elements mandated by Public Law 109-282, the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA), for all Federal awards.

Note: As of April 2022, a DUNS number is no longer required for federal assistance applications.

The 2 CFR 200 requires that sub-grantees obtain a UEI number. Please note the UEI for sub-grantees is not required at the time of application but will be required before an award is processed and/or directed to a sub-grantee.

Note: The process of obtaining or renewing a SAM.gov registration may take anywhere from 4-8 weeks. Please begin your registration as early as possible.

- Organizations **based in the United States** or that pay employees within the United States will need an Employer Identification Number (EIN) from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and a UEI number prior to registering in SAM.gov.

- Organizations **based outside of the United States** and that do not pay employees within the United States do not need an EIN from the IRS but do need a UEI number prior to registering in SAM.gov.

- **Please note that as of November 2022 and February 2022 respectively, organizations based outside of the United States that do not intend to apply for U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) awards are no longer required to have a NATO Commercial and Government Entity (NCAGE) code or CAGE code to apply for non-DoD foreign assistance funding opportunities.** If an applicant organization is mid-registration and wishes to remove a CAGE or NCAGE code from their SAM.gov registration, the applicant should submit a help desk ticket ("incident") with the Federal Service Desk (FSD) online at www.fsd.gov using the following language: "I do not intend to seek financial assistance from the Department of Defense. I do not wish to obtain a CAGE or NCAGE code. I understand that I will need to submit my registration after this incident is resolved in order to have my registration activated."

Organizations based outside of the United States and that DO NOT plan to do business with the DoD should follow the below instructions:

Step 1: Proceed to SAM.gov to obtain a UEI and complete the SAM.gov registration process. SAM.gov registration must be renewed annually.

Organizations based outside of the United States and that DO plan to do business with the DoD in addition to Department of State should follow the below instructions:

Step 1: Apply for an NCAGE code by following the instructions on the NSPA NATO website linked below:

NCAGE Homepage:
https://eportal.nspa.nato.int/AC135Public/sc/CageList.aspx
NCAGE Code Request Tool (NCRT):

Exemptions
An exemption from the UEI and sam.gov registration requirements may be permitted on a case-by-case basis if:

- An applicant's identity must be protected due to potential endangerment of their mission, their organization's status, their employees, or individuals being served by the applicant.
- For an applicant, if the Federal awarding agency makes a determination that there are exigent circumstances that prohibit the applicant from receiving a unique entity identifier and completing SAM registration prior to receiving a Federal award. In these instances, Federal awarding agencies must require the recipient to obtain a unique entity identifier and complete SAM registration within 30 days of the Federal award date.

Organizations requesting exemption from UEI or SAM.gov requirements must email the point of contact listed in the NOFO at least two weeks prior to the deadline in the NOFO providing a justification of their request. Approval for a SAM.gov exemption must come from the warranted Grants Officer before the application can be deemed eligible for review.

4. Submission Dates and Times

Applications are due no later than *August 18, 2023*

5. Funding Restrictions:

6. *The following activities and costs are not covered under this announcement:*

7. • *Construction is not an allowable activity under this award.*
8. • *Activities that appear partisan or that support individual or party electoral campaigns.*
9. • *Direct support or the appearance of direct support for any religious organization, to include repair or building of structures used for religious purposes.*
10. • *Military assistance of any kind, including weapons buy-back or rewards programs.*
11. • *Purchase of firearms, ammunition, or removal of unexploded ordnances.*
12. • *Payments for any partner government, military, or civilian government employee salary or pension.*
13. • *Duplication of services immediately available through municipal, provincial, or national government.*
14. • *Funds for market research, advertising (unless public service related to grant program), or other promotional expenses.*
15. • *Expenses made prior to the approval of a proposal or unreasonable expenditures will not be reimbursed.*
16. • *Fund-raising campaigns;*
17. • *Lobbying for specific legislation or projects;*
18. • *Projects intended primarily for the growth or institutional development of the organization;*
19. • *Projects seeking funds for personal use;*
20. • *Projects that require a participation fee.*
21. *Representation by Organization Regarding a Delinquent Tax Liability or a Felony Criminal Conviction: In accordance with section 7073 of Division K of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014 (Public Law 113-76) none of the funds made available by that Act may be used to enter into an assistance award with any organization that – Was "convicted of a felony criminal violation under any Federal law within the preceding 24 months, where the awarding agency has direct knowledge of the conviction, unless the agency has considered, in accordance with its procedures, that this further action is not necessary to protect the interests of the Government"; or*
22. *Has any "unpaid Federal tax liability that has been assessed for which all judicial and administrative remedies have been exhausted or have lapsed, and that is not being paid in a timely manner pursuant to an agreement with the authority responsible for collecting the tax liability, unless the Federal agency has considered, in accordance with its procedures, that this further action is not necessary to protect the interests of the Government."*
23. *For the purposes of Section 7073, it is the Department of State's policy that no award may be made to any organization covered by (1) or (2) above, unless the Procurement Executive has made a written determination that suspension or debarment is not necessary to protect the interests of the Government*
24.

25. Other Submission Requirements

All application materials must be submitted by email to *abidjanpds@state.gov.*

E. APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

1. Criteria

Each application will be evaluated and rated on the basis of the evaluation criteria outlined below.

Quality and Feasibility of the Implementation – 25 points: The proposal is well developed, with detail about how program activities will be carried out and indicates when and where U.S. Embassy support will be needed. The proposal includes a reasonable implementation timeline.

Organizational Capacity and Record on Previous Grants – 25 points: The organization has expertise in its stated field and has the internal controls in place to manage federal funds. This includes a financial management system and a bank account.

Program Content – 15 points: Objectives are clear, and content is linked to the United States and is likely to provide maximum impact in achieving the proposed results.

Budget – 10 points: The budget justification is detailed. Costs are reasonable in relation to the proposed activities and anticipated results. The budget is realistic, accounting for all necessary expenses to achieve proposed activities.

Monitoring and evaluation plan – 15 points: Applicant demonstrates it can measure program success against key indicators and provides milestones to indicate progress toward goals outlined in the proposal. The program includes output and outcome indicators and shows how and when those will be measured.

Sustainability – 10 points: Proposal defines how program activities will continue to have positive impact after the end of the program.

2. Review and Selection Process

A review committee will evaluate all eligible applications.

3. Responsibility/Qualification Information in SAM.gov (formerly, FAPIIS)

i. The Federal awarding agency, prior to making a Federal award with a total amount of Federal share greater than the simplified acquisition threshold, is required to review and

consider any information about the applicant that is in the U.S. government designated integrity and performance system accessible through SAM.gov (see 41 U.S.C. 2313);

ii. An applicant, at its option, may review and comment on any information about itself that a Federal awarding agency previously entered. Currently, federal agencies create integrity records in the integrity module of the Contractor Performance Assessment and Reporting System (CPARS) and these records are visible as responsibility/qualification records in SAM.gov;

iii. The Federal awarding agency will consider any comments by the applicant, in addition to the other information in the designated integrity and performance system, in making a judgment about the applicant's integrity, business ethics, and record of performance under Federal awards when completing the review of risk posed by applicants as described in §200.206 Federal awarding agency review of risk posed by applicants.

F. FEDERAL AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

1. Federal Award Notices

The grant award or cooperative agreement will be written, signed, awarded, and administered by the Grants Officer. The assistance award agreement is the authorizing document and it will be provided to the recipient for review and signature by email. The recipient may only start incurring program expenses beginning on the start date shown on the grant award document signed by the Grants Officer.

If a proposal is selected for funding, the Department of State has no obligation to provide any additional future funding. Renewal of an award to increase funding or extend the period of performance is at the discretion of the Department of State.

Issuance of this NOFO does not constitute an award commitment on the part of the U.S. government, nor does it commit the U.S. government to pay for costs incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals. Further, the U.S. government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals received.

Payment Method: Payment will be made by request of the recipient associated with project milestones (example: completing a course content; translations; printing; conference expenses). The cooperating agency must request payment under this award by completing the form SF-270 and submitting it to the Grants Officer.

2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

Before submitting an application, applicants should review all the terms and conditions and required certifications which will apply to this award, to ensure that they will be able to comply.

These include:

- 2 CFR 25 - UNIVERSAL IDENTIFIER AND SYSTEM FOR AWARD MANAGEMENT
- 2 CFR 170 - REPORTING SUBAWARD AND EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION INFORMATION
- 2 CFR 175 - AWARD TERM FOR TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS
- 2 CFR 182 - GOVERNMENTWIDE REQUIREMENTS FOR DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE (FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE)
- 2 CFR 183 - NEVER CONTRACT WITH THE ENEMY
- 2 CFR 600 – DEPARTMENT OF STATE REQUIREMENTS
- U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE STANDARD TERMS AND CONDITIONS

In accordance with the Office of Management and Budget's guidance located at 2 CFR part 200, all applicable Federal laws, and relevant Executive guidance, the Department of State will review and consider applications for funding, as applicable to specific programs, pursuant to this notice of funding opportunity in accordance with the following: NOTE:

- Guidance for Grants and Agreements in Title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations (2 CFR), as updated in the Federal Register's 85 FR 49506 on August 13, 2020, particularly on:
    - Selecting recipients most likely to be successful in delivering results based on the program objectives through an objective process of evaluating Federal award applications (2 CFR part 200.205),
    - Prohibiting the purchase of certain telecommunication and video surveillance services or equipment in alignment with section 889 of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2019 (Pub. L. No. 115—232) (2 CFR part 200.216),
    - Promoting the freedom of speech and religious liberty in alignment with *Promoting Free Speech and Religious Liberty* (E.O. 13798) and *Improving Free Inquiry, Transparency, and Accountability at Colleges and Universities* (E.O. 13864) (§§ 200.300, 200.303, 200.339, and 200.341),
    - Providing a preference, to the extent permitted by law, to maximize use of goods, products, and materials produced in the United States (2 CFR part 200.322), and

- Terminating agreements in whole or in part to the greatest extent authorized by law, if an award no longer effectuates the program goals or agency priorities (2 CFR part 200.340).

3. Reporting

Reporting Requirements: Recipients will be required to submit financial reports and program reports, including a mid-term and final narrative report. The award document will specify how often these reports must be submitted.

Foreign Assistance Data Review: As required by Congress, the Department of State must make progress in its efforts to improve tracking and reporting of foreign assistance data through the Foreign Assistance Data Review (FADR). The FADR requires tracking of foreign assistance activity data from budgeting, planning, and allocation through obligation and disbursement. Successful applicants will be required to report and draw down federal funding based on the appropriate FADR Data Elements, indicated within their award documentation. In cases of more than one FADR Data Element, typically program or sector and/or regions or country, the successful applicant will be required to maintain separate accounting records.

Applicants should be aware of the post award reporting requirements reflected in 2 CFR 200 Appendix XII—Award Term and Condition for Recipient Integrity and Performance Matters.

G. FEDERAL AWARDING AGENCY CONTACTS

If you have any questions about the grant application process, please contact: *abidjanpds@state.gov*.

H. OTHER INFORMATION

Guidelines for Budget Justification

Personnel and Fringe Benefits: Describe the wages, salaries, and benefits of temporary or permanent staff who will be working directly for the applicant on the program, and the percentage of their time that will be spent on the program.

Travel: Estimate the costs of travel and per diem for this program, for program staff, consultants or speakers, and participants/beneficiaries. If the program involves international travel, include a brief statement of justification for that travel.

Equipment: Describe any machinery, furniture, or other personal property that is required for the program, which has a useful life of more than one year (or a life longer than the duration of the program), and costs at least $5,000 per unit.

Supplies: List and describe all the items and materials, including any computer devices, that are needed for the program. If an item costs more than $5,000 per unit, then put it in the budget under Equipment.

Contractual: Describe goods and services that the applicant plans to acquire through a contract with a vendor. Also describe any sub-awards to non-profit partners that will help carry out the program activities.

Other Direct Costs: Describe other costs directly associated with the program, which do not fit in the other categories. For example, shipping costs for materials and equipment or applicable taxes. All "Other" or "Miscellaneous" expenses must be itemized and explained.

Indirect Costs: These are costs that cannot be linked directly to the program activities, such as overhead costs needed to help keep the organization operating. If your organization has a Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate (NICRA) and includes NICRA charges in the budget, attach a copy of your latest NICRA. Organizations that have never had a NICRA may request indirect costs of 10% of modified total direct costs as defined in 2 CFR 200.68.

"Cost Sharing" refers to contributions from the organization or other entities other than the U.S. Embassy. It also includes in-kind contributions such as volunteers' time and donated venues.

Alcoholic Beverages: Please note that award funds cannot be used for alcoholic beverages.