

U.S. Department of State
Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation, Office of Cooperative Threat Reduction
(ISN/CTR)
Notice of Funding Opportunity

Funding Opportunity Title:	Enhancing Morocco Public Health Capacity Activity
Announcement Type:	Cooperative Agreement – Initial
Funding Opportunity Number:	SFOP0008193
Deadline for Applications:	July 6, 2021
CFDA	19.033
Total Amount Available:	\$2,500,000

A. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

ISN/CTR sponsors foreign assistance activities and focuses on mitigating weapons of mass destruction and related delivery systems threats from proliferator states and non-state actors. ISN/CTR's national security mission includes mitigating global biological threats by minimizing the access of proliferator states and non-state actors to biological expertise, materials (e.g., high consequence pathogens, and dual-use equipment, and scientific expertise that could be misused to conduct biological weapons attacks against the United States, U.S. allies, or U.S. interests abroad. An underlying aim of ISN/CTR's efforts is long-term sustainability by which it can maximize programmatic impact while minimizing the need for foreign partners to rely on outside financial or technical assistance.

Under this funding opportunity, ISN/CTR seeks to fund activities that support the refurbishment of an international biomedical research institute in Casablanca, Morocco. When completed, the refurbishment will enhance Morocco's capacity in public health and enable the institute to continue to serve as a reference laboratory for the Africa CDC, and as a regional molecular diagnostics, public health, and biosecurity resource.

ISN/CTR Project Objectives:

ISN/CTR will fund a project recipient or recipients to execute program activities by performing laboratory renovations, boundary construction, and procuring and installing equipment and furniture. The institute is centrally located in Casablanca with good connectivity by air, sea, and land. The site offers reliable tele-communications infrastructure and access to municipal power and potable water.

The recipient(s) will work with Government of Morocco, the institute, ISN/CTR, and other U.S. Department of State or U.S. government entities as appropriate, to conduct these capacity building activities with ISN/CTR's approval.

By the end of the award's period of performance, the recipient(s) will have successfully developed and implemented a project or projects to advance ISN/CTR's mission by performing tasks that include, but are not strictly limited to, the following, based on designs and guidance provided by ISN/CTR:

Upgrade/renovate a newly built three-story building on campus (~800 sq meters) (~\$1,500,000):

- Site inspection and preparation
- Removal of existing door and lighting
- Flooring
- Ceiling
- Partitions, including walls
- Painting
- Heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC)
- Electricity, both for high current and data transmissions
- Fire detection
- Access control and physical security in entrance
- Active and passive data in telecommunications room
- Displays and workstations
- Furniture
- Laboratory equipment

Upgrade/renovate the boundary wall and separate gate access gates (~\$300,000)

- Fencing and separate access gates
- Surface parking

Upgrade/renovate the existing Virology building, including laboratories (~450 sq meters) (~\$700,000):

- New building extension (office block)
- Furniture
- Renovations to existing laboratory, including consulting and permits
- New freezers and autoclave

B. FEDERAL AWARD INFORMATION

Length of performance period: 12 months

Number of awards anticipated: TBD

Award amounts: ISN/CTR will prioritize proposals that efficiently meet NOFO and programmatic goals at the lowest technically acceptable cost.

Total available funding: \$2,500,000

Type of Funding: FY16 Economic Support Fund-Overseas Contingency Operations

Anticipated project start date: October 1, 2021

Funding Instrument Type: Cooperative agreement. Cooperative agreements are different from grants or contracts in that bureau staff are more actively involved in the grant implementation.

Project Performance Period: Proposed projects should be completed in 12 months or fewer.

This notice is subject to availability of funding.

C. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

1. Eligible Applicants

The following organizations are eligible to apply (both domestic and international):

- Not-for-profit organizations
- Public and private educational institutions
- For-profit organizations
- Public International Organizations

2. Cost Sharing or Matching

This program does not require cost sharing, however proposals that demonstrate cost sharing will be welcomed.

The recipient is required to maintain written records to support all allowable costs that are claimed as its contribution to cost-share, as well as costs to be paid by the Federal government. Such records are subject to audit. In the event the recipient does not meet the minimum amount of cost-sharing as stipulated in the recipient's budget, ISN/CTR's contribution may be reduced in proportion to the recipient's contribution.

3. Other Eligibility Requirements

In order to be eligible to receive an award, all organizations must have a unique entity identifier (Data Universal Numbering System/DUNS number from Dun & Bradstreet), as well as a valid registration on www.SAM.gov. Please see Section D.3 for information on how to obtain these registrations. Individuals are not required to have a unique entity identifier 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.

D. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

1. Address to Request Application Package

Application forms required below are available at grants.gov

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.

2. 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 rounded to the nearest whole dollar

- All pages are numbered
- All documents are formatted to 8 ½ in x 11 in paper, and
- All Microsoft Word documents are single-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font, with a minimum of 1-inch margins.

The following documents are **required**:

Section 1 - Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424):

This form is part of the NOFO proposal package.

Section 2 – Project Proposal(s):

Using the provided template, the applicant must provide a completed project proposal. The proposal form must be completed in its entirety and clearly specify the proposed scope, deliverables, and timeline. Applicants must specify a point of contact for each project that is proposed.

Section 3 – Previous Work:

The applicant must provide information on a recent renovation/refurbishment project as an additional attachment to the provided template to include before/after photos and/or schematics as well as a list of relevant tasks accomplished.

Section 4 - Budget:

Also using the provided project proposal template, applicants must provide a budget for each project. The budget must identify the total amount of funding requested, with a breakdown of amounts to be spent in the following budget categories:

Application Submission Process: Applicants should submit project proposals electronically using Grants.gov. Thorough instructions on the Grants.gov application process are available at <http://www.grants.gov>. For questions relating to Grants.gov, please call the Grants.gov Contact Center at 1-800-518-4726.

3. Required Registrations:

Any applicant listed on the Excluded Parties List System (EPLS) in the System for Award Management (SAM) is not eligible to apply for an assistance award in accordance with the OMB guidelines at 2 CFR 180 that implement Executive Orders 12549 (3 CFR, 1986 Comp., p. 189) and 12689 (3 CFR, 1989 Comp., p. 235), “Debarment and Suspension.” Additionally, no entity listed on the EPLS can participate in any activities under an award. All applicants are strongly encouraged to review the EPLS in SAM to ensure that no ineligible entity is included.

All organizations applying for grants (except individuals) must obtain these registrations. All are free of charge:

- Unique entity identifier from Dun & Bradstreet (DUNS number)
- NCAGE/CAGE code
- www.SAM.gov registration

Step 1: Apply for a DUNS number and an NCAGE number (these can be completed simultaneously)

DUNS application: Organizations must have a Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number from Dun & Bradstreet. If your organization does not have one already, you may obtain one by calling 1-866-705-5711 or visiting <http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform>

NCAGE application: Application page here:

<https://eportal.nspa.nato.int/AC135Public/scage/CageList.aspx>

Instructions for the NCAGE application process:

<https://eportal.nspa.nato.int/AC135Public/Docs/US%20Instructions%20for%20NSPA%20NCAGE.pdf>

For NCAGE help from within the U.S., call 1-888-227-2423

For NCAGE help from outside the U.S., call 1-269-961-7766

Email NCAGE@dlis.dla.mil for any problems in getting an NCAGE code.

Step 2: After receiving the NCAGE Code, proceed to register in SAM.gov by logging onto:

<https://www.sam.gov>. SAM registration must be renewed annually. Please note that your CCR registration must be annually renewed.

4. Submission Dates and Times

Applications must be submitted on or before July 6, 2021, 11:59 p.m. Eastern time. Applications submitted after 11:59 p.m. will be ineligible for consideration. Begin the application process early, as this will allow time to address any technical difficulties that may arise in advance of the deadline. There will be no exceptions to this application deadline. Applications will be evaluated on a rolling basis as they are received.

5. Other Submission Requirements

All application materials must be submitted electronically through www.Grants.gov.

E. APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

Applicants should note that the following criteria serve as a standard against which all project proposals will be evaluated and identify significant considerations that should be addressed in all proposals. ISN/CTR will award a cooperative agreement to the applicant(s) whose offer represents the best overall value to the government from both a technical and cost perspective.

ISN/CTR will evaluate proposals against the stated criteria. Criteria are listed in descending order of importance.

- **Proposed Activity or Activities:** Applicants should clearly describe what they propose to do and how they will do it. The proposed project(s) must directly relate to meeting the specified objectives and applicants should include specific information on how they will systematically meet ISN/CTR's mission. ISN/CTR will evaluate the project proposal in terms of how well it addresses the issues at hand, relevance and feasibility of the proposed activities, the timeline for completion, and the extent to which the impact of the project will continue beyond the conclusion of the period of performance.

- **Organizational Capability:** Applicants must demonstrate how their resources, capabilities, and experience will enable them to achieve the stated goals and objectives in an international technical context, including comparable laboratory refurbishment efforts in an international context. The proposal(s) must identify all key partners and organizations that will be involved in implementation of this project.
- **Budget:** Proposed costs will be evaluated for feasibility, fiscal control practices, and efficiency. ISN/CTR must be able to determine that proposed costs are reasonable, allowable, and allocable to the proposed project activities. ISN/CTR will evaluate the budget to determine if the overall costs are realistic for the work to be performed, if the costs reflect the applicant's understanding of the allowable cost principles established by 2CFR200, and if the costs are consistent with the program narrative.
- **Impactful and Measurable Engagements:** Discrete projects should individually advance progress toward a particular objective. Proposals should describe the end-state the project aims to achieve, along with specific, measurable, and realistic benchmarks by which to gauge progress toward that end-state.
- **Cyber Security:** Implementer shall be required to establish and follow policy and procedures for an effective implementation of security controls using NIST 800-53 (Rev. 5)), System and Information Integrity Policy (SI-1) as follows:
 1. Identification and Authentication: Implement multifactor authentication for network access and local access.
 2. Access Controls: Implement security controls for information sharing, remote access and wireless access including: monitoring, controlling, and protecting remote and wireless access to information by auditing information systems components (e.g., workstations, notebook computers, smartphones, and tablets).
 3. Incident Handling: Monitor and report all security incidents including breaches to ISN/CTR directly within 48 hours of the incident and include a risk assessment of the security access controls.

F. FEDERAL AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

1. Federal Award Notices

The 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 project 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 U.S. 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 U.S. 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.

Anticipated Time to Award: Applicants should expect questions and requests for further information within 30 days after their submission. Following this initial notification, **selected applicants will be expected to submit a revised application within 14 business days.** The revised applications will not be subject to further competition, but must incorporate any suggested changes made by ISN/CTR.

Project Implementation Meeting: The recipient should expect to have a pre-project implementation meeting with ISN/CTR within thirty days after the cooperative agreement is awarded and before any work is performed for the award.

2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

Terms and Conditions: Before submitting an application, applicants should review all the terms and conditions and required certifications that will apply to this award, to ensure that they will be able to comply. These include: 2 CFR 200, 2 CFR 600, Certifications and Assurances, and the U.S. Department of State Standard Terms and Conditions.

3. Reporting

Reporting Requirements: As a cooperative agreement, reporting and deliverable requirements for this project exceed those of typical grants. Applicants should pay special attention to these enhanced reporting and deliverable requirements. Using a template provided by ISN/CTR, the Recipient shall submit quarterly progress reports to the designated Grants Officer Representative (GOR), program distribution list, and ISN-CTR-BUDGET@state.gov detailing:

- Assistance activities conducted during the reporting period.
- Milestones and successes achieved to date.
- Key assistance activities remaining to be implemented with a projected timetable.
- Details of any problems encountered with proposed solutions.
- The Recipient shall provide the GOR with copies of all materials developed under this cooperative agreement.
- In addition to regular quarterly reports, the Recipient shall furnish the GOR with ad hoc reports as requested from time to time.
- In addition to the above, the Recipient shall submit quarterly financial reports throughout the project period. Financial reports are due 30 days after the reporting period. Final programmatic and financial reports are due 90 days after the close of the project period.
- Any other pertinent information requested by ISN/CTR.

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

For programmatic questions about this solicitation, contact:

Dr. Jennifer Nguyen, Project Lead
ISN/CTR
U.S. Department of State
Email: NguyenJH2@state.gov
Phone: (202) 320-0375

Direct any NOFO submission (non-programmatic) questions to:

Management & Special Projects Team
ISN/CTR
U.S. Department of State
Email: ISN-CTR-BUDGET@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 the 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.