

Promoting Accountability in Iraq and Syria for Genocide, Crimes Against Humanity, and War Crimes (opportunity #SFOP0005764)
Questions and Answers

Q: Are the training activities mentioned in achievable objective no. 6 (page 7 of the NOFO) reserved for state actors? If they are not, can trainings be an integral part of the project and more than just a means to collect evidence of war crimes and other atrocities by an applicant organization?

A: No, the NOFO is not limited to state actors. Non-state actors may also be included as beneficiaries. A strong proposal will identify the intended beneficiaries and explain the applicant's rationale for their inclusion.

Q: Is it possible to have paid employees who work for the applicant organization operating in areas under the control of the Syrian regime?

A: No project activities may take place in areas of the country which are under regime control. However, an applicant may provide payment to employees who are located in areas under regime control if the employee's work can be accomplished remotely. The applicant should provide a justification for doing so, discuss the means by which the applicant will ensure that no activities will take place in areas under regime control and no benefit is provided to the regime, and discuss security precautions which will be taken for the employee's safety. The applicant should also address the proposed method of making payments to the employee, demonstrating an awareness of the sanctions and other legal restrictions which may be relevant.

Q: The NOFO makes it clear that these funds are not to be used "to complete activities begun with other funds." Can these funds be used to expand upon existing activities funded by another bureau of the Department of State? Further, is there any issue with an entity that is currently implementing a project funded by another DOS bureau applying for this funding also?

A: The prohibition described is intended to prevent duplication of funding – for example, funds awarded under this NOFO being used to perform work previously funded under a different award, regardless of the source of funding. It is acceptable to build upon work previously performed using other funding sources. The applicant's proposal should demonstrate an awareness of work already performed and clearly describe how the proposed activities will build upon this work without duplication. There is no prohibition against applicants which are current recipients of funding from other Department of State awards.

Q: The NOFO refers to appendices 1-3. Where can applicants access these appendices?

A: These appendices can be downloaded in SAMS Domestic. For help registering in or using SAMS Domestic, contact the ILMS Help Desk at 888-313-4567.

Q: May funding be used for the development of high-tech software and hardware in these key programming areas: collecting data, preserving data, and analyzing data as evidence of atrocities?

A: Yes, funding may be used to develop hardware and software. The applicant's proposal should clearly demonstrate how the development of such technology will contribute to accomplishing the objectives described in the NOFO.

Q: Is a third-party/external evaluation a requirement for this proposal? Should funds for this purpose be included in budget proposals?

A: Third-party evaluations are not a requirement of the NOFO, but may be included in the applicant's proposal and budget.

Q: Do you intend to address all of the stated objectives within the \$4.5M budget?

A: The estimated budget ceiling for this NOFO is \$4.5 million. Applicants may focus their proposals on one or more of the objectives described.

Q: Should proposals be submitted by existing consortiums or will you as the donor create the consortiums after evaluating submitted proposals? In other words, is it a requirement for the applicant to submit its proposals with other organization if it can only address 3/6 listed objectives, for example.

A: Award recipients will be required to coordinate their activities with other relevant entities, but it is not necessary to form consortiums or partnerships for this purpose. Likewise, the Department of State will not create consortiums or partnerships between organizations. Applicants may focus their proposals on one or more of the objectives described in the NOFO.

Q: The NOFO indicates that applicants must de-conflict their strategy from on-going transitional justice activities being undertaken by the US Government. Can the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs provide a list of these activities?

A: The Department of State is not able to provide a comprehensive list of activities. Applicants are encouraged to reach out to other practitioners in this space to de-conflict their strategies.

Q: Should applicants provide the specific names of the Iraqi or Syrian organizations that intend to partner with as part of their strategy? Must they indicate beforehand whether the partnership will take the form of sub-grant or sub-contract?

A: Applicants are required to include partnerships with Iraqi and/or Syrian organizations and individuals as a part of their applications. A strong application will identify the proposed partners and clearly explain their anticipated roles in the project. It is not necessary to determine the sub-grant or sub-contract mechanism to be used in the proposal.

Q: Can the applicants propose activities that will complement efforts to advance criminal accountability for atrocities in Iraq or Syria under another program?

A: Yes, award recipients will be required to coordinate their activities with other entities performing relevant work. Such coordination is intended to avoid duplication of effort and take advantage of potentially complementary activities.

Q: For Opportunity Number: SFOP0005764, is an organization allowed to submit one response as a prime and a second response as a member of a consortium (sub-recipient), if the proposed activities are distinct?

A: Applications are limited to one application per prime applicant. Applicants may appear as sub-recipients in the applications of other organizations.