

**Mexico Rule of Law Program
Annual Program Statement
Solicitation Questions and Answers**

August 12, 2015

Question: The solicitation indicates a total funding amount of \$11 million dollars for three separate initiatives, and an award range for each initiative of \$250,000 to \$3 million. Can you please confirm that an implementer may submit for less than all three initiatives? In addition, what is the award range for each initiative, as funding for the three initiatives at the maximum of \$3 million each is inconsistent with a total funding amount of \$11 million.

Answer: An implementer may select to submit a proposal for one or all three initiatives. The only parameter INL has placed on individual awards is a minimum of \$250,000 and a maximum of \$3 million per award thus permitting maximum flexibility and competition in making award determinations. INL may make one award or multiple awards for each initiative. Based on the funding allocated in the solicitation, INL will make determinations regarding proposal amounts based on the number of proposals received, the extent to which each proposal address INL's priorities as outlined in the Annual Program Statement, and available funding in terms of the total funding allocated and number of proposals received under consideration for funding. Implementers may be asked to modify their proposals and budgets based on the internal review process and funding availability. We encourage applicants to closely scrutinize their budget requests in terms of the project period, project requirements, and deliverables.

Question: The Rule of Law Program Initiative seeks proposals that may: 1) support the professionalization and institutionalization of an oral, adversarial criminal justice system by partnering with and supporting law schools in Mexico and the United States; 2) *identify and support crime victims in an open and transparent justice system*; 3) use USG developed materials to increase Mexico's justice system actors' competency and institutional capacity; and 4) support the replication and sustainability of reforms at the federal and state levels through exchanges, seminars, workshops, conferences, etc. Proposals should not duplicate existing USG programming at the state or federal level.

[In reference to #2 above] – This is the only statement regarding identifying and supporting victims; is victim advocacy to be a part of this Rule of Law Initiative?

Answer: There is no mandate under the APS for implementers to integrate victim advocacy into their projects. The solicitation provides the option to integrate victim advocacy into an overall project, or to submit a proposal solely focused on

developing and implementing a victim advocacy initiative. The APS includes “victim advocacy” in recognition of the important role that crime victims play in an oral accusatory system and the historical role of victims in Mexico’s justice system.

Question: Justice Sector Advisory Network Output Indicators: Number of law students, professors, and legal sector practitioners using previously developed USG-supported curriculum and/or adaptation; Number of law students, professors, and legal sector practitioners demonstrating competency and capacity to perform in the new accusatory criminal justice system.

The illustrative targets for the JSAN don’t seem to correspond with the project objectives. Has INL developed other illustrative targets for this project that it could share?

Answer: Thank you for bringing this inconsistency to our attention. You are correct; the performance indicators presented in the APS solicitation are not consistent with the JSAN initiative. Please accept our apologies. The performance indicators for this initiative should have been presented are as follows:

- 1) The number of Subject Matter Experts identified to participate in the Network;
- 2) The diversity of expertise represented by the SME’s identified to participate in the Network;
- 3) The timeliness of responses to request for assistance from SMEs;
- 4) The number of complaints received regarding the selection and deployment of SMEs in response to incoming requests;
- 5) The thoroughness of administrative and logistical policies and procedures in supporting the implementation of JSAN; and
- 6) The set-up and search ability of the SME Database

Question: Given that an implementer may submit for more than one initiative referenced in the solicitation:

- May we submit a separate proposal for each initiative (meaning a page-limit of 15 pages for each separate initiative, rather than for all three)? **Yes**
- May we submit a separate budget for each initiative? **Yes**

