



Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement
U.S. Department of State

INL/Mexico

Culture of Lawfulness Annual Program Statement (APS)

Funding Opportunity Number: INL-15-GR-0001-WHPMexico-10062014

Issuance Date: October 6, 2014

Closing Date: October 1, 2015

Amended Date: October 7, 2014

Amended Date #2: February 19, 2015

Amended Date #3: June 5, 2015

NOTE: Amended APS is for applications to be submitted after June 5, 2015 and does not pertain to or affect applications received to prior to this date.

Contact: Cheryl Price at PriceCH@state.gov

Announcement Type: Request for Applications

Project Title: Enhance Culture of Lawfulness (CoL) in Mexico

CFDA Number: 19.703 – Counter-narcotics

Amount and Timeframe of Awards: Applicants may propose projects for a period of two to three years. The award ceiling on any single award is \$1.0 million and the award floor is \$250,000, pending funding availability. Based on INL's program priorities, good performance on the award and funding availability, the award may be extended up to five years.

Number of Awards: To be determined by the panel review committee.

Type of Awards: Grants and/or Cooperative Agreements

Anticipated Award Date: Within nine to twelve weeks of an approved application. Successful applicants will receive notification from the INL Grants Office.

Deadline for Applications: Complete proposal packages must be received by 11:59 pm EST on the 1st of every other month starting December 1, 2014 through October 1, 2015, via www.grants.gov.

NOTE: E-mailed or faxed proposal packages will be considered ineligible.

ALL NEW APPLICANTS applying for grant funding for the first time, PLEASE READ THIS SECTION CAREFULLY AND COMPLETELY! APPLICANTS familiar with the registration process for DUNS, CAGE/NCAGE, SAM.gov, and Grants.gov may skip this section.

BEFORE YOU APPLY for the above listed opportunity, please ensure registration is updated in the following systems:

DUNS Number

All organizations (foreign and domestic) must obtain a DUNS number. US-based organizations may request a DUNS number by calling 1-866-705-5711; the DUNS number is usually provided immediately.

Foreign organizations that do not have a DUNS number will need to go to the Dun & Bradstreet website at <http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform> to obtain the number. **The webform requests generally takes 1-2 business days.*

CAGE/NCAGE Registration

For US-based organizations, a CAGE code will automatically be assigned to your entity once you submit your entity's registration in SAM.gov and the TIN validation has been returned.

NCAGE Codes are required for all foreign entities prior to starting a SAM registration. **PLEASE NOTE: The organization's name, address, and email information used to request your NCAGE Code must match what you used to request your DUNS Number.** Otherwise, you will receive error messages when applying for the NCAGE code. You can submit your request for an NCAGE Code using the NCAGE Request Tool at <https://eportal.nspa.nato.int/AC135Public/scage/CageList.aspx>. Detailed instructions are posted at that site. For additional information, please call 1-269-961-4623 or send an email message to NCAGE@dliis.dla.mil.

SAM.gov Registration

SAM.gov registration is required of all INL applicants prior to registering with Grants.gov. If your organization was previously registered in the Central Contractor Registry (CCR), you must still create a new Individual User Account in SAM prior to receiving a future federal grant. Applicant organizations can obtain assistance for SAM.gov registration by using the following link: <https://www.fsd.gov> or by calling 1-866-606-8220 (U.S. calls)/or 1-324-206-7828 (international calls). **PLEASE NOTE: The organization's name, address, and email information used to request your organization's DUNS number and the NCAGE Code must match what is used to request the SAM.gov validation.** Otherwise, you will receive error messages when registering in SAM.gov.

US-based organizations that already have a TIN (taxpayer identification number), your SAM registration will take 3-5 business days to process. US-based organizations applying for an EIN (employer identification number), please allow up to 2 weeks.

Foreign organizations **must** have a DUNS number and an NCAGE code prior to completing the SAM.gov registration process.

Please note: If your organization is registered with SAM.gov and your status is NOT listed as ACTIVE, you will need to update your registration prior to submitting an application through

grants.gov. SAM.gov requires ALL organizations (foreign and domestic) to register on an ANNUAL basis.

Grants.gov Registration

In order to apply for a grant, your organization must complete the Grants.gov registration process. Registration can take between three-five business days or as long as two weeks if all steps are not completed in a timely manner. Please log into

<http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/organization-registration.html> to obtain complete instructions on the registration process.

Foreign Registrants: Anyone residing and doing business outside of the United States is still required to complete the five steps of the Grants.gov registration process, in addition to fulfilling supplementary requirements for doing business with the United States government. Please ensure that you have obtained a DUNS number, an NCAGE code, and an “ACTIVE” status in SAM.gov prior to registering in Grants.gov.

APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

An applicant must meet **ALL** of the following minimum eligibility requirements for its proposal to be considered on its merits.

The Applicant must be:

- Be a registered, U.S. non-profit organization or a registered U.S. private/state educational institution meeting the provisions described in Internal Revenue Code section 26 USC 501(c)(3) and can demonstrate current country registration in Mexico. Applicants in the process of registration must submit proof that they are seeking non-profit status from the Internal Revenue Service at the time of proposal submission. Should the applicant be selected for a grant or cooperative agreement award, funding will be contingent upon 501(c)(3) status; **OR**
- Be a local, in-country, non-profit organization, educational institution, or private institutions that can demonstrate current country registration in Mexico, competent programmatic ability, and ability to meet INL reporting requirements; **OR**
- Be a U. S. for-profit entity **or** local, in-country for-profit entity that can demonstrate current country registration as a legal entity in Mexico and eligible to participate in this Request for Proposals. Proof of registration is required to prove that the company or organization can perform a program in Mexico. ***NOTE: For-profit entities applying for this funding opportunity are NOT ALLOWED to include PROFIT in the award budget.***

PLEASE NOTE: Public International Organizations (PIOs) are excluded from applying to this grant announcement.

AND

The Applicant must, at the time it submits an application in response to this RFA, either:

- Have demonstrated experience implementing similar programs, preferably in Mexico, and preferably in the targeted community(ies) identified in the proposal; or have demonstrated experience in the designs, development, implementation, and evaluation of crime prevention programs, rule of law promotion, justice sector and police professionalization programs, and/or Culture of Lawfulness (CoL) projects in Mexico preferably with the targeted community(ies) identified in this proposal.
- Have demonstrated experience working with, police, public servants and community leaders to implement one or more of the following: civic education programs, community outreach programs, capacity building.
- Have existing capacity or ability to develop active partnerships with the necessary partner organization(s) and institutions in Mexico especially those working with civil society and public servants in order to successfully fulfill the proposed program.
- Due to the focus of this request for proposals, organizations based outside of Mexico are required to identify and work with an implementing partner based in Mexico to ensure local 'buy-in' and sustainability.
- Applicants are required to submit the documents listed in the *Proposal Submission Instructions* (see attached).

INL reserves the right to request additional background information on organizations as deemed necessary for evaluating eligibility.

NOTE: Proposals that do not meet the requirements of the announcement may not be considered and/or deemed ineligible.

SUMMARY

Overall Mission: The mission of the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) is to minimize the impact of international crime and illegal drugs on the United States, its citizens, and partner nations by providing effective foreign assistance and fostering global cooperation. This mission, which centers on helping our partner nations establish a capable and accountable criminal justice sector, was expanded during the past decade to include stabilizing post-conflict societies through criminal justice sector development and reform. This mission supports Peace and Security by stabilizing and strengthening security institutions to build a global security capacity and by combating narco-trafficking and other transnational crimes such as money laundering and criminal gangs. It promotes governing justly and democratically by strengthening justice sector institutions, good governance, and respect for human rights.

INL supports this mission by combining forces with other USG and international agencies by taking a regional approach to widespread problems and by helping stronger governments take responsibility as equal partners in this struggle to disrupt organized crime and other destabilizing groups. The Bureau's programs support three inter-related objectives:

- **BUILDING CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEMS:** Institutionalize rule of law by developing and expanding criminal justice systems to strengthen partner country law enforcement and judicial effectiveness, foster cooperation in legal affairs, and advance respect for human rights.

- **COUNTER-NARCOTICS:** Disrupt the overseas production and trafficking of illicit drugs through targeted counter narcotics and institution-building assistance and coordination with foreign nations and international organizations.
- **TRANSNATIONAL CRIME:** Minimize the impact of transnational crime and criminal networks on the U.S. and its allies through enhanced international cooperation and foreign assistance.

The U.S. Government, via the Merida Initiative, is providing support for Culture of Lawfulness (CoL) programs across Mexico. In an efforts to complement existing USG, Government of Mexico, and grass roots efforts to develop crime prevention and CoL programs, the Department of State's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) invites U.S. and Mexico-based NGOs and educational institutions to submit proposals for a program to be conducted in Mexico to focus on establishing a CoL.

The CoL program is based upon the belief that to be effective, law enforcement needs to be complemented by societal support for the rule of law, or CoL. Where a CoL exists, the majority of citizens act on the conviction that the rule of law offers the best long-term chance of securing their rights and attaining their goals. Particular sectors of society can play key roles in influencing attitudes towards the rule of law, including nongovernmental organizations, centers of moral authority, public servants, police, and schools and universities.

The expansion of the CoL program will help governmental and nongovernmental leaders develop, evaluate, and institutionalize sustainable rule of law education programs. These programs will also encourage greater public supports for the rule of law in Mexico and develop the conditions and tools necessary for the Mexican public to partner effectively with law enforcement and judicial institutions, as well as hold them accountable for maintaining public order, the rule of law, and responding to their concerns.

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF CULTURE OF LAWFULNESS (CoL) PROGRAM

Background

Since 2008, CoL education and awareness programs have been actively supported by the Merida Initiative. To date, CoL has received congressional appropriations in the amount of \$15.5 million (cumulative). INL currently supports several on-going CoL initiatives, which include a CoL programs in public schools, to include teacher training and work with parents' associations, as well as programs with universities, leaders of religious associations, social leaders, and CoL programs for other NGOs.

Any organization submitting a project that is selected for funding *must be willing and able to coordinate with current partners should there be any overlap in projects*. However, INL believes that is much work yet to be done to advance the objectives of the CoL program, and is seeking to develop new programs as opposed to duplicating efforts.

Cultures of Lawfulness efforts to date have begun to reap reward in a number of areas. CoL education is offered in over 10,484 schools in 31 states in Mexico and the Federal District, and reaches over 4 million elementary-school students. Similarly, over 1,600 university students nationwide have received CoL education and, more than 1,150 police officers at the Federal and

State levels in Mexico have received CoL training, as have hundreds of public servants in other agencies of the Mexican government.

Furthermore, Mexico's civil society sector is developing new organizations and leaders willing to take on the challenge of working toward the generational behavioral shifts necessary to reduce corruption, encourage citizen participation in supporting law enforcement efforts, and fostering the next generation of Mexico's leaders. INL looks forward to partnering with these emerging leaders to implement new, innovative, and high-impact programs.

The specific objectives of the CoL program are:

- Increase citizens' access to government and information, their participation in demanding governmental transparency, and their embrace of culture of lawfulness principles.
- Enhance the capacity of civil society organizations and independent bodies to function both as credible watchdogs of, and as effective partners with, government to promote good governance.
- Assist government institutions in making CoL, transparency, and courageous leadership a part of their institutional make-up through training, targeted support, and technical tools.

Purpose

The Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs is seeking applications from qualified organizations to implement Culture of Lawfulness (CoL) programs in Mexico. The overall objective of the CoL program, which is funded by the Merida Initiative, is to install a sense of individual and social responsibility to uphold the rule of law in Mexico, with the larger goal of reducing insecurity, crime, and corruption. Promoting the rule of law, and reducing insecurity and corruption, requires societal support by what has come to be known as a Culture of Lawfulness. In particular, INL aims to implement programs that support CoL principles across a variety of sectors, with a specific focus on **citizen participation, public servants and law enforcement.**

Program Overview

Through this program, INL aims to bolster the capacity of Mexico's civil society to implement Culture of Lawfulness programs throughout the country. INL will consider proposals from U.S. and Mexico-based organizations, and projects covering any region. Preference will be given to qualifying projects that address communities in the priority states of Michoacán, Estado de México, Morelos, Guerrero, and Chiapas. Projects in other areas of Mexico will also be considered depending on quality of the proposal and availability of funds. ***However, preference will be given to qualifying projects that address communities in the priority states listed above.***

INL seeks proposals for projects that have the ability to reach a broad spectrum of the population. The CoL program is distinguished from more generalized crime and violence prevention programs in that it focuses on helping to make the dominant/mainstream culture, ethos, and thought in Mexico sympathetic to the rule of law. The program pursues this goal by: 1) promoting individual and organized citizen participation, 2) strengthening Mexican civil society engagement on rule of law issues, 3) supporting initiatives that increase government transparency, and mechanisms that incentivize lawful behavior in government.

INL seeks unique, sustainable, technically sound approaches to instill a sense of individual responsibility for upholding the rule of law among the Mexican public. The applicant should be

able to demonstrate a firm understanding of the concept of Culture of Lawfulness, as well as the political and security challenges, and programming opportunities in Mexico. This effort will contribute to a strong and resilient society that can withstand, and ultimately overcome, the pressures of crime, insecurity, and corruption.

TARGET THEMES AND ACTIVITIES

The CoL program has a multi-sector approach and is seeking proposals from eligible applicants to cover the priority areas and selected sectors to accomplish the following objectives:

- Strengthen the rule of law by encouraging citizen participation and support for law enforcement and judicial efforts.
- Increase government transparency, encourage “courageous leadership”, and reduce corruption.

Applicants may design and propose their own Culture of Lawfulness program based on the perceived needs of the target areas and sectors described above, which must be well-defined in the application.

Proposals may include, but are not limited to the following activities:

- Development and dissemination of public campaigns that promote CoL, specifically those promoting the importance of civic participation in reporting crimes to enhance cooperation with law enforcement through the correct use of emergency and tip lines.
- Development of an active national network with a focus on CoL.
- CoL programs addressing corruption- -particularly those involved in law enforcement and justice sector institutions that engage directly such as traffic police, municipal police, and attorney generals offices.
- Promote citizen participation in support of transparency and lawfulness.
- Instills a culture of lawfulness amongst local communities along the southern border.
- Promote citizen respect for traffic guidelines, and other laws.
- CoL training programs for Mexican federal agencies, to include training program for law enforcement officials of the Mexican government

In detailing your proposal regarding the above criteria, please also specify the following information when appropriate:

- 1) Target individuals and institutions.
- 2) Geographic scope of the project – taking into consideration the priority regions above mentioned
- 3) Evaluation methodology utilized (*e.g.*, control groups, data collection procedures, statistical methodology employed)
- 4) Training methodology utilized
- 5) Monitoring and supervision mechanisms

6) Metric and other indicators of the program's progress and impact, including outcome indicators.

NOTE: INL encourages applicants to submit applications with specific focus on their area of expertise and target population. The proposals must be relevant to the scope of this Request for Applications (RFA), but there is no need to cover all of the activities. Proposals will be evaluated on the quality of the proposed activities and their potential impact, rather than the number of activities covered by any single organization. In particular, organizations are advised not to overextend their capabilities to match activities under this RFA, especially where no specific plans, alliances, or other consortium arrangements already exist.

Substantial Involvement

Should INL determine that substantial involvement is required to successfully implement a proposed project, INL has the right to make the award as a Cooperative Agreement, as opposed to a Grant. In such circumstances, INL shall be substantially involved during the implementation of this Cooperative Agreement in the following ways:

- 1) Approval of the Recipient's annual work plans, including: planned activities for the following year, travel plans, planned expenditures, event planning, and changes to any activity to be carried out under the Cooperative Agreement;
- 2) Approval of key personnel prior to contracting with any personnel that contemplates use of project funds;
- 3) Approval of sub-award Recipients (if any), and concurrence on the substantive provisions of the sub-awards; and coordination with other cooperating agencies; and
- 4) Approval of Monitoring and Evaluation Plan;
- 5) Additional items may be included detailing INL's involvement in the Cooperative Agreement.

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

Please refer to the *Proposal Submission Instructions (PSI)* for more information on how to apply to this Request for Applications (RFA). This announcement is designed to accompany INL's PSI, which contain additional information on proposal's content and formatting. Please use both the PSI and this announcement to ensure that your proposal submission is in full compliance with INL's requirements and that the proposed activities are in line with INL's priorities. **Proposal submissions that do not meet all of the requirements outlined in the RFA and PSI will not be considered.**

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Applicants must abide by all relevant administrative and national policy requirements regarding civil rights; labor standards; intergovernmental review; disbarment and suspension; drug-free workplace; lobbying restrictions; conservation in procurement; crimes and prohibited activities; protection of human subjects; care and use of laboratory animals; recombinant DNA molecules; bio-safety in laboratories; conflicts of interest; patents and copyrights; impact on the physical environment and animal community; historic preservation; impact on the human community; and contract employment conditions, as applicable to the project's activities.

INL will NOT consider proposals that reflect any type of support for any member, affiliate, or representative of a designated terrorist organization or narcotics trafficker, including elected members of government.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

For questions/clarification regarding this RFA, please contact INL Grants Officer Cheryl Price at PriceCH@state.gov (Please Note: All programmatic and administrative questions received and their responses shall be posted publicly via www.grants.gov)