

ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT INNOVATION FUND (AEIF) 2026 - BRAZIL

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE WHA/ U.S. EMBASSY AND CONSULATES IN BRAZIL Notice of Funding Opportunity

Funding Opportunity Title: Alumni Engagement Innovation Fund 2026 - Brazil

Funding Opportunity Number: FY26-BSB-410601

Deadline for Applications: February 18, 2026

Assistance Listing Number: 19.022

Total Amount Available: \$5,000 to \$35,000 per project (pending availability of funds)

A. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The U.S. Embassy and Consulates in Brazil announce an open competition for past participants (“alumni”) of U.S. government-funded and U.S. government-sponsored exchange programs to submit applications to the Alumni Engagement Innovation Fund (AEIF) 2026 – Brazil. We seek proposals from teams of at least two alumni who meet all program eligibility requirements outlined below. Alumni interested in participating in AEIF 2026 should submit proposals via the designated form at <https://forms.gle/ZBaTuM6xgWrU6MK19> by **February 18, 2026, at 11:59 PM (Brasilia Time)**. See Section D below for the full application process and timing.

Program Objectives:

- AEIF provides alumni of U.S. government-sponsored exchange programs with funding to expand on the skills gained during their exchange experiences and design and implement innovative solutions to address global challenges within their communities. Since its inception in 2011, AEIF has funded over 1,100 alumni-led projects worldwide.
- This year, all AEIF projects must celebrate and promote the [250th anniversary](#) of the founding of the United States of America ([Freedom250](#)) and align with relevant executive orders and administration policy goals such as making the United States safer, stronger, and more prosperous, defending freedom of expression, and/or highlighting U.S. innovation, excellence, and positive impact to global culture.
- Additionally, all AEIF projects must include at least one of the following:

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- Convene alumni from different exchange programs to build or expand an alumni network capable of working together on common interests and increasing regional and global collaboration of alumni. Every project proposal should include at least two exchange alumni or involvement of an alumni association.
- Strengthen the relationship between alumni and the U.S. government to work together on activities that address shared goals and challenges.
- Support alumni as they develop their leadership capacity and implement projects in their communities for maximum impact.

Proposals that do not meet these outlined program objectives – or are submitted by individuals other than alumni of a U.S. government-funded or U.S. government-sponsored exchange program – will be deemed ineligible. All project activities must occur outside of the United States and its territories.

For questions about the grant application process, please contact:
brazilgrants@state.gov.

B. FEDERAL AWARD INFORMATION

Announcement Posted: January 8, 2026

Closing Date for Initial Short-Form Applications: February 18, by 11:59 PM (Brasilia Time). See Section D below for additional information on the full timeline.

Award Amounts: Awards may range from a minimum of \$5,000 to a maximum of \$35,000 (pending availability of funds).

Type of Funding: The overall grant-making authority for this program is contained in the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961, Public Law 87-256, as amended, also known as the Fulbright-Hays Act. This notice is subject to funding availability.

Funding Instrument Type: Grant, fixed amount award (FAA), or cooperative agreement. Cooperative agreements and some FAAs are distinct from grants in that embassy staff are more actively involved in the grant implementation (“Substantial Involvement”).

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Program Performance Period: Proposed programs should be completed within 12 months or less.

C. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

1. Eligible Applicants:

The following individuals are eligible to apply:

- Applicants **must** be alumni of a U.S. government-funded or U.S. government-sponsored exchange program.
- Project teams must include at least two (2) alumni and need to specify a team lead.
- Alumni who are U.S. citizens may not submit proposals but may participate as team members in a project. U.S. citizen alumni cannot be team leads on projects.
- Alumni teams may comprise alumni from different exchange programs and countries; however, at least one team member must be from Brazil.
- Applications must be submitted by exchange alumni or alumni associations of USG exchange alumni. If the proposal is submitted by an alumni association, the alumni association needs to identify a team lead for the proposed project. No other organizations are eligible to apply. Exchange alumni may partner with not-for-profit or non-governmental organizations, think tanks, and academic institutions to implement project activities. Grants may be issued to the individual alumni or the partner organization.

2. Cost Sharing or Matching:

Inclusion of cost share is welcomed but not a requirement for this funding opportunity.

3. Other Eligibility Requirements:

To be eligible to receive an award, all organizations must have a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) issued via www.SAM.gov, as well as a valid registration in SAM.gov. A UEI is one of the data elements mandated by Public Law 109-282, the Federal Funding Accountability and

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Transparency Act (FFATA), for all Federal awards. Note that in the case of an award to an individual – rather than to an organization – that individuals are not required to register with SAM.gov.

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. While a UEI is not required to apply for this opportunity, it must be in place before an award can be finalized.

D. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Please follow all instructions below carefully. Proposals that do not meet the requirements of this announcement or fail to comply with the stated guidelines will be deemed ineligible. The application process will be conducted in three stages, each with specific requirements. Progression from one stage to the next depends on approval by relevant authorities and compliance with the established requirements. **All submissions throughout the application process must be in English.**

Stage 1: Simplified Application Form

In this initial phase, applicants must complete a simplified form that includes:

- **Information about the Project:** Provide the title, requested budget total, and primary location of the project. All projects must take place outside the United States and its territories.
- **Project Team Information:** At least two alumni team members are required. Applications must include the name and contact information of each team member, describe each member's role in the project, and outline their experience, qualifications, and ability to fulfill their role. Applicants should also specify the proportion of each team member's time allocated to the project.
- **Problem Statement:** A brief narrative that outlines the project, including the challenges addressed, project objectives, and anticipated impact.
- **Project Goals and Objectives:** The project goals should describe what the project intends to achieve, supported by specific, measurable, and realistically achievable objectives within a set timeframe.

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The U.S. Embassy and Consulates in Brazil will evaluate the simplified applications to determine the preliminary feasibility and relevance of the project.

Submission:

Online Submission: Complete the simplified application using the official AEIF 2026 Brazil link (<https://forms.gle/ZBaTuM6xgWrU6MK19>). Submissions must be finalized by **February 18, 2026, at 11:59 PM (Brasilia Time)**.

Stage 2: Additional Information Form

If the simplified proposal is approved, applicants will be invited to provide additional information for full consideration. Selected applicants will be notified by the U.S. Embassy and Consulates in Brazil **on or about February 27, 2026** and will then need to provide greater project detail, including:

- 1. Project Design and Method:** Explain how the project is expected to work to solve the stated problem and achieve your established goal/s. Include who will benefit from your planned activities and how you plan to build on the outcome of this project. You may want to include workshop or training agendas, or any curricula developed for the use in your project.
 - *Applicants may also include proposed workshop or training agendas and materials.*
- 2. Project Timeline:** A comprehensive timeline of the project activities, as bullet points.
- 3. Beneficiaries:** An estimate of the number of direct and indirect beneficiaries of the project.
- 4. Local Project Partners:** A list of local partners who will support the project, if applicable.
- 5. Communication and Outreach Plan:** A strategy for communication and outreach to promote the project, including social media, websites, print news, or other forms of media to reach beneficiaries and the public. Ensure branding includes AEIF 2026, ExchangeAlumni, Freedom250, and U.S. Embassy identifiers. All Freedom250-focused activities and any use of Mission Brazil-provided Freedom250 brand elements require

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advance Mission Brazil approval and must adhere to Department of State and Mission Brazil branding guidelines.

6. **Project Monitoring and Evaluation Plan:** This should outline how the project's activities will advance program goals, including measurable outcomes such as changes in knowledge, attitudes, service quality, or organizational capacity. It should also specify how impact will be measured.
7. **Detailed Budget Form with Budget Narrative:** A detailed budget and narrative justification using the provided template. Line-item expenditures must be presented in the greatest detail possible, in U.S. dollars.
8. **Attachments:**
 - Official permission letters (if required for program activities).
 - Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) and System for Award Management (SAM.gov) registration details (if applicable).

Additional information on how to submit the complete proposal will be provided to selected applicants. **Deadline for submission of complete applications for Stage 2 is March 24, 2026, at 11:59 PM (Brasilia Time).**

Stage 3: Commitment

If the proposal is selected for funding by the U.S. Department of State's Office of Alumni Affairs, the applicant must provide the following forms:

1. **Mandatory Application Forms:**
 - **SF-424** (Application for Federal Assistance – organizations) or **SF-424-I** (Application for Federal Assistance – individuals).
 - **SF-424A** (Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs).
 - **SF-424B** (Assurances for Non-Construction Programs) – *only required for individuals and for organizations not registered in SAM.gov.*

All forms are only required if the proposal is selected for funding. These forms can be found at <https://www.grants.gov/forms>.

Funding Restrictions

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AEIF 2026 does not support the following activities or costs, and applications proposing any of these will be deemed ineligible:

- Any airfare to/from the United States and its territories.
- Activities within the United States and its territories.
- Activities that encourage mass-migration caravans towards the United States Southwest Border.
- Staff salaries, office space, and operational overhead expenses.
- Durable equipment, construction programs, and large infrastructure projects.
- Alcohol, excessive meals, refreshments, or entertainment costs.
- Academic or scientific research.
- Charitable or direct development activities.
- Provision of direct social services.
- Individual scholarships.
- Gifts, prizes, or social travel/visits.
- Duplication of existing programs.
- Institutional development, venture capital, or for-profit projects.
- Support for religious activities.
- Partisan political activities or legislative lobbying.

E. APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

Evaluation Criteria:

Each application will be evaluated and rated based on the following criteria:

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1. **Relevance to Application Theme and U.S. Policy Priorities:** The proposal provides sufficient information on how the activities will celebrate and promote the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States and addresses U.S. policy goals that align with administration objectives such as making the United States safer, stronger, and more prosperous, defending freedom of expression, and/or highlighting U.S. innovation, excellence, and positive impact to global culture.
2. **Purpose, Summary, Description, and Implementation Plan:** Proposals should be clear, concise, and compelling. Reviewers will assess whether the project has the potential to create a sustained impact on the community.
3. **Degree of Alumni Involvement:** Projects must involve at least two exchange alumni who are closely engaged in planning and implementing the project.
4. **Participation and Support from Local Partners:** Demonstrate local support and partnerships that reinforce the project's sustainability, feasibility, and impact.
5. **Monitoring and Evaluation of the Project:** The monitoring and evaluation (M&E) plan should define clear objectives and indicators for tracking progress and impact. The M&E plan should adhere to SMART criteria and have feasible baselines and targets.
6. **Communication, Media, and Outreach Plan:** Proposals should include a plan to share project updates and achievements with the community, ensuring U.S. Embassy and Consulate recognition where appropriate.
7. **Budget and Budget Narrative:** The budget should be realistic, detailed, and justifiable in relation to the anticipated project results.

Review and Selection Process:

Review committees from the U.S. Embassy and Consulates in Brazil will evaluate all eligible applications. Finalists will be reviewed by a committee from the U.S. Department of State Alumni Affairs Office in Washington, D.C. Only selected finalists will be contacted.

Additional Note on Responsibility/Qualification Information in SAM.gov:

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Federal agencies will review applicants' integrity and performance history available on SAM.gov as part of the application review process, in alignment with Federal awarding guidelines.

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, provided to the recipient for review and signature by email. The recipient may only incur program expenses beginning on the start date specified in 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 funding in the future. Renewal of an award to increase funding or extend the performance period is at the Department of State's discretion. Issuance of this NOFO does not constitute a commitment on the part of the U.S. government, nor does it obligate the U.S. government to cover any costs incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals. The U.S. government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals received.

Payment Method: Payments will be based on a risk assessment of the project and specific milestones. The payment structure will be designed to ensure that funds are released in alignment with project progress and risk management. Payments may be divided into multiple installments, with options such as 80%-20%, 50%-50%, or other mutually agreed-upon percentages. This flexible approach supports the project's financial needs throughout its implementation while managing risks effectively. Grantees must adhere to the grant agreement's terms to ensure smooth and timely disbursement of funds throughout the project's lifecycle.

2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

Before applying, applicants should review all applicable terms, conditions, and required certifications for this award to ensure compliance. These include:

- **2 CFR 25** – Universal Identifier and System for Award Management
- **2 CFR 170** – Reporting Subaward and Executive Compensation Information

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- **2 CFR 175** – Award Term for Trafficking in Persons
- **2 CFR 182** – Government-wide 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 line with the Office of Management and Budget's guidance in 2 CFR Part 200, as well as applicable Federal laws and Executive guidance, the Department of State will review and consider applications per the following:

- **Objective Evaluation of Federal Award Applications:** Select recipients most likely to succeed based on program objectives (2 CFR part 200.205).
- **Prohibition on Certain Telecommunications and Surveillance**
- **Equipment:** Ensure compliance with section 889 of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2019 (2 CFR part 200.216).
- **Promoting Free Speech and Religious Liberty:** Align with E.O. 13798 and E.O. 13864 on free speech and inquiry in academic settings (§§ 200.300, 200.303, 200.339, 200.341).
- **Preference for U.S.-Made Goods:** Maximize the use of goods produced in the United States to the extent permitted by law (2 CFR part 200.322).
- **Agreement Termination:** Agreements may be terminated if they no longer meet program goals or agency priorities (2 CFR part 200.340).

3. Reporting

Reporting Requirements: Recipients must submit both financial and program reports according to the frequency specified in the award document.

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- **Financial Reports:** Recipients are required to submit detailed financial reports that cover all financial transactions associated with the grant. These reports should include a breakdown of expenditures, income, and any other financial activities related to the project. Financial reports must be submitted according to the schedule outlined in the grant agreement.
- **Program Reports:** Recipients must provide program reports detailing the project's progress, achievements, and challenges during implementation. These reports should include narratives, data, and other relevant information demonstrating the project's impact and alignment with its objectives.

Reporting Schedule: The specific schedule for financial and program reports, including due dates and frequency, will be defined in the award document. Recipients will be notified of reporting deadlines upon project approval.

Personnel Time Allocation: To ensure adequate preparation for report submission, recipients should allocate sufficient time and resources to compile the necessary financial and program data. Reporting schedules are aligned with key project milestones, supporting effective integration with overall project management.

Foreign Assistance Data Review (FADR): As required by Congress, the Department of State is responsible for tracking and reporting foreign assistance data through the FADR. This entails tracking data from budgeting, planning, and allocation through obligation and disbursement. Successful applicants must report and draw down federal funding according to relevant FADR Data Elements specified in their award documentation. If multiple FADR Data Elements apply, the recipient may need to maintain separate accounting records for each program, sector, region, or country.

G. FEDERAL AWARDING AGENCY CONTACTS

For questions about the grant application process, please contact:
brazilgrants@state.gov.

H. OTHER INFORMATION

Guidelines for Budget Justification – Required for Stage 2 Only.

- **Venue Costs:** Calculate costs for space rental for project-related activities, such as workshops or training. Consider donated space first, if

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possible. Costs should be reasonable for the local environment. Itemize all expenses.

- **Promotional Items and Advertising:** These items are intended to amplify your project's impact. All requests should be reasonable, relevant, and itemized.
- **Meals and Beverages:** Include reasonable costs for snacks, non-alcoholic beverages, and meals when essential to the project. Break down meal costs per person, per meal.
- **Speaker/Consultant/Training Fees:**
 - **Speaker:** Maximum \$250 per day for full programming.
 - **Trainer:** Maximum \$250 per day or \$30 per hour not to exceed the daily maximum of \$250. Consider cost-sharing with alumni where possible.
 - **Consultant:** A reasonable consultant fee can be included by the alumni for project management and oversight; however, consider cost-sharing as the AEIF cannot provide a salary for your involvement. All expenses must be itemized.
- **Lodging and Per Diem:** Provide per diem rates and hotel costs supporting project implementation, specifying single or double occupancy. Calculate per diem rates according to U.S. government standards or adjust to local rates if appropriate. Itemize all expenses.
- **Travel:** If the project involves travel, include a brief justification. Costs can include in-country and regional airfare or local travel necessary for project implementation. Note that travel between the U.S. and the project country is not supported, and travel must be economy class. Itemize all expenses. Travel expenses (including lodging and per diem) should not exceed 15 percent of the requested budget.
- **Supplies, Materials, and Equipment:** Include items like office supplies, software, fuel, small equipment (laptops, projectors), and expendable materials. Rent equipment rather than purchase when cost-effective. Itemize all expenses.

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- **Other Costs:** Describe other costs directly associated with the program that do not fit in the categories above, such as administrative costs, shipping, and monitoring/evaluation. Itemize all expenses.
- **Cost Sharing:** Refers to contributions from entities other than the U.S. Embassy, including in-kind contributions like volunteer time or donated venues.
- **Alcoholic Beverages:** Award funds cannot be used to purchase alcoholic beverages.