

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: Chemical Security Program
Funding Opportunity Number: SFOP0007371
Deadline for Applications: January 29, 2021 11:59PM EDT
CFDA Number: 19.033
Total Amount Available: \$8,000,000

A. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Office of Cooperative Threat Reduction (CTR), part of the Department's Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation (ISN), sponsors foreign assistance activities funded by the Nonproliferation, Anti-terrorism, Demining and Related Programs (NADR) account, and focuses on mitigating weapons of mass destruction (WMD), related delivery systems, and advanced conventional weapons proliferation and security threats from proliferator states and non-state actors. Please carefully follow all instructions below.

CTR's Chemical Security Program (CSP) partners with law enforcement, government, academic, industrial, and technical scientific communities in the Middle East, South and Southeast Asia, Eastern Europe, and Africa to strengthen their ability to prevent, detect, mitigate, and respond to chemical attacks, the proliferation of weaponizable chemicals, and advances in vertical chemical weapons (CW) proliferation by great powers and rogue states in violation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). Sophisticated proliferator states, including both near-peer great power competitors and rogue WMD proliferator states, take advantage of weaknesses in the chemical supply chain to procure CW-related equipment, technology, and precursors—including pharmaceutical-based agents and custom-made chemicals from contract chemical manufacturers—on the global market. Syria seeks access to less sophisticated precursors, weaponizable chemicals, equipment and expertise to advance its CW program. State proliferators, such as Russia and North Korea, have used advanced nerve agents on foreign soil, while Syria regularly uses CW on its own soil—in all cases violating international norms set under the CWC. To compound this threat, non-state actors, such as ISIS, have used chemical weapons on the battlefield, and also pursued toxic gas weapons made from commercially available material. As proliferator state and non-state actor use of CW continues to evolve, CSP uses its limited global resources to adapt rapidly.

Priority Regions: CSP prioritizes capacity-building efforts for countries that face a range of chemical threats, with partner states across the Middle East, South and Southeast Asia, Eastern Europe, and Africa. CSP encourages proposal submissions that address vulnerabilities associated with the threat environments in each country. Some CSP priority countries can benefit from programmatic efforts highlighted within multiple categories.

Disrupting Chemical Supply Chains for Proliferator States: Bangladesh, Eastern Europe, Egypt, India, Jordan, Lebanon, Singapore, Taiwan, Turkey.

Preventing Contract Chemical Production for Proliferator States: India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam.

Developing Chemical Attribution and Response to Proliferator State CW Attacks: Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Turkey.

Preventing Malign Use of Chemicals by Major ISIS Branches and Networks: Afghanistan, Egypt, Libya, Nigeria, Turkey.

Countering Other Non-State Actor Chemical Threats: Afghanistan, Algeria, Chad, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mali (Sahel), Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Somalia, Tunisia, Yemen.

Program Objectives:

ISN/CTR sponsors foreign assistance activities funded by the Nonproliferation, Antiterrorism, Demining and Related Programs (NADR) account, and focuses on mitigating proliferation and security risks from state and non-state actors.

CSP's mission is to enable and mobilize international capabilities to prevent, disrupt, and counter great power competitors, rogue proliferator states, and terrorists' ability to conduct chemical attacks. In Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21), CSP will fund activities that align with and support one or more of its four goals.

CSP Goals:

Disrupt acquisition of precursors by state-based proliferators throughout the chemical supply chain.

Funded activities will emphasize:

- Disrupting procurement networks for precursors of highly potent pharmaceuticals, including fentanyl;
- Know-your-customer (KYC) programs and adoption of due diligence measures that identify front companies procuring chemicals for state programs;
- Analyzing commercial data to provide clear case studies and red flags for state procurement networks;
- Enhancing government oversight of contract chemical producers, especially in South and Southeast Asia; and,
- Disrupting proliferator states from acquiring materials to conduct research on advanced chemical weapon capabilities.

Ensure that chemicals, equipment, and materials relevant to the production of chemical weapons are not diverted to malicious state and non-state actors.

Funded activities will emphasize:

- Training partners to adopt employee vetting and KYC programs to ensure chemicals are not diverted to malicious state and non-state actors;
- Training chemical suppliers, transporters, and stockpilers to identify and address threats of infiltration and exploitation by terrorist networks, using insider threat mitigation programs;
- Preventing unauthorized access to chemical weapons-related assets through chemical neutralization programs, especially in remote locations;
- Advancing cross-sector collaboration and information sharing between government agencies, law enforcement, industry, and academic stakeholders; and,
- Training the chemical industry to implement international standards for materials management, transportation, and storage of chemicals to ensure partners adopt sustainable practices for monitoring and security of weaponizable precursors.

Strengthen chemical weapons identification and attack investigations to attribute a chemical weapons attack to the appropriate state or non-state actor.

Funded activities will emphasize:

- Assessing and enhancing the capabilities of selected laboratories to perform at international standards for identification and verification analysis of chemical warfare agents and related chemicals. This includes developing chemical forensics libraries in selected laboratories for chemical identification and investigation;
- Trainings, field exercises, lectures, tabletop exercises (TTXs), and hands-on field training that tackle various chemical threat scenarios and utilize technologies to respond and attribute to chemical attacks;
- Trainings designed to strengthen the ability of law enforcement agencies to investigate chemical attacks, manage chemical crime scenes that are contaminated with chemical materials, and attribute CW use. Trainings will also manage, process, and forensically retrieve chemical incident data to increase the international community's ability to detect, deter and prosecute state actors, terrorist groups, and individuals who plot to conduct chemical attacks; and,
- Advancing cross-sector collaboration between stakeholders on operational procedures related to chemical investigations.

Enhance the ability of foreign partners to prevent and mitigate non-state actor chemical attacks, including those employing toxic gasses made from commercially available material.

Funded activities will emphasize:

- Helping partner governments identify, prevent, and mitigate CW attacks against public transportation and other targets;
- Preventing mass-casualty chemical attacks through trainings on CW detection and identification of red flags associated with non-state CW attacks;
- Facilitating information sharing between law enforcement and other partner country stakeholders—including industry, technical, and academic communities—on adopting measures to prevent and respond to CW attacks;

- Training on locally relevant strategies to prevent CW attacks and planning, such as advanced insider threat trainings for law enforcement, industry personnel, and university officials to identify signs of radicalization, especially in remote locations;
- Training cadres of local experts equipped to further protect CW-related assets and provide relevant training and outreach to others on topics such as chemical neutralization, chemical management access, and site vulnerability assessments;
- Developing national and facility-level policies and programs to strengthen oversight of CW-related assets; and,
- Investigating chemical and explosive pre-incident indicators to prevent chemical attacks and increasing capacity to identify pre-incident trends.

All proposals must make a clear and compelling case for how they will reduce a chemical threat, how they will address partner-specific political, technical, and/or logistical realities, and how they will support one or more CSP goals and complement existing activities. Thoughtful, creative, and resourceful strategies for long-term sustainability are paramount to CSP's long-term strategy for each project funded.

CSP will view the following attributes favorably in the FY21 proposal process:

- Outcomes that go beyond basic chemical safety and security awareness-raising and address specific challenging threats, such as attacks using rudimentary chemicals;
- Effective mechanisms for long-term sustainment post-engagement, including follow-up activities every three to six months throughout the period of performance;
- New materials that address the current, dynamic and rapidly evolving landscape and threat environment—not recycled proposals from previous years;
- Proposals that engage law enforcement partners on preventative measures and immediate response-oriented techniques and planning rather than long-term recovery;
- Nonproliferation benefit clearly evidenced by data-driven analysis and targeted approaches to current threat information;
- Proposals that emphasize train-the-trainer methodologies, build indigenous capacity within a partner country, and establish relationships between partner countries;
- Approaches that leverage chemical security champions from local and regional partners to expand CSP's reach in priority countries and ability to work in difficult environments;
- Multi-phased proposals to scope vulnerabilities and develop country-specific targeted solutions and exercises;
- Proposals tailored to fit local technical capacities as well as the local, country-specific threat environment;
- Financial and/or in-kind cost-sharing, including but not limited to subject matter expertise, facilities, equipment, technology, or other forms of cost-sharing;
- Proposals that leverage multiple implementers together to deliver innovative, technical, and/or logistical solutions; and,
- Virtual or web-based activities and low-cost equipping solutions for difficult operating environments.

Participants and Audiences:

CSP stakeholders include:

- Law enforcement entities and security forces, including those responsible for securing public transportation and other potential targets of a chemical attack or responding to such attack if one occurs;
- Government ministries and agencies that have a role in chemical oversight and response, including regulatory authorities, chemical forensics laboratories, and emergency management agencies;
- Industries, vendors and laboratories that supply, manufacture, store, sell, or distribute chemical production equipment, weaponizable chemicals, or their precursors, such as the pharmaceutical and contract chemical sectors;
- Facility and laboratory security officials who oversee securing chemicals and related equipment;
- Chemical faculties and departments within universities and research institutions; and
- Academic and industry associations that may play a role in the promotion of chemical security best practices.

As foreign assistance projects, this program does not provide training or capacity-building support to U.S. national audiences.

B. FEDERAL AWARD INFORMATION

Length of performance period: Twelve (12) Months

Award amounts: awards may range from a minimum of \$25,000 to a maximum of \$250,000

Total available funding: \$8,000,000

Type of Funding: FY21/22 Nonproliferation, Anti-Terrorism, Demining and Related Activities Funds under the Foreign Assistance Act.

Anticipated project start date: October 1, 2021

Funding Instrument Type: Interagency Agreements (IAAs) and Cooperative agreement. Cooperative agreements are different from grants in that bureau staff are more actively involved in the grant implementation. ISN/CTR will play an active role in developing and shaping the materials developed and implanted during this award. ISN/CTR will also help identify participants.

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

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

- Federally funded research and development centers
- 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, the Bureau'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
- All pages are numbered
- All documents are formatted to 8 ½ x 11 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 - 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@dliis.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 January 29, 2020, 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.

5. Funding Restrictions

Of note, legal restrictions prevent ISN/CTR from providing assistance to Burma, China, Iran, North Korea, South Sudan, Sudan, and Syria.

6. 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 global threat reduction 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. 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:** Although complex nonproliferation objectives demand persistent engagement with partner countries, 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. Compelling project proposals will establish milestones to be met during the training period, and describe observable progress in the adoption, implementation, or enhancement of nonproliferation or sanctions enforcement and compliance best practices
- **Diversity and Inclusion:** ISN/CTR values collaboration and promotes diversity, equity and inclusion with all stakeholders by creating an environment that is open to equal opportunities without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, protected veteran or disabled status.
- **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. 4)), 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:
 - a. 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 any and 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 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 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 to be notified of the *recommended* concepts within 90 days after the submission deadline. Following this initial notification, **selected applicants will be expected to submit a full application within 30 days.** ISN/CTR staff will provide information at the point of notification about the requirements for the full application, which may include revisions to the activities. The full applications will not be subject to further competition, but must incorporate any suggested changes made by ISN/CTR. Issuance of this NOFO does not constitute an award commitment on the part of the Government, nor does it commit the Government to pay for costs incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals. Further, the Government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals received.

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 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. Specifically:

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 to the following email address 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; and

- Any other pertinent information requested by ISN/CTR.
- 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

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

If you have any questions about the grant application process, please contact:

Mark Scheland

Office of Cooperative Threat Reduction, U.S. Department of State

Email: SchelandMD@state.gov

Phone: 1-202-736-7449

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

Office of Cooperative Threat Reduction Budget Team 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.

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