Questions and Answers for
OFOP0001175
Money Laundering Investigations Mexico
Date: August 31, 2023

Question #1:

An international (UK) for-profit organization could be eligible for this opportunity as a subcontractor?

INL Response #1:

For-profit organizations can be hired by grantees as contractors for goods and services provided to the grantee. They should be listed under the Contractual Category. However, NO PROFIT is allowed under the sub-award or sub-contract and the requirements for the primary recipient pass down to the sub-awardee or sub-contractor (2 CFR 200.331).

Question #2:

Can applicants suggest their own project objectives, if they are in line with the two Project General Objectives listed on p.4 of the NOFO?

INL Response #2:

Applicants may suggest their own project objectives if aligned with the project objectives in the NOFO. Please review how the technical evaluation panel will evaluate the criteria within the project analysis and design.

Question #3:

Can you please clarify if "Mexican state" on p.4 of the NOFO refers to the federal Mexican government, or the subnational level government agencies?

INL Response #3:

32 Mexican states.

Question #4:

Can you please clarify if you expect the implementing partner to work with prosecutors, investigators and analysts at the state and federal level? If both, what is the expected level-of-effort at the state level versus at the federal level?

INL Response #4:

The grant is for implementer to work with the 32 Mexican states.

Question #5:

If applicants are expected to work at the state level, could you please clarify which states the implementing partner should prioritize? and how many?

INL Response #5:

All 32 Mexican States.

Question #6:

If INL does not have geographic priorities at the state level, should the target states be identified in the proposal, or should they be identified in coordination with INL and program beneficiaries during program implementation?

INL Response #6:

Priority states should be identified in coordination with INL with goal of working with all 32 States.

Question #7:

Pages 8-9 of the NOFO: For the Project Proposal Documents, can applicants submit in one document 1) the Proposal Narrative, 2) Change Map, 3) Project Risk Analysis and 4) Timeline, and then keep the Illustrative PIRS separate (as it is an Excel)?

INL Response #7:

Yes.

Question #8:

Page 9 of the NOFO: Could you please clarify if applicant organizations need to be registered in Mexico at the time of proposal submission?

INL Response #8:

U.S.-based and foreign-based non-profit/non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are eligible to apply.

Question #9:

Page 9 of the NOFO "List of Key Personnel": In addition to listing Key Personnel, could this 3-page section include short biographies of other relevant staff and experts to be deployed for the proposed work?

INL Response #9:

Relevant experience or qualifications for the personnel involved in the management of the projects should be included. Information for other proposed staff is optional.

Question #10:

Are applicants allowed to reach out to existing contacts within the Government of Mexico to discuss specific activities, when developing this proposal?

INL Response #10:

Yes.

Question #11:

Can implementers provide technical assistance and training to relevant judges in Mexico, or only to analysts, prosecutors and investigators? Can applicant include additional counterparts not listed in the NOFO?

INL Response #11:

Judges and additional counterparts can be trained.

Question #12:

Is the procurement of goods for the justice sector allowed?

INL Response #12:

The purchase of items can be proposed with a justification and purpose and subject to grantor's approval.

Question #13:

Can proposals include CFT aspects along with AML?

INL Response #13:

No.

Question #14:

Does INL encourage activities that strengthen transboundary judicial cooperation?

INL Response #14:

Yes.

Question #15:

Is it expected that awarded organizations train Mexican state investigators, prosecutors, and financial intelligence analysts? If so, are there any top priority authorities? State or federal agencies?

INL Response #15:

There are priority states which INL will provide to the implementer, but the aim is to work with all 32 Mexican states.

Question #16:

Are there any specific skills or abilities sought to be developed on the training curriculum listed as a recommended activity?

INL Response #16:

To be determined by the implementer.

Question #17:

Is the specialized training curriculum expected to be delivered by the awarded organization or by a third party? If so, is it expected that the training will be delivered during the project implementation period?

INL Response #17:

The training can be delivered by either. Yes, the training must be delivered during the project implementation period.

Question #18:

Are the predicate offenses mentioned in Objective 1 limited to drug trafficking, human trafficking, extortion, public corruption, and tax evasion? Can the proposal target other offenses as well (e.g. environmental crimes, fraud or others)?

INL Response #18:

Implementer should prioritize those crimes which are listed in the grant solicitation but can include other crimes as needed and if relevant to the states receiving the training.

Question #19:

A requirement to be eligible to apply to this NOFO is that the implementing team must include a consultant who has prior firsthand experience investigating and/or prosecuting money laundering crimes. Are international consultants eligible?

INL Response #19:

The recipient of the award may enter in an agreement with an independent consultant for the purposes of obtaining goods and services for the recipient's own use related to this award. This relationship should be listed under the Contractual category.

Question #20:

Must the training take place in Mexico?

INL Response #20:

Yes.

Question #21:

Can the training/meetings be conducted virtually and/or a combination of in-person and virtual?

INL Response #21:

In person training is required.

Question #22:

Would INL consider the travel for attendees to a location outside of Mexico to mitigate any security concerns or safety for staff?

INL Response #22:

No.

Question #23:

Who will determine the attendees to attend the programs?

INL Response #23:

INL and the implementer will determine the attendees to attend the programs.

Question #24:

Will training be offered to personnel at the Federal level only?

INL Response #24:

Training will be offered only at the state level.

Question #25:

Are attendees from law enforcement, prosecution, judicial only?

INL Response #25:

Yes, but can include customs officials as needed.

Question #26:

Are other segments of government such as intelligence and regulatory agencies, possibly financial or business sectors, included?

INL Response #26:

No.

Question #27:

The NOFO language required a detailed budget for all subgrants. Can you kindly confirm if a detailed budget is needed for subgrants below the simplified acquisition threshold of $250k?

INL Response #27:

If proposing sub-recipient(s) budgeted at $25,000 or more, applicants should include detailed sub-recipient budget(s) as additional tabs within the budget spreadsheet. These budgets should follow the same formatting as the primary budget proposal, including all OMB-approved budget categories.

Question #28:

Addressing and preventing money laundering demands a comprehensive approach at the national level. Additionally specific regions within each target country display heightened susceptibility to economic activities that facilitate money laundering. Can INL identify the specific geographic areas in Mexico that the project will prioritize for combating money laundering, or will this determination be made after the project is awarded?

INL Response #28:

All 32 Mexican states.

Question #29:

Can INL confirm the extent of buy-in from beneficiary institutions in the development of this opportunity?

INL Response #29:

100 percent buy-in.

Question #30:

Could INL provide details on relevant ongoing and/or previous INL funded projects which applicants should consider in the design of proposed activities and beneficiaries.

INL Response #30:

No.

Question #31:

Can the implementer (with its consortium) assist target beneficiaries on specific cases during the course of the project?

INL Response #31:

If requested by the entities receiving training, yes.

Question #32:

Could you provide a description of INL's present level of engagement with its current stakeholders? Additionally, does INL currently possess any established Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs), collaborative agreements, or pre-existing frameworks that could be leveraged to facilitate the implementation process?

INL Response #32:
INL works with all States in AML capacity building.

Question #33:

Could you please provide a summary of the previous activities or projects funded by INL Mexico in this specific subject area?

INL Response #33:

No. However, applicants may search USASpending.gov that houses federal spending information, including information about federal awards.

Question #34:

Has INL invested in any learning platforms, specialized course materials, or other existing resources related to this subject area, in order to familiarize the project with them?

INL Response #34:

Not applicable.

Question #35:

Can INL confirm that 10-point font can be used for text boxes?

INL Response #35:

All Word documents are, at minimum, single-spaced with 12-point Calibri font and 1-inch margins.