

Information Session: Anticipated USAID/Southern Africa Orphans and Vulnerable Children Activity in Limpopo Province

May 24, 2023

Questions and Answers

Session: Working with USAID

1. Question: In the event where the sub-partners don't have the SAM or CAGE numbers, does the application become disqualified? Or can we, as the prime partner applicant, show that the sub-partners are in the process of obtaining the SAM or CAGE numbers?

Answer: USAID cannot issue the agreement to an organization without SAM registration. We encourage all of the sub-partners to complete SAM registration, but technically we only need the sub-partners to have Unique Entity Identifier (UEI), which is part of the SAM registration process. The prime must have completed SAM registration, but the sub-partner does not need a complete SAM registration though we would recommend all subs to complete SAM registration. The application will not be disqualified as long as the prime partner applicant has a SAM registration. If there are sub-partners that you are interested in working with, get them registered on SAM.gov and obtain the UEI number. If successful, USAID may award the prime partner but exclude the sub-partner that does not have the UEI number until the sub-partner has its UEI number.

Session: OVC Draft Program Description

2. Question: The objectives say 0-19, but the IRs only mention up to 17 years old.
Answer: It should be 0-17 years old. This is an editorial mistake that will be fixed.
3. Question: When talking about the social workforce, does this include CCWs (community care workers)?
Answer: Yes, this also includes CCWs. We want to emphasize the social welfare workforce. We need to find innovative ways to give youth a voice, to include youth internships and paid internships for youth. It is important that as an applicant you find ways to include youth into your program, design, and evaluation.
4. Question: On IR 1.1, is the Risiha Core package aligned to the CBIMS platform?
Answer: Yes, they are aligned.
5. Question: Vhutshilo 1 is not listed in the IR, are we transitioning from Vhutshilo to Chommy?
Answer: Yes, with the PEPFAR strategy we want programs and structures that are sustainable. Department of Social Development programs are listed in the IRs because we are aligning with the DSD for sustainability.
6. Question: We requested a link to the Risiha material, are they available to the public now?
Answer: It is a part of the NOFO. Applicants can reach out to the DSD at the local level for this information.

7. Question: Are we continuing with the Let's Talk curriculum? Or is that also transitioning out?
Answer: There are two curricula that are endorsed and being utilized in South Africa: Let's Talk and Sinovuyo Parenting for Lifelong Health.
8. Question: PEPFAR has a large focus on adolescent girls and young women (AGYW); is there anything in the pipeline for young boys?
Answer: Please check Sam.gov and the USAID Business Forecast for future opportunities.
9. Question: How do we really ensure child safeguarding and conduct thorough checks on staff to make sure they don't harm children?
Answer: For each new employee, a partner should submit the name on Form 30, "Inquiry by Person to Establish if His/Her Name is Included in Part B of National Child Protection Register (Regulation 50(1)(b) [Section 126(3) of the Children's Act, (No 38 of 2005)]," to the DSD to ensure they are not on the Child Protection Register.
10. Question: If a sub-partner has a staff that violated the Child Safeguarding Policy, and the prime partner has dealt with this violation internally, does the prime partner need to report this to USAID and what is the process?
Answer: When it comes to abuse against a child, there should not be an internal process, that exists in isolation, of dealing with the violation. The agreement and obligation is for the prime to report this violation to its Agreement Officer Representative (AOR) immediately. There are two important components: child safeguarding and reputational. There are certain processes within USAID that have to be followed. The Child Act also states that the violation needs to be reported to the Department of Social Development, a Child Protection Organization, or the Police. For child sexual abuse, the prime partner has to report the violation to the Police.
11. Question: We have a gap with child safeguarding. We rarely get feedback from the DSD on the names we submit to be checked with those on the Child Protection Register.
Answer: We need to look further on how we can engage with the DSD on closing the loop. Partners should be continuously following up with the DSD to ensure employees don't appear on the Child Protection Register.

Session: RFI – Draft Notice of Funding Opportunity (Technical Application)

12. Question: When you download documents that are CSV, the formatting does not work appropriately. Is there a way to fix this?
Answer: We normally publish documents in PDFs. If there is a document that does not open, there is a link that says, "Help" on the GRANTS.gov website that can help you troubleshoot.
13. Question: It says \$15 million in the presentation, however what is the actual amount in each province?
Answer: In the NOFO, the actual amount will be listed. It is different for each province.
14. Question: What are examples of cost share?
Answer: An example is the use of community venues that can be utilized for group-based interventions. Partners can get quotations from the venue to say how much it would cost to rent the space so that we can put a cost value to the free community venue space, and then partners can save attendance

registers as evidence. Another example is the donation of HIV test kits from the Department of Health. You could then put a value on the cost of each HIV test kit. Another example is when professionals donate their time to the organization. Their level of effort (LOE) cost can be calculated as a cost share.

15. **Question:** For Section D on Partnerships and Affiliations in the application, there is a limited number of pages for applicants to include Letters of Support. In addition, to obtain a Letter of Support from the Provincial DoH, this process takes a long time. If we have an existing Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Provincial DoH, can we include the MoU rather than obtaining Letter of Support?

Answer: For the application process, USAID does not require Letters of Support from the DoH or DSD. Later on when the award occurs we would require evidence of support. There are clear definitions in the application for “partnerships.” Letters of Support are required for sub-partners only at the application stage .

16. **Question:** Due to non-exclusivity, can an applicant be a prime on one application and a sub-partner on another application?

Answer: Yes, but note that an applicant can submit only one application as a prime.

17. **Question:** At this stage of the application, do all of the sub-partners or CBOs need to be listed?

Answer: It is advisable to propose all of your sub-partners in your application if you are the prime applicant. Keep in mind that we are looking for organizations with strong and thoughtful implementation plans or approaches. We recognize it may be challenging to have all partnerships or sub-partners listed and identified at the time of application.

18. **Question:** Will it be the partner’s discretion to see which sub-district we should implement activities in and focus on?

Answer: Activities should be aligned with the PEPFAR coverage presented in the beginning. At the moment PEPFAR is in 27 districts. However, the epidemiology may have changed. As an applicant you are responding to Capricorn and Mopane districts for Limpopo. If that does change later on then everyone will be informed. However, it is important that we have full coverage and not just selective sub-district coverage.

19. **Question:** How do applicants incorporate leveraging of funding and collaboration with similar implementation activities in the area?

Answer: USAID is aware that the OVC NOFO does not exist in isolation. PEPFAR has Care and Treatment, Key Populations, DREAMS, and TB programs in the area. Applicants should take advantage of the implementation activities that are already in the area and collaborate with the partners, ensuring there are strong referral pathways for OVCs. There is also the Global Fund Malaria program that exists in Limpopo. Applicants should look into leveraging and working in partnership with them to ensure referral pathways exist.

20. **Question:** Is there an indicator for PrEP in the OVCY program and how do partners report on this when Limpopo is not initiating PrEP in the health facilities?

Answer: These are the nuances that can be identified in the application. As an applicant it is recommended that you provide implementation activities for the full spectrum of HIV prevention and care. When Limpopo does roll out PrEP initiation in the health facilities, then the partner can be prepared to provide these services. We don’t want to close out any key HIV prevention activities for OVCY just

because it is not being rolled out in the province.

21. Question: If you are a prime applicant, can you submit more than one application?

Answer: Organizations may apply as the prime applicant in each of the three separate funding opportunities that are for three separate provinces. However, you cannot apply twice as the prime applicant for one funding opportunity.

22. Question: Can you apply as a prime applicant and then strategically be a sub-partner on another organization's prime application?

Answer: Yes, in a province for one funding opportunity, you can apply as a prime applicant and also be listed as a sub-partner on another organization's application if they are the prime applicant.

RFI – Draft Notice of Funding Opportunity (Business Application)

23. Question: How many sub-partners are allowed on a prime application?

Answer: This is not specified in the NOFO. However, keep in mind that as a prime partner it could be challenging to manage too many sub-partners. The prime partner is held accountable for implementation activities, targets, and funding expenses of the sub-partners.

24. Question: In previous NOFOs, if an international organization was listed as a sub-partner, there was a stipulated budget that was allowable to the international organization. However, this is not stipulated in the current NOFO.

Answer: In this NOFO, it is not stipulated. However, it is expected that the prime partner would have the majority of the funding.

25. Question: If an organization is awarded as the prime partner, can USAID provide sub-partners to the prime partner for implementation?

Answer: USAID does not provide sub-partners to prime partners. It is recommended that partners identify their sub-partners and list them in the application.

26. Question: What if I do not have a relationship with an organization that is applying as a prime applicant. Can our organization submit an application as a sub-partner only?

Answer: An applicant cannot apply as a sub-partner alone. Organizations that would like to be a sub-partner should liaise with organizations in the area now to partner with a prime applicant as the sub-partner. Organizations can use the WorkwithUSAID website to create a profile and indicate they are interested in sub-partnering opportunities. If an organization does not have a profile under this section and would like to build a partnership with a prime organization, it is advisable that the organization create a profile. This does not guarantee that the organization will be a sub-partner, though.

Question: Can applicants apply just as a prime, without sub-partners?

Answer: Yes, applicants can apply as a prime without sub-partners identified. This depends on what the prime applicant has proposed in its application in terms of activities and implementation. If the prime applicant is awarded with the funding and identifies sub-partners after the award, then the sub-partners still have to meet the USAID requirements for a sub-partner.

Question: There are CBOs that are very good and work in the communities of Limpopo, however they are not at this NOFO information session. For this NOFO, are there Transition Awards where the prime

applicant transitions the award to the CBO through a capacity building approach, where the CBO eventually becomes the prime?

Answer: A Transition Award is not a part of this activity international organizations transitioning to local organizations, but for this activity, we plan to limit competition to local entities. As such, we did not think a transition award was appropriate. Keep in mind for the program description, under Objective 2 (improving local partner organizations), USAID built in capacity building for a technical aspect rather than an administrative component. This is because we have recognized it is the technical aspect that requires capacity building.

27. Question: What is the percentage of cost share recommended in the draft funding opportunity?

Answer: 10% is the recommended cost share.

28. Question: In what form is that cost share required?

Answer: The cost share can be in many forms, for example: in the form of venues, level of effort from professionals, or supplies from the Department of Health. The cost share can be in-kind, however in the application the applicant needs to convert it into a monetary value.

Session: Partnering Arrangements

29. Question: In a prime partner's past experience, did they have the expertise within the organization to develop proposals and budgets for applications, or did the prime partner outsource and hire a consultant to develop the proposal and budget?

Answer: It is important to invest in proposal development within the organization. If you don't have the skillset internally, then hire a consultant to help with the application process, however, ensure that someone within your organization shadows the consultant. Or you can also collaborate with a prime partner who can help build this capacity within your organization. It is important that the applicant follows the guidelines of the NOFO.

30. Question: \$25 million USD is a lot of money for a prime to receive. Can a prime partner adequately budget and manage this funding efficiently? Do prime applicants ever get questions on their budget proposal from USAID?

Answer: Organizations should take into consideration their capacity to manage the grant. If USAID questions an organization's ability to manage an award USAID may have pre-award conditions that will stipulate what an organization needs to do before the grant is awarded. Organizations can also collaborate as a sub-partner with an organization that will be a prime if they are concerned about the financial management of the budget. Organizations do not have to implement and manage the award by themselves, they can collaborate with sub-partners or a prime partner.