Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)

Building Skills, Strengthening Communities, and Advancing Innovation in Northwest Mexico

Western Hemisphere, U.S. Consulates General Hermosillo, Nogales, and Tijuana, Department of State

Opportunity number: PD-Tijuana-Nogales-Hermosillo-FY2026-01

Application deadline: Thursday, August 27, 2026, 5:00 pm PDT

Contents

A. Basic Information

Funding Opportunity Title	Building Skills, Strengthening Communities, and Advancing Innovation in Northwest Mexico
Funding Opportunity Number	PD-Tijuana-Nogales-Hermosillo-FY2026-01
Announcement Type	Initial Announcement
Deadline for Applications	**Thursday, August 27, 2026, 5:00pm PDT**
Assistance Listing Number	19.040
Length of performance period	Up to 18 months
Number of awards anticipated	**1 to 4 awards**
Award amounts	**Awards may range from a minimum of $10,000 to a maximum of $20,000 (approximately)**
Total available funding	**$50,000 pending availability of funds**
Type of Funding	FY26 Smith-Mundt Public Diplomacy Funds
Anticipated project start date	**Estimated October 15**

Funding Instrument Type: Grant

Project Performance Period: Proposed projects should be completed in 18 months or less. The Department of State will entertain applications for continuation grants funded under these awards beyond the initial budget period on a non-competitive basis subject to availability of funds, satisfactory progress of the program, and a determination that continued funding would be in the best interest of the U.S. Department of State.

This notice is subject to availability of funding. The Public Diplomacy Sections reserve the right to award less or more than the funds described under circumstances deemed to be in the best interest of the U.S. government, pending the availability of funds and approval of the designated grants officer.

2. ***Executive Summary***

Priority Region: Northwest Mexico (Baja California, Baja California Sur, Sonora, and Sinaloa)

Executive Summary

The Public Diplomacy Sections of the U.S. Consulates General Tijuana, Nogales, and Hermosillo announce an open competition for programs that strengthen workforce readiness, promote safe border communities, and support a transparent and innovative information ecosystem in northwest Mexico. This Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) seeks merit-based proposals that equip Mexican educators, youth, and media professionals with practical skills needed to succeed in a dynamic, binational environment.

Through U.S. Federal assistance for programs and projects that support economic development and internal and external security, this NOFO promotes the foreign policy, better understanding,

and general welfare of the United States. Implementers are required to inform, emphasize, and be sure participants are aware of the funding source and these purposes during implementation. Competitive proposals must address one of four objectives: (1) improve English language teaching capacity to better prepare students for participation in the binational economy; (2) advance STEM education through innovative, hands-on training that leverages U.S. technology, expertise, and institutional partnerships; (3) promote youth development and safer communities through sports diplomacy programs that build leadership, teamwork, and drug-free lifestyles; or (4) strengthen journalists' capacity to responsibly use artificial intelligence and digital tools to enhance reporting, promote accountability, and counter false narratives.
Successful proposals will demonstrate practical skills-building, strong partnerships with U.S. institutions, measurable outputs and outcomes, and sustainability plans. Programs should reach participants based on merit and reinforce U.S. interests in security, prosperity, and accurate information flow.

B. Eligibility

1. *Eligible Applicants*

The following organizations are eligible to apply:

- Not-for-profit organizations, including think tanks and civil society/non-governmental organizations
- Public and private educational institutions
- Public international organizations

For-profit entities, even those that may fall into the categories listed above, are **not** eligible to apply for this NOFO. Organizations may sub-contract with other entities, but only one, non-profit, non-governmental entity can be the prime recipient of the award. When sub-contracting with other entities, the responsibilities of each entity must be clearly defined in the proposal. For more information on the difference between sub-contract and sub-recipient, please refer to 2 CFR 200.331.

2. Cost Sharing or Matching

Cost sharing or matching is encouraged but not required for this funding opportunity.

3. Other Eligibility Requirements

All organizations must have a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) issued via SAM.gov as well as a valid registration in SAM.gov. Please see Section E.3 for more information. Individuals are not required to have a UEI 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 under this funding opportunity.

4. ***This opportunity will not support:***
    - Projects relating to partisan political activity;
    - Charitable or development activities; including direct social services such as medical, psychological, and/or humanitarian support
    - Construction projects;
    - Projects that support specific religious activities;
    - Fund-raising campaigns;
    - Lobbying for specific legislation or programs
    - Scientific research or surveys;
    - Commercial projects;
    - Projects intended primarily for the growth or institutional development of the organization;
    - Projects that duplicate existing projects;
    - Illegal activities

C. Program Description

1. Goals and Objectives

Project Goal:

The U.S. Consulates in Tijuana, Nogales, and Hermosillo seek to advance U.S. national interests in northwest Mexico to strengthen workforce readiness, promote community resilience, and support a transparent and innovative information ecosystem through targeted investments in English language education, STEM training, sports diplomacy, and AI-enabled media practices. By equipping educators, students, and journalists with practical, in-demand skills, the programs will support U.S. policy priorities to advance economic prosperity, contribute to safer border communities, and strengthen transparent, reliable information ecosystems capable of countering false narratives.

Project Objectives: Proposals should include one of the following objectives:

- Objective 1: Strengthen workforce readiness through improved English language to support the binational economy.
    - Proposals should seek to improve English language teaching capacity of English language educators across multiple Mexican educational institutions with measurable downstream impact on students preparing for participation in the integrated U.S.-Mexico manufacturing, trade, and services corridor.
    - Consistent with U.S. policy priorities supporting workforce development, preference will be given to programs including public school teachers in Baja California. This preference is intended to maximize impact in critical public education systems serving communities directly engaged with the cross-border economy.

    - Proposals should highlight how the curriculum for educators will better prepare their students for a binational economy in the border region, including identification of expected student-level outputs (number of students reached, anticipated proficiency gains).
    - Demonstrate how the proposed curriculum, training methodology, or certification pathway will measurably improve educator English proficiency and/or pedagogical effectiveness, using a recognized framework (CEFR, TOEFL, U.S. Department of State Regional English Language Office (RELO) standards, or equivalent.
    - Incorporate substantive partnerships with U.S. institutions, U.S.-developed curricula, or U.S.-certified instructors where feasible.
    - Include a clear sustainability plan, such as a training-of-trainers component, institutional adoption of curricula, or alumni networks that extend impact beyond the grant period.

- Objective 2: Advance workforce readiness in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields, through training for teachers, to support the tech-driven U.S.-Mexico border economy.
    - Proposals should aim to advance workforce readiness for Mexican students pursuing careers in STEM, by training at least 100 public school educators in Sonora and Sinaloa to deliver high-quality, hands-on STEM instruction aligned with the workforce needs of the binational economy through workshops, courses, and hands-on experiences. Innovative practices may include project-based learning, inquiry- and problem-based instruction, robotics and coding platforms, maker-space methodologies, or applied engineering challenges.
    - Proposals must include the use of U.S. technology equipment, software, programs, and/or expertise in the curriculum.
    - Proposals must feature substantive engagement with at least one related U.S. business, manufacturer, or university as a core component of the training. Examples include an expert guest speaker, in-person visit to U.S.-connected a factory or business employing STEM technology, virtual exchange or live-streamed instruction with U.S. partner schools, or ongoing mentorship from U.S. educators or industry professionals.
    - Include a sustainability plan describing how trained educators will continue to deliver enhanced STEM instruction beyond the grant period (e.g., training-of-trainers, curricula institutionalization, retention of equipment by beneficiary schools).
    - Specify expected output and outcome indicators (number of educators trained, number of students reached through trained educators, equipment delivered, partnerships established, etc.).

- Objective 3: Promote youth development and discourage criminal behavior through sports diplomacy.
    - Proposals should foster leadership development, discipline, and healthy lifestyles among at least 100 Mexican youth ages 10-14 years old through sports diplomacy programs, with a primary focus on soccer in Baja California.

   - Proposals must include both athletic and leadership development components integrated in the program. Purely recreational programs will not be considered competitive.
   - Competitive proposals will demonstrate a focus on youth from communities facing socioeconomic and public safety challenges.
   - Proposals should also consider training for at least 25 coaches, volunteers, and parents in coaching techniques, first aid, youth mentorship and/or leadership development to build local capacity.

- Objective 4: Expand understanding of the best practices in the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in journalism to support transparency, accountability, and the integrity of information ecosystems. Proposals addressing issues of fact checking, misinformation, or disinformation should acknowledge that methodologies must focus on the investigation of verifiable truths and falsehoods and on technical approaches to detect inauthentic or manipulated content (including "deepfake" material). Programs must ensure that mere policy disagreement or legitimate debate is not treated or labeled as misinformation or disinformation. Proposals can include courses in-person, hybrid, and/or virtual formats.
   - Preference will be given to proposals that include recruitment plans for journalists in Baja California, Baja California Sur, Sonora, and Sinaloa states.
   - Competitive proposals will include partnerships with U.S.-based media organizations, universities, or technology experts to provide technical expertise, mentorship, or guest instruction.
   - Proposals should incorporate training on data analysis, open-source research, verification of digital content, and ethical considerations in AI-assisted journalism, including identifying and mitigating risks such as bias and false information, as well as manipulated or inauthentic content. Programming addressing mis/disinformation should emphasize factual verification and technical detection rather than characterizing contested policy perspectives as mis/disinformation.
   - Proposals may include comprehensive training on the physical and digital protection of journalists against criminal organizations, recognizing these dangers as a direct threat to freedom of the press and the shared objective of a more secure North America.
   - Programs should equip at least 40 working journalists (10 from each state) in the priority region to produce higher-quality reporting.

D. Application Contents and Format

<u>Please follow all instructions below carefully</u>. Proposals that do not meet the requirements of this announcement or fail to comply with the stated requirements will be ineligible.

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 fit 8 ½ x 11 paper, and
- All Microsoft Word documents are single-spaced, 12 point Calibri font, with a minimum of 1-inch margins.

The following documents are **required**:

1. Mandatory application forms

- SF-424 (Application for Federal Assistance – organizations) or SF-424-I (Application for Federal Assistance --individuals) at Grants.gov - Forms Repository
- SF-424A (Budget Information for Non-Construction programs) at Grants.gov - Forms Repository
- SF-424B (Assurances for Non-Construction programs) at Grants.gov - Forms Repository (note: the SF-424B is only required for individuals, organizations exempt from registration, and for organizations not required to fully register in SAM.gov)

2. Summary Page (optional)

Cover sheet stating the applicant's name and organization, proposal date, program title, program period proposed start and end date, and brief purpose of the program.

3. Proposal (5 pages maximum)

The proposal should contain sufficient information that anyone not familiar with it would understand exactly what the applicant wants to do. You may use your own proposal format, but it must include all the items below.

- **Proposal Summary:** Short narrative that outlines the proposed project, including project objectives and anticipated impact.
- **Introduction to the Organization or Individual applying**: A description of past and present operations, showing ability to carry out the program, including information on all previous grants from the State Department and/or U.S. government agencies.
- **Problem Statement:** Clear, concise and well-supported statement of the problem to be addressed and why the proposed program is needed
- **Project Goals and Objectives:** The "goals" describe what the program is intended to achieve. The "objectives" refer to the intermediate accomplishments on the way to the goals. These should be achievable and measurable.
- **Project Activities**: Describe the program activities and how they will help achieve the objectives.
- **Project Methods and Design**: A description of how the program is expected to work to solve the stated problem and achieve the goal. Include a logic model as appropriate.
- **Proposed Project Schedule and Timeline:** The proposed timeline for the program activities. Include the dates, times, and locations of planned activities and events.
- **Key Personnel:** Names, titles, roles and experience/qualifications of key personnel involved in the program. What proportion of their time will be used in support of this program?
- **Project Partners:** List the names and type of involvement of key partner organizations and sub-awardees.

- **Project Monitoring and Evaluation Plan:** This is an important part of successful grants. Throughout the timeframe of the grant, how will the activities be monitored to ensure they are happening in a timely manner, and how will the program be evaluated to make sure it is meeting the goals of the grant?
- **Future Funding or Sustainability** Applicant's plan for continuing the program beyond the grant period, or the availability of other resources, if applicable.

4. Budget Justification Narrative

After filling out the SF-424A Budget (above), use a separate file to describe each of the budget expenses in detail. See section *I. Other Information: Guidelines for Budget Submissions* below for further information.

5. *Attachments*

- 1-page Curriculum Vitae (CV) or resume of key personnel who are proposed for the program
- Letters of support from program partners describing the roles and responsibilities of each partner
- If your organization has a Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA) and includes NICRA charges in the budget, include your latest NICRA as a PDF file.
- Official permission letters, if required for program activities.

E. Submission Requirements and Deadlines

1. Address to Request Application Package

Application forms required above are available at grants.gov.

2. Department of State Contacts

If you have any questions about the grant application process, please contact: MoroyoquiI@state.gov.

3. Unique entity identifier and System for Award Management (SAM.gov)
Required Registrations

All organizations, whether based in the United States or in another country, must have a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) and an active registration in SAM.gov. A UEI is one of the data elements mandated by Public Law 109-282, the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA), for all Federal awards. An applicant must maintain an active registration while it has a proposal under review by the Department and must continue to keep the registration active for the entire duration of the period of performance of any Federal award that results from this NOFO.

The 2 CFR 200 requires subrecipients to obtain a UEI. Please note the UEI for subrecipients is not required at the time of application but will be required before an award is processed and/or directed to a subrecipient

Note: The process of obtaining or renewing a SAM.gov registration may take anywhere from 4-8 weeks. <u>Please begin your registration as early as possible</u>.

- Organizations **based in the United States** or that pay employees within the United States will need an Employer Identification Number (EIN) from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and a UEI prior to registering in SAM.gov.

- Organizations **based outside of the United States** and that do not pay employees within the United States do not need an EIN from the IRS but do need a UEI prior to registering in SAM.gov.

- **Organizations based outside of the United States that do not intend to apply for U.S. Department of War (DoW) awards are no longer required to have a NATO Commercial and Government Entity (NCAGE) code to apply for non-DoW foreign assistance funding opportunities.** If an applicant organization is mid-registration and wishes to remove an NCAGE code from their SAM.gov registration, the applicant should submit a help desk ticket ("incident") with the Federal Service Desk (FSD) online at www.fsd.gov using the following language: "I do not intend to seek financial assistance from the Department of War. I do not wish to obtain an NCAGE code. I understand that I will need to submit my registration after this incident is resolved in order to have my registration activated."

Organizations based outside of the United States and that DO NOT plan to do business with the DOW should follow the below instructions:

Step 1: Proceed to SAM.gov to obtain a UEI and complete the SAM.gov registration process. SAM.gov registration must be renewed annually.

Organizations based outside of the United States and that DO plan to do business with the DoW in addition to Department of State should follow the below instructions:

Step 1: Apply for an NCAGE code by following the instructions on the NSPA NATO website linked below:

NCAGE Homepage:
https://eportal.nspa.nato.int/AC135Public/sc/CageList.aspx
NCAGE Code Request Tool (NCRT):
NCAGE Code Request Tool (nato.int)

Exemptions
An exemption from the UEI and sam.gov registration requirements may be permitted on a case-by-case basis. See 2 CFR 25.110 for a full list of exemptions.

Organizations requesting exemption from UEI or SAM.gov requirements must email the point of contact listed in the NOFO at least two weeks prior to the deadline in the NOFO providing a justification of their request. Approval for a SAM.gov exemption must come from the warranted Grants Officer before the application can be deemed eligible for review.

4. ***Submission Dates and Times***

Applications are due no later than Thursday, August 27, 5:00 pm PDT

5. ***Funding Restrictions***

i. Funding Restrictions for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA)

None of the funds awarded resulting from this Notice of Funding Opportunity may be made available for subawards, direct financial support, or otherwise used to provide any payment or transfer to United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA).

ii. Prohibition on Funding Activities that Encourage Mass-Migration Caravans towards the United States Southwest Border:

None of the funds awarded under this grant may be made available to encourage, mobilize, publicize, or manage mass-migration caravans towards the United States southwest border. Funds may not be made available for legal counseling on the United States asylum process; and/or for referrals to legal representation in the United States.

Funds may only be used for cash cards for use in the country in which they are provided or to facilitate assisted voluntary returns and other purposes that do not encourage, mobilize, publicize, or manage mass migration caravans towards the United States southwest border. The provision of humanitarian assistance is permitted.

iii. Certification Regarding Compliance with applicable Federal anti-discrimination laws

If the place of performance or delivery of any award made under this NOFO will be within the United States, applicants are advised that they will be required to certify the following at the time of award:

1) Its compliance in all respects with all applicable Federal anti-discrimination laws is material to the government's payment decisions for purposes of section 3729(b)(4) of title 31, United States Code and;

2) It does not operate any programs promoting Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion that violate any applicable Federal anti-discrimination laws. A program promoting Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion means a program whose purpose is to promote preferences based on race, color religion, sex, or national origins, such as in training or hiring.

iv. Certification Regarding Compliance with 20 U.S.C. 1011f and any other applicable foreign funding disclosure requirements.

Applicants are advised that IHEs must certify the following at the time of award, and that this certification requirement must be included in any subaward agreements to IHEs:

1) Its compliance in all respects with section 1011f of title 20, United States Code, and any other applicable foreign funding disclosure requirements is material for purposes of section 3729 of title 31, United States Code, and for receipt of appropriate Federal grant funds.

v. Certification of Trafficking in Persons Compliance and Compliance Plan

Applicants are advised that they will be required to certify the following at the time of award for awards where the estimated value of services to be performed outside the United States exceeds $500,000:

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1) To the best of the Recipient's knowledge, neither the Recipient, nor any subrecipient, contractor, or subcontractor of the Recipient or any agent of the recipient or of such a subrecipient, contractor, or subcontractor, is engaged in any of the activities described in 2 CFR 175.105(a);

   The recipient has implemented a Trafficking in Persons compliance plan to prevent activities described in 2 CFR 175(a) and is compliant with this plan; and the compliance plan must follow the minimum requirements described in 2 CFR 175(b)(5).

2) That the Recipient has and will implement procedures to prevent activities described in 2 CFR 175.105(a) and to monitor, detect, and terminate any subrecipient, contractor, subcontractor, or employee of the recipient engaging in these activities.

Recipients do not need to submit a copy of the plan. However, they must provide it to the Grants Officer upon request, and as appropriate, must post the useful and relevant contents of the plan or related materials on their website and at the workplace. Recipients must re-certify on an annual basis for the entire award period of performance.

vi. Prohibition on Unmanned Aircraft Systems Manufactured or Assembled by American Security Drone Act-Covered Foreign Entities

(a) *Definitions.*

American Security Drone Act-covered foreign entity means an entity included on a list developed and maintained by the Federal Acquisition Security Council (FASC) and published in the System for Award Management (SAM) at https://www.sam.gov

FASC-prohibited unmanned aircraft system means an unmanned aircraft system manufactured or assembled by an American Security Drone Act-covered foreign entity.

Unmanned aircraft means an aircraft that is operated without the possibility of direct human intervention from within or on the aircraft .

Unmanned aircraft system means an unmanned aircraft and associated elements (including communication links and the components that control the unmanned aircraft) that are required for the operator to operate safely and efficiently in the national airspace system.

(b) *Prohibition.*Recipients of funding under this Notice of Funding Opportunity (including subawards and subcontracts issued by the recipient) will be prohibited from:

(1) delivering any FASC-prohibited unmanned aircraft system, which includes unmanned aircraft (i.e., drones) and associated elements;

(2)Operating a FASC-prohibited unmanned aircraft system in the performance of the award; and

(3) Using Federal funds for the purchase or operation of a FASC-prohibited unmanned aircraft system .

c) *Exemptions, exceptions, and waivers.* The prohibitions described above will not apply if the agency determines that an exemption, exception, or waiver applies and the award indicates that such a determination has been made. [See sections 1823 through 1825 and 1832 of Public Law 118-31 (41 U.S.C. 3901 note prec.) for statutory requirements pertaining to exemptions, exceptions, and waivers.].

vii. Promoting Human Flourishing in Foreign Assistance (PHFFA)

Applicants for foreign assistance awards should be aware of requirements in 2 CFR Part 602, 603, and 604.

These policies are referred to collectively as the Promoting Human Flourishing in Foreign Assistance (PHFFA) Policy.

602: The award term imposes certain abortion-related requirements on foreign nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), United States NGOs, public international organizations, foreign governments, and parastatals.

603: The award term imposes certain requirements relating to gender ideology on foreign nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), United States NGOs, international organizations, foreign governments, and parastatals.

604: The award term imposes certain requirements relating to discriminatory equity ideology on foreign nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), United States NGOs, international organizations, foreign governments, and parastatals.

The Department recognizes there are costs associated with these policies. Potential one-time and recurring costs the Department identifies for recipients and grantees are for familiarization with the policy, development and delivery of organizational training and implementation guidance, routine compliance monitoring, and recordkeeping and reporting requirements.

6. *Other Submission Requirements*

All application materials must be submitted by email to *MoroyoquiI*@state.gov

F. Application Review Information

1. *Review Criteria*

Each application will be evaluated and rated based on the evaluation criteria outlined below.

Quality and Feasibility of the Program Idea – 30 points: The program idea is well developed, with detail about how program activities will be carried out. The proposal includes a reasonable implementation timeline. The proposal does not include any activities contrary to any standing Executive Orders. For a full list, see https://www.federalregister.gov/.

Organizational Capacity and Record on Previous Grants – 20 points: The organization has expertise in its stated field and has the internal controls in place to manage federal funds. This includes a financial management system and a bank account. If sub-awards are proposed, applicant demonstrates experience managing subawards.

Program Planning/Ability to Achieve Objectives – 15 points: Goals and objectives are clearly stated and program approach is likely to provide maximum impact in achieving the proposed results.

Budget – 10 points: The budget justification is detailed. Costs are reasonable in relation to the proposed activities and anticipated results. The budget is realistic, accounting for all necessary expenses to achieve proposed activities.

Monitoring and evaluation plan – 15 points: Applicant demonstrates it is able to measure program success against key indicators and provides milestones to indicate progress toward goals outlined in the proposal. The program includes output and outcome indicators and shows how and when those will be measured.

Sustainability – 10 points: Program activities will continue to have positive impact after the end of the program.

Cost Share.

Cost sharing is not required for this funding opportunity, consistent with. Cost sharing will not be evaluated as a merit review criterion, and the absence of cost share will not affect any application's competitiveness. Voluntarily offered cost share, if proposed by an applicant, will be considered only as a secondary tie-breaking factor.

If an applicant voluntarily proposes cost sharing in its application and the application is selected for award, the proposed cost share will become a binding commitment and an enforceable term of the resulting award. The recipient will be required to track, document, and report cost share contributions in accordance with 2 CFR 200.306 and the U.S. Department of State Standard Terms and Conditions, which will be incorporated by reference into the award agreement.

2. ***Indirect Costs***

If two or more applications receive equivalent scores based on the evaluation criteria outlined in this NOFO, preference will be given to the applicant with the lower indirect cost rate, as consistent with Executive Order 14332, Section 4(b)(iii). This preference will only be applied as a tie-breaking mechanism and does not supersede the primary evaluation criteria.

3. ***Review and Selection Process***

   A review committee will evaluate all eligible applications.

4. ***Risk Review***

   i. Risk factors

   Under the merit review as required by 2 CFR 200.206, prior to making a Federal Award the Department will review and consider the following risk factors:

   a. Financial stability
   b. Management systems and standards
   c. History of performance
   d. Audit reports and findings

Ability to effectively implement requirements

G. Award Notices

The award or cooperative agreement will be written, signed, awarded, and administered by the Grants Officer. The award agreement is the authorizing document, and it will be provided to the recipient for review and counter-signature. The recipient may only start incurring project expenses beginning on the start date shown on the 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.

Unsuccessful applicants: Unsuccessful applicants will be notified by [Date] via email.

Payment Method:

Recipients will be required to request payments by completing form SF-270—Request for Advance or Reimbursement and submitting the form to the Grants Officer. Recipients may not draw down funds without the affirmative authorization of the Department of State. In addition, recipients must submit, with each SF-270 payment request, a detailed explanation justifying the request.

H. Post-Award Requirements and Administration

1. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

Before submitting an application, applicants should review all the terms and conditions and required certifications which will apply to this award, to ensure that they will be able to comply. These include:

In accordance with the Office of Management and Budget's guidance located at 2 CFR part 200, all applicable Federal laws, and relevant Executive guidance, the Department of State will review and consider applications for funding, as applicable to specific programs, pursuant to this notice of funding opportunity in accordance with the following:

- Guidance for Grants and Agreements in Title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations (2 CFR), as updated in the Federal Register's 89 FR 30046 on April 22, 2024, particularly on:
    - Selecting recipients most likely to be successful in delivering results based on the program objectives through an impartial process of evaluating Federal award applications (2 CFR part 200.205),
    - Promoting the freedom of speech and religious liberty in alignment with *Promoting Free Speech and Religious Liberty* (E.O. 13798) and *Improving Free Inquiry, Transparency, and Accountability at Colleges and Universities* (E.O. 13864) (§§ 200.300, 200.303, 200.339, and 200.341),
    - Providing a preference, to the extent permitted by law, to maximize use of goods, products, and materials produced in the United States (2 CFR part 200.322), and
    - Terminating agreements pursuant to the U.S. Department of State Standard Terms and Conditions, including, to the greatest extent authorized by law, if an award no longer effectuates the program goals or agency priorities (2 CFR part 200.340). For the avoidance of doubt, the Department has sole discretion over the determination that an award no longer effectuates program goals or agency priorities, and this provision permits awards to be terminated at the Department's convenience, including when it determines that the award no longer advances the national interest.

- 2 CFR 25 - UNIVERSAL IDENTIFIER AND SYSTEM FOR AWARD MANAGEMENT
- 2 CFR 170 - REPORTING SUBAWARD AND EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION INFORMATION

- 2 CFR 175 - AWARD TERM FOR TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS
- 2 CFR 182 - GOVERNMENTWIDE 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
- Recipients must comply with all applicable Executive Orders A searchable list can be found in the Federal Register: https://www.federalregister.gov/

2. ***Reporting***

Reporting Requirements: Recipients will be required to submit financial reports and program reports. The award document will specify what reports are required and how often these reports must be submitted.

Applicants should anticipate the following reporting framework when developing their proposal and budget:

Interim Reports (during the period of performance):

- Programmatic Progress Reports: Submitted on a quarterly basis, due 30 calendar days after the close of each reporting quarter. Each progress report must include updated Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) data corresponding to the indicators in the approved M&E Plan.
- Financial Reports (SF-425, Federal Financial Report): Submitted on the cadence specified in the award document — typically quarterly, due 30 calendar days after the close of each reporting period.

Annual Equipment Inventory:

- The Recipient must submit an annual inventory of all U.S. Government-provided equipment using the SF-428 form, consistent with 2 CFR 200.313 and the Department of State Standard Terms and Conditions.

Final Reports (at award closeout):

- Final certified programmatic and financial reports are due 120 calendar days after the close of the project period, consistent with 2 CFR 200.344.

Applicants should budget adequate personnel time and resources to complete all reporting requirements described above. Costs directly associated with monitoring, evaluation, and reporting are allowable. All reports are to be submitted electronically, in the format specified by the Grants Officer Representative

Specific reporting templates and submission instructions will be provided in the award document. For programmatic questions regarding reporting requirements under this NOFO, applicants and recipients may contact the Public Diplomacy Section at MoroyoquiI@state.gov, with copy to the assigned Grants Officer Representative as identified in the award document.

Foreign Assistance Data Review: As required by Congress, the Department of State must make progress in its efforts to improve tracking and reporting of foreign assistance data through the Foreign Assistance Data Review (FADR). The FADR requires tracking of foreign assistance activity data from budgeting, planning, and allocation through obligation and disbursement. Successful applicants will be required to report and draw down federal funding based on the appropriate FADR Data Elements, indicated within their award documentation. In cases of more than one FADR Data Element, typically program or sector and/or regions or country, the successful applicant will be required to maintain separate accounting records.

https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/retrieveECFR?gp=&SID=027fb85899500d580fc71df69d11573a&mc=true&n=pt2.1.200&r=PART&ty=HTML - ap2.1.200_1521.i

3. Branding and Marking

The Department of State, its programs, and U.S. Government funding and assistance should be easily identifiable to the Department's global audiences. Recipients of federal assistance awards must follow the branding guidance published at Guidance for Contracts and Grants - U.S. Department of State Brand System. Branding policy exceptions are outlined in the U.S. Department of State Foreign Affairs Manual 10 FAM 416, Policy Exceptions.

For more information, visit: https://brand.america.gov/

I. 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 $10,000 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 $10,000 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 15% of Modified Total Direct Costs as defined in 2 CFR 200.1.

“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.