



USAID | RWANDA

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Issuance Date: Thursday, January 20, 2011
RFA Clarification Questions Due: Thursday, January 27, 2011
Closing Date and Time for Application Submission: Monday, February 21, 2011
3:00 p.m. (Kigali Time)

**Subject: Request for Applications (RFA) No. USAID-RWANDA-RFA-696-11-000001
“LITERACY, LANGUAGE AND LEARNING” - EARLY LITERACY AND
NUMERACY INITIATIVE**

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is seeking applications for an Assistance Agreement for funding to support a program entitled “*Literacy, Language and Learning*” - *Early Literacy and Numeracy Initiative* in Rwanda. The main objective of this program is to strengthen teaching and learning in Rwanda so that children leave primary school with strong literacy and numeracy skills. These skills, aided by improvements in active teaching methods that the program will support, will give Rwandan children the foundation and tools for developing the analytical, critical thinking, and communication skills needed to participate fully in the knowledge-based economy that is the centerpiece of Rwanda’s Vision 2020. The authority for this RFA is found in the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended.

The Recipient will be responsible for ensuring achievement of the program objective as described in the program description. Please refer to the Program Description (RFA Section C) for a complete statement of goals and expected results.

While for-profit firms may participate, pursuant to 22 CFR 226.81, it is USAID policy not to award profit under assistance instruments such as cooperative agreements. However, all reasonable, allocable, and allowable expenses, both direct and indirect, which are related to the grant program and are in accordance with applicable cost standards (22 CFR 226, OMB Circular A-122 for non-profit organization, OMB Circular A-21 for universities, and the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Part 31 for-profit organizations), may be paid under the Cooperative Agreement.

Applicants under consideration for an award that have never received funding from USAID will be subject to a pre-award audit to determine fiscal responsibility, ensure adequacy of financial controls and establish an indirect cost rate.

Subject to the availability of funds, USAID intends to provide approximately US\$22 million in total USAID funding to be allocated over the five year period. USAID reserves the right to fund any or none of the applications submitted in response to this RFA.

Awards will be made to the responsible applicant whose application offers the greatest value to the U.S. Government. Issuance of this RFA 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 an application.

This RFA and any future amendments can be downloaded from <http://www.grants.gov>. Select "Find Grant Opportunities," then click on "Browse by Agency," and select the "U.S. Agency for International Development" and search for the RFA. In the event of an inconsistency between the documents comprising this RFA, it shall be resolved at the discretion of the Agreement Officer.

Applicants should also note that the documents listed in this RFA under "Useful References" are intended only as sources for background information that may be helpful to applicants, but are not a part of this RFA. All guidance included in this RFA takes precedence over any reference documents referred to in the RFA. Any clarification questions concerning this RFA should be submitted in writing to Lauralea Gilpin, the Regional Agreement Officer via email at lgilpin@usaid.gov with a copy to Aster Kebede, Sr. A&A Specialist, at askebede@usaid.gov by the date listed above. **No questions will be responded to after Thursday, January 27, 2011.** If there are problems in downloading the RFA from the Internet, please contact the Grants.gov help desk at 1.800.518.4726 or support@grants.gov for technical assistance.

For the purposes of this RFA, the term "Grant" is synonymous with "Cooperative Agreement"; "Grantee" is synonymous with "Recipient"; and "Grant Officer" is synonymous with "Agreement Officer".

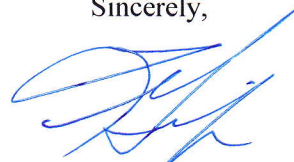
The applicant shall submit applications electronically via e-mail in two separate parts: (a) technical, and (b) cost or business application to Lauralea Gilpin, the Regional Agreement Officer at lgilpin@usaid.gov.

Applications must be received by the closing date and time indicated at the top of this cover letter. Late applications will not be considered for award. Applications must be directly responsive to the terms and conditions of this RFA. Telegraphic or fax applications (entire proposal) are not authorized for this RFA and will not be accepted.

To be eligible for award, the applicant must provide all required information in its application, including the requirements found in any attachments to the grants.gov opportunity. It is the responsibility of the recipient of the application document to ensure that it has been received from <http://www.grants.gov> in its entirety.

The federal grant process is now web-enabled, allowing for applications to be received on-line on the grants.gov website, <http://www.grants.gov>. USAID bears no responsibility for data errors resulting from transmission or conversion processes associated with electronic submissions.

Sincerely,



Lauralea Gilpin
Regional Agreement Officer
USAID/EAST AFRICA