

Regional Assistance Program 2

Notice of Funding Opportunity Q&A

Opportunity # NEAAC-ACBURGR-17-007

1. Please clarify what pre-qualified means.

A: Referring to page 8, section 1.2 of the NOFO, pre-qualified applicants are those which have been reviewed for Tier 1 projects and are recommended for funding should money remain available at the end of each four-month period. Tier 1 projects for urgent needs are top priority. However, money should not be reserved for Tier 1 projects indefinitely. Money should be allocated to four-month periods in tranches. If a full tranche of funding is not used within four months for Tier 1 projects, the remaining funds will be released to Tier 1 projects that have been vetted on a rolling basis and recommended for funding.

2. Who will be the target for the APS mechanism? Will NEA/AC address specific needs at the time of publication of the opening for APS grants?

A: The target countries are in the NOFO (page 2, Funding Opportunity Synopsis, Eligible Countries and Territories).

Projects and beneficiaries should fall within the general guidelines for target areas and beneficiaries outlined in the NOFO including but not limited to the six main themes for Tier One projects (page 8) and the four main themes for Tier Two projects (page 9). Upon award, the successful applicant for RAP 2.0 (the Recipient/program implementer) should propose to NEA/AC for approval, detailed APS procedures and language including proposed selection criteria.

3. Will projects go through the embassies?

A: U.S. Embassies will be consulted, with coordination through NEA/AC. The Recipient may be asked to have or join communications with U.S. Embassies.

4. Are there priorities in terms of countries?

A: The target countries are in the NOFO (page 2, Funding Opportunity Synopsis, Eligible Countries and Territories). Given the ever-changing nature of the region, priorities and openings for project work will be discussed with the Recipient and NEA/AC on an ongoing basis.

5. Does NEA/AC initiate the conversations about projects, or will the implementing partner be the initiator?

A: Starting with an award kick-off meeting, project ideas can be discussed with NEA/AC on an ongoing basis. The Recipient is encouraged to identify potential needs in the region and propose project ideas that fall within the scope of the award.

Recipient project ideas should be discussed at the concept note level before investing partner time and resources into developing full applications.

It is envisioned that the Annual Program Statements (APSs) will be posted publicly. The Recipient should publicize the APS. The Recipient and State Department including U.S. Embassies can refer potential beneficiaries to apply through the public APSs. Other applicants may learn of an APS through the public posting or publicity and decide to apply.