

Enhancing Transparency and Accountability in Prosecutors' Offices
Opportunity Number: INL19CA0006-WHPMexicoTransparency1182018
NOFO Applicant Questions and INL Responses
December 10, 2018

1. **Question:**

According to the eligibility requirements, it states the following: Applicants that qualify to receive U.S. grants (specifically overseas not-for-profits/non-governmental organizations (NGOs), with the ability to develop and successfully implement a project in Mexico and meet INL's reporting requirements. Organizations must also be able to demonstrate current (or pending) country registration in Mexico, if required by the country of project implementation.

Does this mean that a registered 501 (c) (3) in the US needs to have current or pending registration in Mexico?

INL Response:

Only overseas-based organizations are eligible per the requirement.

2. **Question:**

The NOFO states that we need to have the Central Contractor Registration. However, when I researched how to complete this, I saw several USAID documents stating that it was no longer required. I also logged into the SAM website to see if I could complete the registration there, but did not see an option for it. The help desk was contacted and we were instructed to do the same things I already did. Please point me in the right direction to complete the registration.

INL Response:

Central Contractor Registration is combined with SAM.gov. There is no need for a separate registration.

3. **Question:**

I understand that the prime contractor representing a potential consortium cannot be a for-profit. Can a for-profit organization contribute to DoS funded programs as a sub-contractor/member of a consortium led by a non-profit? The NOFO does not expressly forbid this.

INL Response:

For-profit organizations are allowed to be sub-recipients of an award and must abide by the terms and conditions of the award. For profits sub-recipients are not allowed to include profit under INL federal assistance awards.

4. **Question:**

How does a United States organization obtain country registration in Mexico and what documentation is needed to demonstrate this?

INL Response:

Organizations should check with the Mexican Consulate in the US to determine country registration requirements for Mexico.

5. **Question:**

How many awards does INL expect to award?

INL Response:

INL will issue one award under this NOFO.

6. **Question:**

If we are leading a consortium of organizations to submit a combined proposal as lead applicant, are each of the rest of the organizations part of the consortium obliged to present the following:

- Unique Entity Identifier Number before known as Dun and Bradstreet Number (DUNS)?
- Central Contractor Registration via www.SAM.gov?
- A copy of the organization's most recent audit?
- A list of previous and/or current U.S. federal assistance awards received?
- INL Pre Award Annual Survey?

INL Response:

Additional organizations included in a consortium are considered sub-recipients. Please see the responses to each of the bullet points above:

- Unique Entity Identifier Number before known as Dun and Bradstreet Number (DUNS)?
Yes
- Central Contractor Registration via www.SAM.gov? No, however, it is recommended.
- A copy of the organization's most recent audit? It depends on the prime recipient's sub-recipient policy pertaining to risk assessment and selection process.
- A list of previous and/or current U.S. federal assistance awards received? It depends on the prime recipient's sub-recipient policy pertaining to risk assessment and selection process.
- INL Pre Award Annual Survey? It depends on the prime recipient's sub-recipient policy pertaining to risk assessment and selection process.

7. **Question:**

Can an organization contract a private consulting company to work on the project or is it necessary to contract each consultant from that company separately?

INL Response:

The recipient will have to determine which option best benefits the needs of the project and decide which option will best accomplish the goals and objectives of the project.

8. **Question:**

Can the organization omit the INL seal in certain publications where it deems the use of such a seal will negatively affect how the public receives the work?

INL Response:

This will be determined by the Grants Officer once an award is made.

9. **Question:**

When should an organization expect to begin working on the project, if selected?

INL Response:

An award will be made within 6 – 8 weeks after the closing of the NOFO.

10. **Question:**

For official/legal documents such as the audit and official organization registry, is it necessary to translate all text, or is it acceptable to translate the key parts of the document only?

INL Response:

Please translate as much as possible of official/legal documents.

11. **Question:**

Can a for-profit organization apply as a sub-contractor to a non-profit prime?

INL Response:

See response to Question #3.

12. **Question:**

What measures have been or will be taken to ensure that there is willingness from the twelve state AGOs to participate in the transparency program?

INL Response:

The grantee needs to build political will and negotiate access with Attorney Generals and relevant justice personnel directly. INL will use USG auspices to highlight the program and bring states to the table if there are issues, but the expectation is for the grantee to already have this capacity. Building political will and negotiating access is something we require our grantees to do across multiple programs. Partnering with knowledgeable Mexican civil society actors in the justice sector is also another option.

13. **Question:**

Will the grant recipient have access to information and documents within state AGOs and under what conditions?

INL Response:

See response for #12

14. **Question:**

Our organization is registered with SAM and have a DUNs number and an EIN number. Our SAM account has not yet processed. Is this a problem as we enter the application process?

INL Response:

The SAM.gov registration must be active in order to register in grants.gov. A grants.gov registration is required in order to apply for grants. Please obtain further information and assistance from the helpdesks email addresses and phone numbers listed in the NOFO.

15. **Question:**

Extension of due date – is it possible to request an extension of proposal due date from Monday, January 7 to Monday, January 14?

INL Response:

This NOFO has been posted since November 8, 2018 and will reach its 60-day required posting on January 7, 2019. Based on the date of anticipated starting time, INL will not be able to extend the proposal acceptance period at this time.

16. **Question:**

Under Cross-Cutting and Additional Activities, 1. Other Considerations (p.7). This section is blank. Does INL have other considerations we should take into account in elaborating of proposal?

INL Response:

The desired results and illustrative indicators section are the other considerations noted for this project.

17. **Question:**

Under section 6 - Proposal narrative (p. 16), INL requests a “Contingency Plan for overcoming potential difficulties in executing original work plan”. Should this be included in the Proposal Narrative or instead as part of the Risk Assessment attachment?

INL Response:

Under Section V, page 29, INL provides the criteria in which submissions will be scored. Please provide the required information in a location where panel reviewers will be able to formally score based on the listed criteria. INL can not provide applicants with advice as to where information should be placed. The final determination has to be made by the applicant using the requirements listed in the NOFO.