

The [National Institute of Corrections](#) (NIC) is seeking applications for funding under the Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 for the THINKING FOR A CHANGE FACILITATOR PROGRAM. This program furthers NIC's mission by building capacity of state and local correctional agencies to develop and establish effective inmate cognitive behavioral rehabilitation interventions and strategies.

NIC FY 2018 THINKING FOR A CHANGE FACILITATOR PROGRAM

Eligibility

NIC invites applications from nonprofit organizations (including faith-based, community, and tribal organizations), for-profit organizations (including tribal for-profit organizations), and institutions of higher education (including tribal institutions of higher education). Recipients, including for-profit organizations, must agree to waive any profit or fee for services.

NIC welcomes applications that involve two or more entities; however, one eligible entity must be the applicant and the others must be proposed as sub-recipients. The applicant must be the entity with primary responsibility for administering the funding and managing the entire program.

NIC may elect to make awards for applications submitted under this solicitation in future fiscal years, dependent on the merit of the applications and on the availability of appropriations.

For additional eligibility information, see Section [C. Eligibility Information](#).

Deadline

Applicants must register with [Grants.gov](#) prior to submitting an application. NIC encourages applicants to **register several weeks before** the application submission deadline. In addition, NIC urges applicants to **submit applications 72 hours** prior to the application due date. All applications are due to be submitted and in receipt of a successful validation message in Grants.gov by 11:59 p.m. eastern time on **August 13, 2018**.

For additional information, see [How To Apply](#) in [Section D Application and Submission Information](#).

Contact Information

For programmatic questions concerning this solicitation contact **Francina C. Carter** Correctional Program Specialist, National Institute of Corrections **fccarter@bop.gov** Responses to programmatic questions will be posted on **NIC's** website for public review. The website will be updated regularly and postings will remain on the website until the closing date of this solicitation.

For technical assistance with submitting an application, contact the Grants.gov Customer Support Hotline at 800-518-4726 or 606-545-5035, or via e-mail to support@grants.gov. Hotline hours of operation are 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, except federal holidays.

Applicants who experience unforeseen Grants.gov technical issues beyond their control that prevent them from submitting their application by the deadline must e-mail the NIC at BOP-NIC/General@bop.gov **within 24 hours after the application deadline** and request approval to submit their application. Additional information on reporting technical issues is found under "Experiencing Unforeseen Grants.gov Technical Issues" in the [How To Apply](#) section.

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NIC FY 2018 THINKING FOR A CHANGE FACILITATOR PROGRAM (CFDA # 16.601)

A. Program Description

Overview

Thinking for a Change (T4C) is an integrated cognitive behavioral change program authored by Jack Bush, Ph.D., Barry Glick, Ph.D., and Juliana Taymans, Ph.D., under a cooperative agreement with the National Institute of Corrections (NIC). T4C incorporates research from cognitive restructuring theory, social skills development, and the learning and use of problem solving skills.

T4C is comprised of 25 lessons that build upon each other, and contains appendices that can be used to craft an aftercare program to meet ongoing cognitive behavioral needs of offender groups. Not all lessons can be completed in one session, so a typical delivery cycle may take 30 sessions. Sessions should last between one and two hours. Ideally, the curriculum is delivered two times per week, with a minimum recommended dosage of once per week and a maximum of three times per week. Participants must be granted time to complete mandatory homework between each lesson.

The program is designed to be provided to correctional clients, adults and youth, males and females. It is intended for groups of eight to twelve and should be delivered only by trained facilitators. Due to its integrated structure, T4C is a closed group, meaning members need to start at the beginning of a cycle, and may not join the group mid-stream (lesson five is a logical cut-off point for new group members).

Program-Specific Information

The National Institute of Corrections (NIC) Thinking for a Change (T4C) Facilitator Training program consists of 44-hours of blended learning that prepares participants to deliver the T4C program with offender groups in their agency. This cooperative agreement contains multiple program deliveries throughout the United States.

The Thinking for a Change Facilitator blended program consists of three important elements:

1. **Six (6) Virtual Instructor Led Training (VILT) Sessions** - VILT sessions are live online training events conducted using virtual classroom software such as WebEx. Participants attend via computer/internet and interact with the trainers and other participants. The VILTs for this training are each two hours in duration plus time for early login synchronization and post session questions and answers. This element of the program consists of 13.5 training hours.
2. **Six (6) Intersession Work (independent study/practice)** – Participants are required to complete pre-session and intersession assignments as part of this training. These assignments will include reading lessons, watching short videos, completing worksheets, and communicating with trainers and other participants via email and phone. Intersession work averages about two hours per week. This element of the program

consists of 10.5 training hours.

3. **One (1) Instructor Led Training (ILT).** - ILT sessions are traditional face-to-face classroom training events and are two and one half days in duration. Participants will prepare to deliver three lessons during the face-to-face portion of the training event. This element of the program consists of 20 training hours.
4. **Program Coaching** - Post program, coaching support is provided to participants who are identified as needing continued support in conducting and implementing group training in their home agencies.

Goals, Objectives, and Deliverables

Goal

The goal of this cooperative agreement is to provide consistent training and support to staff from local, state, and federal and tribal corrections agencies seeking to implement the Thinking for a Change program in their organizations with fidelity.

Objectives

1. Deliver six (6), 44 hour-Blended Thinking for a Change Facilitator programs in regions and locations specified in the Deliverables and Specific Requirements below.
2. Develop a comprehensive Participant Readiness Evaluation form that identifies participant mastery and identifies those who need continued support and coaching as specified in the Deliverables and Specific Requirements below.
3. Provide sixty (60) hours of post program coaching support to participants who are identified as needing continued support in conducting and implementing group training in their home agencies as specified in the Deliverables and Specific Requirements below.

Deliverables

In addition to the strategy and content of the program design, the successful applicant must complete the following deliverables during the project period. The program narrative should reflect how the applicant will accomplish these activities.

1. Participate in an initial virtual meeting with the NIC program manager to discuss the cooperative agreement, scope of work, and all related aspects of the cooperative agreement within 30 days of award.
2. Deliver six (6), 44-hour Blended Thinking for a Change Facilitator programs.
 - Awardee will work with the NIC program manager to locate six (6) different host agencies.
 - Awardee will work with each host agency to ensure that they can provide the physical space and technical requirements for the face-to-face Instructor Led Training (ILT) as outlined in the requirements below:
 - o Each student must have a copy of the "Thinking for a Change: Integrated Cognitive Behavior Change Program, Version 4.0 facilitator manual:
 - Available for download at <http://nicic.gov/T4CWeb/>

- o Each manual should be printed double-sided, with three-hole punch, in a 3-inch binder This is a very large document; agencies may want to send the job to a print shop
- For every Virtual Instructor Led Training (VILT) and the intersession work, each participant must have:
 - o Uninterrupted access to a dedicated computer with Internet access
 - o The computer must be “WebEx compatible” (Directions for testing such are attached)
 - o Simultaneous use of a dedicated telephone line while on the computer
- Students MUST be granted time during regular duty hours to complete the inter-session assignments. These typically take about 2 hours per week.
- For the face-to-face Instructor Led Training (ILT) the host agency must arrange for:
 - o Training facility with one room large enough to accommodate 30 students and three trainers, and two breakout rooms to accommodate ten students and one trainer each
 - o A computer and LCD projector in each room
 - o Access to a copy machine and scissors (for last-minute items)
 - o Capacity to show and listen to DVDs in the main room
 - o Four chart stands and lots of chart paper
 - o Tape, markers, pads of paper, sticky notes, pens, and all other standard training supplies
 - o Name tents
- Evaluation forms (Agency-generated)
- Copy submitted to NIC program manager
- Directions to and information about parking and dining options near the training site
- Participants are selected from local, state, and federal and tribal correctional agencies within the host organization and surrounding region. The awardee will work with the host agency to identify 30-32 participants for each program. The NIC program manager will approve all final rosters to determine that they meet the following requirements:
 - o Employed by a local, state, or federal government corrections agency
 - o Non-governmental entities are contracted with a local, state, or federal government corrections agency to provide Cognitive Behavioral Interventions (CBI) to offenders.
- Awardee will work with the host agency and NIC program manager to ensure all participants are registered online using the NIC Participant Manuals link.
<https://info.nicic.gov/t4c40/node/137>
- Awardee will work with the host agency and NIC program manager to ensure all participants are registered in NIC’s Learning Management System.
- Awardee will work with the NIC program manager to ensure all participants are granted access to the 4.0 T4C curriculum website within seven (7) days of successful program completion

- Awardee will use only NIC provided program facilitation materials for all VILT and ILT sessions.
- NIC will provide Awardee with three (3) WebEx host accounts for the duration of the contract.
- Each program will be facilitated by a minimum of three (3) trainers approved by the NIC program manager. See Specific Requirements for trainer qualifications.
- The Awardee will work with the training team to establish an agenda for each program, and clearly outline roles for the delivery of the course.
- The Awardee will work with the training team to establish and share any and all responsibilities beyond the delivery of the curriculum itself, including, but not limited to, such tasks as: determining and sending out trainer assignments for each of the VILTs and the ILT; preparing a participant roster; taking attendance at each VILT; creating participant “try-out” and coaching assignment documents; and corresponding with all participants of this learning event.
- The Awardee/training team will read and prepare all assigned lessons, to include all supplemental materials.
- The Awardee/training team will be fully prepared to deliver the curriculum, to include all VILTs and the ILT.
- The Awardee/training team will sign onto each VILT one hour before its designated start time in order to ensure that all aspects of the event are ready. After starting the VILT on WebEx, the Awardee training team will prepare the platform to make it ready for all learning activities.
- The Awardee/training team is responsible for loading all slides and additional materials before the start of the VILT and creating all necessary breakout sessions.
- The Awardee/training team will troubleshoot WebEx and LMS issues as they arise during the VILTs.
- The Awardee/training team must be prepared to send “instant invites” to all participants from the WebEx environment, if it appears participants are having trouble accessing the VILT using the LMS. Telephone and audio problems must also be addressed effectively.
- The Awardee/training team will facilitate or co-facilitate all aspects of the program as decided upon during planning activities. The Awardee will assist all members of the training team to deliver the best possible program.
- The Awardee/training team will follow all aspects of NIC’s curriculum with fidelity, effectively assist the client agencies, and represent NIC in a positive, professional manner.
- Beginning after the third VILT, the Awardee/training team will serve as an assigned coach to one-third of the class participants and must be available during normal business hours to coach participants.
- The Awardee/training team will ensure that all participants understand the homework assignments between each VILT and before the ILT.
- The Awardee/training team will ensure that all participants are successful at navigating the LMS and their T4C Learning Plans.

- The Awardee/training team will be present during all training events, even when not teaching or facilitating activities.
 - The Awardee/training team will monitor activities, be familiar with all presenters' presentations, provide assistance as needed, and participate in discussions and exercises. At the end of each training event, the Awardee/training team will participate in an evaluation meeting to debrief the training and instructional outcomes.
 - Develop a comprehensive Participant Readiness Evaluation form in both digital and hard copy that identifies the participants' level of mastery and need for continued support and coaching. The evaluation form should consist of a scoring rubric that reduces bias and allows for fair and equitable evaluation from all trainers involved in the program. Below is a list of required evaluation categories and suggested domains. The Awardee is encouraged to use a best practice approach and thus is not limited to the items below.
 - Virtual Instructor Lead Training (VILT):
 - o Attendance
 - o Participation/engagement
 - o Contribution
 - Intersession Work:
 - o Assignment completeness
 - o Coaching
 - Instructor Lead Training (ILT):
 - o Attendance
 - o Participation/engagement
 - ILT Lesson Tryouts:
 - o Preparation
 - o Completion of requirements
 - o Collaboration
 - o Lesson delivery
 - o Skill step modeling
 - o Demonstrated knowledge
 - Additional Recommendations
 - o Trainer comments
 - o Individual strengths
 - o Areas of opportunity for professional development
3. Provide sixty (60) hours (ten (10) hours per program with a minimum of three (3) participants) of virtual (i.e. via phone or WebEx) or face-to-face post program coaching support to participants who are identified as needing continued support in conducting and implementing group training in their home agencies.
- Post program coaching cannot be done during the participants' T4C program and should be recorded using a written coaching log that is submitted to the NIC program manager before the completion of the contract. Each coaching log should include the following information:
 - i. Participant Information:
 1. Name
 2. Contact information

3. Agency they work for
4. T4C Program attended
5. T4C Program completion date
6. Duration of each coaching session delivered
7. Purpose of the coaching session
8. Detailed notes for each session that includes:
 - a. Skills and competencies discussed
 - b. Coach's recommendations
 - c. Participant centered and directed action plan steps
 - d. Action step outcomes
- ii. Coach Information:
 1. Name
 2. Contact information
 3. Signature and date
4. Create a digital (PDF) program information package for each T4C program host site, including, but not limited to, the following content:
 - o Program overview
 - o Program objectives
 - o Program agenda
 - o Regional training host information to include agency point of contact (name, phone number, email address, map to training location)
 - o Area information (e.g., lodging, dining, and areas of interest)
5. Facilitate a 4-hour closeout meeting to discuss delivery strategies, format, potential next steps and overall operation of the cooperative agreement. Minimally, this collaborative meeting must include the NIC Community Services Division Chief and NIC project manager. This meeting may be in person or virtual.

Award Conditions. The successful applicant will:

- Articulate a clear understanding of and experience in Thinking for a Change as presented by NIC
- Demonstrate proven expertise and experience in adult learning and performance, training development, and virtual and classroom-based facilitation
- Demonstrate substantial capacity to provide Thinking for a Change training (e.g., ensure host agencies are prepared for the Instructor Lead Training (ILT) requirements, classes are filled)
- Demonstrate proven experience in the blended delivery model of Thinking for a Change and expertise in adult learning principles, specifically, the T4C training-for-trainers curricula
- Demonstrate proven experience in developing and conducting impact evaluations
- Demonstrate proven experience in collecting and analyzing data

Specific Requirements

- Awardee shall actively work with NIC program manager to determine the suitability of program trainers. Final determination rests with NIC program manager.
- Project Director must:
 - o Have significant expertise and experience (minimum of 10 years) in project management with successful deliverables and completion of projects
 - o Have demonstrated experience (minimum of 3 years) working as Trainer of Trainers (T4T) for a correctional agency or within individual jurisdictions
 - o Have demonstrated experience (minimum of 3 years) using NIC's blended T4C model
 - o Have significant experience (minimum of 3 years) in managing training-based programs and projects with successful deliverables and completion of projects
 - o Have significant experience (minimum of 2 years) in facilitating Thinking for a Change with corrections clientsSubmit a resume and bio detailing experience and qualifications
- T4C Trainers must:
 - o Have demonstrated experience (minimum of 5 years) in delivering Thinking for a Change (T4C) with offender groups and/or staff
 - o Have demonstrated experience (minimum of 3 years) working as Trainer of Trainers (T4T) for a correctional agency nationally or within individual jurisdictions
 - o Have demonstrated experience (minimum of 3 years) using NIC's blended T4C model
 - o Have successfully completed a 32-hour T4C facilitator program
 - o Have successfully completed a T4C T4T facilitator program
 - o Submit a resume and bio detailing experience and qualifications
 - o Submit a statement of availability and interest to participate
- Awardee is responsible for all team member expenses and fees, to include planning meetings.
- Awardee shall, throughout the award period, maintain regular, routine contact with NIC program manager regarding programmatic and deliverable progress. This includes, but is not limited to:
 - o Schedule and conduct at least monthly telephone updates, providing NIC program manager with information about status of deliverables, challenges, areas where assistance is required, etc. A summary email detailing the key areas discussed during the telephone update will also be sent to the NIC program manager by the Project Director.
 - o Provide quarterly progress reports in adherence to written requirements and prescribed schedule outlined in the award documents.
 - o Submit end of program reports for each host site program.
- Awardee shall provide appropriate documentation and reports of meeting outcomes (e.g., planning sessions, focus groups) to NIC program manager. A final closeout report for the cooperative agreement is also required.

- Awardee will ensure that all electronic deliverables are compatible with NIC's systems.
- Awardee will, at a minimum, deliver the following items in electronic versions via thumb drive and hard copy for all deliverables in this cooperative agreement:
 - o Program information packets (6 total)
 - o Final Participant Roster for each program (6 total)
 - o Coaching Logs (60 hours total)
 - o Participant Evaluation Form (master copy)
 - o Host Site end of program reports (6 total)
 - o Final closeout report for the cooperative agreement

Evaluation Requirements. All training programs must have an evaluation conducted, processed, and tallied into a formal, written report. At a minimum, evaluation reports are to be electronically submitted to the NIC program manager.

- Awardee is responsible for developing and coordinating the post-training and technical assistance evaluation process, including (1) development of evaluation instrument(s) (2) instrument distribution to training participants and instructors, (3) collection and analysis of responses, and (4) preparation/delivery of summaries of outcomes to the NIC program manager. At a minimum, evaluation reports should include numeric averages, qualitative comments, and participation rate.
- Conduct follow-up evaluations at thirty (30) days and sixty (60) days post program. If time permits, a ninety (90) day evaluation should also be conducted. The purpose of the evaluation is to determine evidence of the impact on the participatory agencies. The results of the evaluations must be submitted within thirty (30) days of follow-up completion.

Evidence-based programs or practices. NIC strongly emphasizes the use of data and evidence in policy making and program development.

- improving the quantity and quality of evidence NIC generates;
- integrating evidence into program, practice, and policy decisions within NIC and the field; and
- improving the translation of evidence into practice.

NIC considers programs and practices to be evidence-based when their effectiveness has been demonstrated by causal evidence, generally obtained through one or more outcome evaluations. Causal evidence documents a relationship between an activity or intervention (including technology) and its intended outcome, including measuring the direction and size of a change, and the extent to which a change may be attributed to the activity or intervention. Causal evidence depends on the use of scientific methods to rule out, to the extent possible, alternative explanations for the documented change. The strength of causal evidence, based on the factors described above, will influence the degree to which NIC considers a program or practice to be evidence-based.

Additional resources.

NIC training and technical assistance awardee standards. NIC has developed the [TA Handbook] to promote among providers the consistency and quality of NIC-sponsored training and technical assistance and to advance common expectations of

performance excellence. The standards present minimum expectations that providers must meet for effective practice in the planning, coordination, delivery, and evaluation of training.

B. Federal Award Information

NIC expects to make one award for as much as **\$175,000.00** for a 12-month project period, beginning on **September 3, 2018**

If the awardee demonstrates significant progress toward implementing project activities and achieving project goals, NIC may, in certain cases, provide supplemental funding for FY 2019 and FY 2020 to the awardee. With the supplemental funding, the project period can be extended up to two additional 12-month increments for an overall project period of 36 months. Important considerations in decisions regarding supplemental funding include, among other factors, the availability of funding, strategic priorities, assessment of the quality of the management of the award (for example, timeliness and quality of progress reports), and assessment of the progress of the work funded under the award.

All awards are subject to the availability of appropriated funds and to any modifications or additional requirements that may be imposed by law.

Type of award. NIC expects to make an award from this solicitation in the form of a cooperative agreement which is a particular type of grant used when NIC expects to have ongoing substantial involvement in award activities. Substantial involvement includes direct oversight and involvement with the grantee organization in implementation of the grant but does not involve day-to-day project management. See [Administrative, National Policy, and Other Legal Requirements](#), under Section [F. Federal Award Administration](#), for details regarding the federal involvement anticipated under an award from this solicitation.

Financial management and system of internal controls. If selected for funding, the award recipient must:

- (a) Establish and maintain effective internal control over the federal award that provides reasonable assurance that the nonfederal entity is managing the federal award in compliance with federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of the federal award. These internal controls should be in compliance with guidance in “Standards for Internal Control in the Federal Government” issued by the Comptroller General of the United States and the “Internal Control Integrated Framework”, issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO).
- (b) Comply with federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of the federal awards.
- (c) Evaluate and monitor the nonfederal entity's compliance with statute, regulations, and the terms and conditions of federal awards.
- (d) Take prompt action when instances of noncompliance are identified, including noncompliance identified in audit findings.
- (e) Take reasonable measures to safeguard protected personally identifiable information and other information the federal awarding agency or pass-through entity designates

as sensitive or the nonfederal entity considers sensitive consistent with applicable federal, state, and local laws regarding privacy and obligations of confidentiality.

Budget Information

Pre-Agreement Cost Approvals. NIC does not typically approve pre-agreement costs; an applicant must request and obtain the prior written approval of NIC for all such costs. If approved, pre-agreement costs could be paid from grant funds consistent with a grantee's approved budget, and under applicable cost standards. However, all such costs prior to award and prior to approval of the costs are incurred at the sole risk of an applicant.

Generally, no applicant should incur project costs *before* submitting an application requesting federal funding for those costs. Should there be extenuating circumstances that appear to be appropriate for NIC's consideration as pre-agreement costs, the applicant should contact the point of contact listed on the title page of this announcement for details on the requirements for submitting a written request for approval.

Limitation on use of award funds for employee compensation; waiver. With respect to any award of more than \$250,000 made under this solicitation, recipients may not use federal funds to pay total cash compensation (salary plus cash bonuses) to any employee of the award recipient at a rate that exceeds 110 percent of the maximum annual salary payable to a member of the Federal Government's Senior Executive Service (SES) at an agency with a Certified SES Performance Appraisal System for that year. The 2016 salary table for SES employees is available at the Office of Personnel Management [website](#). Note: A recipient may compensate an employee at a greater rate, provided the amount in excess of this compensation limitation is paid with non-federal funds. (Any such additional compensation will not be considered matching funds where match requirements apply.)

C. Eligibility Information

For additional eligibility information, see the title page.

Cost sharing or match requirement. For additional information on cost sharing or match requirement, see Section [B. Federal Award Information](#).

Limit on number of application submissions. If an applicant submits multiple versions of the same application, NIC will review only the most recent system-validated version submitted. For more information on system-validated versions, see [How To Apply](#).

D. Application and Submission Information

What an Application Should Include

Applicants should anticipate that if they fail to submit an application that contains all of the specified elements, it may negatively affect the review of their application; and, should a decision be made to make an award, it may result in the inclusion of special conditions that preclude the recipient from accessing or using award funds pending satisfaction of the conditions.

Moreover, applicants should anticipate that applications that are determined to be nonresponsive to the scope of the solicitation, do not request funding within the funding limit, or that do not include the application elements that NIC has designated to be critical, will neither proceed to peer review nor receive further consideration. Under this solicitation, NIC has designated the following application elements as critical: Program Narrative, Budget Detail Worksheet or Budget Narrative.

Applicants should review the “Note on File Names and File Types” under [How To Apply](#) to be sure that they submit their applications in the permitted formats.

NIC strongly recommends that applicants use appropriately descriptive file names (e.g., “Program Narrative,” “Budget Detail Worksheet and Budget Narrative,” “Timelines,” “Memoranda of Understanding,” “Résumés”) for all attachments. Also, NIC recommends that applicants include résumés in a single file.

1. Information to Complete the Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)

The SF-424 is a required standard form used as a cover sheet for submission of pre-applications, applications, and related information. This form can be found on Grants.gov and NIC’s website www.nicic.gov.

Intergovernmental review. This funding opportunity is **not** subject to [Executive Order 12372](#). (In completing the SF-424, applicants are to make the appropriate selection in response to question 19 to indicate that the “Program is not covered by E.O. 12372.”)

2. Project Abstract

Applications should include a high-quality project abstract that summarizes the proposed project in 400 words or less. Project abstracts should be:

- written for a general public audience;
- submitted as a separate attachment with “Project Abstract” as part of its file name; and
- single-spaced, using a standard 12-point font (Times New Roman) with 1-inch margins.

As a separate attachment, the project abstract will **not** count against the page limit for the program narrative.

The abstract should briefly describe the project’s purpose, the population to be served, and the activities that the applicant will implement to achieve the project’s goals and objectives. The abstract should describe how the applicant will measure progress toward these goals.

3. Program Narrative

Applicants must submit a program narrative that presents a detailed description of the purpose, goals, objectives, strategies, design, and management of the proposed program. The program narrative should be double-spaced with 1-inch margins, not exceeding 30 pages of 8½ by 11 inches, and use a standard 12-point font, preferably Times New Roman. Pages should be numbered “1 of 30,” etc. The tables, charts, pictures, etc., including all captions, legends, keys, subtext, etc., may be single-spaced and will count in the 30-page limit. Material required under the Budget and Budget

Narrative and Additional Attachments sections will not count toward the program narrative page count. Applicants may provide bibliographical references as a separate attachment that will not count toward the 30-page program narrative limit. If the program narrative fails to comply with these length-related restrictions, NIC may consider such noncompliance in peer review and in final award decisions.

The program narrative should address the following selection criteria: (1) statement of the problem; (2) goals, objectives, and performance measures; (3) program design and implementation; and (4) capabilities/competencies. The applicant should clearly delineate the connections between and among each of these sections. For example, the applicant should derive the goals and objectives directly from the problems to be addressed. Similarly, the project design section should clearly explain how the program's structure and activities will accomplish the goals and objectives identified in the previous section.

The following sections should be included as part of the program narrative:

a. Statement of the problem.

Applicants should describe any research or evaluation studies that relate to the problem and contribute to the applicant's understanding of its causes and potential solutions. While NIC expects applicants to review the research literature for relevant studies, they should also explore whether unpublished local sources of research or evaluation data are available.

b. Goals, objectives, and performance measures. Applicants should describe the goals of the proposed training and technical assistance program and identify its objectives. When formulating the program's goals and objectives, applicants should be cognizant of the performance measures that NIC will require successful applicants to provide.

Goals. Applicants should describe the program's intent to deliver training and technical assistance, as described in the previous section and outline the project's goals.

Program objectives. Applicants should explain how the program will accomplish its goals. Objectives are specific, quantifiable statements of the project's desired results. They should be clearly linked to the training and technical assistance strategy identified in the preceding section and measurable.

Performance measures. NIC requires all applicants to submit quarterly progress reports demonstrating progress towards completion of the work proposed under this solicitation. The performance measures for this solicitation are:

Objective	Performance Measure(s)	Description	Data Grantee Provides
Deliver six (6) Thinking for a Change Facilitator programs	The number of successful programs completed		Six (6) Host Site end of program reports
Provide 60 Hours of post program coaching support	Submitted coaching logs that indicate a total of 60 hours of post program support, with a minimum of 18 participants		Signed and dated coaching logs for a minimum of 3 participants per program that totals 60 hours.
Develop a comprehensive Participant Readiness Evaluation form	An evaluation form composed of rubrics for scoring categories that help identify subject mastery and need for coaching and post program support		A PDF fillable form

NIC does not require applicants to submit performance measures data with their application. Performance measures are included as an alert that NIC will require successful applicants to submit specific data as part of their reporting requirements. For the application, applicants should indicate an understanding of these requirements and discuss how they will gather the required data, should they receive funding.

- c. Project design and implementation.** Applicants should detail how the project will operate throughout the funding period and describe the strategies that they will use to achieve the goals and objectives identified in the previous section. Applicants should describe how they will complete the deliverables stated in the Goals, Objectives, and Deliverables section on page 5. NIC encourages applicants to select evidence-based practices for their programs.

Logic model. Applicants should include a logic model that graphically illustrates how the performance measures are related to the project's problems, goals, objectives, and design. Applicants should submit the logic model (sample here) as a separate attachment, as stipulated in Additional Attachments.

Timeline. Applicants should submit a milestone chart that indicates major tasks associated with the goals and objectives of the project, assigns responsibility for each, and plots completion of each task by month or quarter for the duration of the award, using "Year 1," "Month 1," "Quarter 1," etc., not calendar dates.

Applicants should submit the timeline as a separate attachment, as stipulated in Additional Attachments, page 19. On receipt of an award, the recipient may revise the timeline, based on training and technical assistance that NIC will provide.

- d. Capabilities and competencies.** This section should describe the experience and capability of the applicant organization and any contractors or subgrantees that the applicant will use to implement and manage this effort and its associated federal funding, highlighting any previous experience implementing projects of similar design or magnitude. Applicants should highlight their experience/capability/capacity to manage subawards, including details on their system for fiscal accountability. Management and staffing patterns should be clearly connected to the project design described in the previous section. Applicants should describe the roles and responsibilities of project staff and explain the program's organizational structure and operations. Applicants should include a copy of an organizational chart showing how the organization operates, including who manages the finances; how the organization manages subawards, if there are any; and the management of the project proposed for funding.

Letters of Support/Memoranda of Understanding. If submitting a joint application, as described under Section C: Eligibility Information, page 1, applicants should provide signed and dated letters of support or memoranda of understanding for all key partners that include the following:

- expression of support for the program and a statement of willingness to participate and collaborate with it;

- description of the partner's current role and responsibilities in the planning process and expected responsibilities when the program is operational; and
- estimate of the percentage of time that the partner will devote to the planning and operation of the project.

4. Budget Detail Worksheet and Budget Narrative

Applicants should provide a budget that (1) is complete, allowable, and cost-effective in relation to the proposed activities; (2) shows the cost calculations demonstrating how they arrived at the total amount requested; and (3) provides a brief supporting narrative to link costs with project activities. The budget should cover the entire award period.

- a. **Budget Detail Worksheet.** Applicants that submit their budget in a different format should include the budget categories listed in the sample budget worksheet. The Budget Detail Worksheet should be broken down by year.
- b. **Budget Narrative.** The budget narrative should thoroughly and clearly describe every category of expense listed in the Budget Detail Worksheet. NIC expects proposed budgets to be complete, cost effective, and allowable (e.g., reasonable, allocable, and necessary for project activities).

Applicants should demonstrate in their budget narratives how they will maximize cost effectiveness of grant expenditures. Budget narratives should generally describe cost effectiveness in relation to potential alternatives and the goals of the project. For example, a budget narrative should detail why planned in-person meetings are necessary, or how technology and collaboration with outside organizations could be used to reduce costs, without compromising quality.

The narrative should be mathematically sound and correspond with the information and figures provided in the Budget Detail Worksheet. The narrative should explain how the applicant estimated and calculated all costs, and how they are relevant to the completion of the proposed project. The narrative may include tables for clarification purposes but need not be in a spreadsheet format. As with the Budget Detail Worksheet, the Budget Narrative should be broken down by year.

- c. **Noncompetitive procurement contracts in excess of simplified acquisition threshold.** If an applicant proposes to make one or more non-competitive procurements of products or services, where the noncompetitive procurement will exceed the simplified acquisition threshold (also known as the small purchase threshold), which is currently set at \$150,000, the application should address the considerations outlined in the Financial Guide.
- d. **Preagreement cost approvals.** For information on pre-agreement costs, see Section [B. Federal Award Information](#).

5. Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (if applicable)

Indirect costs are allowed only if the applicant has a current federally approved indirect cost rate. (This requirement does not apply to units of local government.) Attach a copy of

the federally approved indirect cost rate agreement to the application. Applicants that do not have an approved rate may request one through their cognizant federal agency, which will review all documentation and approve a rate for the applicant organization, or, if the applicant's accounting system permits, costs may be allocated in the direct cost categories.

6. Tribal Authorizing Resolution

Tribes, tribal organizations, or third parties proposing to provide direct services or assistance to residents on tribal lands should include in their applications a resolution, letter, affidavit, or other documentation, as appropriate, that certifies that the applicant has the legal authority from the tribe(s) to implement the proposed project on tribal lands. In those instances when an organization or consortium of tribes applies for a grant on behalf of a tribe or multiple specific tribes, the application should include appropriate legal documentation, as described above, from all tribes that would receive services or assistance under the grant. A consortium of tribes for which existing consortium bylaws allow action without support from all tribes in the consortium (i.e., without an authorizing resolution or comparable legal documentation from each tribal governing body) may submit, instead, a copy of its consortium bylaws with the application.

7. Applicant Disclosure of High Risk Status

Applicants are to disclose whether they are currently designated high risk by another federal grant making agency. This includes any status requiring additional oversight by the federal agency due to past programmatic or financial concerns. If an applicant is designated high risk by another federal grant making agency, you must submit the following information to at the time of application submission:

- the federal agency that currently designated the applicant as high risk;
- date the applicant was designated high risk;
- the high risk point of contact name, phone number, and email address, from that federal agency; and
- reasons for the high risk status.

NIC seeks this information to ensure appropriate federal oversight of any grant award. Unlike the Excluded Parties List, this high risk information does not disqualify any organization from receiving an NIC award. However, additional oversight may be included, if necessary, in award documentation.

8. Additional Attachments

Applicants should submit the following information, as stipulated in the cited pages, as attachments to their applications. While the materials listed below are not assigned specific point values, peer reviewers will, as appropriate, consider these items when rating applications. For example, reviewers will consider résumés and/or letters of support/ memoranda of understanding when assessing “capabilities/competencies.” Peer reviewers will not consider any additional information that the applicant submits other than that specified below.

- a. Applicant disclosure of pending applications.** Applicants are to disclose whether they have pending applications for federally funded grants or subgrants (including

cooperative agreements) that include requests for funding to support the same project being proposed under this solicitation and will cover the identical cost items outlined in the budget narrative and worksheet in the application under this solicitation. The disclosure should include both direct applications for federal funding (e.g., applications to federal agencies) and indirect applications for such funding (e.g., applications to state agencies that will subaward federal funds).

NIC seeks this information to help avoid any inappropriate duplication of funding. Leveraging multiple funding sources in a complementary manner to implement comprehensive programs or projects is encouraged and is not seen as inappropriate duplication.

Applicants that have pending applications as described above are to provide the following information about pending applications submitted within the last 12 months:

- the federal or state funding agency;
- the solicitation name/project name; and
- the point of contact information at the applicable funding agency.

Federal or State Funding Agency	Solicitation Name/ Project Name	Name/Phone/E-mail for Point of Contact at Funding Agency
DOJ/COPS	COPS Hiring Program	Jane Doe, 202/000-0000;
HHS/ Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration	Drug Free Communities Mentoring Program/ North County Youth Mentoring Program	Jane Doe, 202/000-0000; John Doe, 202/000-0000; john.doe@hhs.gov

Applicants should include the table as a separate attachment, with the file name “Disclosure of Pending Applications,” to their application. Applicants that do not have pending applications as described above are to include a statement to this effect in the separate attachment page (e.g., “[Applicant Name on SF-424] does not have pending applications submitted within the last 12 months for federally funded grants or subgrants (including cooperative agreements) that include requests for funding to support the same project being proposed under this solicitation and will cover the identical cost items outlined in the budget narrative and worksheet in the application under this solicitation.”).

- b. Logic model (see examples [here](#)).
- c. Timeline or milestone chart.
- d. Résumés of all key personnel.
- e. Job descriptions outlining roles and responsibilities for all key positions.
- f. Letters of support/memoranda of understanding from partner organizations.
- g. Evidence of nonprofit status, e.g., a copy of the tax exemption letter from the Internal revenue Service, if applicable.

- h. Evidence of for-profit status, e.g., a copy of the articles of incorporation, if applicable.

9. Disclosure of Lobbying Activities

All applicants must complete this information. Applicants that expend any funds for lobbying activities are to provide the detailed information requested on the form Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL). Applicants that do not expend any funds for lobbying activities are to enter "N/A" in the text boxes for item 10 ("a. Name and Address of Lobbying Registrant" and "b. Individuals Performing Services").

How to Apply

Applicants must register in and submit applications through Grants.gov, a "one-stop storefront" to find federal funding opportunities and apply for funding. Find complete instructions on how to register and submit an application [here](#). Applicants that experience technical difficulties during this process should call the Grants.gov Customer Support Hotline at **800-518-4726** or **606-545-5035**, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, except federal holidays. Registering with Grants.gov is a one-time process; however, **processing delays may occur, and it can take several weeks** for first-time registrants to receive confirmation and a user password. NIC encourages applicants to **register several weeks before** the application submission deadline. In addition, NIC urges applicants to submit applications 72 hours prior to the application due date to allow time to receive validation messages or rejection [notifications](#) from Grants.gov, and to correct in a timely fashion any problems that may have caused a rejection notification.

NIC strongly encourages all prospective applicants to sign up for Grants.gov email notifications regarding this solicitation. If this solicitation is cancelled or modified, individuals who sign up with Grants.gov for updates will be automatically notified.

Note on file names and file types. Grants.gov only permits the use of certain specific characters in names of attachment files. Valid file names may include only the characters shown in the table below. Grants.gov is designed to reject any application that includes an attachment(s) with a file name that contains any characters not shown in the table below.

Characters	Special Characters		
Upper case (A – Z)	Parenthesis ()	Curly braces { }	Square brackets []
Lower case (a – z)	Ampersand (&)	Tilde (~)	Exclamation point (!)
Underscore (_)	Comma (,)	Semicolon (;)	Apostrophe (')
Hyphen (-)	At sign (@)	Number sign (#)	Dollar sign (\$)
Space	Percent sign (%)	Plus sign (+)	Equal sign (=)
Period (.)	When using the ampersand (&) in XML, applicants must use the "&#x26;" format.		

All applicants are required to complete the following steps:

NIC may not make a federal award to an applicant until the applicant has complied with all applicable DUNS and SAM requirements. If an applicant has not fully complied with the requirements by the time the federal awarding agency is ready to make a federal award, the federal awarding agency may determine that the applicant is not qualified to receive a federal award and use that determination as a basis for making a federal award to another applicant.

1. **Acquire a Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number.** In general, the Office of Management and Budget requires that all applicants (other than individuals) for federal funds include a DUNS number in their applications for a new award or a supplement to an existing award. A DUNS number is a unique nine-digit sequence recognized as the universal standard for identifying and differentiating entities receiving federal funds. The identifier is used for tracking purposes and validating address and point of contact information for federal assistance applicants, recipients, and sub-recipients. The DUNS number will be used throughout the grant life cycle. Obtaining a DUNS number is a free, one-time activity. Call Dun and Bradstreet at 866–705–5711 to obtain a DUNS number or apply [online](#). A DUNS number is usually received within 1-2 business days. For more detailed instructions for obtaining a DUNS number, refer to: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/organization-registration/step-1-obtain-duns-number.html>

2. **Acquire registration with the System for Award Management (SAM).** SAM is the repository for standard information about federal financial assistance applicants, recipients, and subrecipients. NIC requires all applicants (other than individuals) for federal financial assistance to maintain current registrations in the SAM database. Applicants must be registered in SAM to successfully register in Grants.gov, failure to register with SAM will prevent your organization from applying through Grants.gov. Applicants must **update or renew their SAM registration annually** to maintain an active status.

Applicants cannot successfully submit their applications until Grants.gov receives the SAM registration information. **The information transfer from SAM to Grants.gov can take as long as 48 hours.** NIC recommends that the applicant register or renew registration with SAM as early as possible.

Access information about SAM registration procedures [here](#).

3. **Acquire an Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) and a Grants.gov username and password.** Complete the AOR profile on Grants.gov and create a username and password. Applicant organizations must use their DUNS number to complete this step. For more information about the registration process, go [here](#).

4. **Acquire confirmation for the AOR from the E-Business Point of Contact (E-Biz POC).** The E-Biz POC at the applicant organization must log into Grants.gov to confirm the applicant organization's AOR. When applications are submitted through Grants.gov, the name of the organization's AOR that submitted the application is inserted into the signature line of the application, serving as the electronic signature. The EBiz POC must authorize individuals who are able to make legally binding commitments on behalf of the organization as an AOR; this step is often missed and it is crucial for valid and timely submissions.

5. **Search for the funding opportunity on Grants.gov.** Use the following identifying information when searching for the funding opportunity on Grants.gov. The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance number for this solicitation is **16.601** and the funding opportunity number is NIC **18CS22**.

6. **Submit a valid application consistent with this solicitation by following the**

directions in Grants.gov. Within 24–48 hours after submitting the electronic application, the applicant should receive two notifications from Grants.gov. The first will confirm the receipt of the application and the second will state whether the application has been successfully validated, or rejected due to errors, with an explanation. It is possible to first receive a message indicating that the application is received and then receive a rejection notice a few minutes or hours later. Submitting well ahead of the deadline provides time to correct the problem(s) that caused the rejection. **Important:** NIC urges applicants to submit applications **at least 72 hours prior** to the application due date to allow time to receive validation messages or rejection notifications from Grants.gov, and to correct in a timely fashion any problems that may have caused a rejection notification.

How to Submit an Application to the National Institute of Corrections via Grants.gov

Grants.gov applicants can apply online using Workspace. Workspace is a shared, online environment where members of a grant team may simultaneously access and edit different webforms within an application. For each funding opportunity announcement (FOA), you can create individual instances of a workspace.

Below is an overview of applying on Grants.gov. For access to complete instructions on how to apply for opportunities, refer to:

<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/apply-for-grants.html>

1. Create a Workspace: Creating a workspace allows you to complete it online and route it through your organization for review before submitting.

2. Complete a Workspace: Add participants to the workspace, complete all the required forms, and check for errors before submission.

a. Adobe Reader: If you decide not to apply by filling out webforms you can download individual PDF forms in Workspace so that they will appear similar to other Standard or National Institute of Corrections forms. The individual PDF forms can be downloaded and saved to your local device storage, network drive(s), or external drives, then accessed through Adobe Reader.

NOTE: Visit the Adobe Software Compatibility page on Grants.gov to download the appropriate version of the software at:

<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/adobe-software-compatibility.html>

b. Mandatory Fields in Forms: In the forms, you will note fields marked with an asterisk and a different background color. These fields are mandatory fields that must be completed to successfully submit your application.

c. Complete SF-424 Fields First: The forms are designed to fill in common required fields across other forms, such as the applicant name, address, and DUNS number. To trigger this feature, an applicant must complete the SF-424 information first. Once it is completed, the information will transfer to the other forms.

3. Submit a Workspace: An application may be submitted through workspace by clicking the Sign and Submit button on the Manage Workspace page, under the Forms tab.

Grants.gov recommends submitting your application package at least 24-48 hours prior

to the close date to provide you with time to correct any potential technical issues that may disrupt the application submission.

4. Track a Workspace: After successfully submitting a workspace package, a Grants.gov Tracking Number (GRANTXXXXXXXX) is automatically assigned to the package. The number will be listed on the Confirmation page that is generated after submission.

For additional training resources, including video tutorials, refer to:
<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/applicant-training.html>

5. Timely Receipt Requirements and Proof of Timely Submission: Online Submission. Proof of timely submission is automatically recorded by Grants.gov. An electronic date/time stamp is generated within the system when the application is successfully received by Grants.gov. The applicant AOR will receive an acknowledgement of receipt and a tracking number (GRANTXXXXXXXX) from Grants.gov with the successful transmission of their application. Applicant AORs will also receive the official date/time stamp and Grants.gov Tracking number in an email serving as proof of their timely submission.

When the National Institute of Corrections successfully retrieves the application from Grants.gov, and acknowledges the download of submissions, Grants.gov will provide an electronic acknowledgment of receipt of the application to the email address of the applicant with the AOR role. Again, proof of timely submission shall be the official date and time that Grants.gov receives your application. Applications received by Grants.gov after the established due date for the program will be considered late and will not be considered for funding by the National Institute of Corrections.

Applicants using slow internet, such as dial-up connections, should be aware that transmission can take some time before Grants.gov receives your application. Again, Grants.gov will provide either an error or a successfully received transmission in the form of an email sent to the applicant with the AOR role. The Grants.gov Support Center reports that some applicants end the transmission because they think that nothing is occurring during the transmission process. Please be patient and give the system time to process the application.

Click [here](#) for further details on DUNS, SAM, and Grants.gov registration steps and timeframes.

Note: Duplicate applications. If an applicant submits multiple versions of the same application, NIC will review only the most recent system-validated version submitted. See Note on File Names and File Types under [How To Apply](#).

Experiencing Unforeseen Grants.gov Technical Issues

Applicants that experience unforeseen Grants.gov technical issues beyond their control that prevent them from submitting their application by the deadline must contact the Grants.gov [Customer Support Hotline](#) or the [SAM Help Desk](#) to report the technical issue and receive a tracking number. The applicant must e-mail the Response Center at BOP-NIC/General@bop.gov **within 24 hours after the application deadline** and request approval to submit their application. The e-mail must describe the technical difficulties, and include a timeline of the applicant's submission efforts, the complete grant application, the

applicant's DUNS number, and any Grants.gov Help Desk or SAM tracking number(s). **Note: NIC does not automatically approve requests.** After the program office reviews the submission and contacts the Grants.gov or SAM Help Desks to validate the reported technical issues, NIC will inform the applicant whether the request to submit a late application has been approved or denied. If NIC determines that the applicant failed to follow all required procedures, which resulted in an untimely application submission, NIC will deny the applicant's request to submit their application.

The following conditions are insufficient to justify late submissions:

- failure to register in SAM or Grants.gov in sufficient time;
- failure to follow Grants.gov instructions on how to register and apply as posted on its website;
- failure to follow each instruction in the NIC solicitation; and
- technical issues with the applicant's computer or information technology environment, including firewalls.

Notifications regarding known technical problems with Grants.gov, if any, are posted on [NIC's](#) web page.

E. Application Review Information

Selection Criteria

The following three (3) selection review criteria will be used to evaluate each application, with the different weight given to each based on the percentage value listed after each individual criteria. For example, the first criteria, Programmatic Review, is worth 40 percent of the entire score in the application review process.

1. Programmatic Review (40)
 - a. Project tasks adequately discussed?
 - b. Clear statement of how each task will be accomplished?
 - c. New approaches, techniques, or design aspects to enhance the project?
2. Organizational Review (35)
 - a. Skills of the proposed project members.
 - b. Organizational capacity to complete all project tasks.
 - c. Realistic and sufficient project and management plans to complete within the time frame.
3. Management/Administrative Review (25)
 - a. Identification of reasonable objectives.
 - b. Reasonable justification for inclusion of consultants or partnerships if used.
 - c. Realistic budget proposed.

See section What an Application Should Include for the criteria that the peer reviewers will use to evaluate applications.

Review Process

NIC is committed to ensuring a fair and open process for awarding grants. NIC reviews the application to make sure that the information presented is reasonable,

understandable, measurable, and achievable, as well as consistent with the solicitation.

Peer reviewers will review the applications submitted under this solicitation that meet basic minimum requirements. For purposes of assessing whether applicants have met basic minimum requirements, NIC screens applications for compliance with specified program requirements to help determine which applications should proceed to further consideration for award. Although program requirements may vary, the following are common requirements applicable to all solicitations for funding under NIC grant programs:

- a. Applications must be submitted by an eligible type of applicant.
- b. Applications must request funding within programmatic funding constraints (if applicable).
- c. Applications must be responsive to the scope of the solicitation.
- d. Applications must include all items designated as “critical elements”.
- e. Applicants will be checked against the General Services Administration's Excluded Parties List.

For a list of critical elements, see “What an Application Should Include” under [Section D. Application and Submission Information](#).

NIC may use internal peer reviewers, external peer reviewers, or a combination, to assess applications meeting basic minimum requirements on technical merit using the solicitation's selection criteria. An external peer reviewer is an expert in the subject matter of a given solicitation who is not a current DOJ employee. An internal reviewer is a current NIC employee who is well-versed or has expertise in the subject matter of this solicitation. A peer review panel will evaluate, score, and rate applications that meet basic minimum requirements. Peer reviewers' ratings and any resulting recommendations are advisory only, although their views are considered carefully. In addition to peer review ratings, considerations for award recommendations and decisions may include, but are not limited to, underserved populations, geographic diversity, strategic priorities, past performance under prior NIC and NIC awards, and available funding.

NIC reviews applications for potential discretionary awards to evaluate the risks posed by applicants before they receive an award. This review may include but is not limited to the following:

1. Financial stability and fiscal integrity.
2. Quality of management systems and ability to meet the management standards prescribed in the Financial Guide.
3. History of performance.
4. Reports and findings from audits.
5. The applicant's ability to effectively implement statutory, regulatory, or other requirements imposed on non-Federal entities.
6. Proposed costs to determine if the Budget Detail Worksheet and Budget Narrative accurately explain project costs, and whether those costs are reasonable, necessary, and allowable under applicable federal cost principles and agency regulations.

Absent explicit statutory authorization or written delegation of authority to the contrary, all final award decisions will be made by the NIC Director, who may consider factors including, but not limited to, peer review ratings, underserved populations, geographic

diversity, strategic priorities, past performance under prior NIC awards, and available funding when making awards.

F. Federal Award Administration Information

Federal Award Notices

NIC award notification will be sent from NIC's Office via FedEx or USPS within 45 days of the award decision.

Administrative, National Policy, and Other Legal Requirements

If selected for funding, in addition to implementing the funded project consistent with the agency-approved project proposal and budget, the recipient must comply with award terms and conditions, and other legal requirements, including but not limited to OMB or other federal regulations that will be included in the award, incorporated into the award by reference, or are otherwise applicable to the award. NIC strongly encourages prospective applicants to review the information pertaining to these requirements **prior** to submitting an application.

As stated above, NIC anticipates that it will make any award from this solicitation in the form of a cooperative agreement. Cooperative agreement awards include standard "federal involvement" conditions that describe the general allocation of responsibility for execution of the funded program. Generally-stated, under cooperative agreement awards, responsibility for the day-to-day conduct of the funded project rests with the recipient in implementing the funded and approved proposal and budget, and the award terms and conditions.

Responsibility for oversight and redirection of the project, if necessary, rests with NIC. NIC's role will include the following tasks:

- a. reviewing and approving major work plans, including changes to such plans, and key decisions pertaining to project operations;
- b. reviewing and approving major project-generated documents and materials used in the provision of project services; and
- c. providing guidance in significant project planning meetings and participating in project sponsored training events or conferences.

In addition to any "federal involvement" condition(s), NIC cooperative agreement awards include a special condition specifying certain reporting requirements required in connection with conferences, meetings, retreats, seminars, symposium, training activities, or similar events funded under the award, consistent with NIC policy and guidance on conference approval, planning, and reporting.

Plain Language

The successful applicant shall ensure that relevant deliverables (with information regarding a service, benefit, or requirement provided by the government) conform

to the Plain Writing Act of 2010, meaning that it should contain only writing that is clear and that outlines information in manner that is easy to use. (See <http://www.nicic.gov/plainlanguage> and <https://plainlanguage.gov/law/> for details.) Relevant deliverables covered by this award will be determined in collaboration with the National Institute of Corrections.

Section 508

The successful applicant shall ensure that all information and communication technologies (ICT) (e.g., Word or PDF documents, video, audio, mobile technologies, or apps) fully conform to all applicable revised Section 508 standards prior to delivery and before final acceptance.

The successful applicant shall test and validate all ICT in accordance with the required testing methods. For Microsoft Office and PDF documents, WCAG Level A and AA Conformance test results must be based on the Harmonized Testing Guidance from the AED ACOP (see <http://www.nicic.gov/section508> and <https://section508.gov/best-practices> for details).

Paperwork Reduction Act

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA), Cooperative Agreement awardee shall not proceed with collecting information from surveys, questionnaires, or interviews until Project Monitor obtains approval from Office of Management and Budget clearance. For any Cooperative Agreement award involving a requirement to collect or record information calling either for answers to identical questions from 10 or more persons other than Federal employees, or information from Federal employees which is outside the scope of their employment, for use by the Federal Government or disclosure to third parties, the Cooperative Agreement awardee must comply with the PRA of 1995 ([44 U.S.C. 3501](#) et seq.).

General Information about Post-Federal Award Reporting Requirements

Recipients must submit quarterly financial reports, semi-annual progress reports, final financial and progress reports, and, if applicable, an annual audit report in accordance with 2 CFR 200. Future awards and fund drawdowns may be withheld if reports are delinquent.

Special Reporting requirements may be required by NIC depending on the statutory, legislative or administrative obligations of the recipient or the program.

G. Federal Awarding Agency Contact(s)

For Federal Awarding Agency Contact(s), see the title page.

For contact information for Grants.gov, see the title page.

H. Other Information

Provide Feedback to NIC

To assist NIC in improving its application and award processes, we encourage applicants to provide feedback on this solicitation, the application submission process, and/or the application review/peer review process. Provide feedback to BOP-NIC/General@bop.gov

IMPORTANT: This e-mail is for feedback and suggestions only. Replies are **not** sent from this mailbox. If you have specific questions on any program or technical aspect of the solicitation, you must directly contact the e-mail listed on the front of this solicitation document. These contacts are provided to help ensure that you can directly reach an individual who can address your specific questions in a timely manner.

Application Checklist

NIC FY 2018 Thinking for a Change Facilitator Program

This application checklist has been created to assist in developing an application.

What an Applicant Should Do:

Prior to Registering in Grants.gov:

_____ Acquire a DUNS Number

_____ Acquire or renew registration with SAM

To Register with Grants.gov:

_____ Acquire AOR and Grants.gov username/password

_____ Acquire AOR confirmation from the E-Biz POC

To Find Funding Opportunity:

_____ Search for the Funding Opportunity on Grants.gov

_____ Download Funding Opportunity and Application Package

_____ Sign up for Grants.gov email notifications (optional)

After application submission, receive Grants.gov email notifications that:

_____ (1) application has been received,

_____ (2) application has either been validated or rejected

If no Grants.gov receipt, and validation or error notifications are received:

_____ contact NIC regarding experiencing technical difficulties

Scope Requirement:

_____ The federal amount requested is within the allowable limit(s) of **\$175,000.00**.

Eligibility Requirement:

_____ Nonprofit or for-profit organization, including tribal nonprofit or for-profit organization.

_____ Institution of higher education, including tribal institution of higher education.

What an Application Should Include:

_____ Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)

_____ Project Abstract

_____ Program Narrative

_____ Budget Detail Worksheet and Narrative

_____ Employee Compensation Waiver request and justification

_____ Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL)

_____ Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (if applicable)

_____ Tribal Authorizing Resolution (if applicable)

_____ Applicant Disclosure of High Risk Status

_____ Additional Attachments

_____ Applicant Disclosure of Pending Applications

_____ logic model

_____ timeline or milestone chart

_____ résumés of all key personnel

_____ job descriptions outlining roles and responsibilities for all key positions

_____ letters of support/memoranda of understanding from partner organizations

_____ evidence of nonprofit status, e.g., a copy of the tax exemption letter from the Internal Revenue Service, if applicable.

_____ evidence of for-profit status, e.g., a copy of the articles of incorporation, if applicable.