

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE, U.S. EMBASSY JERUSALEM

NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Funding Opportunity Title: U.S. Embassy Jerusalem Funding Opportunity for Economic Opportunity through Integration in Israel's High-Tech Sector

Funding Opportunity Number: PD-TLV-2022-002

Deadline for Applications:  Until Monday, July 25, 2022

Total Amount Available: Approximately \$200,000 subject to availability of funds

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

U.S. Embassy Jerusalem announces an open competition for individuals and organizations to submit applications to design and implement a project that economically empowers marginalized Israeli youth with skills identified as necessary for integration into the high-tech and entrepreneurial ecosystem, including but not limited to: coding, programming, graphic design, entrepreneurial project design, pitching, and specialized English language for technology and business.

Theory of Change:

Israel is known as ‘start-up nation,’ and high-tech is a profitable field of employment employing almost ten percent of employees inside Israel¹. However, certain populations face barriers to entry into the high-tech sector. According to the Israel Innovation Authority, “The coronavirus crisis impaired the integration of underrepresented populations in the high-tech sector, as demonstrated by the 10% decrease in the proportion of women among high-tech employees from the Arab sector” from 2019 to 2020, the most recent statistics available.²

¹ According to the 2020 High-Tech Human Capital Report from the Israel Innovation Authority, <https://innovationisrael.org.il/en/news/2020-human-capital-report>, accessed 6/8/2022.

² <https://innovationisrael.org.il/en/news/2020-human-capital-report> accessed 6/8/2022

Field experts have identified the lack of technological skills like coding, programming, and graphic design; business skills such as interviewing and CV writing; professional networks, work experience, and English language proficiency as barriers to entry into technological professions. Targeted training in these areas will facilitate marginalized individuals' entry into the high-tech sector, providing needed employment opportunities for minorities, increasing workforce diversity and all associated benefits and advantages therefrom, reducing the number of unfilled positions³, and lessening earnings gaps between minority and mainstream groups.

If minority and marginalized populations are provided the skills needed to overcome barriers to entry and successfully integrate into Israel's high-tech workforce, then Israel's economic security will grow.

Program Objectives:

- At least 60% of project participants will have placements in technological jobs following their participation in the project.
- Participants will acquire or substantially (by more than 60%) increase proficiency in one or more of the following: coding, programming, graphic design, interviewing, CV and job application writing, specialized English language for business or technology.
- The provider will identify at least three businesses willing to employ graduates of the program.
- The provider will establish or expand an existing professional network for aspiring or early-career high-tech professionals from marginalized or peripheral groups.

Project Activities/Key Deliverables:

- Skills-building activities may include lectures, trainings, workshops, courses, internships, conferences, mentoring, job shadowing, on-the-job training, and competitions. This list is not exhaustive nor exclusive.

³ "December 2020 saw 13,000 open technological positions, a 30% decline from the July 2019 estimate. Yet 60% of the companies continue to report difficulties recruiting research & development employees, regardless of the reported level of damage caused by the coronavirus pandemic." <https://innovationisrael.org.il/en/news/2020-human-capital-report> accessed 6/8/2022

- The provider will monitor and evaluate participants' skills acquisition against a baseline established at the start of the project. Use of external evaluation is encouraged.
- The provider, in coordination with U.S. Embassy staff, may use existing or establish new partnerships with field experts, teachers, trainers, private sector institutions, governmental representatives, and non-governmental organizations to conduct these activities.

Audiences:

Target beneficiaries will be youth from periphery communities and disadvantaged groups including university students and young professionals, as well as relevant key policy figures.

For English language programs: Aspiring or early-career high-tech professionals. University students in their final year of studies in computer science or related fields, seeking employment in the technological sector. Must have a baseline understanding of/conversational proficiency in English.

B. FEDERAL AWARD INFORMATION

Length of performance period: 1-2 years

Number of awards anticipated: 1-5 awards

Award amounts: minimum of \$40,000, maximum of \$200,000

Total available funding: \$200,000

Type of Funding: FY22

Anticipated program(s) start date: No later than September 30, 2022.

This notice is subject to availability of funding and may be subject to change.

Funding Instrument Type: Cooperative Agreement. In cooperative agreements the U.S. government staff are more actively involved in the grant's implementation.

C. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

Eligible Applicants

Local and international:

- Registered not-for-profit organizations, including think tanks and civil society/non-governmental organizations
- Public and private educational institutions
- Individuals

For-profit or commercial entities are not eligible to apply.

Applicants are encouraged to have existing private sector or government partnerships when relevant.

Cost Sharing or Matching

Cost sharing is not required but encouraged. Funds from any other federal U.S. government source may not be used to match funds applied for under this funding program nor vice-versa.

Other Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible to receive an award, all organizations must have a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) number issued via www.SAM.gov as well as a valid registration on www.SAM.gov. Please see Section D.3 for more information. Individuals are not required to have a UEI or be registered in SAM.gov.

Funding Restrictions

The following types of projects are not eligible for funding:

- Projects relating to partisan political activity

Charitable or development activities
Construction projects
Projects that support specific religious activities or promote only one faith/religion
Fund-raising campaigns
Lobbying for specific legislation or projects
Academic or scientific research
Projects intended primarily for the growth/institutional development/maintenance of the applicant organization or its partner organizations
Unsolicited proposals

D. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Content and Form of Application Submission

Please follow all instructions below carefully. 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

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*) (note: these forms will not open if you just click on them. Please download to your PC, then go to Downloads or the location you filed them and then click on file to open)

Budget Worksheet (please [see sample](#) for directions)

Budget Justification Narrative: Please describe each of the budget expenses in detail as a separate attachment

SF-424B (*Assurances for Non-Construction programs*) (note: the SF-424B is required for individuals and for organizations not registered in [SAM.gov](#))

2. Summary Page: 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 program, including program objectives and anticipated impact.

Introduction to the Organization or Individual applying: A description of past and present operations, showing ability to implement the program, including information on all previous grants from the U.S. Embassy 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

Program 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.

Program Activities: Describe the program activities and how they will help achieve the objectives.

Program 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 Program 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?

Program Partners: List the names and type of involvement of key partner organizations and sub-awardees.

Program Monitoring and Evaluation Plan: This is an important part of successful grants. Throughout the timeframe of the grant, how will the content development and delivery activities be monitored to ensure they are happening in a timely manner, and how will outcomes 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.

Do No Harm: In order to ensure the program does no harm, describe the precautions the organization will employ

4. Attachment:

1-page CV or resume of key personnel who are proposed for the program

Required Registrations:

All organizations applying for grants (except individuals) must obtain these registrations. All are free of charge:

www.SAM.gov registration which will generate a UEI
NCAGE/CAGE code

Any applicant with an exclusion in the System for Award Management (SAM) is not eligible to apply for an assistance award in accordance with the OMB guidelines at 2 CFR 180 that implement Executive Orders 12549 (3 CFR, 1986 Comp., p. 189) and 12689 (3 CFR, 1989 Comp., p. 235), “Debarment and Suspension.”

The Unique Entity Identifier (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. SAM.gov is the Federal government's primary database for complying with FFATA reporting requirements. OMB designated SAM.gov as the central repository to facilitate applicant and recipient use of a single public website that consolidates data on all federal financial assistance. Under the law, it is mandatory to register in SAM.gov.

The UEI will be assigned when an organization registers or renews its registration in SAM.gov at www.SAM.gov. To access SAM.gov an organization is required to have a Login.gov account. Organization can create an account at <https://login.gov/>. As a reminder, organizations need to renew its sam.gov registration annually.

US-based organizations: A CAGE code will be automatically assigned when the U.S. organizations registers in www.sam.gov. CAGE must be renewed every 5 years. Site for CAGE: <https://cage.dla.mil/Home/UsageAgree>. Grantees may be asked for more information to finalized and must comply.

Foreign-based organizations: Must apply for a NCAGE code before registering in SAM.gov. Go to: <https://eportal.nspa.nato.int/AC135Public/CageTool/home> to apply for a NCAGE code. NCAGE codes must be renewed every 5 years.

It is in the organization’s best interest to check if their CAGE/or NCAGE codes are active. Organizations are required to register/or renew their CAGE or NCAGE codes **prior** to registering or renewing www.sam.gov . Both registration and renewals for both CAGE and NCAGE can take up to 10 days. Organization’s legal address in NCAGE/CAGE must mirror www.sam.gov.

www.sam.gov requires all entities to renew their registration once a year in order to maintain an active registration status in SAM.gov. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure it has an active registration in SAM.gov.

If an organization plans to issue a sub-contract or sub-award, those sub-awardees must also have a unique entity identifier (UEI number). Those entities can register for a UEI only at SAM.gov.

Organizations must apply for a registration in SAM.gov prior to submitting an application, and submit proof of having registered. All organizations applying for grants (except individuals) must obtain this registration, which is free of charge.

Note: A DUNS number is no longer required.

Submission Dates and Times

Applications are due no later than Monday, July 25, 2022

Other Submission Requirements

All application materials must be submitted by email to TelAvivGrants@state.gov and **not to individual staff**.

Embassy Jerusalem will accept proposals until 6:00 p.m. on Monday, July 25, 2022

The review committee will meet to evaluate proposals with the goal of providing an initial response within a month.

E. APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

Review and Selection Process: A review committee will evaluate all eligible applications.

F. 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 \$5,000 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 \$5,000 or more 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 10% of the modified total direct costs as defined in 2 CFR 200.68.

“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.