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

NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Funding Opportunity Title: U.S. Embassy Jerusalem Funding Opportunity to Promote Civic Engagement

Funding Opportunity Number: PD-TLV-2022-003

Deadline for Applications: **DEADLINE EXTENDED** Until Monday July 25, 2022

Total Amount Available: Approximately $300,000 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 creates conditions for a lasting peace between Israelis and Palestinians in accordance with the theory of change below.

Theory of Change:

Young Israelis need safe spaces for social enrichment and development, whether through joint or separated activities. Such public spaces are uncommon throughout Israel and existing public spaces are underutilized. Developing these centers' capacity to host young Israelis and increasing opportunities for young Israelis to participate in social enrichment and development activities at the centers will enhance community security and stability and may also advance prospects for peace.

Young Israelis – both Jewish and Arab – report having less hope for peace in their lifetimes than their parents had. A majority has negative attitudes about "the other," and there are few integrated public spaces in which to interact, form relationships, and experience peaceful shared society. Furthermore, research on intergroup relations shows simply bringing diverse youth together is insufficient; social-psychological support, space to learn and process new information inside

their own group, and structured, positive inter-group interactions are the new standard for relationship-building – the foundation for eventual peacebuilding – between groups in conflict.

If Arab and Jewish youth participate in sustained, substantial interactions around shared interests, with space for intra-group learning/processing and positive, structured inter-group interactions, they will become more accepting of "the other" and of diversity itself. Additionally, they will be less attracted to extremism and less prone to conflict, reducing intracommunal tensions and instances of violence.

Program Objectives:

The successful applicant will design and implement a program:

- In which the grantee works with existing Israeli youth group structures (e.g. youth groups, sports teams, schools, etc.) to develop leadership, problem-solving, democratic debate and dialogue skills across diverse sectors of Israeli society.
- In which participants (Israeli youth group members) learn about shared social issues (e.g. climate change) and develop solutions within their group.
- That unites youth groups from different sectors (i.e., Arab and Jewish) to debate and select solutions to a shared challenge with real-life application in their communities.
- Where in pursuit of a common goal, participants recognize similarities between/across their groups, and their opinions of "the other" become more positive.
- Which measurably increases participants' understanding of a shared social issue (e.g. climate change) and self-reported likelihood participants will take steps to implement their solution or otherwise engage on this or another social issue in their community after the project's conclusion.

 Or

- That builds capacity and offerings of community centers, especially in mixed Arab and Jewish cities, and increases their utilization by young Israelis (ages 10-30).

- That develops and implements strategic plans for youth engagement in community centers.
- That increases mixed participation in community center activities.

Sample Project Activities:

Youth Congress
- The grantee will, in coordination with U.S. Embassy staff, identify at least 100 participants, approximately 10 groups of at least 10. Half of the groups will identify as Jewish Israeli, and half Arab citizens of Israel. The overall participant roster should be balanced with regards to gender, religion, and ethnic identity representative of Israel's population.
- A series of combined group activities throughout the project duration (at least six months), including one opening and one closing event that all participants attend.
- A series of separate group activities throughout the project duration, will teach participants both substantive information about the selected issue/challenge, and dialogue/debate/oral communication skills to present their proposed solution in the closing combined group event.

Community Centers
- At least five community centers, especially in mixed cities, will develop strategic plans for youth engagement.
- At least 300 youths will visit the community centers during the project period of performance. Or, if attendance/utilization statistics exist for the community center(s), the center(s) will see a 100% increase in utilization by young Israelis.
- The grantee will assess social development of youth visitors to the community centers.[1]

Audiences:
- Israelis aged 15-20 who belong to youth groups (for the youth congress project); Israeli youth aged 10-30 (for community centers project)

---

[1] The American Psychological Association defines social development as "the gradual acquisition of certain skills (e.g., language, interpersonal skills), attitudes, relationships, and behavior that enable the individual to interact with others and to function as a member of society." https://dictionary.apa.org/social-development accessed 6/8/2022

- Participants should be representative of Israeli society along gender, religion, and ethnic identity lines.
- Preference should be given to participants from economically disadvantaged areas (youth congress) and mixed cities (community centers).

B. FEDERAL AWARD INFORMATION

Length of performance period: 1-2 years

Number of awards anticipated: 1-3 awards

Award amounts: minimum of $50,000, maximum of $300,000

Total available funding: $300,000

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. ELIGILIBITY INFORMATION

1. 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.

2. 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

3. 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

1. Content and Form of Application Submission

<u>Please follow all instructions below carefully</u>. 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 carry out 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 activities be monitored to ensure they are happening in a timely manner, and how will the outcomes be evaluated to make sure the objectives are achieved?
- **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

2.   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 it's 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.

U.S.-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.

3. Submission Dates and Times

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

4. 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 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.