

1. What is NICRA?

Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA) is a document published to reflect an estimate of indirect cost rate negotiated between the Federal Government and a Grantee's organization which reflects the indirect costs (facilities and administrative costs) and fringe benefit expenses incurred by the organization. In the absence of a NICRA, the grantee can use the de minimis rate of 10% of modified total direct costs.

2. Will there be flexibility with branding and marking for the project?

A program with a large public element will not be rated higher than one that does not. Exceptions for U.S. Government branding of proposed projects can be considered and will require written approval. However, it's imperative that all participants in the project are aware of U.S. Government support for the overall project.

3. Are there restrictions on cost share?

Cost sharing is not required but encouraged. However, you may not apply to different U.S. Government (USG) sources of funding for the same project.

4. If an organization has funding from the USG but not for a specific project, can it apply for funding for a particular project?

You may not be funded twice from the USG for the same projects. This is often referred to as "double dipping." You may, however, receive multiple USG grants for different projects. Elements that may define different projects are different audiences, time frames, goals and objectives, or methods.

5. If an organization has applied for USG funding but has not yet received an answer, can it apply for a grant for the same program and specify that it has already requested funding?

Yes, but the organization would not be able to get money from multiple USG sources for the same project. Please include other active applications in your grant application.

6. Would the fact that an organization already applied for funding from a different USG source hurt its chances?

No.

7. Can the 6-18 months period of performance include a preparatory period?

Yes. An organization can request funds to be used for preparations prior to project activities start, but this must be stated in the proposal and budget. However, funding activities before the start date of the period of performance of the grant is NOT possible.

8. What does the USG consider civil society?

Civil society is comprised of non-partisan, non-profit organizations that are crucial to providing services and promoting development in a community.

9. Is bringing diverse people together to achieve a goal (for example: strengthening participants' English language skills) unrelated to social change acceptable?

Yes. The projects should not simply be about getting to know one another, but about reaching a common goal – for example, improving participants' English in order to improve job prospects.

10. Would the Embassy be interested in supporting projects that include participants from other countries in the Middle East?

Yes, but the primary beneficiaries should be Israelis and Palestinians.

11. Is there a requirement to fund an external evaluation component in the grant?

No. An external evaluation component is not required. However, as per the NOFO, all grants must have a strong monitoring and evaluation plan describing how to define indicators and measure success. The plan should outline project goals, objectives, and indicators, and determine how they will be measured.

12. Is there a requirement that the project include an Israeli and Palestinian organization?

No, but organizational collaboration is highly encouraged. Even if the primary implementer is an Israeli organization, it is highly encouraged to include an organization that is co-managed or partnered with a Palestinian organization.

13. Are there geographic restrictions?

No. The NOFO states that proposals should “bring together the diverse populations that live in Jerusalem, the West Bank, and Israel”. This NOFO is not for programs to be conducted within Green Line Israel only. Proposals that include partners, organizations, or beneficiaries in Gaza will also be welcomed and considered.

14. Would an American organization that works with Israeli and Palestinian kids through the school systems be acceptable?

Yes.

15. If a proposed project is expected to start in the summer of 2021, with planning conducted throughout the preceding year, can an organization apply now?

Yes, but more weight would be given to proposals that would be implemented sooner. The Embassy works in a fluid policy environment and is looking for projects that promote our objectives in the near term.

16. Under submission requirements there are two emails. If we have questions should we send them to both email addresses?

Yes.