

Promoting Cross-Cultural Cooperation - NOFO

Questions and Answers from the Info-session

13 December 2018

America House, Jerusalem

- **Does operating an accelerator for private businesses count as mentoring under this NOFO?**
- Mentoring is defined broadly under this NOFO. As such, it is up to the applicant to come up with a program that is competitive and to convince the grant review committee that it applies to the goals and objectives of the NOFO. However, the main goal of the mentoring component in this NOFO is to build the capacity and encourage new and small grass root organizations to initiate and implement cross cultural cooperation programs. Therefore, promoting establishment of a private business may be suitable to the Grassroots type of award component.
- **Who should apply to the NOFO – the mentoring established organization or the small one?**
- It is up to for the applicant to determine which organization has the capacity to apply and to manage a grant. It is important to note that administrative experience is also important for the capacity building of any NGO who wants to collaborate with the USG.
- **To what extent should the mentoring component be a part of the program? Is there a minimum?**
- Mentoring is defined broadly under this NOFO. As such, it is up to the applicant to come up with a program that is competitive and to convince the grant review committee that it applies to the goals and objectives of the NOFO.
- **In case both options are available, what is preferable - to apply through an American registered organization or a local one?**
- There is no preference. However, for the mentoring award, preference will be given to organizations that are registered in the United States.
- **Does mentoring a group of organizations count as mentoring under this NOFO?**
- Yes
- **Does training non-NGOs count as mentoring under this NOFO?**
- Mentoring is defined broadly under this NOFO. As such, it is up to the applicant to come up with a program that is competitive and to convince the grant review committee that it applies to the goals and objectives of the NOFO. However, the main goal of the mentoring component in this NOFO is to build the capacity and encourage new and small grassroots organizations to initiate and implement cross cultural cooperation programs.

- **Can an NGO apply for a follow-up program to a currently ongoing project, which is funded by a USG grant?**
- Yes

- **Can an NGO apply for the same program that is currently funded by a USG grant?**
- Yes. However, parallel federal funding (“double dipping”) for the same program is not allowable.

- **What is an “established organization”?**
- An NGO that has at least five years’ experience implementing projects to promote cross-cultural cooperation.

- **Can schools be mentees under the mentoring award of this NOFO?**
- [RSR1]Mentoring is an open definition under this NOFO, it is to the applicant to come up with a program that is competitive and to convince the grant review committee that it applies to the goals and objectives of the NOFO. However, the main goal of the mentoring component in this NOFO is to build the capacity and encourage new and small grass root organizations to initiate and implement cross cultural cooperation programs.

- **Can an organization with 19 years of experience but less cross-cultural experience be considered as an established organization?**
- Established organizations have at least five years’ experience implementing projects to promote cross-cultural cooperation.

- **Does the application need to address all strategic goals mentioned in the NOFO?**
- It should address at least one or more of the strategic goals

- **What happens in terms of branding if the project involves any cultural or political sensitivities that may affect or compromise the program or the participants?**
- The proposal may include a clearly justified request to waive the media and visibility requirements.

- **Can an organization submit more than one application?**
- Yes, but only one of them may be selected for funding.

- **Can the proposal include activities for international participants to work within Israel or the West Bank?**
- The goal of this NOFO is to serve local populations and organizations in Israel, the West Bank, and Jerusalem.

- **Can working on issuing DUNS and SAM numbers be considered as mentoring?**
- Yes. Administrative experience is also important for the capacity building of any NGO who wants to collaborate with the USG.

- **Can program evaluation be included in the proposal?**
- Yes, and much appreciated.

- **Does the second objective of the NOFO limited to Jerusalem only?**
This objective does not exclude other areas, but there is a preference for supporting these efforts in Jerusalem.
- **Can an established organization apply to the Grassroots award in this NOFO?**
- Yes

- **Can key elements of the project funded by the grant take place in a country outside of Israel/Palestine – as long as the primary beneficiaries of the grant are Israelis and Palestinians?**
- The Program Description in the NOFO calls for “proposals for implementation in Jerusalem, the West Bank, and Israel.” While conducting elements of the grant outside of these areas is not expressly prohibited, preference will be given to proposals to be implemented within those designated areas.

- **For the Mentoring grants, if the applying organization requests a \$50,000 grant, does the core activity need to be focused on Mentoring? Or can, for example, \$40,000 of the requested funds be allocated toward new programs and opportunities that are tied to the primary mission of the organization, with \$10,000 allocated toward a distinct mentorship activity?**
- The description of the Mentoring awards in the NOFO says “proposals selected under this emphasis must include an element of mentoring a civil society organization that is new to these types of projects.” As stated in the NOFO and the FAQ, it is up to the applicant to determine how the mentoring will work and in what form – including what percentage of the budget is dedicated to the mentoring element.

- **In terms of the specific small NGOs to be mentored, do these need to be identified in the grant application? Or can the identification of the specific small NGOs take place after the grant is approved?**
- The mentee should be identified at the time of application.