

Funding Opportunity Number: NEAPI-09-CA-014-MENA-081309
Funding Competition Title: Qatar University Women's Legal Rights Project
Funding Competition ID: CURRDEVQU
CFDA Number: 19.500
Due Date for Applications: February 16, 2010

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AWARD INFORMATION

Funding Instrument Type: Cooperative Agreement

Anticipated Total Program Funding: \$500,000 Economic Support Funds to be awarded during Federal Fiscal Year 2009.

Applicant may propose a performance period of up to two years. NEA/PI will entertain applications for continuation grants funded under these awards, beyond the initial budget period, on a noncompetitive basis, subject to availability of funds, satisfactory progress of the applicant, and a determination that continued funding would be in the best interest of the Department of State.

NEA/PI reserves the right to award less or more than the funds described either in the absence of worthy proposals or under such other circumstances as NEA/PI may deem to be in the best interest of the Department.

All activities funded under this program will be restricted to those countries where the Middle East Partnership Initiative has the requisite legal authorities.

PROGRAM GUIDANCE

The Qatar University (QU) Women's Legal Rights project will provide technical assistance to the QU College of Law in implementing university and community education activities focused on gender equality and women's legal rights. QU is Qatar's most prominent and sole national institution of higher education. While Qatar's constitution provides general protection to Qatari women from gender-based discrimination, no formal mechanisms exist whereby women can file complaints about discrimination, particularly in relation to inheritance and child custody. According to QU leadership, women students lack awareness of government and NGO services available to them and have a limited knowledge of their rights. The university is ready to take steps to address these gaps. The suggested program activities will promote a better understanding of legal issues related to gender equity to a new generation of students and legal specialists.

The project should work in partnership with the QU Human Rights Club and College of Law to implement the following activities:

- 1) Sponsor a university-wide workshop on issues related to women's legal rights. Conduct a university-wide speaking competition or moot court competition on women's legal rights.
- 2) Conduct public education on women's rights targeting QU students. The QU students will then conduct outreach activities at private universities and possibly in primary and secondary schools.
- 3) Survey Qatari institutions concerned with women's rights, and which provide services to women, to measure the reach and impact of their activities and services and advise how to improve them
- 4) Prepare informational materials, summarizing students' rights at the university, which may be of particular interest to women
- 5) Undertake a university-focused educational campaign on women's rights and student rights using social networking (i.e.: Internet, text message, video) in connection with a university-wide international women's day event (QU had a small international women's day event last year and wants to hold an event again this year).

The ABA should also develop an elective course on women's' legal rights with the QU College of Law and should work to establish a mentoring program for women law students.

Review and Selection Process

Each proposal submitted for this project will be evaluated and rated on the basis of the following evaluation criteria. The criteria are designed to assess the quality of the proposal, and to determine the likelihood of its success. The criteria are closely related and are considered as a whole in judging the overall quality of the proposal. Proposals will be reviewed on the basis of their fullness, coherence, clarity, and attention to detail. Points are awarded only to proposals that are responsive within the context of the program guidance.

Applicants must submit a full project description in accordance with the following instructions and the specified evaluation criteria. The instructions give a broad overview of what the project description should include while the evaluation criteria provide details of more program-specific information that is needed.

NEA/PI Cover Sheet: Provide a summary of the project description (no more than two pages) with reference to the amount and duration of the funding request.

Narrative: Outline a plan of action which describes the scope and detail of how the proposed work will be accomplished. Account for all functions or activities identified in the application. Cite factors which might accelerate or decelerate the work and state reasons for taking the proposed approach rather than others. Describe any unusual features of the project such as design or technological innovations, reductions in cost or time, or extraordinary social and community involvement.

Provide quantitative monthly or quarterly projections of the accomplishments to be achieved for each function or activity in such terms as the number of people to be served and the number of activities accomplished. When accomplishments cannot be quantified by activity or function, list them in chronological order to show the schedule of accomplishments and their target dates. List those organizations, cooperating entities, consultants, or other key individuals who will work on the project, along with a short description of the nature of their effort or contribution.

Provide information on the applicant organization(s) and cooperating partners such as organizational charts, financial statements, documentation of professional accreditation or of experience in the program area, and other pertinent information.

Include written agreements between grantees and sub-grantees or subcontractors or other cooperating entities. These agreements must detail scope of work to be performed, work schedules, remuneration, and other terms and conditions that structure or define the relationship.

Application Evaluation Criteria:

Innovation and Approach –The applicant clearly describes how its proposal will address the requested project and articulates an innovative strategy or plan in the priority areas. In developing the project description, the applicant may volunteer or be requested to provide information on the total range of projects currently being conducted and supported (or to be initiated), some of which may be outside the scope of this request. The approach will be evaluated in terms of expediency and feasibility in the regional and country context. (25 points)

Results or Benefits – The project is likely to provide maximum impact in achieving the proposed results and the organization must demonstrate that it is able to measure the project’s success against key indicators and provide milestones to indicate progress toward MEPI goals. Any relevant data based on planning studies should be included or referenced in the endnotes/footnotes. The demographic data and participant/beneficiary information illustrate reasonably the impact to be achieved within a maximum two-year timeframe. (25 points)

Organizational Capacity – The organization has expertise in one or more key project areas and demonstrates the ability to engage and work together with local and regional networks. Where partners are described, the applicant details the rationale for the consortia, each partner’s respective role, and how the coalition will enhance the progress towards achieving MEPI goals in the stated project areas of competency. The organization demonstrates a high level of regional and/or country expertise. Individual organization staffs, including volunteers, are well qualified and described. (20 points)

Staff and Position Specifications – Each key person whether staff, consultant, or volunteer is described in a biographical sketch; a job description is provided for each open key position. A biographical sketch of required credentials describes any positions to be advertised post-award. Individual organization staffs, including volunteers, are well qualified and described. (10 points)

Budget and Budget Justification (Additional guidance for responding to this criterion may be found by going to www.mepi.state.gov and clicking on Funding & Project Opportunities. The detailed budget includes a breakout of any funding sources identified in Block 15 of the SF-424. Calculations are provided with line item detail for each budget object class identified on the Budget Information form (SF 424). The budget narrative provides details of calculations including estimation methods, quantities, unit costs, and other similar quantitative detail sufficient for the calculation to be duplicated.

The budget and narrative justification are reasonable in relation to the proposed activities and anticipated results and the plan for services is realistic. The budget documents the necessity, reasonableness, and allocation of all proposed costs. Adequate travel to and within the Middle East is proposed. The application documents any efforts to secure other funding sources, including volunteers and cost-sharing. Full points are awarded only to proposals that propose the preponderance of the budget be spent in the countries of the Middle East. (20 points)