

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

**U.S. EMBASSY KABUL PUBLIC AFFAIRS SECTION  
LOCAL GRANTS PROGRAM**

**Funding Opportunity Title:** Advancing Women's Economic Opportunity (South and Central Asia)

**Funding Opportunity Number:** SCAKAB-12-AW-007-SCA-05022012

**CFDA Number:** 19.501

**Date Opened:** May 2, 2012

**Federal Agency Contact:** Ms. Cynthia Rafferty

**Email:** [kabulpdproposals@state.gov](mailto:kabulpdproposals@state.gov)

**I. Funding Opportunity Description**

The U.S. Embassy Kabul Public Affairs Section (PAS) of the U.S. Department of State is pleased to announce this funding opportunity for programs to advance economic opportunities for women in South and Central Asia.

**Potential Initiatives:** Proposals should focus on the following four themes:

- Improving the Business Environment for Women
- Accessing Finance
- Expanding Markets through Trade
- Building Capacity through Business Associations, Mentoring, and Internships

**Proposal Examples:** Projects should address ways to improve women's regional business linkages, ideas to connect businesses across borders, funding technical assistance to increase the use of technology or market readiness or facilitating exchanges between large and small firms to help them better compete in the market place. The Department of State is not likely to fund proposals for conferences or meetings.

**Proposal Requirements:** Proposals may be country-specific but we will give priority to those that are regional in nature, linking Afghanistan to other countries. Proposals should not exceed five pages and must include the following six sections:

- Overview: total funds requested including a brief summary of the proposed project. In this section, proposals should indicate that, if awarded, the program will be overseen by the Public Affairs Section of the US Embassy Kabul.
- Problem Statement: The statement should clearly identify the problem and how the project will increase economic opportunities for women in the region;
- Project Description: The description should include specific activities and a timeline;
- Impact and Performance: The desired impact and performance measures should focus on specific, qualitative outcomes as opposed to quantitative indicators such as numbers of participants;
- Implementing Organization: The name and description of the implementing organization, including their technical and grant management capacity;
- Budget: A line item budget of no more than \$50,000.

## II. Award Information

**Funding Instrument Type:** Grant

**Floor of Individual Award Amounts:** \$20,000

**Ceiling of Individual Award Amounts:** \$50,000

The U.S. Embassy Kabul Public Affairs Section reserves the right to award less or more than the funds described in the absence of worthy applications or under such other circumstances as it may deem to be in the best interest of the U.S. government.

## III. Eligibility Information:

Preference will be given to local, rather than U.S., implementing organizations.

Proposals with cost-share or in-kind arrangements will be given preference.

## IV. Application Submission and Deadline

Proposals may be submitted via email to the U.S. Embassy in Kabul at [kabulpdproposals@state.gov](mailto:kabulpdproposals@state.gov) **or** through [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov). Email submissions must include "Proposal for Advancing Women's Economic Opportunity" in the subject line. Applications are accepted in English only, and final grant agreements will be concluded in English.

All applicants utilizing Grants.gov must register with Grants.gov prior to submitting an application. **Registering with Grants.gov is a one-time process; however, it could take as long as two weeks to have the registration validated and confirmed. Please begin the registration process immediately to ensure that the process is completed well in advance of the deadline for applications.** Until that process is complete, you will not be issued a user password for Grants.gov, which is required for application submission. There are four steps that you must complete before you are able to register: (1) Obtain a Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number from Dun & Bradstreet (if your organization does not have one already) by calling 1-866-705-5711; (2) Register with Central Contractor Registry (CCR); (3) Register yourself as an Authorized Organization Representative (AOR); and (4) Be authorized as an AOR by your organization. For more information, go to [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov). Please note that your CCR registration must be annually renewed. Failure to renew your CCR registration may prohibit submission of a grant application through Grants.gov.

**Closing Date:** Applications will be accepted until 6:00pm (Kabul time) May 8, 2012. Late applications will not be considered.

## V. Application Evaluation Criteria

In accordance with the annual funding justification provided to Congress, proposal evaluations will be based on:

- expansion of economic opportunities for women
- support for the New Silk Road vision of linking Central and South Asia via Afghanistan through trade;
- expected impact(s);
- sustainability of program accomplishments;
- capacity of the implementing organization to successfully implement the project and to comply with U.S. government funding guidelines.

## **VI. Award Administration**

**Award Notices:** The grant award or cooperative agreement shall be written, signed, awarded, and administered by the Grants Officer. The Grants Officer is the U.S. government official delegated the authority by the U.S. Department of State Procurement Executive to write, award, and administer grants and cooperative agreements. The assistance award agreement is the authorizing document and it will be provided to the recipient. Organizations whose applications will not be funded will also be notified in writing.

**Anticipated Time to Award:** Applicants should expect to be notified of the recommended concepts within 60 days after the submission deadline.

**Reporting Requirements:** All awards issued under this announcement will require both program and financial reports on a frequency specified in the award agreement. The disbursement of funds may be tied to submission of these reports in a timely manner. All other details related to award administration will be specified in award agreement.