

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation, Office of Cooperative Threat Reduction
(ISN/CTR)

Notice of Funding Opportunity

Funding Opportunity Title: FY22 Countering WMD Threats in Iraq
Funding Opportunity Number: SFOP0008431
Deadline for Applications: January 31, 2022, 11:59PM EDT (TBC)
CFDA Number: 19.033
Total Amount Available: \$3,500,000

A. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Office of Cooperative Threat Reduction (CTR), part of the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation (ISN), sponsors foreign assistance activities funded by the Nonproliferation, Anti-terrorism, Demining and Related Programs (NADR) account, and focuses on mitigating weapons of mass destruction (WMD), related delivery systems, and advanced conventional weapons proliferation and security threats from proliferator states and non-state actors.

ISN/CTR administers WMD threat reduction activities for Iraq in partnership with government, security, academic, public and veterinary health, and industrial communities. ISN/CTR's Iraq program secures chemical, biological (CB), radiological and explosive materials, dual-use equipment, technologies, expertise, and infrastructure to prevent their misuse by terrorists and other nefarious actors in Iraq in WMD attacks against the United States, U.S. allies, and U.S. interests abroad. ISN/CTR's efforts in Iraq align with and help implement U.S. national security strategies, including the [U.S. National Security Strategy](#), the [U.S. National Biodefense Strategy](#), and the Interim National Security Strategic Guidance, among others.

ISN/CTR's Iraqi stakeholders include:

- Government ministries and agencies, both of the central Iraqi government in Baghdad (GOI) and the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) that have a role in chemical, biological and radiological oversight;
- GOI and KRG law enforcement entities and security forces;
- University and research faculties and departments handling potentially weaponizable CB materials and equipment;
- Facilities that manufacture, store, or distribute high consequence pathogens (HCPs), and/or weaponizable chemicals and their precursors;
- CB academic, professional, and private industry associations;
- Chemical academic and industry associations that play a role in the promotion of global chemical management best practices;
- Agrochemical/pesticide and pharmaceutical sectors; and
- International organizations with complementary WMD prevention missions.

In fiscal year 2022 (FY22), ISN/CTR seeks to fund activities that support one or more of its four goals in Iraq:

Goal 1 - Strengthen the ability of the GOI and KRG to prevent, detect and respond to the misuse, exploitation, theft, diversion, or loss of WMD-applicable material, expertise, and equipment.

- Create a holistic, “one-Iraq” counter-WMD threat capacity through GOI and KRG multisectoral engagements with ministries, academia, private industry, and security forces;
 - Improve coordination and interaction among GOI and KRG ministries and law enforcement, technical, medical, and first responder/first receiver communities on the detection and investigation of WMD attack plots;
 - Improve communication between biological and chemical laboratory networks;
 - Strengthen partnership and information sharing between public health, security authorities and other relevant sectors to facilitate coordinated WMD-attack response and attribution;
- Train Iraqi partners responsible for WMD attack prevention, detection, and response to:
 - Interdict dual-use chemical and biological equipment and materials;
 - Address threats from rudimentary and easily accessible crude weapons (e.g., toxic gasses, radiological materials) to sophisticated chemical agents used on the battlefield (e.g., sulfur mustard);
- Enhance the ability of institutions to track the types of WMD-applicable material (chemical, biological, and radiological as appropriate) in their institution;
- Enhance the security posture at vulnerable universities, laboratories, and other facilities housing dual use chemical, biological, or radiological materials or equipment including through the development or improvement of biosecurity and chemical security training programs, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), and human reliability/insider threat programs;
- Ensure safe handling, storage, transportation, and neutralization/destruction of dual-use CB materials and waste;
- Improve capability of first responders and hospital emergency units to identify morbidities related to a potential WMD attack and contain further WMD spread;
- Develop and/or implement national and facility-level policies and programs to strengthen oversight of CB materials and related assets;
- Institutionalize CB security by engaging appropriate academic societies to require training in CB security as both a graduating and continuing education requirement; and
- Strengthen radiological security practices within hospitals and the oil industry.

Goal 2 - Secure biological and chemical materials and related assets throughout the supply chain.

- Conduct trainings on identifying and addressing insider threats at CB facilities and other institutions storing, transferring, or otherwise handling CB and explosive materials, such as personnel reliability programs and incorporating insider threat awareness into security forces training programs;

- Institutionalize “know-your-customer” programs at CB suppliers throughout Iraq, and encourage the incorporation of such stringent commercial review practices into local, regional, and national regulations and guidelines;
- Implement trainings to identify and mitigate physical and procedural security gaps, to include facility-appropriate vulnerability assessment methodologies, at CB facilities and other institutions storing, transferring, or otherwise handling CB and explosive materials; and
- Install physical security upgrades at relevant facilities and institutions across Iraq to prevent unauthorized access to CB materials and related assets that could be weaponized, including neutralization protocols for high-risk materials.

Goal 3 - Prevent WMD attacks by promoting awareness of CB and explosive threats and adoption of threat mitigation best practices.

- Promote the adoption of chemical security norms, management standards, and responsible use policies, such as Responsible Care® and employee vetting;
- Enhance identification and mitigation of endemic, emerging, and re-emerging dangerous infectious disease threats caused by HCPs and pathogens with pandemic potential;
- Encourage adoption of biosecurity norms, including improvements across ministries of relevant institutions’ biosecurity practices;
- Improve understanding of, and compliance with, relevant nonproliferation treaty commitments and UN Security Council obligations, including the Chemical Weapons Convention, Biological Weapons Convention, and UNSCR 1540; and
- Increase broad awareness of Iraqi biological and chemical security policies, programs, and best practice information as well as coordination among relevant ministries and security agencies.

Goal 4 - Develop innovative strategies and explore novel tools to adapt to the constantly evolving WMD threat.

- Develop cost-effective, high-impact remote engagement strategies;
- Develop innovative tools and proposals to address new and complex challenges (such as mapping in-country laboratories and industrial plants that hold dangerous chemical precursors or HCPs); and
- Prevent chemical and potential biological casualties through enhancing incident command systems to improve chemical/biological security posture and counter terrorist groups.

Proposal Considerations

Sustainability of its WMD threat reduction investments is paramount to ISN/CTR’s long-term strategy for Iraq. ISN/CTR prioritizes proposals that demonstrate the implementer’s subject matter expertise relevant to the CB security needs of our partners. **All proposals must make a clear and compelling case for how they will support one or more ISN/CTR goals in Iraq** to address biological, chemical and/or radiological threats, including how activities will account for partner-specific political, technical, and/or logistical realities. ISN/CTR encourages proposals that include robust remote implementation options and third-country training locations. Projects designed as a phased activity with intermediate deliverables are encouraged but not required.

ISN/CTR encourages but does not require the following characteristics in submitted proposals:

- Nonproliferation benefit clearly evidenced by data-driven analysis and targeted approaches to current threat information;
- Effective mechanisms for long-term sustainment post-engagement, including but not limited to tangible products, tools, and online learning platforms;
- Creative and innovative tools and engagements that demonstrate concepts and implement outcomes beyond basic chemical and/or biological safety and security awareness raising;
- Proposals that emphasize train-the-trainer methodologies and build indigenous capacity;
- Proposals tailored to fit local technical capacities as well as threat environment;
- Leveraging existing relationships within Iraq to expand ISN/CTR's ability to work in difficult environments;
- Proposals that deliver innovative, technical, and/or logistical solutions;
- Virtual or web-based activities and low-cost equipping solutions for difficult operating environments;
- Multi-phased proposals to scope vulnerabilities and develop Iraq-specific targeted solutions and exercises; and
- Financial and/or in-kind cost-sharing, including but not limited to subject matter expertise, facilities, equipment, technology, etc.

B. FEDERAL AWARD INFORMATION

Length of performance period: 12 months

Number of awards anticipated: TBD (dependent on amounts)

Award amounts: ISN/CTR prefers projects that cost less than \$300,000 though awards may involve multiple projects that cumulatively exceed \$500,000. ISN/CTR will prioritize proposals that efficiently meet NOFO and programmatic goals at the lowest technically acceptable cost.

Total available funding: \$3,500,000

Type of Funding: FY22/23 Nonproliferation, Anti-Terrorism, Demining and Related Activities Funds under the Foreign Assistance Act

Anticipated project start date: October 1, 2022

Funding Instrument Type: Cooperative agreement. Cooperative agreements are different from grants in that bureau staff are more actively involved in the grant implementation.

Project Performance Period: Proposed projects should be completed in 12 months or fewer.

This notice is subject to availability of funding.

C. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

1. Eligible Applicants

The following organizations are eligible to apply (both domestic and international):

- Not-for-profit organizations
- Public and private educational institutions
- For-profit organizations
- Federally funded research and development centers

- Public International Organizations

2. Cost Sharing or Matching

This program does not require cost sharing, however proposals that demonstrate cost sharing will be welcomed.

The recipient is required to maintain written records to support all allowable costs that are claimed as its contribution to cost-share, as well as costs to be paid by the Federal government. Such records are subject to audit. In the event the recipient does not meet the minimum amount of cost-sharing as stipulated in the recipient's budget, the Bureau's contribution may be reduced in proportion to the recipient's contribution.

3. Other Eligibility Requirements

In order to be eligible to receive an award, all organizations must have a unique entity identifier (Data Universal Numbering System/DUNS number from Dun & Bradstreet), as well as a valid registration on www.SAM.gov.

The organization that submits an application in response to this notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) announcement acknowledges and accepts all of the requirements contained herein. The submission in response to this announcement is voluntary and does not obligate the U.S. Department of State to fund the proposal or proposal preparation costs.

Applicants should submit one proposal package per organization/or PI. If more than one proposal package is submitted from an organization/or PI, all proposals from that institution will be considered ineligible for funding.

D. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Section 1 - Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424):

This form is part of the NOFO proposal package.

Section 2 – Project Proposal(s):

Using the provided template, the applicant must provide a completed project proposal. The proposal form must be completed in its entirety and clearly specify the proposed scope, deliverables, and timeline. Applicants must specify a point of contact for each project that is proposed.

Section 3 - Budget:

Also using the provided project proposal template, applicants must provide a budget for each project. The budget must identify the total amount of funding requested, with a breakdown of amounts to be spent in the following budget categories.

Application Submission Process: Applicants should submit project proposals electronically using Grants.gov. Thorough instructions on the Grants.gov application process are available at <http://www.grants.gov>. For questions relating to Grants.gov, please call the Grants.gov Contact Center at 1-800-518-4726.

Required Registrations:

Any applicant listed on the Excluded Parties List System (EPLS) 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.” Additionally, no entity listed on the EPLS can participate in any activities under an award. All applicants are strongly encouraged to review the EPLS in SAM to ensure that no ineligible entity is included.

All organizations applying for grants (except individuals) must obtain these registrations. All are free of charge:

- Unique entity identifier from Dun & Bradstreet (DUNS number)
- NCAGE/CAGE code
- www.SAM.gov registration

Step 1: Apply for a DUNS number and an NCAGE number (these can be completed simultaneously)

DUNS application: Organizations must have a Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number from Dun & Bradstreet. If your organization does not have one already, you may obtain one by calling 1-866-705-5711 or visiting <http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform>

NCAGE application: Application page here:

<https://eportal.nspa.nato.int/AC135Public/scage/CageList.aspx>

Instructions for the NCAGE application process:

<https://eportal.nspa.nato.int/AC135Public/Docs/US%20Instructions%20for%20NSPA%20NCAGE.pdf>

For NCAGE help from within the U.S., call 1-888-227-2423

For NCAGE help from outside the U.S., call 1-269-961-7766

Email NCAGE@dliis.dla.mil for any problems in getting an NCAGE code.

Step 2: After receiving the NCAGE Code, proceed to register in SAM.gov by logging onto:

<https://www.sam.gov>. SAM registration must be renewed annually. Please note that your CCR registration must be annually renewed.

Submission Dates and Times

Applications must be submitted on or before January 31, 2022 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time.

Applications submitted after 11:59 p.m. will be ineligible for consideration. Begin the application process early, as this will allow time to address any technical difficulties that may arise in advance of the deadline. There will be no exceptions to this application deadline.

Funding Restrictions

Of note, legal restrictions prevent ISN/CTR from providing assistance to Burma, China, Iran, North Korea, South Sudan, Sudan, and Syria.

E. AWARD SELECTION CRITERIA

Applicants should note that the following criteria serve as a standard against which all project proposals will be evaluated and identify significant considerations that should be addressed in all proposals. ISN/CTR will award a cooperative agreement to the applicant(s) whose offer represents the best overall value to the government from both a technical and cost perspective.

ISN/CTR will evaluate proposals against the stated criteria. Criteria are listed in descending order of importance.

- **Proposed Activity or Activities:** Applications should be responsive to the program framework and policy objectives identified in the solicitation, appropriate in the country/regional and organizational context, and should clearly describe what they propose to do and how they will do it. The proposed project(s) must directly relate to meeting the specified objectives and applicants should include specific information on how these objectives will advance ISN/CTR's mission. ISN/CTR will evaluate the project proposal in terms of how well it addresses the issues at hand, relevance and feasibility of the proposed activities, the timeline for completion, and the extent to which the impact of the project will continue beyond the conclusion of the period of performance.
- **Organizational Capability:** Applicants must demonstrate how their resources, capabilities, and experience will enable them to achieve the stated goals and objectives in an international technical context. The proposal(s) must identify all key partners and organizations that will be involved in implementation of this project.
- **Budget:** Proposed costs will be evaluated for feasibility, fiscal control practices, and efficiency. ISN/CTR must be able to determine that proposed costs are reasonable, allowable, and allocable to the proposed project activities. ISN/CTR will evaluate the budget to determine if the overall costs are realistic for the work to be performed, if the costs reflect the applicant's understanding of the allowable cost principles established by 2CFR200, and if the costs are consistent with the program narrative.
- **Impactful and Measurable Engagements:** Although complex nonproliferation objectives demand persistent engagement with partner countries, discrete projects should individually advance progress toward a particular objective. Proposals should describe the end-state the project aims to achieve, along with specific, measurable, and realistic benchmarks by which to gauge progress toward that end-state. Compelling project proposals will establish milestones to be met during the training period, and describe observable progress in the adoption, implementation, or enhancement of nonproliferation enforcement and compliance best practices.
- **Diversity and Inclusion:** CTR values collaboration and promotes diversity, equity and inclusion with all stakeholders by creating an environment that is open to equal opportunities without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, protected veteran or disabled status. Implementers are welcome

but not required to submit with their proposal a plan for how the implementer intends to further CTR's diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA) objectives through their programming. Submitted plans will be evaluated separate to the overall evaluation of projects, to ensure that submissions with DEIA plans will not result in the higher evaluation of any proposal package over one that did not submit a DEIA plan.

- **Cyber Security:** Implementer shall be required to establish and follow policy and procedures for an effective implementation of security controls using NIST 800-53 (Rev. 4 or higher), System and Information Integrity Policy (SI-1) as follows:
 1. Identification and Authentication: Implement multifactor authentication for network access and local access.
 2. Access Controls: Implement security controls for information sharing, remote access and wireless access including:
 - a. Monitoring, controlling, and protecting remote and wireless access to information by auditing information systems components (e.g. workstations, notebook computers, smartphones, and tablets).
 3. Incident Handling: Monitor and report any and all security incidents including breaches to ISN/CTR directly within 48 hours of the incident and include a risk assessment of the security access controls.

F. FEDERAL AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

1. Federal Award Notices

The grant award or cooperative agreement will be written, signed, awarded, and administered by the Grants Officer. The assistance award agreement is the authorizing document and it will be provided to the recipient for review and signature by email. The recipient may only start incurring project expenses beginning on the start date shown on the grant award document signed by the Grants Officer.

If a proposal is selected for funding, the U.S. Department of State has no obligation to provide any additional future funding. Renewal of an award to increase funding or extend the period of performance is at the discretion of the U.S. Department of State.

Issuance of this NOFO does not constitute an award commitment on the part of the U.S. government, nor does it commit the U.S. government to pay for costs incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals. Further, the U.S. government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals received.

Anticipated Time to Award: Applicants should expect to be notified of the *recommended* concepts within 90 days after the submission deadline. Following this initial notification, **selected applicants will be expected to submit a full application within 30 days.** ISN/CTR staff will provide information at the point of notification about the requirements for the full application, which may include revisions to the activities. The full applications will not be subject to further competition, but must incorporate any suggested changes made by ISN/CTR.

Project Implementation Meeting: The recipient should expect to have a pre-project implementation meeting with ISN/CTR within thirty days after the cooperative agreement is awarded and before any work is performed for the award.

2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

Terms and Conditions: Before submitting an application, applicants should review all the terms and conditions and required certifications that will apply to this award, to ensure that they will be able to comply. These include:

2 CFR 200, 2 CFR 600, Certifications and Assurances, and the U.S. Department of State Standard Terms and Conditions.

3. Reporting

Reporting Requirements: As a cooperative agreement, reporting and deliverable requirements for this project exceed those of typical grants administered by ISN/CTR. Applicants should pay special attention to these enhanced reporting and deliverable requirements. Specifically:

- Using a template provided by ISN/CTR, the Recipient shall submit quarterly progress reports to the designated Grants Officer (GO), Grants Officer Representative (GOR), and to the following email address ISN-CTR-BUDGET@state.gov detailing:
 - Assistance activities conducted during the reporting period;
 - Milestones and successes achieved to date;
 - Key assistance activities remaining to be implemented with a projected timetable;
 - Details of any problems encountered with proposed solutions; and
 - Any other pertinent information requested by ISN/CTR.
- The Recipient shall provide the GO and GOR with copies of all materials developed under this cooperative agreement.
- In addition to regular quarterly reports, the Recipient shall furnish the GOR with ad hoc reports as requested from time to time.

In addition to the above, the Recipient shall submit quarterly financial reports throughout the project period. Financial reports are due 30 days after the reporting period. Final programmatic and financial reports are due 90 days after the close of the project period.

Applicants should be aware of the post award reporting requirements reflected in [2 CFR 200 Appendix XII—Award Term and Condition for Recipient Integrity and Performance Matters](#).

G. FEDERAL AWARDING AGENCY CONTACTS

For programmatic questions about this solicitation, contact: IraqCTR@state.gov

For interagency agreement (IAA) submissions, directly submit application to the relevant program team and copy the budget team ISN-CTR-BUDGET@state.gov

Direct any NOFO submission (non-programmatic) questions to: ISN-CTR-BUDGET@state.gov

H. 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.

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