

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE**  
**Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation, Office of Cooperative Threat**  
**Reduction (ISN/CTR)**  
**Notice of Funding Opportunity**

|                                    |                                                                                           |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Funding Opportunity Title:</b>  | <b>Advancing Nuclear Safety, Security, and Nonproliferation through the FIRST Program</b> |
| <b>Funding Opportunity Number:</b> | <b>SFOP0010105</b>                                                                        |
| <b>Deadline for Applications:</b>  | <b>January 31, 2024 11:59PM EST</b>                                                       |
| <b>CFDA Number:</b>                | <b>19.033</b>                                                                             |
| <b>Total Amount Available:</b>     | <b>\$10,000,000</b>                                                                       |

**A. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

The Department of State's Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation, Office of Cooperative Threat Reduction (ISN/CTR) is pleased to announce an open competition for assistance awards through this Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). ISN/CTR sponsors foreign assistance activities funded by the Nonproliferation, Antiterrorism, Demining and Related Programs (NADR) and other accounts, and focuses on mitigating weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and WMD-related delivery systems proliferation and security threats from non-state actors and proliferator states. An underlying aim of all ISN/CTR's efforts is long-term sustainability to maximize programmatic impact while minimizing the need for foreign partners to rely on outside financial or technical assistance.

ISN/CTR administers the Foundational Infrastructure for Responsible Use of Small Modular Reactor Technology Program (FIRST), which was announced by the White House at the Leaders' Climate Summit in April 2021. FIRST provides technical capacity-building support to potential nuclear energy newcomer countries and current nuclear energy countries that are considering small modular reactors (SMRs) and other advanced reactor designs to meet their clean energy needs, consistent with the highest international standards of nuclear security, nonproliferation, and safety. FIRST is designed to enhance U.S. bilateral and multilateral cooperation, consistent with the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) nuclear energy infrastructure development milestones approach, in nuclear energy infrastructure development, nuclear security, and capacity-building. In so doing, the program supports secure, safe, and proliferation-resistant deployment of SMRs or other advanced reactors to partner countries.

Recognizing the many years required to develop the necessary infrastructure to support a nuclear power program, FIRST provides essential capacity-building support and technical expertise to priority partner countries to advance the secure and responsible utilization of civilian nuclear reactors, especially SMRs and other advanced reactors. FIRST also seeks to mitigate the negative nuclear security and proliferation implications for potentially vulnerable states resulting from aggressive deployment of floating nuclear power plants (FNPPs) being rushed to market by third countries before fundamental nuclear security, safeguards,

regulatory, liability, and safety issues regarding this novel and unproven technology have been resolved by the international community.

In total, FIRST will implement two discrete lines of effort in FY23:

- 1) As the primary focus, tailored capacity-building support for countries participating in FIRST, including both potential new FIRST partners and countries already engaged.
- 2) As a secondary focus, capacity-building for littoral states at risk of negative nuclear security, proliferation, safety, liability, and sovereignty consequences resulting from aggressive deployment in at-risk regions of early-to-market floating nuclear power plants (FNPPs) by third countries.

**Priority Regions:** FIRST prioritizes nuclear energy newcomer countries and, in some cases, current nuclear energy countries located primarily in Eastern Europe, Central Asia, Latin America, the Middle East, Southeast Asia, and sub-Saharan Africa. The FNPP-focused programming is primarily focused on partner countries in South and Southeast Asia and littoral states in Africa. As a U.S. foreign assistance program authorized to deliver nonproliferation capacity-building abroad, FIRST does not fund projects intended to advocate for nuclear energy to countries not currently exploring this option, to promote the U.S. nuclear industry, or to train personnel in U.S.-based institutions.

**Program Objectives:**

ISN/CTR sponsors foreign assistance activities funded by the Nonproliferation, Antiterrorism, Demining and Related Programs (NADR) and other accounts, and focuses on mitigating proliferation and security risks from state and non-state actors.

In Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24), FIRST will fund activities that align with and support one or more of its two goals. Proposals should clearly indicate which of the two goals the work is intended to support.

**FIRST Goals:**

1. **Empower potential nuclear energy newcomer countries to prioritize nuclear security, nonproliferation, and safety considerations from the outset when evaluating civil nuclear reactor technologies, with an emphasis on SMRs and other advanced reactor designs.** FIRST provides capacity-building support to partner countries as they develop their nuclear energy programs to achieve their clean energy goals under the highest international standards for nuclear security, safety, and nonproliferation. FIRST provides this support in a manner consistent with the IAEA Milestones Approach for implementing a responsible nuclear power program. These efforts support the ability of the United States to uphold and strengthen global nuclear nonproliferation, security, and safety norms at the facility and national level and in international forums such as the IAEA. This line of effort is primarily focused on partner states including but not limited to Eastern Europe (Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Romania, Serbia, Ukraine, regional), Southeast Asia (Indonesia, Philippines, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand), Eastern Europe,

sub-Saharan Africa (Ghana, Kenya, regional), and a limited number of Central Asian (Kazakhstan, regional), Latin American and the Caribbean (Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Jamaica, Peru, regional), and potentially Middle Eastern countries (Bahrain, Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia, UAE, regional).

Funded activities under this line of effort will emphasize:

- Engaging high-level nuclear energy, science, and regulatory officials and other governmental stakeholders in partner countries for capacity-building engagements—both remote and in-person—on topics such as nuclear security, safety, and nonproliferation for SMRs, stakeholder engagement, regulatory development and licensing for advanced reactors, SMR technology selection, non-predatory financial arrangements, and workforce development. Engagements intended for high-level audiences should typically be accessible to officials who do not possess a deep technical background.
- Conducting expert-level, in-depth, capacity-building training, workshops, symposia, roundtables, asynchronous learning, site visits, and study tours for governmental, industrial, scientific, academic and other technical stakeholders in partner countries on topics such as those mentioned above. These engagements should generally possess sufficient technical depth to engage a technical audience, but must be tailored to meet the experience of the specific partner country to be engaged (from potential newcomer to advanced nuclear energy state).

- 2. Strengthen partner countries' capacities to mitigate the nuclear security, proliferation, safety, liability, and sovereignty risks associated with aggressive deployment of early-to-market FNPPs by third countries.** This is a dedicated and distinct line of effort for littoral states that is specific to FNPPs, whose security and proliferation vulnerabilities are unique and poorly understood. This line of effort is primarily focused on partner states in South and Southeast Asia, but may also engage littoral states in Africa. The goal is not to promote the development of new FNPPs, but rather to raise awareness regarding security and proliferation concerns associated with premature deployment of FNPPs. The goal of this effort is also to empower stakeholders to mitigate the risks arising from immediate deployment in their region of civilian FNPPs now available on the market before the international community can reach consensus on these unresolved issues.

Funded activities under this line of effort will emphasize:

- Engaging selected audiences through bilateral, regional and multilateral symposia, workshops, remote training, and tabletop exercises with targeted multisectoral audiences to raise awareness of early-to-market FNPP challenges and to identify and advance mitigation strategies and practices.

**Participants and Audiences:**

While global in scope, FIRST directs its efforts towards individual priority countries to maximize its programmatic impact. FIRST is primarily interested in engaging partner countries' nuclear energy agencies, regulatory authorities, reactor operators, utilities, nuclear research institutes, technical and non-technical organization decision makers, energy, environmental, and foreign ministries, and academia (at the faculty level). Audiences for these activities may include, but are not limited to:

- **Nuclear Security and Nonproliferation Decision Makers:** FIRST engages various policy makers in partner countries, including at senior levels, on paths forward for secure, sustainable, proliferation-resistant approaches to civil nuclear energy in their respective countries. This community may include officials from energy and environmental ministries, science ministries, finance ministries, foreign diplomats, university partners, and local officials in the context of capacity-building for FIRST.
- **Government Operators, Regulators, and Security Personnel:** FIRST engages operators, regulators, and security personnel to implement trustworthiness programs and programs that ensure the highest standards for nuclear safety, security, and nonproliferation.
- **Technical Organization Decision Makers:** To ensure the sustainability and success of FIRST engagement with operators, regulators, and security personnel, FIRST engages relevant decision makers and nuclear industry officials.

#### **Other Considerations:**

- **Leveraging Technical and Other Expertise:** FIRST incorporates experts from U.S. and international technical organizations, national laboratories, academia, and the nuclear industry in its training activities. FIRST seeks to incorporate lessons learned and best practices from the nuclear industry, but does not seek to promote nuclear energy to countries that are not considering it, nor to serve as a promotional vehicle for U.S. business interests or specific reactor vendors.
- **Tailored Engagement Strategies:** FIRST sponsors projects that are relevant to each partner country's needs, capabilities, infrastructure, and regulatory environment. Rather than adopting a one-size-fits-all approach, FIRST trainings are based on an understanding of technical and human capacity in each partner country, take cultural and policy considerations into account, and build upon past FIRST or other expert engagements.
- **Utilizing Innovative Technology:** To sustain developments made during in-country trainings and to provide consistent, regular support throughout project implementation, FIRST encourages the use of online training modules and virtual communication for capacity building.
- **Concrete Impact:** FIRST seeks to move beyond awareness-raising and toward adoption, implementation, and long-term sustainability of best practices. To accomplish this, FIRST is open to a variety of approaches, including leveraging private sector capabilities.

Proposals that provide specific and feasible approaches to sustainability, rather than platitudes or vague references, are highly encouraged.

The FIRST program engages with partners on nuclear security and sovereignty in an ongoing endeavor. To this end, ISN/CTR will evaluate each proposal, and each project during implementation, based on the strength of its proposed structure of engagement activities and established milestones, seeking work that will continue throughout the period of the project and utilize in-country activities where necessary to ensure the effectiveness of the ongoing training effort.

## **B. FEDERAL AWARD INFORMATION**

Length of performance period: Twelve (12) Months

Number of awards anticipated: 30 awards (dependent on amounts)

Number of awards applications: 300

Award amounts: awards may range from a minimum of \$50,000 to a maximum of \$250,000

Total available funding: \$10,000,000

**Type of Funding:** FY24/25 Nonproliferation, Anti-Terrorism, Demining and Related Activities Funds under the Foreign Assistance Act.

**Anticipated projects start date:** October 1, 2024

**Funding Instrument Type:** Interagency Agreements (IAAs) and Cooperative agreement.

Cooperative agreements are different from grants in that bureau staff are more actively involved in the grant implementation. The CTR office will play an active role in developing and shaping the materials developed and implanted during this award. CTR will also help identify participants.

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

**This notice is subject to availability of funding.**

## **C. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION**

### **1. Eligible Applicants**

The following organizations are eligible to apply:

- Not-for-profit organizations, including think tanks and civil society/non-governmental organizations
- Public and private educational institutions
- Federally funded research and development centers (FFRDCs)
- For-profit organizations Public International Organizations and Governmental institutions

### **2. Cost Sharing or Matching**

Cost sharing is not required and will play no role in when the project is being evaluated.

### 3. Other Eligibility Requirements

In order to be eligible to receive an award, all organizations must have a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) number issued via [www.SAM.gov](http://www.SAM.gov) as well as a valid registration on [www.SAM.gov](http://www.SAM.gov). Please see Section D.3 for more information.

Applicants are only allowed to submit one proposal package per organization. If more than one proposal package is submitted from an organization, all proposals from that institution may be considered ineligible for funding.

## D. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

### 1. Address to Request Application Package

Required application forms are available at [grants.gov](http://grants.gov).

### 2. Content and Form of Application Submission

Please follow all instructions below carefully. Proposals that do not meet the requirements of this announcement or fail to comply with the stated requirements will be ineligible.

#### Content of Application

Please ensure:

- The proposal clearly addresses the goals and objectives of this funding opportunity.
- All documents are in English
- All budgets are in U.S. dollars
- All pages are numbered
- All documents are formatted to 8 ½ x 11 paper, and
- All Microsoft Word documents are single-spaced, 12 point Calibri font, with a minimum of 1-inch margins.

Proposal documents

#### Mandatory documents

- **SF-424 (*Application for Federal Assistance – organizations*)**
- **Project Proposal:** Please follow the directions to complete the proposal template included in the application package.
- **Consolidated Project List**
- **Budget Detail**

Optional documents

- SF-424B (*Only required for organizations not registered in SAM.gov*)
- SF -LLL (DISCLOSURE OF LOBBYING ACTIVITIES)
- Copy of most recent approved NICRA
- Summary Page
- DEIA standalone document (*Separate from DEIA plan information included in project proposal*)

**2. Summary Page:** Cover sheet stating the applicant name and organization, proposal date, program title, program period proposed start and end date, and brief purpose of the program.

**3. Proposal (3 pages per project maximum):** The proposal should contain sufficient information that anyone not familiar with it would understand exactly what the applicant wants to do. Use the project proposals template posted with this NOFO.

**5. Budget Detail:** Use the spreadsheet template included with the NOFO to describe each of the budget expenses in detail. See section *H. Other Information: Guidelines for Budget Submissions* below for further information.

**6. Consolidated Project List:** Please use the provided template to identify all key information about the project. Each project included with this proposal should have its own line on the spreadsheet.

#### **7. Attachments (Optional)**

- 1-page CV or resume of key personnel who are proposed for the program
- If your organization has a Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA) and includes NICRA charges in the budget, your latest NICRA should be included as a PDF file.
- Standalone DEIA Statement in compliance with the optional proposal document, format included in with the guidance posted with the NOFO.
- SF-LLL form

3. Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management (SAM.gov)  
(*NOTE: This section is required and not optional.* )

#### **Required Registrations:**

All organizations, whether based in the United States or in another country, must have a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) and an active registration with the SAM.gov. A UEI is one of the data elements mandated by Public Law 109-282, the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA), for all Federal awards.

***Note: As of April 2022, a DUNS number is no longer required for federal assistance applications.***

The 2 CFR 200 requires that sub-grantees obtain a UEI number. Please note the UEI for sub-grantees is not required at the time of application but will be required before an award is processed and/or directed to a sub-grantee.

***Note: The process of obtaining or renewing a SAM.gov registration may take anywhere from 4-8 weeks. Please begin your registration as early as possible.***

- Organizations **based in the United States** or that pay employees within the United States will need an Employer Identification Number (EIN) from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and a UEI number prior to registering in SAM.gov.
- Organizations **based outside of the United States** and that do not pay employees within the United States do not need an EIN from the IRS but do need a UEI number prior to registering in SAM.gov.
- **Please note that as of November 2022 and February 2022 respectively, organizations based outside of the United States that do not intend to apply for U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) awards are no longer required to have a NATO Commercial and Government Entity (NCAGE) code or CAGE code to apply for non-DoD foreign assistance funding opportunities.** If an applicant organization is mid-registration and wishes to remove a CAGE or NCAGE code from their SAM.gov registration, the applicant should [submit a help desk ticket \("incident"\)](#) with the Federal Service Desk (FSD) online at [www.fsd.gov](http://www.fsd.gov) using the following language: "I do not intend to seek financial assistance from the Department of Defense. I do not wish to obtain a CAGE or NCAGE code. I understand that I will need to submit my registration after this incident is resolved in order to have my registration activated."

**Organizations based outside of the United States and that DO NOT plan to do business with the DoD should follow the below instructions:**

Step 1: Proceed to SAM.gov to obtain a UEI and complete the SAM.gov registration process. SAM.gov registration must be renewed annually.

**Organizations based outside of the United States and that DO plan to do business with the DoD in addition to Department of State should follow the below instructions:**

Step 1: Apply for an NCAGE code by following the instructions on the NSPA NATO website linked below:

NCAGE Homepage:

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

NCAGE Code Request Tool (NCRT):

## Exemptions

An exemption from the UEI and sam.gov registration requirements may be permitted on a case-by-case basis if:

- An applicant's identity must be protected due to potential endangerment of their mission, their organization's status, their employees, or individuals being served by the applicant.
- For an applicant, if the Federal awarding agency makes a determination that there are exigent circumstances that prohibit the applicant from receiving a unique entity identifier and completing SAM registration prior to receiving a Federal award. In these instances, Federal awarding agencies must require the recipient to obtain a unique entity identifier and complete SAM registration within 30 days of the Federal award date.

Organizations requesting exemption from UEI or SAM.gov requirements must email the point of contact listed in the NOFO at least two weeks prior to the deadline in the NOFO providing a justification of their request. Approval for a SAM.gov exemption must come from the warranted Grants Officer before the application can be deemed eligible for review.

### 4. Submission Dates and Times

Applications are due no later than **31 January 2024 at 11:59pm (EDT)**.

### 5. Funding Restrictions

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

Under Section 635b of the Foreign Assistance Act, CTR is able to provide awards to for-profit corporations, so long as the for profit does not benefit in profit from the implementation of the award.

### 6. Other Submission Requirements

All application materials must be submitted through [www.Grants.gov](http://www.Grants.gov) unless you are a U.S. Government entity applying for Inter-Agency Agreement (IAA) funding. If you are applying for an IAA please submit proposals to the relevant program team and [ISN-CTR-BUDGET@state.gov](mailto:ISN-CTR-BUDGET@state.gov).

## E. APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

### 1. 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:** Applicants 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 they will systematically meet ISN/CTR's global threat reduction 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 implementation period, and describe observable progress in meeting the program goals described above.
- **Diversity and Inclusion:** ISN/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 ISN/CTR's diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA) objectives through their programming. Submitted plans will be evaluated separate to the overall evaluation of projects and

- **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. 5 or higher)), System and Information Integrity Policy (SI-1) as follows:

- a. Identification and Authentication: Implement multifactor authentication for network access and local access.
- b. Access Controls: Implement security controls for information sharing, remote access and wireless access including: Monitoring, controlling, and protecting remote and wireless access to information by auditing information systems components (e.g., workstations, notebook computers, smartphones, and tablets).
- c. 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.

## 2. Review and Selection Process

A review committee will evaluate all eligible applications, final funding decision will be made by ISN/CTR Office Director and Deputy Director.

## 3. Responsibility/Qualification Information in SAM.gov (formerly, FAPIIS)

- i. The Federal awarding agency, prior to making a Federal award with a total amount of Federal share greater than the simplified acquisition threshold, is required to review and consider any information about the applicant that is in the U.S. government designated integrity and performance system accessible through SAM.gov (see 41 U.S.C. 2313);
- ii. An applicant, at its option, may review and comment on any information about itself that a Federal awarding agency previously entered. Currently, federal agencies create integrity records in the integrity module of the Contractor Performance Assessment and Reporting System (CPARS) and these records are visible as responsibility/qualification records in SAM.gov;
- iii. The Federal awarding agency will consider any comments by the applicant, in addition to the other information in the designated integrity and performance system, in making a judgment about the applicant's integrity, business ethics, and record of performance under

Federal awards when completing the review of risk posed by applicants as described in §200.206 Federal awarding agency review of risk posed by applicants.

## **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 program 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 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 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.

**Payment Method:** Payment Management System or SF-270 on a monthly basis.

### **2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements**

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

These include:

- [2 CFR 25 - UNIVERSAL IDENTIFIER AND SYSTEM FOR AWARD MANAGEMENT](#)
- [2 CFR 170 - REPORTING SUBAWARD AND EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION INFORMATION](#)
- [2 CFR 175 - AWARD TERM FOR TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS](#)
- [2 CFR 182 - GOVERNMENTWIDE REQUIREMENTS FOR DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE \(FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE\)](#)
- [2 CFR 183 - NEVER CONTRACT WITH THE ENEMY](#)
- [2 CFR 600 – DEPARTMENT OF STATE REQUIREMENTS](#)
- [41 USC 4712 - Enhancement of contractor protection from reprisal for disclosure of certain information](#)
- [U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE STANDARD TERMS AND CONDITIONS](#)

In accordance with the Office of Management and Budget's guidance located at 2 CFR part 200, all applicable Federal laws, and relevant Executive guidance, the Department of State will review and consider applications for funding, as applicable to specific programs, pursuant to this notice of funding opportunity in accordance with the following: NOTE:

- [Guidance for Grants and Agreements in Title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations](#) (2 CFR), as updated in the Federal Register's 85 FR 49506 on August 13, 2020, particularly on:
  - Selecting recipients most likely to be successful in delivering results based on the program objectives through an objective process of evaluating Federal award applications (2 CFR part 200.205),
  - Prohibiting the purchase of certain telecommunication and video surveillance services or equipment in alignment with section 889 of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2019 (Pub. L. No. 115—232) (2 CFR part 200.216),
  - Promoting the freedom of speech and religious liberty in alignment with *Promoting Free Speech and Religious Liberty* (E.O. 13798) and *Improving Free Inquiry, Transparency, and Accountability at Colleges and Universities* (E.O. 13864) (§§ 200.300, 200.303, 200.339, and 200.341),
  - Providing a preference, to the extent permitted by law, to maximize use of goods, products, and materials produced in the United States (2 CFR part 200.322), and
  - Terminating agreements in whole or in part to the greatest extent authorized by law, if an award no longer effectuates the program goals or agency priorities (2 CFR part 200.340).

In accordance with the [Executive Order on Advancing Racial Equity and Underserved Communities](#), proposals should demonstrate how the program advances equity with respect to race, ethnicity, religion, income, geography, gender identity, sexual orientation, and disability. The proposal should also demonstrate how the program will further engagement in underserved communities and with individuals from underserved communities. Proposals should demonstrate how addressing racial equity and underserved communities will enhance the program's goals and objectives, as well as the experience of participants.

The support of underserved communities will be part of the review criteria for this opportunity. Therefore, proposals should clearly demonstrate how the program will support and advance equity and engage underserved communities in program administration, design, and implementation.

### 3. Reporting

**Reporting Requirements:** Recipients will be required to submit financial reports and program reports. The award document will specify how often these reports must be submitted.

**Foreign Assistance Data Review:** As required by Congress, the Department of State must make progress in its efforts to improve tracking and reporting of foreign assistance data through the Foreign Assistance Data Review (FADR). The FADR requires tracking of foreign assistance activity data from budgeting, planning, and allocation through obligation and disbursement. Successful applicants will be required to report and draw down federal funding based on the appropriate FADR Data Elements, indicated within their award documentation. In cases of more than one FADR Data Element, typically program or sector and/or regions or country, the successful applicant will be required to maintain separate accounting records.

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**

If you have any questions about the grant application process, please contact: [FIRST@state.gov](mailto:FIRST@state.gov)

Direct any NOFO submission (non-programmatic) questions to:

Office of Cooperative Threat Reduction Budget Team [ISN-CTR-BUDGET@state.gov](mailto: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 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.