

U.S. Department of State
Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (TIP Office)
Notice of Funding Opportunity – Program to End Modern Slavery 2025

Federal Awarding Agency: U.S. Department of State

Program Office: Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, International Programs Section

Funding Opportunity Title: 2025 TIP Office International Programs to Combat Human Trafficking Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) – Stage 1: Statement of Interest for the Program to End Modern Slavery (PEMS)

Funding Opportunity: DFOP0017061

Announcement Type: 2025 TIP Office Notification of Funding Opportunity – Statement of Interest, PEMS

Assistance Listing Number(s): 19.019

Deadline for Applications: 17:00 EST February 4, 2025

A. Program Description

The Department of State's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (TIP Office) is pleased to invite organizations to submit Statements of Interest (SOIs) to combat human trafficking outside of the United States. For further details on this opportunity, please see Section C. **This NOFO is for stage one of a two-stage competition for funding.**

The TIP Office will allocate funding for anti-trafficking projects through an open, two-stage competitive process. In stage one of competition, also known as the SOI stage, applicants are invited to submit five-page-maximum SOIs for projects designed to address the priorities identified in Section C. The TIP Office will conduct a technical review to ensure SOIs meet all requirements identified in this funding opportunity. SOIs that pass the technical review will then undergo a programmatic review by a team of regional and/or subject matter experts. A limited number of applicants will be invited to stage two of the competition where the TIP Office will request full proposals and supporting documents. These full proposals will be reviewed by an interagency panel. TIP Office leadership will make final funding decisions. All funding for approved proposals is pending the availability of FY 2024 appropriated funds. The TIP Office anticipates issuing awards for the priorities identified below in the fall of 2025.

The TIP Office may exercise Non-Competitive Continuations (NCC) to awarded projects under this solicitation for additional years and funds to build on efforts of the base period of performance. If applicable, within the 90 days prior to the conclusion of the first period of performance, the TIP Office will notify the recipient of its intent to exercise or not to exercise an NCC after assessing the recipient's performance. The decision to exercise an NCC will depend both on the satisfactory performance of the recipient and on the availability of funds. More information on NCCs will be shared in stage two of the competitive process when full proposals are submitted.

TIP Office-funded efforts also include partnerships with governments, academia, civil society, the private sector, other funders, and international organizations to advance the goals of the program and improve collaboration on the reduction of the prevalence of human trafficking.

The TIP Office welcomes strong SOIs (as measured by the criteria in Section G) that address human trafficking challenges on a significant scale, offer the potential to have a systemic and sustainable impact, and align with U.S. government priorities and the TIP Office’s 2024 priorities, among other factors.

B. FEDERAL AWARD INFORMATION

Approximate Average Award: \$2,500,000 for initial period of performance

Floor of Award Range: \$500,000

Ceiling of Award Range: \$5,000,000 for initial period of performance; \$5,000,000 for total overall ceiling (Some Programming Priorities may have lower initial and total overall ceiling award ranges, see below.)

Award Duration: 24 – 54 Months

Anticipated Award Date: September 30, 2025

Additional Information: The TIP Office reserves the right to reduce, revise, or increase budgets in accordance with the needs of the program and the availability of funds.

FUNDING INSTRUMENT TYPE

Any funds awarded under this funding opportunity will be provided through a **grant** or **cooperative agreement**. A cooperative agreement provides for “substantial involvement” between the agency — in this case the TIP Office — and the recipient during the award’s period of performance. If awarded as a cooperative agreement, the TIP Office will undertake reasonable and programmatically necessary substantial involvement, including active participation or collaboration with the recipient in the implementation of the award.

Examples of substantial involvement by the TIP Office may include, but are not limited to: review and approval of one stage of work before another can begin; review and approval of all proposed sub-awards or contracts; joint presentation of results with the recipient; and/or involvement where the TIP Office requires specific programmatic oversight over the award beyond normal monitoring.

Substantial involvement is in addition to routine monitoring that includes approval of changes in key personnel; approval of the recipient’s budget and plan

of work prior to award; standard oversight, monitoring, and administration of federal awards; and unanticipated actions to correct a recipient's performance, administrative, or financial deficiencies identified during the implementation of the award.

US GOVERNMENT APPROACH TO COMBATTING TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

The Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 USC §7101 et seq.), as amended (TVPA), established the TIP Office in the U.S. Department of State. The TIP Office leads the United States' global engagement to combat human trafficking and seeks partnerships with foreign governments, civil society organizations, and multilateral organizations utilizing the "3P" paradigm: **prosecuting** traffickers using a victim-centered and trauma-informed approach, **protecting** trafficking victims through proactive identification and the provision of comprehensive, trauma-informed care, and **preventing** trafficking in persons through targeted programs that make it more difficult or risky for traffickers to commit the crime. The TIP Office also recognizes the importance of **partnerships** and collaborative efforts with relevant governmental and nongovernmental actors in anti-trafficking work. TIP Office programs and projects combat human trafficking – a crime that involves compelling a person to work or engage in a commercial sex act through the trafficker's use of force, fraud, or coercion. It should be noted that when a person younger than 18 is used to perform a commercial sex act, it is a crime regardless of whether there is any force, fraud, or coercion.

The U.S. government defines "trafficking in persons" as:

- Sex trafficking, which encompasses the range of activities involved when a trafficker uses force, fraud, or coercion to compel another person to engage in a commercial sex act or causes a child to engage in a commercial sex act with or without force, fraud, or coercion.
- Forced labor, sometimes also referred to as labor trafficking, encompasses the range of activities involved when a person uses force, fraud, or coercion to exploit the labor or services of another person.

Trafficking in persons **does not** require the movement of a person. Under the TVPA and generally consistent with the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, Supplementing United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime (Palermo Protocol), individuals may be trafficking victims regardless of whether they once

consented to provide commercial sex acts (with the exception of children, who cannot provide consent), labor, or services; whether they participated in unlawful acts their traffickers compelled them to commit; whether someone transported them into the exploitative situation; or whether they were simply born into a state of servitude. The TIP Office will not support projects that use alternate definitions of trafficking.

The TVPA requires that the Department of State submit to Congress an annual report assessing the efforts of governments to address trafficking in persons. The annual TIP Report is the primary tool for the Department's engagement with other governments on human trafficking and informs U.S. policy and assistance priorities to combat this crime. The 2024 TIP Report is available on the TIP Office website, www.state.gov/j/tip.

Since 2000, when the United Nations adopted the Palermo Protocol and the United States enacted the TVPA, the number of parties to the Protocol has risen to over 190 countries. In addition, a majority of countries have criminalized all forms of human trafficking, and many countries have established specialized law enforcement units, set up human trafficking victim assistance mechanisms, and launched public awareness campaigns. Nonetheless, the number of victims identified and assisted – and the number of traffickers investigated, prosecuted, and convicted – remains low relative to the size of the problem; governments also continue to face challenges in effectively implementing anti-trafficking legal and policy frameworks.

The TIP Office works to build the capacity of partner governments and civil society to address these challenges in a number of ways, including through foreign assistance programs. Information on U.S. government anti-trafficking efforts is available at <https://www.state.gov/humantrafficking/> and a summary of international projects currently funded by the TIP Office is available at <https://www.state.gov/tip-office-project-descriptions/>.

Applicants are expected to submit SOIs that reflect an understanding of victim-centered, trauma-informed, and survivor-informed approaches to anti-trafficking programming. Applicants should also include these approaches in any plans for direct engagement with individuals with lived experience of human trafficking; applicants are encouraged to work with and/or consult individuals with lived

experience of human trafficking in the development of their SOIs if possible. When relevant for the SOIs, applicants are expected to reflect the provision of comprehensive services to victims of trafficking. Strong applicants should incorporate these approaches, where relevant, into their proposals and explain how each concept will be appropriately applied in project activities. The TIP Office defines these concepts as follows:

Victim-Centered Approach

Placing the crime victim's priorities, needs, and interests at the center of the work with the victim; providing nonjudgmental assistance, with an emphasis on self-determination, and assisting victims in making informed choices; ensuring that restoring victims' feelings of safety and security are a priority and safeguarding against policies and practices that may inadvertently re-traumatize victims. A victim-centered approach should also incorporate a trauma-informed, survivor-informed, and culturally competent approach.

Trauma-Informed Approach

A trauma-informed approach recognizes signs of trauma in individuals and the professionals who help them and responds by integrating knowledge about trauma into policies, procedures, practices, and settings, and seeking to actively resist re-traumatization. This approach includes an understanding of the vulnerabilities and experiences of trauma survivors, including the prevalence and physical, social, and emotional impact of trauma. A trauma-informed approach places priority on restoring the survivor's feelings of safety, choice, and control. Programs, services, agencies, and communities can be trauma-informed.

Survivor-Informed

Survivor-informed proposals include programs, policies, interventions, or products that are designed, implemented, and evaluated with intentional leadership, expertise, and input from a diverse community of survivors to ensure that the program, policy, intervention, or product accurately represents their needs, interests, and perceptions.

Non-Competitive Continuations (NCCs)

To maximize the impact and sustainability of the award(s) that result from this funding opportunity, the TIP Office retains the right to execute NCCs. The total duration of any award, including potential NCC amendments, generally will not

exceed 60 months, or five years. Any NCC is contingent on performance and **pending availability of funds**. An NCC is not guaranteed, and the Department of State reserves the right to exercise or not to exercise this option.

C. PROGRAMMING PRIORITY/IES

The TIP Office has identified programming priorities for potential funding. These priorities are heavily informed by recommendations from the annual TIP Report, coordination with a broad range of anti-trafficking donors, and engagement with foreign governments and local civil society, and are based on the TIP Office's current anti-trafficking efforts.

The TIP Office generally prioritizes foreign assistance in those countries assessed below Tier 1 in the TIP Report and where governments demonstrate political will, but lack the economic resources or anti-trafficking expertise, to effectively address the problem. Applicants may apply for up to the total amount listed below and should submit funding requests rounded to the nearest \$5,000 (e.g. \$735,000 rather than \$734,097).

The TIP Office may fund activities in high-income countries, but the use of foreign assistance funding to benefit a high-income country requires additional review. The TIP Office considers high-income countries to be those designated as high income by the World Bank using the gross national income (GNI) per capita (Atlas method).

To be eligible for consideration, SOIs must respond to the specific priority or priorities identified below. Applicants can submit up to three (3) proposals as the prime applicant for projects that align with the below priority.

Specific Information on this programming priority as well as background on the Program to End Modern Slavery (PEMS) is provided below.

PEMS Background: The goal of PEMS is to measurably and substantially reduce the prevalence of human trafficking and the harms associated with the crime in targeted populations through innovative interventions driven by research, monitoring, evaluation, and learning, and the expansion of partnerships with government, academia, civil society organizations, international organizations, and the private sector.

PEMS-funded efforts conduct scientifically rigorous research to establish evidence on the effects of anti-trafficking (including forced labor and sex trafficking) programs on the reduction of the prevalence of human trafficking through the advancement of sound prevalence measurement methodologies, strong monitoring and evaluation practices, evidence-based programming, and the application of victim-centered and trauma-informed approaches and interventions.

The U.S. Congress has appropriated \$25 million annually since 2016 for PEMS, with \$200 million in funding obligated to date. The TIP Office plans to allocate up to \$22 million in FY24 funding to this funding opportunity.

Programming Priority Summary:

PEMS programming aims to support the development and scaling of impactful counter-trafficking interventions, by providing funding at three critical stages: 1) the research and design of innovative solutions; 2) the implementation and rigorous evaluation of promising practices; and 3) the replication or scaling up of effective solutions.

This year's funding opportunity builds on prior PEMS-funded initiatives and is designed to address critical evidence gaps on what approaches are effective in responding to trafficking in persons. While the 2023 PEMS funding opportunity focused heavily on stage 1 with the research, development, and piloting of projects through Intervention Development Research (IDR), the 2025 PEMS opportunity is focused more heavily on stage 2, validating promising interventions that have already been developed but have not undergone rigorous evaluation.

This NOFO requests that applicants identify and propose a promising practice or intervention approach that has some initial evidence showing its potential for effectiveness and impact. Applicants will propose to implement the intervention alongside a rigorous evaluation to validate the model, understand its success, and document its potential for adaptation for other contexts. **This opportunity will cover the costs of implementing the intervention as well as the evaluation.** More information on what types of interventions are considered promising and eligible, what evidence of effectiveness can be provided, and potential evaluation

methods that will be considered rigorous can be found below in the “Statement of Interest Guidance” section of this document.

For the purposes of this funding opportunity, the term “intervention” is defined as: a set of planned activities or strategies designed to bring about specific changes in a situation or group. An intervention can involve multiple components that work together to achieve clearly defined outcomes. For example, an intervention might include efforts spanning two or more of the four Ps (prevention, protection, prosecution, partnerships) or activities across multiple countries targeting a shared goal. The funding opportunity focuses on the implementation and evaluation of promising interventions that fall into any one of these categories:

- a) An existing intervention which has shown promise but has not been rigorously evaluated;
- b) An intervention that has shown success in other fields (such as combating gender-based violence) but has not been adapted and tested as a human trafficking intervention;
- c) An intervention for which there is a design for programming supported by significant research, but has not yet had the funding to implement and evaluate the intervention.

This funding opportunity is designed to be accessible to organizations of varying sizes, locations, and capacities; it recognizes that frontline organizations around the world have developed many promising approaches through practice-based knowledge and expertise. In order to definitively and reliably identify what works and would be effective when replicated or at scale, PEMS is looking to provide funding for organizations to implement their promising interventions alongside rigorous evaluations. Preference will be given to applications proposing interventions that build the evidence base for the most critical needs or which have promise to impact large numbers of people experiencing or highly vulnerable to trafficking in persons.

To be eligible, SOIs must present a promising intervention model and summarize existing evidence to support the intervention’s effectiveness. SOIs must outline a plan for implementing the intervention in a specified context alongside a rigorous evaluation and articulate how the evaluation adds value to the applicant’s work

as well as to the knowledge base on effective anti-trafficking programming. Applicants may propose a variety of evaluation methods and approaches that have the potential to meaningfully demonstrate not only whether an intervention achieved its intended target(s), but also whether the intervention successfully contributed to its intended outcomes and impact – more information on this can be found in the “Statement of Interest Guidance” section of this document.

This NOFO presents an opportunity for organizations with promising approaches to refine and validate their intervention model, including the theory of change and intervention approach, in preparation for a rigorous evaluation, and to implement the intervention with strong monitoring, evaluation, research, and learning support. The TIP Office may provide external guidance and support for awardees to support the preparation of interventions’ designs for implementation alongside an evaluation. Applicants must be open to working with external guidance and open to refining and adapting their intervention model based on learnings throughout the project to strengthen their approach and increase their potential for impact. All proposed projects should start with a period in which they review the intervention’s evidence and theory of change and determine whether any modifications should be made to the intervention to enhance effectiveness or prepare it for evaluation.

Detailed instructions for developing SOIs and specific questions for applicants to address can be found in the “Statement of Interest Guidance” section of this document, as well as the section “Application Contents and Format” which contains all technical formatting and structure requirements. Applicants must comply with all technical and content requirements laid out in this document. Applications will be assessed according to the evaluation criteria laid out in Section G, Application Review Criteria, below. Prospective applicants should review the evaluation criteria below in addition to the instructions in this document to have a clear understanding of how applications will be scored.

Additional Information and Considerations:

Each SOI may focus on only one intervention that will be evaluated as a whole. SOIs must specify the country or countries proposed for implementation under this funding opportunity. One example of when multiple countries or locations are acceptable is if an applicant chooses an instance of human trafficking which

involves movement and an effective intervention would involve source, transit, and/or destination sites. There is no preference or requirement under this opportunity on the focus of the intervention (prosecution, protection, and/or prevention), and there is no preference or requirement for interventions implemented in certain countries or regions. Applicants are encouraged to propose their most promising interventions to combat human trafficking and most strategic locations for implementation.

Applicants can submit multiple SOIs on different interventions that are not interdependent, however, organizations may only submit up to (3) proposals as the prime applicant. There is no limit to the number of applications in which an organization is listed as a partner organization. Applicants with multiple country locations, offices, or entities must coordinate to limit the total number of proposals in which the organization is listed as the prime applicant to comply with the limits above.

Country-specific considerations:

As noted above, applicants may apply with *any* anti-trafficking intervention to be implemented in *any* country; the TIP Office encourages applicants to apply in countries and contexts most appropriate to showing positive impact of the proposed intervention.

In addition, the TIP Office requests applications from applicants with significant local expertise to build on previous programming efforts in the following locations: Costa Rica (sex trafficking) and West Africa (sex and/or labor trafficking). Applicants may apply under the programming priority above, identifying promising interventions ready for replication in additional areas or with additional stakeholders and/or identifying promising interventions that address critical remaining needs.

Statement of Interest Guidance

Statements of Interest should be developed to include responses to the items below. The TIP Office recognizes that the applicant may have a great deal of information they could provide in response to the following questions. Please

briefly summarize the response to the questions; those applicants who are invited to submit a full application will have the opportunity to provide additional details.

- 1) Description of the Intervention:** Provide a description of the intervention – what human trafficking issue or issues does the intervention address? Include information such as type of trafficking (sex, labor, or both), sector, key beneficiaries, etc. What are the main intervention objectives and activities, and what is the desired change the intervention will produce? Summarize the project’s logic, including root causes of challenges or problems the intervention addresses, and how the activities or components lead to outputs and overall outcomes. If a theory of change or logic model has been developed for the intervention, you may include that as an optional annex (Annex A).
- 2) Implementation Plan and Approach for Proposed Project:** Please summarize plans for how and where your organization will implement the intervention under this funding opportunity. Include information on the planned location, scale, target beneficiaries, and the general timeline. Further detailed information on the implementation plan will be asked from applicants invited to apply for Stage 2. Note that the proposed project should start with a review of the intervention model and include time to determine and design any alterations before programming starts, if needed, to enhance effectiveness, though detail on this process is not needed for the SOI application.
- 3) Design and History of the Intervention:** Provide a brief summary of how the intervention was originally designed, by whom, and based on what knowledge/information (e.g., needs assessments, gap analysis, information from impacted stakeholders, research or related data collection) about the issue of focus and the population targeted. Applicants should also provide a brief history of the intervention’s implementation (has it been implemented previously? If so, where, at what scale, and by which implementing organization/s?).
This section should clearly state which category the proposed intervention falls into: a, b, or c from the list below:
 - a. An existing intervention which has shown promise but has not been rigorously evaluated;

- b. An intervention that has shown success in other fields (such as combating gender-based violence) but has not been adapted and tested as a human trafficking intervention;
 - c. An intervention for which there is a design for programming supported by significant research, which has not yet had the funding to implement and evaluate.
- 4) Evidence on the Effectiveness of the Intervention:** What existing evidence supports the results or effectiveness of the intervention? If the intervention has been used in other contexts (e.g., with other vulnerable groups, such as victims of gender-based violence, refugees, etc.) or sectors, what data documents its effectiveness? Applicants should provide a summary – highlighting relevant evidence (which can be qualitative, quantitative, or both) as well as sources. Sources can include but are not limited to your own or other organizations’ monitoring data (e.g. routine case management data, program evaluations, case studies), or external evidence of the efficacy of the intervention supported in academic journal articles, or other sources.
- 5) Systems Change and Sustainability:** Will the intervention as proposed be integrated into existing systems and/or strengthen such systems (local, national, public, private, etc.)? If so, how? Will the intervention be sustained beyond the grant funding? If so, how?
- 6) Potential for Impact:**
- a. Describe the downstream outcomes and potential for impact of the intervention if implemented as proposed and funded in this application. For example, how many trafficking survivors will be supported directly through this intervention and in what ways? How many people at risk of trafficking will be impacted and what is the ultimate proposed outcome(s) that would reduce their risk? What is the basis for these calculations? This section should focus on what will be achieved with the funding applied for under this opportunity.
 - b. Additionally, describe the potential for impact of this intervention for other contexts if it is found to be effective and able to be replicated or scaled. Are there other contexts (additional locations, countries, trafficking types, etc.) where this intervention might be useful? Is there any data on the scale of the need for this intervention, such as how many people would benefit (as direct beneficiaries or through reduced prevalence of trafficking in persons in certain contexts,

etc.)? Provide a basis or source for any calculations or data shared. This section should focus on what could be achieved in the future if the intervention is replicated or scaled without taking into account funding currently available.

- 7) Evaluation Approach:** Please describe your proposed program's evaluation plans and approach as envisioned under this funding opportunity by answering the following questions. Note that further information on the evaluation approach will be required for applicants invited to Stage 2.
- a. What is the gap between what is already known about the effectiveness of the project and what you think needs to be studied to get more concrete evidence on its effectiveness? What is the primary purpose of the evaluation, and what key learning and evaluation questions do you want answered? Note: a helpful resource that includes some research and learning questions for the anti-trafficking space is [Innovation for Poverty Action's Research and Learning Agenda](#), which has been developed under the Program to End Modern Slavery. Applicants may choose to address research questions included in this agenda or develop their question/s. Note that under this opportunity, applicants are welcome to propose a variety of evaluation approaches and are not limited to RCTs or other experimental or quasi-experimental approaches.
 - b. How do you intend to use findings from an evaluation of this intervention to inform your organization's work? What are the perceived benefits? Do you see this evaluation having a wider impact on programming and/or policy within the anti-trafficking space? If so, please describe how.
 - c. Provide a summary of the evaluation methodology or methodologies planned. If methodologies have not been developed, please summarize how you will identify and develop your methodological approach(es).
 - d. NOTE: If a timeline extending beyond four and a half years would be beneficial for measuring outcomes and impacts assessed with the evaluation, please indicate that in the SOI, and the TIP Office may consider a phase funded project that allows for additional years.
- 8) Cost Estimates:** Provide a few sentences summarizing the anticipated costs of the total project, including costs for the intervention as well as monitoring and evaluation. Additional guidance for applicants as they prepare cost estimates at this stage is provided below. Note: Detail on the

items below is not needed during Stage 1, however, applicants should factor in costs with the following information in mind:

- a. A significant portion of the total budget is expected to be allocated within the country where interventions are proposed. Additionally, applicants should ensure there is ample budget for monitoring, evaluation, research and learning (MERL) costs in addition to the evaluation itself.
 - b. Note on total costs and maturity/scale of the proposed intervention: Applicants should develop a total budget factoring in the size of the proposed intervention, evaluation methodology, and maturity or level of existing evidence for the intervention. Applicants must use their judgement and develop cost estimates that demonstrate strong value for money when considering these factors, with the strongest justifications required for applications at the upper end of the funding range. Funding for the development and piloting of more nascent promising interventions will be provided at lower levels than funding for interventions that have significant evidence of their effectiveness.
 - c. Budget totals should factor in costs for finalizing the intervention model and plan at the beginning and sharing the results of the evaluation at the end with key stakeholders including impacted local populations and stakeholders as well as other relevant policymakers and practitioners in broader settings. Dissemination events with relevant groups can be in person, online, or via other means and should include analysis on if the model was successful, why it was successful, and how it might be effectively adapted or scaled to other contexts.
- 9) Organizational Capacity and Partnerships:** Describe the capacities and qualifications that enable your organization and partners to implement the proposed intervention in the proposed location, as well as to conduct the accompanying evaluation. Briefly provide a summary of the roles of each partner as envisioned at this stage.
- a. Further guidance:
 - i. Applications are strongly encouraged from organizations based in the country where interventions are proposed. Applicants should possess significant contextual expertise and existing relationships with key stakeholders within the local system (government, civil

society, etc.) or be partnered with a local organization(s) with such capacity.

- ii. Similarly, partners included to support MERL initiatives should possess significant contextual expertise in the target countries, human trafficking issues, and methodology/ies proposed (e.g., local universities, research institutions, etc.).
- iii. Note that applications are welcomed from organizations with minimal prior experience implementing government grants, and costs for building grant management capacity may be included under this opportunity.

Annex A (Optional):

- If the applicant has developed a theory of change or logic model for the intervention, they may choose to include it for review with this application, however, submitting Annex A is optional and is not an application requirement. The TIP Office will accept both narrative and visual theories of change or logic models. Applicants may provide a theory of change or logic model that has been developed for the intervention in another context or geography as an illustrative design that can be adapted for implementation under this award.
- Annex A can be submitted as a pdf, word, jpeg, or excel file, may include differing fonts, margins, or colors, and should be no more than 2 pages on 8 ½ x 11-inch paper.
- Additional annexes (other than the optional Annex A) are unallowable and will result in failure of the technical review.

D. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

1. Applicants

The following organizations are eligible to apply:

- U.S.-based and foreign non-profits
- Non-governmental organizations, including faith-based organizations
- Public international organizations (PIOs)
- Institutions of higher education

- For-profit entities
- U.S. government agencies

Applications submitted by for-profit entities may be subject to additional review following the panel selection process. Additionally, the Department of State prohibits for-profit or commercial organizations under its assistance awards to earn a profit. Profit is defined as any amount in excess of allowable direct and indirect costs. The allowability of costs incurred by commercial organizations is determined in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) at 48 CFR 30, Cost Accounting Standards Administration, and 48 CFR 31 Contract Cost Principles and Procedures.

U.S. government agencies may respond to this Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) with applications for projects that would be funded through an Interagency Agreement (IAA). While foreign governments are not eligible to apply, governments may be beneficiaries of projects provided that funding does not pay salaries of government agency personnel and that such assistance is not restricted by U.S. law or policy.

Organizations currently receiving funds from the TIP Office may apply for additional funding under the present funding opportunity. The eligibility requirements for applying to this funding opportunity do not restrict applicants from receiving other sources of funding from the U.S. government, including from other bureaus within the Department of State.

Under this funding opportunity, applicants may form a consortium and partner with other organizations to implement and carry out project activities. Applicants partnering with other organizations must clearly identify the lead applicant, and the lead applicant may designate one or more partner organizations as sub-recipients. For the purposes of this funding opportunity, a partner organization is any organization that would receive sub-award funding from a successful applicant to help the applicant organization implement anti-trafficking projects. All mandatory terms and conditions for a successful applicant also apply to any sub-awards.

The TIP Office is committed to an anti-discrimination policy in all its projects and activities. The TIP Office welcomes applications irrespective of race, ethnicity,

color, creed, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, or other status.

2. Cost Sharing or Matching

Cost sharing, cost matching, and cost participation are **not** required to carry out a project under this funding opportunity. While not required, applicants may propose to include voluntary cost share. Note that applications that include voluntary cost share will **not** be evaluated differently than other applications.

3. Audit Requirements

2 CFR § 200, Subpart F requires domestic non-federal entities with greater than \$1,000,000 in federal award expenditures in a fiscal year to obtain a single audit or program-specific audit and to submit their reporting package to the Federal Audit Clearinghouse (FAC) within the earlier of 30 days after receipt of their auditor's report, or 9 months after the end of their audit period. Although this provision (2 CFR §200, Subpart F) is not applicable to foreign non-profit and foreign for-profit organizations, the Department of State requires such recipients, if they expend \$1,000,000 or more in Department of State funds in the organization's fiscal year, whether as a prime or a subrecipient, to undergo a recipient-contracted single or program-specific audit annually. The cost of required audits may be charged either as an allowable direct cost to the award or included in the organization's Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate or de minimis indirect costs. When completed, audits should be submitted to the Grants Officer (GO) assigned to the award. Foreign Public Entities may choose to submit audits as part of the pre-award process, but this should not be a mandatory requirement for such organizations.

4. Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) and System for Award Management (SAM) Registration

All organizations, whether based in the United States or in another country, must have a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) and an active registration in 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. An applicant must maintain an active registration while it has a proposal under review by the Department and must continue to keep the registration active for the entire

duration of the period of performance of any Federal award that results from this NOFO.

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

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 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 prior to registering in SAM.gov.

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 to apply for non-DoD foreign assistance funding opportunities. If an applicant organization is mid-registration and wishes to remove an 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 using the following language: “I do not intend to seek financial assistance from the Department of Defense. I do not wish to obtain an 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): NCAGE Code Request Tool (nato.int)

Exemptions

An exemption from the UEI and sam.gov registration requirements may be permitted on a case-by-case basis. See 2 CFR 25.110 for a full list of exemptions. 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.

E. APPLICATION CONTENTS AND FORMAT

To be competitive under this funding opportunity, applicants must be fully responsive to all directions in this document. Please pay close attention to all SOI requirements, including font and formatting requirements, and ensure that your application satisfies these requirements. Failure to do so will result in an automatic failure of the technical review and ineligibility for further consideration in this open competition for funding.

1. Programming Priorities

To be considered for funding, all applications must build on the specific priority or priorities identified in this NOFO. Applicants pursuing multiple awards must submit separate SOI applications for each project.

2. Formatting

Unless otherwise specified, all required documents must be written in the English language and submitted as Microsoft Word documents using one-inch margins and formatted to 8 ½ x 11-inch paper. **All documents must use text that is black in color, 12-point in size, and either Calibri or Aptos fonts.** All budget figures must be in U.S. dollars.

3. Required Documents

Complete applications must include the following documents to be considered for funding:

- **Project Narrative:** The project narrative must not exceed five pages while complying with the font and formatting requirements. Applicants must clearly list the name of their organization, the region, country, and priority for which they are applying, the initial period funding amount, the total funding amount, and the point of contact and contact information for the application **in bold** at the top of the first page of the narrative. Citations, footnotes, charts, and other graphics are included in the five-page limit. Applicants are reminded to double-check the page count prior to submission. Applicants must comply with all technical and substantive requirements provided in this NOFO. Applications will be assessed according to the evaluation criteria laid out in Section G, Application Review Criteria, below.

F. SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS AND DEADLINE

1. Application and Submission Platform

All applications must be fully submitted **via MyGrants** (formerly SAMS-Domestic) by the application deadline (**17:00 EST/EDT on February 4, 2025**). MyGrants can be found at <https://mygrants.service-now.com/grants>. The TIP Office will **not** accept applications or updated documents submitted by any other method, including email, fax, the postal system, delivery companies, couriers, or U.S. embassies.

To address and avoid delays caused by technical issues, applicants are strongly encouraged to initiate the electronic application early in the application period and to submit their application before or early on the due date. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that it has an active registration in MyGrants. Applicants are required to document that the application has been received in its entirety by MyGrants. The TIP Office bears no responsibility for disqualification that results from applicants not being registered before the due date, for system errors in MyGrants, or other errors in the application process.

Beginning with MyGrants as a New User

Organizations using MyGrants for the first time must register on the MyGrants website to create a New Applicant account as soon as possible. **This application step must be completed before an application can be submitted.** To register with MyGrants, click the “Create an Account” link and complete the “MyGrants User Registration Request” application form. Users will receive an email requesting account verification. This verification step must be completed before an application can be submitted.

If the applicant **has previously received funding** from the Department of State, please submit a ticket through ILMS (see Support below) and contact JTIPGrants@state.gov after the account has been created to ensure the account is associated with the correct organization. If an applicant **has not previously received funding** from the Department of State, the TIP Office cannot associate a new account in MyGrants to an organization. Note that a new user account does not need to be associated with an organization in order to submit an application.

Submitting Applications in MyGrants

To upload the application, navigate to MyGrants, select “Apply, then Funding Opportunities,” and select the “Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons Programs” funding opportunity. Select the “Apply Here” button, enter the applicant organization’s information, and click the “Save” button. Complete each portion of the application in the corresponding section of the “Additional Documents to Be Submitted” tab. **Please ensure that you select “Allow anyone in my organization to edit this proposal” to ensure other members of your organization have access to edit this application.**

Electronic applications submitted via MyGrants must contain the completed SF-424 online forms and all required documents specified in this funding opportunity. **All application documents must be submitted in English.**

Support

For assistance with **MyGrants**, please contact the ILMS Support Desk at 1-(888)-313-4567 (toll free for international callers) or submit a ticket using the **ILMS Self Service Portal** (<https://afsitsm.service-now.com/ilms/home>). Customer Support is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Please note support hours may change

on Federal holidays. Direct questions regarding the process of uploading applications to Customer Support. Technical difficulties not resolved by the Support Desk by the time of submission must be fully documented and reported to the TIP Office at JTIPGrants@state.gov only. Please do not contact any other Department of State personnel.

2. Submission Dates and Times

All applications must be fully submitted **via MyGrants** (formerly SAMS-Domestic) no later than **(17:00EST/EDT on February 4, 2025)**.

3. Late Submissions

Late submission will only be accepted due to technical difficulties near the deadline, and only with proper documentation. If an organization experiences difficulty submitting an application near the deadline, their application will only be accepted late if they have opened a ticket with the ILMS Support Desk to resolve the problem prior to the deadline **and** have emailed jtipgrants@state.gov before the deadline with the ticket number and a brief explanation of the problem.

The application process is not complete until the applicant receives notification from MyGrants that its application has been validated and forwarded to the granting agency (TIP Office). Please allow sufficient time for entering the application into these systems and to troubleshoot any issues. It is the responsibility of the applicant to monitor its application to ensure that it is successfully received and validated.

4. Funding Restrictions

The U.S. Department of State restricts the use of federal assistance funds for certain purposes as listed below.

United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA). None of the funds awarded resulting from this Notice of Funding Opportunity may be made available for subawards, direct financial support, or otherwise used to provide any payment or transfer to United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA).

Activities Encouraging Mass-Migration Caravans towards the United States Southwest Border. None of the funds awarded under this grant may be made available to encourage, mobilize, publicize, or manage mass-migration caravans

towards the United States southwest border. Funds may not be made available for legal counseling on the United States asylum process; and/or for referrals to legal or representation in the United States. Funds may only be used for cash cards for use in the country in which they are provided or to facilitate voluntary returns and other purposes that do not encourage, mobilize, publicize, or manage mass migration caravans towards the United States southwest border. The provision of humanitarian assistance is permitted.

Ineligible Recipients. Foreign assistance funds may not benefit countries or entities that are not eligible recipients of United States foreign assistance or for which there are applicable assistance restrictions. Applicants shall work with the Department of State to ensure that any applicable restrictions and requirements are addressed prior to awarding any sub-awards.

Equipment and Supplies. Equipment is herein defined as an article of non-expendable, tangible, personal property having a useful life of more than one year and an acquisition cost in excess of \$10,000. **Please note that if equipment costs are included in an application, the organization must retain ownership of all equipment obtained throughout the lifetime of the federal award.** This includes any equipment funded with cost sharing or matching funds. At the end of the award, you must complete federal SF-428 forms for the TIP Office Grants Officer to evaluate whether the item(s) be retained, sold, or disposed of without any further obligation to the Department of State.

Supplies are herein defined as all tangible personal property other than those described in Equipment. Note that if there is a residual inventory of unused supplies exceeding \$10,000 in total aggregate value upon completion of the project and the supplies are not needed for any other Federal award, your entity must retain the supplies for use on other activities or sell them, but must, in either case, compensate the Department of State for its share. The amount of compensation will be computed in the same manner as for Equipment.

The TIP Office further restricts the use of federal assistance funds for certain purposes as listed below.

Construction. The TIP Office restricts the use of Federal assistance for construction purposes. Construction costs are defined as non-major costs for

rearrangement and alteration or reconversion or renovation of facilities. Construction would include ordinary or normal alterations, restoration, or rehabilitation such as any work that modifies buildings and/or grounds. This includes but is not limited to adding, replacing, modifying, relocating, removing, or painting doors, walls, windows, flooring, or the alterations of ceilings, adding on to or dividing existing space or work on any building utility system, electrical, plumbing, ventilation, air conditioning, controls systems, fire alarms, fire sprinklers, security systems and telecommunication equipment. Federal assistance funds cannot be used for capital improvements unless specifically approved in advance by the TIP Office.

G. APPLICATION REVIEW CRITERIA AND PROCESS FOR REVIEW AND SELECTION

1. Criteria

Applicants are responsible for reviewing the criteria to fully understand how applications will be reviewed and evaluated for potential funding. Reviewers will evaluate applications based on their own merits using the evaluation criteria below:

Reviewers will evaluate applications based on their own merits. Reviewers will use the below evaluation criteria. Applicants are responsible for reviewing the criteria below to fully understand how applications will be reviewed and evaluated for potential funding. Applications will be evaluated against their responses to the questions listed in the “Statement of Interest Guidance” section of this document, according to the criteria below.

- 1. Strength of the Intervention Design:** Does the proposed intervention have sound program logic, appropriately addressing the root causes and/or critical elements of the human trafficking focus issues through relevant program activities, goals, and objectives, and is it likely to achieve its intended impact?
- 2. Strength of the Intervention Evidence:** Does the application present sufficient evidence about the effectiveness of the intervention? If the intervention has been implemented previously, does the applicant present compelling evidence beyond anecdotal information? If this intervention has not yet been implemented in the context of human trafficking or is newly

designed, is the evidence that points to its potential for success in this context strong enough to warrant funding at the level applied for? Note that the TIP Office is open to a variety of evidence types and sources, including organization's' monitoring data, qualitative data, etc. More information on this can be found in the "Statement of Interest Guidance" section of this document.

3. **Capacity and Local Expertise of the Prime Applicant and Partners:** Does the prime applicant and/or an implementing partner have strong local contextual knowledge and existing partnerships with critical stakeholders? Do the applicants demonstrate expertise and capacity to implement the intervention? If MERL partners are selected, are there partners in place with expertise in the country, trafficking type, and methodologies proposed? If MERL partners are not in place, does the application propose a strong plan for identifying partners? Does the applicant demonstrate capacity to manage a project at the funding level requested? Note that applications are welcomed from organizations with minimal prior experience implementing government grants, and costs for building grant management capacity may be included under this opportunity.
4. **Evaluation Approach and Value of the Evaluation:** Does the application present a compelling case about the need or usefulness of evaluating this intervention, both for the applicant's programming as well as for the anti-trafficking policy and programming space? Is there a clear articulation about what is missing in existing evidence on the program and what questions could be answered through the proposed evaluation to get the needed concrete evidence on its effectiveness? Will the evaluation as proposed address gaps in the evidence base for what works to address trafficking in persons? Does the application either present a strong methodology for the evaluation or a strong plan to identify an evaluation approach early in the project? Does the application note a willingness to review existing and emerging evidence and refine its intervention model accordingly at the beginning of the project and as needed during program implementation to enhance effectiveness of the intervention?
5. **Feasibility:** Does the applicant present a feasible plan for implementation of both the intervention as well as an evaluation? Does the project length present as feasible given the scope of the project and an accompanying

evaluation? Can the plans be achieved within the budget requested? Does the plan for both the intervention and an evaluation present as realistic within the country context/s proposed?

6. **Potential for Impact:** Does the application articulate what the expected change or changes are from the project and how many will benefit? Will the intervention, if implemented as proposed and funded under this opportunity, provide a meaningful and valuable change to the trafficking response (prevention, protection, prosecution or partnerships) in its context? If the intervention is found to be effective when validated through the evaluation activities, is there potential for it to be adapted, replicated, and/or scaled in other settings with future funding? Are there other settings in which this intervention could be applied? The highest scores under this criterion will be given to applications proposing interventions that build the evidence base for critical needs and/or meaningfully impact large numbers of people experiencing or highly vulnerable to trafficking in persons.
7. **Sustainability and Systems Change:** Has the applicant presented a well-thought-out plan to sustain improvements made or initiatives developed under the project beyond the federal funding? Will the intervention as proposed be integrated into and strengthen existing systems (national, sub-national, regional, etc.)?
8. **Cost Estimates:** Is the total cost of the project appropriate for the size and scale of the intervention, the evaluation approach, and current maturity of the intervention? If an application is on higher end of the funding range, is there a strong justification for the total cost? Does the total funding requested appear sufficient for the planned project, including MERL costs? Will a significant portion of the funding be allocated within the target country(ies)?

2. Review and Selection Process

Stage One, SOI Stage

Following the submission deadline, all SOIs will be screened by the TIP Office to determine whether they meet the technical requirements stated in this announcement. The TIP Office will only consider SOIs for the specific programming priorities under this announcement.

SOIs will be deemed ineligible during the technical review process and will not be considered for funding if they: (1) include any projects in countries not listed in the Initial Notice of Funding Opportunity, if specified; (2) do not address a specified programming theme, as relevant; or (3) do not meet the technical review requirements listed in Section D above: Application and Submission Information.

Following the technical review, a formal content review of each SOI that passes the technical review will commence. SOIs will then be reviewed by subject matter and regional experts. Stage-two recommendations will be presented to TIP Office leadership for final determination on invitations to the second round of the competition.

Stage Two, Full Proposal Stage

Selected SOI applicants will participate in the second stage of competition. Selected applicants will be invited to submit full proposals, building on the concepts described in their five-page SOI. The selected applicants will have at least 30 days to develop and submit a full proposal and will be required to submit additional documentation, including but not limited to budget documents, resumes/CVs for key personnel, monitoring, evaluation, and learning plans, and Letters of Intent to cooperate with partners. Applicants will be expected to submit full proposals that reflect an understanding of victim-centered, trauma-informed, and survivor-informed approaches to anti-trafficking activities. In particular, should the applicant expect to work directly with victims of human trafficking, proposals must reflect an understanding of these approaches and apply them in victim identification efforts and the provision of comprehensive services. Full proposals will then be reviewed by members of the TIP Office and by an interagency review panel. Panel recommendations will be presented to the Ambassador-at-Large or the TIP Office Acting Director for consideration.

Final award decisions will be influenced by whether the application meets the TIP Office's programmatic goals and objectives, how it supports the Department's

overarching foreign policy priorities, and the geographic distribution of the top-ranking applications.

The U.S. government reserves the right (but is not under obligation) to obtain clarifications, additional detail, or to suggest refinements in the program description, budget, or other aspects of an application.

Note: With the exception of technical submission questions during the competitive process, U.S. Department of State staff in Washington and overseas shall not discuss this competition with applicants until the entire competitive process has been completed and rejection and approval letters have been transmitted. All questions related to the funding process and content of this funding opportunity must be submitted via email to JTIPGrants@state.gov.

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

For any Federal award under a notice of funding opportunity, if the Federal awarding agency anticipates that the total Federal share will be greater than the simplified acquisition threshold over the period of performance (see §200.01 Simplified Acquisition Threshold), this section must also inform applicants that:

1. 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);
2. An applicant can review and comment on any information in the responsibility/qualification records available in SAM.gov.
3. Before making decisions in the risk review required by 2 CFR 200.206, the Department will consider any comments by the applicant, along with information available in the responsibility/qualification records in SAM.gov.

Anticipated Announcement and Federal Award Dates

The TIP Office anticipates making a decision on SOIs submitted under this NOFO by early April 2025 and will notify all applicants of their application status at this time through JTIPGrants@state.gov. Applicants invited to submit full applications will receive further instructions on how to submit full proposal applications and will have at least 30 days to submit their application. Shortly after full proposal applications are selected for potential funding, TIP Office Program Officers will

work with the selected organization(s) to clarify aspects of their application and award the funds. Pending the availability of funds and other contingencies, the TIP Office would expect projects selected for funding to commence in late 2025.

H. FEDERAL AWARD NOTICE AND AGENCY CONTACTS

1. Federal Award Notices

Following the stage one (SOI stage) internal review process, applicants can expect to hear from the TIP Office via email regarding the status of their statements of interest by April 2025. However, a letter stating that an applicant is invited to advance to stage-two of this competition does not constitute authorization to begin performance on the proposed project. All future programming is conditional pending the availability of funding, Department leadership approval, and Congressional approval.

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.

Unsuccessful Applicants

Applicants who are not selected for invitation to Stage 2 will be notified via email from JTIPGrants@state.gov.

2. General Questions

If you have any questions about the funding process or the content of this funding opportunity, applicants may submit these questions via email to JTIPGrants@state.gov. The questions and answers are published and updated frequently on the TIP Office's website.

3. Technical Support

For assistance with **MyGrants** contact Customer Support by calling 1 (888) 313-4567 or by creating an account on the **ILMS Self Service Portal**. The Support Desk is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Please note the hours for Federal holidays may differ. **Please note, if an organization has issues submitting an**

application near the deadline, the only way its late application will be accepted is if it opens a ticket with the help desk to fix the problem prior to the deadline, and if the applicant emails jtipgrants@state.gov before the deadline with the ILMS ticket number and an explanation of the problem. A ticket with the help desk can be opened by submitting a ticket through the **ILMS Self Service Portal**. The ILMS Help Desk utilizes a user-facing ticketing interface that allows users to submit and monitor their MyGrants tickets.

I. ADMINISTRATIVE AND NATIONAL POLICY REQUIREMENTS

1. Grant Reporting and Monitoring Requirements

Reporting is critical to effective program management and oversight. Reports are required as a means of evaluating the recipient's progress and utilization of resources. They are divided between a performance progress report and a financial status report.

Recipients will, at a minimum, be required to submit regular Quarterly Performance Reports (QPR) and Quarterly Financial Reports (QFR) in accordance with the award agreement terms and conditions. The QPRs will compare actual to planned performance and describe the progress made in accomplishing each assistance award tasks/goals noted in the grant agreement and will contain analysis and summary of findings, both quantitative and qualitative, for key indicators. The QFRs provide a means of monitoring expenditures and comparing costs incurred with progress. A final report is required 120 days after the end of the project period.

Recipients must report ***immediately*** when a program faces unplanned delays in implementation, fails to meet program targets or milestones, or costs increase. Any changes or revisions to the approved budget require prior approval from the TIP Office Grants Officer.

Recipients are required to report program and beneficiary achievements on a quarterly basis (or provide written confirmation that there is no related news for the given quarter) beginning with second quarter's program report.

Grant Monitoring and Evaluation: The TIP Office monitors all funded projects. Award recipients should expect the Grants Officer and Grants Officer

Representative to conduct site visits during the performance period. On-site reviews include assessment of project and administrative effectiveness. In addition to planned project monitoring, some awards and sub-awards may be selected for independent evaluation.

If the federal share of any award issued under this funding opportunity exceeds \$500,000 over the period of performance, potential 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](#).

As per §170.220, grantees awarded under this announcement will be required to report all sub-awardees receiving funds of \$30,000 or more to <http://www.fsr.gov>. More information about this requirement can be found within the Department of State Standard Terms and Conditions.

Each non-Federal entity that applies for Federal financial assistance and that does not have an exception under §170.110(b) must have the necessary processes and systems in place to comply with the reporting requirements should they receive Federal funding.

2. Data Sharing Recommendation

The TIP Office strongly encourages successful applicants to provide victim and survivor data collected from project(s) to the **IOM Counter-Trafficking Data Collaborative** (<https://www.ctdatacollaborative.org/>) (CTDC), which publishes harmonized data from counter-trafficking organizations around the world. The goal of the CTDC is to break down information-sharing barriers and equip the counter-trafficking community with up to date, reliable data on human trafficking. Bringing together global data in one platform will strengthen and empower local, national, and international institutions to eradicate crimes of trafficking and exploitation. No personally identifying information is transferred to or hosted by CTDC, and organizations are asked to anonymize victim data in accordance with the standards set by IOM CTDC.

3. Standard Terms and Conditions

Administration 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.

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:

[Guidance for Grants and Agreements in Title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations](#)

(2 CFR), as updated in the Federal Register's 89 FR 30046 on April 22, 2024,

particularly on:

- Selecting recipients most likely to be successful in delivering results based on the program objectives through an impartial process of evaluating Federal award applications (2 CFR part 200.205),
- 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 pursuant to the U.S. Department of State Standard Terms and Conditions, including, to the greatest extent authorized by law, if an award no longer effectuates the program goals or agency priorities (2 CFR part 200.340).

[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

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE STANDARD TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Anti-Prostitution Policy and Requirements

Prospective implementing partners are required to agree to the following conditions prior to award:

1. None of the funds made available herein may be used to promote, support, or advocate the legalization or practice of prostitution. Nothing in the preceding sentence shall be construed to preclude assistance designed to combat trafficking in persons, including programs for prevention, protection of victims, and prosecution of traffickers and others who profit from trafficking in persons, by ameliorating the suffering of, or health risks to, victims while they are being trafficked or after they are out of the situation that resulted from such victims being trafficked.
2. The recipient shall insert this provision in all sub-agreements under this award.

Training Certification

All organizations receiving funds must agree to the following:

“This organization hereby certifies that, to the extent practicable, persons or entities providing legal services, social services, health services, or other assistance have completed, or will complete, training in connection with trafficking in persons.”

The recipient shall insert this provision in all sub-agreements under this award. TVPA §107A(b)(1) (22 U.S.C. §7105A(b)(1)).

Special Provision for Performance in a Designated Combat Area

Each federal assistance award within areas of combat operations or future contingency operations, as designated by the Secretary of Defense, over \$150,000 or providing for performance over 30 days must be registered in the Department

of Defense maintained Synchronized Pre-deployment and Operational Tracker (SPOT) system. Each federal assistance award shall be registered in SPOT before personnel deployment. Requirements are fully outlined in the award agreements for recipients.

Leahy Vetting Requirement

This requirement applies to training or other assistance to be furnished to any unit or individual member of the security forces of a foreign country. Leahy vetting is required when training or assistance is provided to foreign security forces, including when such assistance is provided under a grant or cooperative agreement. Department guidance provides the following information on the type of personnel who are considered security forces and thus must be vetted under Leahy:

“The Leahy amendment refers to the ‘security forces of a foreign country.’ It makes no distinction between military and civilian. The key is whether the individual is a member of a security force unit. In broad terms, any division or entity (to include an individual) authorized by a State or political subdivision (city, county, etc.) to use force (including but not limited to the power to search, detain, and arrest) to accomplish its mission would be considered a security force. ‘Security forces’ thus could be units of law enforcement or the military. Prison guards, customs police, border police, tax police, and the coast guard would be examples of the types of units included in the category of ‘security forces.’ Members of these types of units should be considered as subject to the Leahy Amendment and be vetted either as individuals or as part of the unit being trained. Examples of persons who are not considered ‘security forces’ include: government bureaucrats, prosecutors, judges, civilian members of NGOs, international organizations or task forces and forensic lab workers.”

Leahy Vetting requirements will be fully outlined in the award agreements for recipients. The vetting process may take considerable time, and applicants should plan training activities with sufficient time for vetting to be completed. All successful applicants, including prior awardees, will be required to complete a Leahy Vetting training module (<https://www.state.gov/key-topics-office-to-monitor-and-combat-trafficking-in-persons/#leahy>) prior to the award of new projects.

Executive Order Strengthening Protections Against Trafficking in Persons in Federal Contracts

Any applicant's hiring process must be consistent with the U.S. government's regulations on preventing human trafficking among federal contractors and grantees, specifically:

U.S. law and regulations expressly prohibit federal contractors, sub-contractors, grantees, sub-grantees, and their agents/employees from engaging in certain trafficking-related practices, such as misleading or fraudulent recruitment practices; charging employee recruitment fees; and destroying or confiscating employees' identity documents, such as a passport or a driver's license.

See 22 U.S.C. §1704(g); Federal Acquisition Regulation, 48 C.F.R. §52.222-50 (Combating Trafficking in Persons); see also Federal Acquisition Regulation, 83 FR 65466 (Dec. 20, 2018) (Combating Trafficking in Persons—Definition of "Recruitment Fees").

U.S. National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security

Applicants are encouraged to review the goals of the U.S. National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security for their relevance to applications. In particular, Outcome 3.3 of the Plan provides guidance on efforts to combat trafficking:

- *"Engage with international and/or civil society organizations to ensure that standard operational procedures are in place to prevent human trafficking, especially among refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs), including appropriate assistance and procedures for unaccompanied minors, to identify potential trafficked persons, and to refer survivors to appropriate service providers. As appropriate, provide support to international and civil society organizations to set up emergency care services for trafficking survivors."*

And:

- *"Promote establishment of local coalitions or taskforces comprised of relevant government authorities and civil society organizations to combat*

human trafficking as part of the justice reform measures in post-conflict areas.”

U.S. Department of State Policy on Disabilities

The U.S. government has made a commitment to protect and advance human rights and fundamental freedoms for all people, including persons with disabilities. To that end, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) seeks to ensure that every person living with a disability can benefit from the same access and protections, in the United States and abroad.

U.S. Department of State Policy on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Intersex (LGBTQI+) Individuals

In preparing applications, applicants are reminded that the Department’s priorities for advancing LGBTQI+ equality abroad are to eliminate violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression. Advancing the human rights of LGBTQI+ people, as with our support for other marginalized or vulnerable people, complements and reinforces other U.S. foreign policy priorities, including strengthening civil society, promoting the rule of law, supporting gender equality, and advancing the status of women and girls, protecting refugees and asylum seekers, and furthering anti-trafficking efforts, among others. Due to these intersections, violations, or abuses of the human rights of LGBTQI+ people often also have negative implications for other U.S. foreign policy priorities.

DISCLAIMER:

The terms and conditions published in this NOFO are binding and may not be modified by any Bureau representative. Explanatory information provided by the bureau that contradicts public language will not be binding. Issuance of the NOFO does not constitute an award commitment on the part of the U.S. government. The TIP Office reserves the right to reduce, revise, or increase budgets in accordance with the needs of the program and the availability of funds. Awards made will be subject to periodic reporting and evaluation requirements listed in this NOFO.