



Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)

# Alumni Engagement Innovation Fund Program FY 2026

U.S. Embassy in North Macedonia, Department of State

Opportunity number: SMK800-26-PAS001

Application deadline: April 24, 2026

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**U.S Department of State  
U.S. Embassy in North Macedonia  
Notice of Funding Opportunity**

**A. Basic Information**

*1. Overview*

<b>Funding Opportunity Title</b>	Alumni Engagement Innovation Fund Program FY 2026
<b>Funding Opportunity Number</b>	SMK800-26-PAS001
<b>Announcement Type</b>	Initial announcement
<b>Deadline for Applications</b>	April 24, 2026,18:00 CET
<b>Assistance Listing Number</b>	19.022
<b>Length of performance period</b>	Up to 12 months
<b>Number of awards anticipated</b>	Two awards (dependent on amounts)
<b>Award amounts</b>	Awards may range from a minimum of \$5,000 to a maximum of \$35,000 (approximately)
<b>Total available funding</b>	\$70,000 pending availability of funds
<b>Type of Funding</b>	FY 26 Educational and Cultural Exchanges (ECE)
<b>Anticipated project start date</b>	September 2026

**Funding Instrument Type:** Grant or cooperative agreement. Cooperative agreements include substantial involvement of the bureau or embassy in program implementation of the project. An FAA can also include substantial involvement. Examples of substantial involvement are included in section C below.

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

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

*2. Executive Summary*

**Priority Region:** North Macedonia

**Executive Summary**

The Embassy of the United States in North Macedonia announces an open competition for past participants (“alumni”) of U.S. government-funded and U.S. government-sponsored exchange programs to submit applications to the 2026 Alumni Engagement Innovation Fund (AEIF 2026). We seek proposals from teams of at least two alumni that meet all program eligibility requirements below. Exchange alumni interested in participating in AEIF 2026 should submit proposals to [SkopjeGrants@state.gov](mailto:SkopjeGrants@state.gov) by April 24, 2026, 18:00 CET.

## **B. Eligibility**

### ***1. Eligible Applicants***

Non-for-profit organizations meeting the following criteria are eligible to apply:

- Organization is from North Macedonia.
- Applications must be submitted by alumni associations of USG exchange alumni or by a team of at least two exchange alumni (individuals) through a not-for-profit, non-governmental organization, think tank, or academic institution that will serve as partner for implementing project activities.
- Applicant key staff/ project teams must be alumni of a U.S. government-funded or sponsored exchange program (<https://alumni.state.gov/list-exchange-programs>) or a U.S. government-sponsored exchange program (<https://j1visa.state.gov/>).
- Projects teams must include at least two (2) alumni.
- Alumni who are U.S. citizens may not participate as primary applicants but may participate as team members in a project.

Alumni teams may be comprised of alumni from different exchange programs and different countries.

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

Applicants are encouraged to include cost sharing in their proposals. Cost sharing may take various forms, such as in-kind support (services, labor, supplies, equipment, or volunteers), a business providing food, an organization offering a venue at a reduced rate or free of charge, an NGO sponsoring an activity, or an expert donating time to facilitate a seminar. Including cost sharing demonstrates commitment and partnership and strengthens the overall proposal.

### ***3. Other Eligibility Requirements***

All organizations must have a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) issued via SAM.gov as well as a valid registration in SAM.gov. Please see Section D.3 for more information. Individuals are not required to have a UEI or be registered in SAM.gov.

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

## **C. Program Description**

## ***1. Goals and Objectives***

AEIF provides alumni of U.S. government-sponsored and facilitated exchange programs with funding to expand on skills gained during their exchange experience to design and implement innovative solutions to global challenges facing their community. Since its inception in 2011, AEIF has funded nearly 500 alumni-led projects around the world through a competitive global competition. This year, the U.S. Embassy will accept public service projects proposed by local USG Alumni organizations and managed by teams of at least two (2) alumni which directly support the Embassy's goals and foreign policy objectives, promote shared interests, and benefit local communities. This year, all AEIF projects must celebrate and promote the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States of America (America250) and align with administration policy goals to make the U.S. safer, stronger and more prosperous, or defend freedom of speech. Proposals that do not address the theme as outlined in the program objectives will be deemed ineligible. All project activities must take place outside of the United States and its territories.

## **Participants and Audiences**

Applicants should clearly define specific, realistic, target audience(s). Broad target audiences such as the general public, youth, everyone, etc., should be avoided.

Audiences who are considered a priority for grants funded under this NOFO are:

- Youth and young adult leaders between 13 and 30 years;
- Community leaders and local officials;
- Teachers and academic professionals; and
- Local communities.

Please note that proposals addressing audiences not listed above can still be eligible, but such proposals must clearly indicate why addressing the proposed audience is especially important to achieving the goals stated in this NOFO.

## ***2. Substantial Involvement***

If the award is made as a cooperative agreement, the following are examples of substantial involvement by PD:

- PD will engage in active collaboration with the recipient during the implementation of the award, including participation in key project planning meetings and joint decision-making on major activities.
- PD will review and provide written approval for the completion of specific project phases or deliverables before the recipient may proceed to subsequent stages of the project.
- PD and the recipient will jointly prepare or present project results, such as co-authoring reports, publications, or presentations, to ensure shared responsibility for project outcomes and dissemination.

- PD will participate in the selection process for program participants and/or the determination of program venues, working with the recipient to ensure these choices align with the project's objectives and requirements.
- PD will exercise programmatic oversight that exceeds standard monitoring, including direct involvement in critical project decisions, review and approval of significant changes to project activities, and participation in quality assurance processes throughout the award period.

## D. Application Contents and Format

Applications and budgets must be submitted using the official AEIF 2026 application and budget forms.

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
- The proposal addresses all questions in the official AEIF 2026 application form
- All documents are in English
- All budgets are in U.S. dollars and is submitted using the designated AEIF 2026 budget form
- All pages are numbered
- All documents are formatted to fit 8 ½ x 11 paper, and
- All Microsoft Word documents are single-spaced, 12 point Calibri font, with a minimum of 1-inch margins.

The following documents are **required**:

#### 1. *Mandatory application forms*

- SF-424 (Application for Federal Assistance – organizations) at <https://www.grants.gov/forms/forms-repository/sf-4204-family> (NOTE: The PDF forms available on this portion of the site are for sample purposes only and cannot be submitted with your application package. If you are applying for a grant, please complete and submit your application using [Grants.gov Workspace](#).)
- SF424A (Budget Information for Non-Construction programs) at <https://www.grants.gov/forms/forms-repository/sf-424-family> (NOTE: The PDF forms available on this portion of the site are for sample purposes only and cannot be submitted with your application package. If you are applying for a grant, please complete and submit your application using [Grants.gov Workspace](#).)
- 1. SF424B (Assurances for Non-Construction programs) at <https://www.grants.gov/forms/forms-repository/sf-424-family> (note: the SF-424B is only required for individuals and for organizations not registered in SAM.gov) (NOTE: The

PDF forms available on this portion of the site are for sample purposes only and cannot be submitted with your application package. If you are applying for a grant, please complete and submit your application using [Grants.gov Workspace](#).)

## 2. 2026 Alumni Engagement Innovation Fund Proposal Form

1. **About your Project:** Please provide information on the title of your project, the requested budget total, and the primary location of the project. Projects need to take place outside of the U.S. or its territories.
2. **Project Team Information:** At least two exchange alumni team members are required for a project to be considered for funding. Applications need to provide the name and contact information, describe the role each team member will have in the project, and their experience, qualifications, and ability to carry out that role. Applicants need to indicate what proportion of the team member's time will be used in support of the project.
3. **Problem Statement:** A short narrative which outlines the proposed project, including challenge/s to be addressed, project objectives, and anticipated impact.
4. **Project Goals and Objectives:** The goal/s of the proposed project need to describe what the project is intended to achieve and include the objectives which support the goal/s. Objectives should be specific, measurable, and realistically achievable in a set time frame.
5. **Project Methods, Design, and Timeline:** A description of how the project is expected to work to solve the stated problem and achieve the goal/s. This should include a description of the project's direct and indirect beneficiaries as well as a plan on how to continue the program beyond the grant period, or the availability of other resources, if applicable. The proposed timeline for the project activities should include the dates, times, and locations of planned activities and events. Applicants may also submit proposed workshop or training agendas and materials.
6. **Project Timeline:** A timeline of your project activities.
7. **Beneficiaries:** An estimated number of direct and indirect beneficiaries of your proposed project.
8. **Local Project Partners:** A list of partners who will support the proposed project, if applicable.
9. **Communication Plan:** The communication plan should include a communication and outreach strategy for promoting the proposed project. It may include social media, websites, print news, or other forms of media intended to use to share information about the project to beneficiaries and the public. Communications should include AEIF 2026, ExchangeAlumni, and U.S. Embassy branding.
10. **Project Monitoring and Evaluation Plan:** The Monitoring and Evaluation component of the proposal should outline in detail how the proposal's activities will advance the program's goals and objectives. This should include any outcomes showing a change in knowledge, awareness, and attitudes; improved quality of services; increased capacity at a school, group; etc. Proposals should also include how the grantee will measure the impact of planned activities.

**Note:** Please refer to the attached M&E guide for additional guidance on developing a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation plan.

- 3. 2026 Alumni Engagement Innovation Fund Budget Form with Budget Narrative:**  
Applicants must submit a detailed budget and budget narrative justification utilizing the template provided. Line-item expenditures should be listed in the greatest possible detail. Budgets shall be submitted in U.S. dollars and final grant agreements will be conducted in U.S. dollars.
- 4. Attachments:**
  - Official permission letters, if required for program activities
  - Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management (SAM.gov)

## **E. Submission Requirements and Deadlines**

### ***1. Address to Request Application Package***

Application forms required above are available at <https://mk.usembassy.gov/education-culture/grants/> and <https://www.grants.gov/forms/forms-repository/sf-424-family> (NOTE: The PDF forms available on this portion of the site are for sample purposes only and cannot be submitted with your application package. If you are applying for a grant, please complete and submit your application using [Grants.gov Workspace](#)).

### ***2. Department of State Contacts***

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

### ***3. Unique entity identifier and System for Award Management (SAM.gov)***

#### **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 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](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 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 \(nato.int\)](https://nato.int/ncage-code-request-tool)

### **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](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-25/chapter-I/subchapter-A/part-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.

#### 4. *Submission Dates and Times*

Applications are due no later than April 24, 2026, 18:00 CET.

#### 5. *Funding Restrictions*

i. Funding Restrictions for the 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).

ii. Certification Regarding Compliance with applicable Federal anti-discrimination laws

If the place of performance or delivery of any award made under this NOFO will be within the United States, applicants are advised that they will be required to certify the following at the time of award:

- 1) Its compliance in all respects with all applicable Federal anti-discrimination laws is material to the government's payment decisions for purposes of section 3729(b)(4) of title 31, United States Code and;
- 2) It does not operate any programs promoting Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion that violate any applicable Federal anti-discrimination laws. A program promoting Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion means a program whose purpose is to promote preferences based on race, color religion, sex, or national origins, such as in training or hiring.

iii. Certification Regarding Compliance with 20 U.S.C. 1011f and any other applicable foreign funding disclosure requirements

Applicants are advised that IHEs must certify the following at the time of award, and that this certification requirement must be included in any subaward agreements to IHEs:

- 1) Its compliance in all respects with section 1011f of title 20, United States Code, and any other applicable foreign funding disclosure requirements is material for purposes of section 3729 of title 31, United States Code, and for receipt of appropriate Federal grant funds.

iv. Certification of Trafficking in Persons Compliance and Compliance Plan

Applicants are advised that they will be required to certify the following at the time of award for awards where the estimated value of services to be performed outside the United States exceeds \$500,000:

- 1) To the best of the Recipient's knowledge, neither the Recipient, nor any subrecipient, contractor, or subcontractor of the Recipient or any agent of the recipient or of such a subrecipient, contractor, or subcontractor, is engaged in any of the activities described in 2 CFR 175.105(a);

The recipient has implemented a Trafficking in Persons compliance plan to prevent activities described in 2 CFR 175(a) and is compliant with this plan; and the compliance plan must follow the minimum requirements described in 2 CFR 175(b)(5).

- 2) That the Recipient has and will implement procedures to prevent activities described in 2 CFR 175.105(a) and to monitor, detect, and terminate any subrecipient, contractor, subcontractor, or employee of the recipient engaging in these activities.

Recipients do not need to submit a copy of the plan. However, they must provide it to the Grants Officer upon request, and as appropriate, must post the useful and relevant contents of the plan or related materials on their website and at the workplace. Recipients must re-certify on an annual basis for the entire award period of performance.

v. Prohibition on Unmanned Aircraft Systems Manufactured or Assembled by American Security Drone Act-Covered Foreign Entities

(a) *Definitions.*

*American Security Drone Act-covered foreign entity* means an entity included on a list developed and maintained by the Federal Acquisition Security Council (FASC) and published in the System for Award Management (SAM) at <https://www.sam.gov>

*FASC-prohibited unmanned aircraft system* means an unmanned aircraft system manufactured or assembled by an American Security Drone Act-covered foreign entity.

*Unmanned aircraft* means an aircraft that is operated without the possibility of direct human intervention from within or on the aircraft .

*Unmanned aircraft system* means an unmanned aircraft and associated elements (including communication links and the components that control the unmanned aircraft) that are required for the operator to operate safely and efficiently in the national airspace system.

(b) *Prohibition.* Recipients of funding under this Notice of Funding Opportunity (including subawards and subcontracts issued by the recipient) will be prohibited from:

- (1) delivering any FASC-prohibited unmanned aircraft system, which includes unmanned aircraft (i.e., drones) and associated elements;
- (2) Operating a FASC-prohibited unmanned aircraft system in the performance of the award; and
- (3) Using Federal funds for the purchase or operation of a FASC-prohibited unmanned aircraft system .

c) *Exemptions, exceptions, and waivers.* The prohibitions described above will not apply if the agency determines that an exemption, exception, or waiver applies and the award indicates that such a determination has been made. [See sections 1823 through 1825 and 1832 of Public Law 118-31 ([41 U.S.C. 3901](#) note prec.) for statutory requirements pertaining to exemptions, exceptions, and waivers.].

vi. Promoting Human Flourishing in Foreign Assistance (PHFFA)

Applicants for foreign assistance awards should be aware of requirements in 2 CFR Part 602, 603, and 604.

These policies are referred to collectively as the Promoting Human Flourishing in Foreign Assistance (PHFFA) Policy.

[602](#): The award term imposes certain abortion-related requirements on foreign nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), United States NGOs, public international organizations, foreign governments, and parastatals.

[603](#): The award term imposes certain requirements relating to gender ideology on foreign nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), United States NGOs, international organizations, foreign governments, and parastatals.

[604](#): The award term imposes certain requirements relating to discriminatory equity ideology on foreign nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), United States NGOs, international organizations, foreign governments, and parastatals.

The Department recognizes there are costs associated with these policies. Potential one-time and recurring costs the Department identifies for recipients and grantees are for familiarization with the policy, development and delivery of organizational training and implementation guidance, routine compliance monitoring, and recordkeeping and reporting requirements.

vii. AEIF 2026 does not support the following activities or costs, and the selection committee will deem applications involving any of these activities or costs ineligible:

- Staff salaries, office space, and overhead/operational expenses
- Social travel/visits
- Venture capital, for-profit endeavors, or charging a fee for participation in the project
- Large items of durable equipment or construction programs
- Gifts or prizes
- Provision of direct social services to a population
- Alcohol, excessive meals, refreshments not integral to the project, or entertainment
- Duplication of existing project
- Support for specific religious activities
- Charitable or development activities
- Provision of direct social services to a population
- Fund-raising campaigns
- Individual scholarships
- Institutional development of an organization
- Activities that take place in the United States and its territories
- Academic or scientific research
- Support or opposition of partisan political activity or lobbying for specific legislation
- Travel for international alumni to the U.S.

## **6. Other Submission Requirements**

All application materials must be submitted by email to [SkopjeGrants@state.gov](mailto:SkopjeGrants@state.gov).

## **F. Application Review Information**

### **1. Review Criteria**

Each application will be evaluated and rated based on the evaluation criteria outlined below.

#### **Relevance to U.S. Policy Priorities**

The proposal provides sufficient information on how the activities will celebrate and promote the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States and addresses U.S. policy goals that align with administration objectives to make the U.S. safer, stronger and more prosperous or defend freedom of speech. The narrative explains any relevant local context or Mission priorities. Proposed project ideas must be public diplomacy and public service oriented in nature (i.e., not development or military).

**Purpose and Summary, Description, and Implementation Plan**

When developing the purpose, summary, description, and implementation plan, applicants should aim to make all descriptions clear, concise, and compelling. Reviewers will judge the proposals based on the likelihood for the project to exert a sustained, powerful influence on the community where it is undertaken. Does the project address an important gap of understanding or need? If the aim of the project is achieved, how will existing knowledge or practice be improved? What audience do the applicants hope to reach with this project? How many will participate? How will they be selected?

**Degree of Alumni Involvement**

Projects must include the involvement of at least two (2) exchange alumni. They may be the project team leaders or collaborate directly with PAS in formulating the project. More than two alumni may comprise the team, however, the minimum is two. As the team leaders, the alumni must be closely involved in project planning, implementation, etc. Applicants should ensure that the proposal includes the following information for each alumni team member: first name, last name, e-mail address, exchange program, country of citizenship, roles and responsibilities, and degree of time spent on the project.

**Participation and Support from Local Partners**

The proposal demonstrates buy-in and support from the community where the project will take place. Local partner involvement is a strong sign that there is community support and that the project will engage a broad array of experts, such as subject matter experts, community centers, academic institutions, businesses, local/national government, non-governmental organizations, American Spaces, etc.

**Monitoring and Evaluation of the Project**

A monitoring & evaluation (M&E) plan is pivotal to project implementation and important tracking progress towards the project's objectives and goals. An M&E plan should consider the data needed to effectively monitor progress toward specific outputs and outcomes as well as how that data collection will be accomplished. Well-crafted indicators should be used to understand a program's progress toward the desired results. An M&E plan should be reviewed for the following:

- Completeness
- Applicability and logic of objectives and indicators
- Clear approach to monitoring
- Adherence to SMART criteria
- Data quality plan
- Capacity to implement plan

**Communication, Media, and Outreach Plan**

The project should include a clear plan and timeline for how and when the team will share information about the project. It is important to ensure that the U.S. Embassy gets recognition throughout the process, if circumstances permit.

**Budget and Budget Narrative**

The budget and narrative justification are sufficiently detailed. Costs are reasonable in relation to the proposed activities and anticipated results. The budget is realistic, accounting for all necessary expenses to achieve proposed activities. The results and proposed outcomes justify the total cost of the project. Budget items are reasonable, allowable, and allocable.

## **2. *Indirect Costs***

If two or more applications receive equivalent scores based on the evaluation criteria outlined in this NOFO, preference will be given to the applicant with the lower indirect cost rate, as consistent with Executive Order 14332, Section 4(b)(iii). This preference will only be applied as a tie-breaking mechanism and does not supersede the primary evaluation criteria.

## **3. *Review and Selection Process***

The U.S. Embassy Public Diplomacy Section will use the criteria outlined above to evaluate all applications.

## **4. *Risk Review***

### **i. Risk factors**

Under the merit review as required by 2 CFR 200.206, prior to making a Federal Award the Department will review and consider the following risk factors:

- a. Financial stability
- b. Management systems and standards
- c. History of performance
- d. Audit reports and findings
- e. Ability to effectively implement requirements

## **G. Award Notices**

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

**Unsuccessful applicants:** Unsuccessful applicants will be notified by September 30, 2026, via email.

**Payment Method:**

Recipients will be required to request payments by completing form SF-270—Request for Advance or Reimbursement and submitting the form to the Grants Officer.

Recipients may not draw down funds without the affirmative authorization of the Department of State. In addition, recipients must submit, with each SF-270 payment request, a detailed explanation justifying the request.

## **H. Post-Award Requirements and Administration**

### ***1. 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:

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). For the avoidance of doubt, the Department has sole discretion over the determination that an award no longer effectuates program goals or agency priorities, and this provision permits awards to be terminated at the Department’s convenience, including when it determines that the award no longer advances the national interest.
- [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](#)
- Recipients must comply with all applicable Executive Orders A searchable list can be found in the Federal Register: <https://www.federalregister.gov/>

## 2. *Reporting*

**Reporting Requirements:** Recipients will be required to submit financial reports and program reports. The award document will specify what reports are required and how often these reports must be submitted. All reports must be signed and certified by an authorized representative of the Recipient organization. All financial reports must be submitted using form SF-425—Federal Financial Report. As appropriate, performance reports must contain: a comparison of actual accomplishments to the objectives of the federal award established for the period; the reasons why established goals were not met; and additional pertinent information including an analysis and explanation of cost overruns or high unit costs. The award document will specify additional reporting requirements.

**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.

## 3. **Branding and Marking**

The Department of State, its programs, and U.S. Government funding and assistance should be easily identifiable to the Department's global audiences.

Recipients of federal assistance awards must follow the branding guidance published at [Guidance for Contracts and Grants - U.S. Department of State Brand System](#). Branding policy exceptions are outlined in the U.S. Department of State Foreign Affairs Manual [10 FAM 416, Policy Exceptions](#).

For more information, visit: <https://brand.america.gov/>

## **I. 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 \$10,000 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 \$10,000 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 15% of Modified Total Direct Costs as defined in 2 CFR 200.1.

“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.