



Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)

Export Controls and Investment Screening for Critical Minerals Supply Chain

Bureau of Arms Control and Nonproliferation, Department of State

Opportunity number: DFOP0018149

Application deadline: July 20, 2026

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U.S Department of State
Arms Control and Nonproliferation
Notice of Funding Opportunity

A. Basic Information

1. Overview

Funding Opportunity Title	Export Controls and Investment Screening for Critical Minerals Supply Chain
Funding Opportunity Number	DFOP0018149
Announcement Type	Initial Announcement
Deadline for Applications	Monday, July 20, 2026, 23:59:59 EST
Assistance Listing Number	19.317
Length of performance period	24 months
Number of awards anticipated	1 award
Award amounts	The budget should not exceed the ceiling per line of effort (LOE), nor the total available funding.
Total available funding	\$5,409,250 pending availability of funds
Type of Funding	FY25/26 NADR Foreign Assistance
Anticipated project start date	October 01, 2026

Application Requirements

Applicants must submit applications that address all lines of effort specified in this notice. Applications that do not cover all required lines of effort will be deemed non-responsive and disqualified from consideration.

Subawards and Subrecipients

The Department encourages applicants to utilize subawards and subrecipients to achieve program objectives. Applicants may partner with other organizations through subaward arrangements. Prime recipients remain responsible for overall program management, compliance, and reporting requirements for all subaward activities. All subaward arrangements must comply with 2 CFR 200 and Department of State requirements.

Funding Instrument Type: Cooperative agreement. Cooperative agreements include substantial involvement of the bureau or embassy in program implementation of the project. Examples of substantial involvement are included in section C below.

Project Performance Period: Proposed projects should be completed in 24 months or less.

This notice is subject to availability of funding.

2. Executive Summary

This NOFO seeks to enhance protective measures for the supply chain of critical minerals, which are commodities of proliferation concern due to their prevalence in countless dual-use items. ACN/EXBS seeks an implementer to bolster export controls, customs screening, and investment screening across key critical mineral producers and transit states worldwide to mitigate their acquisition by U.S. adversaries, while securing supply chains from predatory and illicit practices to bolster U.S. national and economic security.

B. Eligibility

1. Eligible Applicants

The following organizations are eligible to apply:

The following U.S. or foreign organizations are eligible to apply:

- *Not-for-profit organizations, including think tanks and civil society/non-governmental organizations*
- *Public and private educational institutions*
- *For-profit organizations (only if allowed by appropriation - not for PD funds)*

Applications submitted by for-profit entities may be subject to additional review following the panel selection process. Additionally, the Department of State prohibits profit to for-profit or commercial organizations under its assistance awards. 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. Please see 2 CFR 200.307 for regulations regarding program income. For-profit recipients who do not have a formally established overhead or G&A rate should allocate indirect costs into the appropriate direct cost categories.

- *Public International Organizations and Governmental institutions*

2. Cost Sharing or Matching

The non-Federal share of costs, frequently called “cost share” or “matching costs”, refers to that portion of the project or program costs not borne by the Federal Government. This may include cash and third-party in-kind contributions. These costs must reflect the realistic capacity of the applicants and any third-party contributors.

Providing cost sharing, matching, or cost participation is not an eligibility factor or requirement for this NOFO and providing cost share will not result in a more favorable competitive ranking. Per 2 CFR §200.306, items that are proposed for cost share must be allowable per 2 CFR §200, Subpart E—Costs Principles.

Voluntary cost-share: Should the applicant choose to contribute voluntary cost-share, in the event the applicant does not meet the minimum amount of the voluntary cost-sharing stipulated in the applicant's budget, DOS contribution may be reduced in proportion to the Applicant's contribution.

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.

C. Program Description

1. Goals and Objectives

Global Critical Minerals Supply Chain Security – Export Controls, Customs, & Investment Screening (Global - \$5,409,250)

Critical minerals are indispensable for defense systems and dual-use goods including semiconductors and advanced batteries, making them commodities of proliferation concern. It is a national policy priority to secure the critical minerals supply chain, exemplified in Presidential Proclamation 11001 and furthered via the February 2026 Critical Minerals Ministerial. However, key countries in the global supply chain lack critical protective measures that would counter U.S. adversaries' use of exploitative and illicit trade and investment practices, placing both U.S. national security and planned overseas investments at risk.

This project will engage countries in multiple regions to implement and strengthen measures such as export controls, customs, and investment screening, illustrating the risks associated with unfettered exploitative access to the critical minerals industry.

The high-level tasks outlined below are likely necessary steps to engage each country under this award. Applicants should propose an innovative and effective set of activities based on the target funding amount, but be prepared to execute flexibly and adjust activity composition and timing based on U.S. government priorities and other factors during the period of performance. Creative approaches are imperative to achieve maximum impact for U.S. national security objectives.

- Assess key vulnerabilities in foreign country export control, customs, investment screening, and other capabilities which could undermine efforts to enhance U.S. critical mineral supply chain security.
- Map relevant regulatory stakeholders, and as needed, private sector stakeholders.
- Engage private/industry (e.g., mining, logistics, financial) and government (e.g., export control, customs, and investment screening) audiences to:

- Illustrate the economic and national security (including proliferation)-related applications and implications of relevant critical minerals, including rare earth elements;
- Demonstrate the risks of supply chain dominance and exploitative practices by predatory actors;
- Support implementation of sufficiently robust legal, regulatory, and enforcement mechanisms to mitigate risks of malign behaviors such as predatory investments, exploitative domination of the supply chain, illicit exports, etc.;
- Provide user-friendly artifacts (e.g., conceptual models, manuals, references, process maps, standard operating procedures, etc.) to support adoption of supply chain security mechanisms.

Applicants should demonstrate that each proposed engagement will have a specified objective to support U.S. interests, associated indicators, and means for follow-up engagement (e.g., virtual, survey, etc.) to produce meaningful data on realized changes as well as enabling and limiting factors for unrealized changes.

Alternative concepts and/or approaches are encouraged if they can demonstrate a more effective approach to engaging target audiences in securing the critical mineral supply chain from risks that can lead to proliferation of dual-use goods and their raw materials. All proposals should demonstrate a clear understanding of application of export controls, customs, investment screening, and related measures to various parts of the critical minerals supply chain.

Countries which may be engaged include, but are not limited to the below. Not all countries will be engaged on all topics. For example, some countries will not have the institutional readiness to implement foreign investment screening mechanisms that comport with U.S.-endorsed practices, while others will have relatively more mature export control and/or investment screening capabilities which will need to be strengthened to close gaps exploitable by U.S. adversaries.

- Africa: Burundi, DRC, Kenya, Mozambique
- East Asia & Pacific: Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam
- Europe: Türkiye, Ukraine
- Near East Asia: Saudi Arabia, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Oman
- South & Central Asia: India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan
- Latin America: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay

The grantee, with oversight from the EXBS Program, should be prepared to coordinate with U.S. Embassies, other DOS stakeholders such as the Economic, Energy, and Business Affairs (EEB) Bureau, other U.S. government agencies, other U.S.-funded foreign assistance implementers, and

other donors to ensure appropriately tailored and complementary activities which further vital U.S. interests.

ACN/EXBS expects that the Activities and Outcomes of this Award will work towards the following Goals and Objectives:

ACN/EXBS Goals and Objective(s)	
	Goal 1: PROTECT at the Source – Maintain U.S. technological and competitive advantage and promote U.S. investments by protecting sensitive goods, technologies, and border infrastructure from masked or predatory acquisition. Projects under this Strategic Objective develop legal/regulatory, industry compliance, and technical frameworks and processes to enable partners to stop proliferation and other malign activity before it starts.
X	Strategic Objective 1.1 – STC Legal & Regulatory Frameworks: Support partner countries’ drafting, adopting, and implementing export control frameworks that are in line with U.S. and international best practices allowing them to prevent exploitation of sensitive commodities by unauthorized end-users.
X	Strategic Objective 1.2 – Investment Screening and Infrastructure Protection: Support partner development and implementation of national security-focused Foreign Direct Investment screening mechanisms and provide equipment and subscriptions to mitigate the risks of predatory foreign investment in or exploitation of advanced technology, border infrastructure, data, and critical mineral sectors.
	Goal 2: PREVENT Proliferation – Reduce adversary ability to divert sensitive goods and technologies by improving licensing capabilities, strengthening identification and targeting of proliferation networks, and improving enforcement consequences for non-compliance. Projects under this Strategic Objective develop government and industry technical licensing, regulatory, enforcement, and compliance capabilities to identify and act on proliferation/diversion-related activities.
X	Strategic Objective 2.1 – Licensing and Regulatory Capacity: Ensure effective export control and sanctions implementation by developing partner government and industry export licensing, financial regulatory, and catch-all control capabilities.
X	Strategic Objective 2.2 – Industry Outreach: Work with partner governments to improve their outreach processes and increase industry awareness of laws and

	regulations, penalties for violation, internal compliance practices, end-user checks, and sanctions risks.
X	Strategic Objective 2.3 – Risk Analysis and Targeting: Inform partner licensing decisions and enable data-driven, risk-based approaches to analysis, targeting, investigations, and compliance by providing the technical skills, techniques, and tools to identify proliferation-related transactions and entities.
X	Strategic Objective 2.4 – Investigation/Prosecution: Strengthen partner skills to investigate and prosecute proliferators of strategic goods and improve information sharing with relevant U.S. law enforcement.
	Goal 3: DISRUPT Illicit Transfers – Stop proliferation among and by adversaries by improving inspection, detection, and interdiction capacity at ports of entry and along land and maritime borders to identify and stop export control and sanctions violations, arms smuggling, and other illicit proliferation activities. Programs under this Strategic Objective build practical customs and border security skills and capacities, enable international coordination, and enhance U.S. law enforcement collaboration.
X	Strategic Objective 3.1 – Inspection and Detection: Enhance inspection and detection skills development to interdict cargo for WMD, WMD-related, and dual-use goods and technologies at and between high-risk ports of entry through training and system upgrades.
X	Strategic Objective 3.2 – Cargo Targeting and Risk Management: Develop customs and border targeting and risk analysis capabilities, including the use of automated risk management systems, to identify suspicious trends at high-risk ports of entry including free trade zones.

2. Substantial Involvement

ACN/EXBS anticipates awarding a cooperative agreement. The distinction between grants and cooperative agreements revolves around the existence of “substantial involvement.” Cooperative agreements require greater Federal government participation in the project. ACN/EXBS will undertake reasonable and programmatically necessary substantial involvement. Substantial involvement areas can include, but are not limited to:

- Reviewing and approving the engagement outline, draft agenda, and a list of supplemental materials.
- Reviewing and approving draft course content and any proposed revisions.
- Reviewing and approving list of proposed participants.
- Reviewing and approving the scheduling and related logistical arrangements for each engagement; grantee(s) will be responsible for grantee and participant travel, lodging,

venue, catering, interpretation & translation, any required A/V support, and other logistical components, unless identified by EXBS as a cost covered or shared by separate EXBS funds, a recipient country, or other organization.

- Reviewing and approving all final training materials prior to submission.

Specific areas of substantial involvement will be dependent upon the objectives of the proposal and outlined in the final Agreement. The final determination on award mechanism will be made by the Grants Officer.

D. Application Contents and Format

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

Content of Application

Please ensure:

- The proposal clearly addresses the goals and objectives of this funding opportunity
- All documents are in English
- All budgets are in U.S. dollars **and must not include cents.**
- All pages are numbered
- All documents are formatted to fit 8 ½ x 11 paper, and
- All Microsoft Word documents are single-spaced, 15-point Open Sans font, with a minimum of 1-inch margins.

The following documents are **required**:

1. Mandatory application forms

- SF-424 (Application for Federal Assistance)
- SF-424A (Budget Information for Non-Construction programs) at \$5,409,250.
- Detailed Budget (Excel) found at MyGrants under Information for the Applicant
- All SF forms can be found at: [SF-424 Family](#)

2. Summary Page (optional)

Cover sheet stating the applicant's name and organization, proposal date, program title, program period proposed start and end date, and brief purpose of the program.

3. Proposal (15 pages maximum)

The proposal should contain sufficient information that anyone not familiar with it would understand exactly what the applicant wants to do. You may use your own proposal format, but it must include all the items below.

- **Proposal Summary:** Short narrative that outlines the proposed project, including project objectives and anticipated impact.
- **Introduction to the Organization or Individual applying:** A description of past and present operations, showing ability to carry out the program, including information on all previous grants from the State Department and/or U.S. government agencies.
- **Problem Statement:** Clear, concise and well-supported statement of the problem to be addressed and why the proposed program is needed
- **Project Goals and Objectives:** The “goals” describe what the program is intended to achieve. The “objectives” refer to the intermediate accomplishments on the way to the goals. These should be achievable and measurable.
- **Project Activities:** Describe the program activities and how they will help achieve the objectives.
- **Project Methods and Design:** A description of how the program is expected to work to solve the stated problem and achieve the goal. Include a logic model as appropriate.
- **Proposed Project Schedule and Timeline:** The proposed timeline for the program activities. Include the dates, times, and locations of planned activities and events.
- **Key Personnel:** Names, titles, roles and experience/qualifications of key personnel involved in the program. What proportion of their time will be used in support of this program?
- **Project Partners:** List the names and type of involvement of key partner organizations and sub-awardees.
- **Project Monitoring and Evaluation Plan:** Throughout the time-frame of the cooperative agreement, describe how the activities and associated indicators of progress toward project goals/objectives will be monitored and evaluated to ensure timeliness, efficacy, and efficiency.
- **Future Funding or Sustainability** Applicant’s plan for continuing the program beyond the cooperative agreement period, or the availability of other resources, if applicable.

4. Risk Assessment

Proposals must include a risk assessment and a plan for monitoring and mitigating the risks identified. Risks to project implementation may include a variety of political, environmental, and other factors. A few examples include outbreak of violent conflict, elections that change government partners, cybersecurity / hacking, misuse of personally identifiable information (PII), and diversion of financial or non-financial support to prohibited parties (terrorist financing). The assessment should also identify risks to staff, implementers, participants, beneficiaries, or their communities. Besides political and environmental factors, risks may include online or in-person potential physical, social, psychological, economic, and/or reputational backlash to beneficiaries as a result of their participation. The proposal should include a participatory needs assessment and explain how its implementers will engage with local actors throughout its lifecycle. Strong proposals will also describe strategies to sustain the activities beyond ACN/EXBS funding, or alternatively, how applicants will co-design a responsible exit strategy with local partners and in consultation with beneficiaries.

5. Scope of Work (SOW)

Separate from the proposal but part of the application, not to exceed two-pages Word document (includes all proposed program components and links each of these to the specific goal(s) it addresses. This document is not a narrative. It must be in outline form and capture all proposed work to be funded by this project. This includes each proposed program component with a brief statement that links each component to the corresponding goal it supports. SOWs that contain quantitative estimates of expected outputs, outcomes and indicators of success for each component will be considered more competitive.

6. Budget Justification Narrative

After filling out the SF-424A Budget (above), use a separate file to describe each of the budget expenses in detail. See section I. Other Information: Guidelines for Budget Justification below for further information.

7. Attachments

Attachments must adhere to the following guidelines and attachment order. File names must only include the document type, NOFO number, and line of effort number (if applicable), and not exceed 49 characters (including spaces). Example – Table of Contents_#####_LOE1. The attachment order follows:

- Attachment A – Table of Contents
- Attachment B – Required SF Forms
- Attachment C – Proposal Narrative
- Attachment D – Risk Assessment
- Attachment E – Scope of Work
- Attachment F – Detailed Budget (Excel)
- Attachment G – Budget Narrative (Word)
- Attachment H – NICRA (if applicable)
- Attachment I – A-133 audit (if applicable)
- Other Supporting Documents

E. Submission Requirements and Deadlines

1. Address to Request Application Package

Applicants can find application forms, kits, or other materials needed to apply on [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) and [MyGrants](https://www.mygrants.gov) under the announcement title “Export Controls and Investment Screening for Critical Minerals Supply Chain,” funding opportunity number “DFOP0018149.” Please contact EXBS_Grants@state.gov if requesting reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities or for security reasons. Please note that reasonable accommodations do not include deadline extensions.

2. Department of State Contacts

If you have any questions about the application process, please contact:

EXBS_Grants@state.gov. Questions are due on Thursday, June 04, 2026 and answers will be posted in MyGrants no later than Tuesday, June 09, 2026 to answer questions from all potential applicants.

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 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.

4. Audits

Include a copy of your organization's most recent audit (single or program audit if applicable), an annual external audit or audited financial statements when an audit has not been conducted. Please refer to the 2 CFR 200 for requirements. The applicant's proposal may include the cost of an audit that:

- Complies with the requirements of 2 CFR 200 Subpart F "Audit Requirements"
- Complies with the requirements of American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) Statement of Position (SOP) No. 92-9, "Audits of Not-for-Profit Organizations Receiving Federal Awards."
- Complies with AICPA Codification of Statements on Auditing Standards AU Section 551, "Reporting on Information Accompanying the Basic Financial Statements in Auditor-Submitted Documents," where applicable. A non-federal entity that expends \$1,000,000 or more in all USG federal assistance awards during the non-federal entity's fiscal year is required to conduct a single or program-specific audit for that year in accordance with the

provisions of 2 CFR 200 subpart F. For more information, see Audit Services, 2 CFR 200.425.

5. *Submission Dates and Times*

Applications are due no later than Monday, July 20, 2026, 23:59:59 EST.

6. *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. Prohibition on Funding Activities that Encourage Mass-Migration Caravans towards the United States Southwest Border:

None of the funds awarded under this cooperative agreement 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 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 assisted 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.

iii. 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.

- iv. 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.

- v. 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.

- vi. 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.].

vii. 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.

7. Other Submission Requirements

Applications must be submitted electronically through [MyGrants](#)

F. Application Review Information

1. Review Criteria

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

Quality & Achievability	40
Experience & Qualifications	20
Cost & Budget	15
Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning Plan	10
Long-term Impact	15

Quality and Achievability of the Program Idea: The applicant demonstrates understanding of the LOE's objectives and clearly explains proposed activities to effectively and efficiently

achieve them, with a reasonable and realistic implementation timeline. The proposal does not include any activities contrary to any standing Executive Orders. For a full list, see <https://www.federalregister.gov/>.

Experience and Qualifications: The applicant (including any sub-contracted entities) demonstrates the requisite expertise, experience, and capacity to complete the proposed activities, especially as substantiated by past performance in similar types of work. The organization has internal controls in place to manage federal funds.

Cost and Budget: Overall cost and specific budget categories are reasonable in relation to the proposed activities and outcomes, and the applicant demonstrates the capability to responsibly manage federal funds, including through internal controls and past performance. If sub-awards are proposed, applicant demonstrates experience managing subawards.

Monitoring and evaluation plan: Applicant demonstrates ability to measure program success against key indicators and provides milestones to indicate progress toward goals outlined in the proposal. The program includes output and outcome indicators and shows how and when those will be measured.

Long-term impact: The proposed approach demonstrates how the activities will contribute to objective fulfillment beyond the funded period of performance, including persistence of gains, self-sustained actions by assistance recipients, and/or other realistic mechanisms.

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

A review committee will evaluate all eligible 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
- ii. Responsibility/Qualification Information in SAM.gov

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)

An applicant can review and comment on any information in the responsibility/qualification records available in SAM.gov.

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.

G. Award Notices

The 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 after the official kick-off of the grant/cooperative agreement. The kick-off will be scheduled in coordination with the assigned Grants Officer Representative, and attended by the Grants team with the optional attendance of 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 October 2026 via email.

Payment Method:

Payments under this award will be made through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Payment Management System (PMS). Unless otherwise stipulated, the

Recipient must request payments on a reimbursement basis. Instructions for requesting payments via PMS are available at: <https://pms.psc.gov/>.

Recipients may not draw down funds without the affirmative authorization of the Department of State. In addition, recipients must submit, with each PMS 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. If applicable, the recipient shall track all funding by country using a template provided by ACN/EXBS. All reports must be uploaded to the appropriate post award activity in MyGrants.

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

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

Reporting Calendar by Fiscal Year

Q1 (October-December) due January 30;
Q2 (January-March) due April 30;

Q3 (April-June) due July 30; and
Q4 (July-September) due October 30

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

The total budget should not exceed \$5,409,250.

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.