

**U.S. Department of State
Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs
Office of Assistance Coordination**

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: **19.500**

**Supporting Participatory Governance in the Western
Sahara**

**Opportunity Number: NEAAC-ACMEPI-15-013
Competition ID: NEAAC-ACMEPI-15-013-054562
Announcement Type: New**

Key Information:

Application Deadline	17:00:00 ET on October 14, 2015
Federal Agency Contact	Aimée Ntumba Nea-grants@state.gov 202-776-8575
Date Opened	August 26, 2015
Electronic Link for Full Announcement (MEPI Website)	mepi.state.gov

Funding Opportunity Synopsis:

Project Synopsis:

The Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs Office of Assistance Coordination's Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) announces a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for activities in the Western Sahara that develop the capacity of local civil society, political parties, and/or government officials with the goal of strengthening the ability of citizens to have a regular opportunity to play an active role in making decisions that affect their lives and in holding their governments accountable. Proposed activities should focus on addressing needs and opportunities to strengthen inclusive governance institutions.

Eligible Countries and Territories:

In this announcement, we seek to support projects in the Western Sahara. **Please note: Applications that focus on activities in countries and territories other than those discussed will not be considered.**

All applications must be submitted in English. Applicants may submit only 1 application.

Background Information about MEPI:

NEA/AC's (MEPI) program has been active in the Middle East North Africa region since 2002, contributing over \$600 million to more than 1,000 grant projects administered by our offices in Washington, D.C. and the region. More information about MEPI can be found at: mepi.state.gov.

Table of Contents

I.	FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION	- 5 -
II.	AWARD INFORMATION	- 6 -
III.	ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION	- 7 -
A.	ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS	- 7 -
B.	ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS	- 7 -
<i>B.1</i>	<i>D&B DUNS</i>	<i>- 7 -</i>
<i>B.2</i>	<i>System for Award Management (SAM)</i>	<i>- 8 -</i>
C.	ADDITIONAL ELIGIBILITY CONSIDERATIONS	- 8 -
<i>C.1</i>	<i>Local Partners</i>	<i>- 8 -</i>
<i>C.2</i>	<i>Cost-Sharing or Matching</i>	<i>- 9 -</i>
IV.	APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION	- 9 -
A.	APPLICATION DOCUMENTS	- 9 -
<i>A.1</i>	<i>Required Documents</i>	<i>- 10 -</i>
<i>A.2</i>	<i>Optional Documents</i>	<i>- 11 -</i>
<i>A.3</i>	<i>Application Formatting Requirements</i>	<i>- 12 -</i>
B.	SUBMITTING AN APPLICATION	- 12 -
<i>B.1</i>	<i>Grants.gov</i>	<i>- 13 -</i>
<i>B.2</i>	<i>GrantSolutions.gov</i>	<i>- 13 -</i>
C.	SUBMISSION DATES AND TIMES	- 13 -
D.	FUNDING LIMITATIONS, RESTRICTIONS, AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS	- 14 -
<i>D.1</i>	<i>Representation by Organization Regarding a Delinquent Tax Liability or a Felony Criminal Conviction</i>	<i>- 14 -</i>
<i>D.2</i>	<i>Awards to Commercial Firms or For-Profit Organizations:</i>	<i>- 14 -</i>
<i>D.3</i>	<i>Audit Requirements:</i>	<i>- 14 -</i>
V.	APPLICATION REVIEW AND SELECTION PROCESS	- 15 -
A.	APPLICATION EVALUATION CRITERIA	- 15 -
<i>Results or Benefits (33 points)</i>		<i>- 15 -</i>
<i>Approach (31 points)</i>		<i>- 15 -</i>
<i>Organizational Capacity (9 points)</i>		<i>- 16 -</i>
<i>Staff and Position Specifications (9 points)</i>		<i>- 16 -</i>
<i>Budget Narrative (18 points)</i>		<i>- 16 -</i>
B.	REVIEW AND SELECTION PROCESS	- 16 -
VI.	ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION	- 17 -
A.	AWARD NOTICES	- 17 -
B.	REPORTING REQUIREMENTS	- 17 -
C.	BRANDING AND MARKING REQUIREMENTS FOR GRANTEES	- 18 -

D.	DUNS NUMBER AND SAM REQUIREMENT FOR SUB-AWARDEES	_____	- 18 -
E.	SUB-AWARDEE REPORTING REQUIREMENT	_____	- 18 -
VII.	AGENCY CONTACTS	_____	- 18 -
VIII.	DISCLAIMER	_____	- 19 -

APPENDICES (ENCLOSED WITH NOFO)

- APPENDIX 1**—Application Cover Sheet
- APPENDIX 2**—Applicant Organization Information
- APPENDIX 3**—Budget Narrative Sample Template
- APPENDIX 4**—Results Monitoring Plan Template
- APPENDIX 5**—Additional Submission Information
- APPENDIX 6**—Pre-submission Checklist

I. FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

The Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs Office of Assistance Coordination's Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) announces a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for activities in the Western Sahara that develop the capacity of local civil society, political parties, and/or government officials with the goal of strengthening the ability of citizens to have a regular opportunity to play an active role in making decisions that affect their lives and in holding their governments accountable. Proposed activities should focus on addressing needs and opportunities to strengthen inclusive governance institutions.

Illustrative activities that may be proposed, include, but are not limited to:

- Development of a mechanism to ensure local government's regular communication with, and responsiveness to, citizens in a fashion which helps shape policies reflective of constituent interests;
- Capacity-building and training for civil society organizations in advocacy;
- Support for political parties in advocating for and effectively representing constituents.

SUBSTANTIAL INVOLVEMENT

NEA/AC shall be involved in the program and management performance of these cooperative agreements through consultation and technical collaboration on specified program activities.

NEA/AC Responsibilities

Examples of NEA/AC responsibilities for a cooperative agreement may include:

- Collaboration in establishing annual program objectives and approval of an annual work plan;
- Collaboration in assessing progress and identifying issues that might affect the success of the program;
- Collaboration in determining corrective actions, when necessary;
- Approval of key personnel and any subsequent changes in the positions during the life of the award; and
- Collaboration in the creation of any training materials.

Eligible Countries and Territories:

In this announcement, we seek to support projects in the Western Sahara. **Please note: Applications that focus on activities in countries and territories other than those discussed will not be considered.**

The following activities and costs are **not covered** under this announcement:

- Exchange activities with other countries or territories;
- Social welfare projects;
- Paying to complete activities begun with other funds;
- Activities that appear partisan or that support individual or party electoral campaigns;
- Academic or analytical research (if not necessary as part of a larger project);

- One-time events, such as stand-alone conferences and one-off round tables;
- Medical and psychological research and clinical studies;
- Projects of a commercial or profit-making nature;
- Cultural presentations, cultural research, cultural clubs, or festivals, etc.; and
- Entertainment costs (e.g., receptions, social activities, ceremonies, alcoholic beverages, guided tours).

Applications that include any of these activities or costs above will not advance to the Technical Review stage.

Please notify NEA/AC via nea-grants@state.gov by September 16, 2015, if you intend to submit a proposal to this opportunity. We are requesting this information for our planning purposes only, this request does not affect your eligibility or the application due date and is voluntary.

II. AWARD INFORMATION

Funding Mechanism Type:	Cooperative Agreement
Estimated Number of Awards:	1
Estimated Total Program Funding:	\$1,000,000
Estimated Award Ceiling:	\$1,000,000
Estimated Award Floor:	\$500,000
Cost-Sharing or Matching:	Not required
Length of Project Period:	Up to two years

Contingent on the availability of funds, approximately \$1,000,000 for one cooperative agreement will be awarded through this announcement. If selected to receive an award, an applicant will be awarded funds for up to two years, depending on the activities proposed. The estimated start date for this project is January 2, 2016. NEA/AC reserves the right to award more or less than the estimated program funding, and reserves the right to award funding under this announcement for a period of up to two years after the announcement's close date.

This request for full applications **does not** constitute an award or commitment on the part of the U.S. Government to make any awards, **nor does it commit the U.S. Government to pay for costs incurred in the preparation and submission of an application.**

Competing Continuation:

Requests for funding to extend beyond the initial budget period will be entertained on the basis of a competing continuation award. NEA/AC will review each grantee's progress in meeting grant requirements, including timely submission of required reports, and compliance with all terms and conditions of the award; timely submission of a request for additional funding; the availability of funds; and that continued funding would be in the best interest of the Department of State.

III. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

All applications will be screened by NEA/AC to determine whether it meets all of the program eligibility requirements detailed below.

NOTE: Applications that do not demonstrate that they meet all of the eligibility requirements in [Section A](#) and [Section B](#) will not advance to the Technical Review stage. Nothing can be added to an application once it has been submitted and the competition deadline has passed.

A. ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Eligible applicants include U.S. or foreign non-profit organizations; for-profit organizations; private institutions of higher education, public or state institutions of higher education; public international organizations; and small businesses with function and regional experience in the areas of civil society and local governance in the MENA region. **NEA/AC strongly encourages applications from civil society organizations headquartered in the Middle East and North Africa region.** International non-governmental organizations with principal bases of operations outside the Middle East and North Africa are also encouraged to apply, **but the percentage of total budget actually spent in the region through local partners will be among the elements of evaluation for this competition.**

NEA/AC is committed to an anti-discrimination policy in all of its programs and activities. NEA/AC welcomes applications irrespective of an applicants' race, ethnicity, color, creed, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, or disability. We encourage applications from organizations working with underserved communities, including women, people with disabilities, and youth.

B. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To apply for NEA/AC (Federal) funding, organizations -whether based in or outside the U.S. - must have a Dun and Bradstreet (D&B) Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number and an active account with the System for Award Management (SAM).

B.1 D&B DUNS

The DUNS number is a nine-digit number established and assigned by Dun and Bradstreet, Inc. (D&B) to uniquely identify business entities.

All applicants must have a DUNS number. To obtain a DUNS number, please follow the steps below:

1. Go to <http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform/pages/CCRSearch.jsp>.
2. Select the country or territory where your organization is physically located. Complete and submit the form. Organizations will need to provide basic information, including physical and mailing addresses, name and title of the chief executive, primary [Standard Industrial Code](#) (SIC), and annual revenue.

For technical difficulties in obtaining this number, please contact D&B at: govt@dnb.com.

B.2 System for Award Management (SAM)

SAM is a U.S.-government wide registry of vendors doing business with the U.S. federal government and requires annual renewal. The system centralizes information about grant applicants/recipients, and provides a central location for grant applicants/recipients to change organizational information. **More information about SAM.gov and useful guides for setting-up a new account, updating an existing account, or renewing an expired account can be found at:** <http://statebuy.state.gov/fa/Pages/SAMInfo.aspx>. Foreign-based applicants are strongly encouraged to review these guides when creating an account with SAM.gov.

Further, applicants must maintain an active account, with current information, while its application is under consideration for funding. To keep an active SAM.gov account, applicants must renew it at least once each year. **If an organization's account expires, the organization cannot submit a grant application until it is renewed.**

To create a new account, please follow the steps below:

1. Go to <http://www.sam.gov>.
2. Select *Create User Account*, and then select *Create an Account* on the left-hand side of the screen under *Individual Account Details*. Organizations must have a DUNS number and a CAGE number (US Domestic Organizations) or a NCAGE number (Foreign Organizations), to create an account.
3. Complete and submit the online form. If the applying organization already has the necessary information on hand (see the [SAM User Guide](#)), the online form takes approximately one hour to complete, depending upon the size and complexity of the applying entity. Because of the different steps in the process, it might take anywhere from **three to fourteen days** to complete the process of creating an account with the system.

For help with SAM.gov, please visit their support page at: <https://www.fsd.gov> or contact them at: 001-334-206-7828.

C. ADDITIONAL ELIGIBILITY CONSIDERATIONS

C.1 Local Partners

Applicants must submit projects that include partnerships with local organizations that would work together on specific programmatic objectives or priorities and that utilize local expertise. The inclusion of a partnership will be among the elements on which applications are evaluated (See [Part V, Section A](#) for more information).

A partnership is defined as a negotiated arrangement among organizations or individuals that defines substantive, collaborative roles for each of the partners in planning and implementing a project. In proposing partners, applicants should provide the following in their submission:

- Describe how the partner(s) will contribute to the objectives of the project;
- Detail how the partner(s) has been involved in the project design at the proposal stage;
- Clearly define the roles and responsibilities of the partner(s) in the implementation of the project, project evaluation, and project sustainability relative to the lead applicant's;
- Provide a description of the organization (including a link to its website) as well as specific examples of its experience working in the proposed content area(s);
- Explain how the applicant organization will provide programmatic oversight and support to the partner(s); and
- Provide a letter of intent or letter of agreement from the prospective partner(s) detailing how they will collaborate with the applicant organization on the proposed project.

In addition, applicants who propose working with sub-grant(s) must describe in both the program and budget narratives how the sub-grant(s) will be managed, monitored, and evaluated to ensure compliance with project objectives and Federal regulations.

C.2 Cost-Sharing or Matching

There is no minimum or maximum percentage required for this competition. When cost sharing is offered, it is understood and agreed that the applicant must provide the amount of cost sharing as stipulated in its proposal and later included in an approved agreement. Cost sharing may be in the form of allowable direct or indirect costs. For accountability, you must maintain written records to support all costs that are claimed as your contribution, as well as costs to be paid by the Federal government. Such records are subject to audit. The basis for determining the value of cash and in-kind contributions must be in accordance with OMB 2 CFR 200.306 - Cost Sharing and Matching.

IV. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

A. APPLICATION DOCUMENTS

All applications must include the application components detailed below. **All application documents must be submitted in English.** Please refer to [Section B](#) below for additional submissions guidance and requirements.

NOTE: Applications that do not include all the required documentation described in [Section A.1](#) below will not advance to the Technical Review stage. Further, applications that exceed the allowable page limits will not be reviewed by the review panel. **Applicants may not add any materials to an application once it has been submitted and the competition deadline has passed.**

A.1 Required Documents

Application Coversheet:

The Cover Sheet summarizes details about the applying organization and its application, and includes space for a mandatory project synopsis of **no more than one-page**. A sample template can be found in Appendix 1 and a fill-able template is available for download online with the announcement. **NOTE: Applicants are strongly encouraged to use the same format as found in the sample.** If the applicant does not use the template, the applicant must ensure that the submission includes all elements outlined in the sample.

Applicant Organizational Information:

The Applicant Organizational Information document provides details about the type of organization that is applying, its organizational structure and policies, and the applicant's ability to manage Federal funds. A sample template can be found in Appendix 2 and a fill-able template is available for download online with the announcement. **NOTE: Applicants are strongly encouraged to use the same format as found in the sample.** If the applicant does not use the template, the applicant must ensure that their submission includes all elements outlined in the sample.

Federal Assistance Application Forms (SF-424, SF-424a, and SF424b):

Applicants must complete all three forms online to be considered for funding. **Guidance on how to complete the SF-424 and SF-424a is provided in Appendix 5.**

Project Narrative:

The Project Narrative describes the efforts the applicant will undertake to address the priorities and goals of this announcement. It may be **no longer than 10 pages**. More details on preparing the Project Narrative are provided in Appendix 5. **Applicants are strongly encouraged to review Appendix 5 before preparing their Narrative.**

Budget Narrative:

The Budget Narrative provides detail about both the Federal request and the non-Federal match. This section of the application may be no longer than 12 pages. A sample template can be found in Appendix 3 and a fill-able template is available for download online with the announcement. **NOTE: Applicants are strongly encouraged to use the same format as found in the sample.** If the applicant does not use the template, the applicant must ensure that their submission includes all elements outlined in the sample. More details on preparing the Budget Narrative are provided in Appendix 5. **Applicants are strongly encouraged to review Appendix 5 before preparing their Narrative.**

Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (if applicable):

Applicants proposing indirect costs in the Budget Narrative must provide a copy of their Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA).

Sustainability Plan:

The sustainability plan outlines how the proposed project will be sustained beyond the initial award period. More information on preparing the Sustainability Plan is provided in Appendix 5. Sustainability Plans should be attached as a separate document and may not exceed **two pages**.

Results Monitoring Plan:

A Results Monitoring Plan (RMP) describes the measures proposed by an applicant to capture and demonstrate progress toward achieving the objectives of the proposed project. A sample template can be found in Appendix 4 and a fill-able template is available for download online with the announcement. **NOTE: Applicants are strongly encouraged to use the same format as found in the sample.** If the applicant does not use the template, the applicant must ensure that their submission includes all elements outlined in the sample.

All RMPs should include one or more of the following objective(s), based on the proposed project:

- ***A civic culture exists that supports democratic values and the active participation of all individuals in social and political life***
 - *Sub-objective:* Civic involvement increases
 - *Sub-objective:* Citizen understanding of civic rights and responsibilities increases
- ***Political processes and institutions encourage effective participation***
 - *Sub-objective:* Elections reflect the will of the electorate
 - *Sub-objective:* Political parties and other political groupings serve as a vehicle for meaningful public participation
 - *Sub-objective:* Legislative bodies fulfill their law-making, oversight, and representative functions
- ***CSOs advocate effectively for their causes***
 - *Sub-objective:* CSOs recruit and mobilize constituents for collective action
 - *Sub-objective:* CSOs engage government on key issues

The quality and feasibility of the proposed RMP will be among the elements on which applications are evaluated (See [Part V, Section A](#) for more information). **More information about preparing this Plan can be found in Appendix 5.** RMPs should be attached as a separate document and may not exceed **three pages**.

NOTE: The Application Coversheet, Project Narrative, Sustainability Plan and Results Monitoring Plan may not exceed 16 pages. Applications that exceed the allowable page limit will not advance to the Technical Review stage.

A.2 Optional Documents

Applicants may submit additional documents for consideration with their application. These documents are not required and **there is no page limit** for this section of the application. Below are examples of some additional documents an applicant may wish to submit.

- **Professional bio for lead project personnel in applicant and partner organizations:** Summary professional information may be included within the project narrative or as a separate document included in the optional documents of the application. Staff position descriptions may be included for additional personnel. If these items are not included, applicants will be scored lower under *Staff and Position Specifications* review criteria outlined in [Part V, Section A](#).
- **Letters of Agreement or Letters of Intent:** Applicants proposing partner organizations and/or government bodies should include Letters of Intent or Letters of Agreement from their proposed partners.
- **Organizational Chart:** The organizational chart outlines the clear lines of responsibility and authority in the applicant organization to include budgeted level of effort listed by each person.
- **Theory of Change** diagram outlining how the proposed intervention will utilize research on any gaps or barriers in the entrepreneurship lifecycle and develop new and creative activities that will accelerate entrepreneurial activity and business growth for new and serial entrepreneurs, including women and underrepresented groups.
- **Work Plans, Project Timeline, and/or Calendar of Activities:** A work plan is a detailed list of proposed activities, milestones, and approximate dates. Applicants may choose to include a work plan, project timeline, and/or calendar of proposed activities.
- **Pre-Submission Checklist** can be found in Appendix 6 and a fill-able template can be downloaded online with the announcement at www.grantsolutions.gov or www.grants.gov. This Checklist ensures that an applicant has accurately documented the eligibility requirements and included all major components of the application.

A.3 Application Formatting Requirements

The required font is 12-point, Times New Roman. All application documents must be formatted for 8.5X11 or A4 paper and single spaced, with all margins (left, right, top, and bottom) of at least one inch each. Also, applicants should ensure all pages in the application package are numbered consecutively and meet the page limit requirements outlined in [Section A.1](#) and [A.2](#) above. **The Standard Forms 424 (SF-424, SF-424a, and SF-424b), Application Coversheet, and Applicant Organization Information are excluded from the page numbering.**

It is strongly recommended that applicants submit grant applications using Microsoft Office. If applicants do not have access to Microsoft Office products, Adobe PDF files may be submitted. In addition, applicants are strongly encouraged to include a Table of Contents with their submission.

Adhering to the standards outlined above will help to ensure the accurate submission of the document. Failure to comply with these requirements may affect the successful transmission and consideration of an application.

B. SUBMITTING AN APPLICATION

Applicants must submit an application electronically using either GrantSolutions.gov OR Grants.gov. Both systems require that the applying organization have an account with the system and both require a DUNS number and SAM.gov account as detailed in [Part III](#) above. **It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure it has an active account and will be able to**

submit its application. Applicants must select one of these systems to submit its application; do not submit an application through both systems. NEA/AC is not in a position to grant exceptions to these requirements.

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

B.1 Grants.gov

Grants.gov is a single portal for applicants to find and apply to U.S. government funding opportunities. Creating an account with this system is a five-step process: 1) obtain a DUNS number; 2) create an account with the System for Award Management; 3) create a profile, including username and password; 4) obtain Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) authorization; and 5) track AOR status. This process can take 10 business days or longer, even if all the steps are completed in a timely manner. **To create an account, go to www.grants.gov and click on the “Register” link, located at the top, right-hand side of the page.**

B.2 GrantSolutions.gov

GrantSolutions.gov is a comprehensive grants management system that allows applicants to apply for, manage, and report on the use of U.S. government funds for multiple programs, accessed online at www.grantsolutions.gov.

To create an account, go to www.grantsolutions.gov, and select the orange “Login to GrantSolutions” button, located on the right-hand side of the site. Select the “Register” button under the “First Time Users” header. Organizations will be directed to a page entitled “Welcome to the GrantSolutions New Organization Registration Page;” select the link entitled “Register with GrantSolutions with your DUNS number,” and complete the online form.

Please Note: When completing and uploading the application documents (excluding the SF-424 form) applicants must use the *Upload Files* attachment link. Applicants will also see an attachment link entitled *Mail-in Items* which may not be used. NEA/AC does not accept Mail-in items to our announcements.

GrantSolutions has training videos available to educate users about the system. These videos can be found at: <https://home.grantsolutions.gov/home/grantee-training-videos/>

C. SUBMISSION DATES AND TIMES

Applications must be time stamped before 17:00:00 eastern time (ET) on **October 14, 2015**. **There will be no grace period, and any application not received by the application deadline will not advance to the Technical Review stage.**

Applicants are encouraged to submit an application far enough in advance of the deadline so it can alert NEA/AC (nea-grants@state.gov) of any technical difficulties and allow sufficient time to resolve difficulties before the deadline. Although NEA/AC will work with applicants to

resolve technical issues, it is not in a position to grant exceptions to the submission requirements outlined in this announcement.

D. FUNDING LIMITATIONS, RESTRICTIONS, AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

D.1 Representation by Organization Regarding a Delinquent Tax Liability or a Felony Criminal Conviction

In accordance with section 7073 of Division K of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014 (Public Law 113-76) none of the funds made available by that Act may be used to enter into an assistance award with any organization that –

(1) Was “convicted of a felony criminal violation under any Federal law within the preceding 24 months, where the awarding agency has direct knowledge of the conviction, unless the agency has considered, in accordance with its procedures, that this further action is not necessary to protect the interests of the Government”; or

(2) Has any “unpaid Federal tax liability that has been assessed for which all judicial and administrative remedies have been exhausted or have lapsed, and that is not being paid in a timely manner pursuant to an agreement with the authority responsible for collecting the tax liability, unless, that this further action is not necessary to protect the interests of the Government.”

- For the purposes of Section 7073, it is the Department of State’s policy that no award may be made to any organization covered by (1) or (2) above, unless the Procurement Executive has made a written determination that suspension or debarment is not necessary to protect the interests of the Government.

D.2 Awards to Commercial Firms or For-Profit Organizations:

The Department of State prohibits profit under its assistance awards to commercial organizations. No funds will be paid as profit to any recipient that is a commercial organization. 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 Part 31. Program income earned by the recipient must be deducted from the total project or program allowable cost in determining the net allowable costs on which the federal share of costs is based.

D.3 Audit Requirements:

Foreign organizations that expend \$750,000 or more in a fiscal year in Department of State federal assistance must perform an independent, recipient-contracted Single Audit or Program Specific Audit. (***Program-specific Audit*** means an audit of one Federal award program. ***Single Audit*** means an audit which includes both the entity’s financial statements and the Federal Awards to be conducted in accordance with Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards (GAGAS)). The audits must be independently and professionally executed in accordance with GAGAS either prescribed by a government’s Supreme Audit Institution with auditing standards approved by the Comptroller General of the United States, or the host country’s laws or adopted by the host country’s public accountants or associations of public accountants, together with generally accepted international auditing standards. However, foreign entity audits consistent with International Standards for Auditing or other auditing standards are acceptable with the

Grants Officer's approval. More information can be found at <http://gao.gov/assets/590/587281.pdf>

For sub-recipients expending \$750,000 or more in Department of State award funding during their fiscal year, Department of State standard audit provisions require that Prime recipients certify that audits of sub-recipients are performed annually and according to the standards described above.

The cost of audits required under this policy may be charged either as an allowable direct cost to the award, OR included in the organizations established indirect costs in the award's detailed budget.

V. APPLICATION REVIEW AND SELECTION PROCESS

A. APPLICATION EVALUATION CRITERIA

Results or Benefits (33 points)

- The project objectives are realistic, specific, and clearly explained. (7 points)
- The applicant describes realistic results, linked to a theory of change, to be accomplished within the timeframe of the proposed award. (6 points)
- The applicant clearly identifies the anticipated beneficiaries and explains how the project's objectives will positively affect them. (5 points)
- The applicant explains how the project's impact will be sustainable beyond the life of the grant. (5 points)
- The applicant explains how monitoring and evaluation activities will be carried out and who will be responsible for them. (2 points)
- The project includes an external midterm and final evaluation. (2 points)
- The RMP indicators measure realistic/feasible project impact (outcomes) rather than just outputs. (6 points)

Approach (31 points)

- The applicant clearly describes how each proposed project activity will address the objectives outlined in the requested priority area. (6 points)
- The applicant addresses how the project will engage or obtain support from relevant stakeholders and identifies local partners. (3 points)
- The applicant explains, in detail, its basis for selecting the proposed local partner(s). (4 points)
- The applicant explains how participants (e.g. civil society organizations, commune councils) will be selected (e.g., criteria for selection, selection process). (3 points)
- The applicant demonstrates knowledge of other donors' activities in the Western Sahara and provides an explanation as to how proposed new activities will not duplicate or merely add to existing/recent activities. (5 points)
- The applicant articulates potential challenges to project implementation and proposes contingency plans. (3 points)
- The applicant describes the division of labor among the applicant and any partners. (3 points)

- The applicant identifies and addresses how the program will engage youth in its activities. (2 points)
- The applicant includes letters of intent/commitment/agreement from proposed partners. (2 points)

Organizational Capacity (9 points)

- The applicant demonstrates an institutional record of successful programs in the content area proposed (e.g., local government skills training). (4 points)
- The applicant demonstrates capacity for responsible fiscal management of donor funding (e.g., successful management of a previous sub-award or grant). (3 points)
- The applicant has adequate staffing and demonstrates the capacity to manage the proposed project. (2 points)

Staff and Position Specifications (9 points)

- Pre-identified key staff members, including volunteers, demonstrate experience working in the country/territory/region proposed and with participants from that area (e.g., language skills, cultural understanding). (3 points)
- The roles and qualifications of each key person, whether staff, partner, consultant, or volunteer, are described in a biographical sketch. (2 points)
- A job description, including hiring criteria, is provided for each open key position. (2 points)
- Pre-identified key staff members, including volunteers, demonstrate experience and knowledge in the proposed content area. (2 points)

Budget Narrative (18 points)

- The costs proposed are reasonable in relation to the proposed activities and anticipated results, which is clearly explained in the budget narrative. (8 points)
- The budget provides details of calculations, including estimation methods, quantities, unit costs, and other similar quantitative detail sufficient for the calculation to be duplicated. (4 points)
- The preponderance of the budget is spent on supporting the project participants/activities in country and includes costs dedicated to management, monitoring, and evaluation. (3 points)
- The budget demonstrates a reasonable cost per participant. (3 points)

B. REVIEW AND SELECTION PROCESS

NEA/AC's MEPI program is committed to ensuring a competitive and standardized process for awarding Economic Support Fund grants. Applications will be screened initially to determine whether applicants meet the requirements and priorities outlined in [Part I](#); meet the eligibility requirements outlined in [Part III](#); and submitted the required documents outlined in [Part IV](#). Applications that do not meet these requirements will not advance to the Technical Review stage.

All applications that proceed to Technical Review will be evaluated by U.S. Government and non-governmental subject-matter and/or country-specific experts and will be rated on a 100-

point scale. Point values for individual elements of the application are presented in [Part V, Section A](#). Technical Reviewers' ratings, and any resulting recommendations, are advisory.

Final award decisions will be influenced by whether the application meets NEA/AC's programmatic goals and objectives, how it supports the Department's overarching foreign policy priorities, and the geographic distribution of the top-ranking applications. All award recommendations will be made by the NEA/AC Deputy Assistant Secretary and acceptance determined by the Grants Officer.

VI. ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

A. AWARD NOTICES

Applicants who do not advance to the Technical Review stage will be notified 30 business days after the closing of the announcement. The authorized representative and program point of contact listed on the SF-424 will receive the notification via email. If an applicant does not receive such a notification, their submission was put forward for review.

NEA/AC expects to notify applicants about the status of their application by December 15, 2015. Final awards cannot be made until funds have been appropriated by Congress, allocated and committed through internal Bureau procedures. Successful applicants will receive a Federal Assistance Award (FAA) from the Bureau's Grants Office. The FAA and the original proposal with subsequent modifications (if applicable) shall be the only binding authorizing document between the recipient and the U.S. Government. The FAA will be signed by an authorized Grants Officer, and transmitted to the recipient's responsible officer identified in the application. **NEA/AC reserves the right to award funding to applicants under this announcement for a period of up to two years after the announcement's close date.**

Unsuccessful applicants will receive notification of the results of the application review from the NEA/AC program office coordinating this competition.

B. REPORTING 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 Quarterly Progress Reports and a Quarterly Financial Report. Progress Reports will compare actual to planned performance and indicates 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. Financial Reports provide a means of monitoring expenditures and comparing costs incurred with progress.

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 NEA/AC Grants Officer.

C. BRANDING AND MARKING REQUIREMENTS FOR GRANTEES

Grantees awarded under this announcement will be required to mark all materials produced under the award with the standard U.S. flag in a size and prominence equal to (or greater than) any other logo or identity. Materials are defined as but not limited to: training materials, materials for recipients, or materials to communicate or promote with foreign audiences a program, event, project, or some other activity under this award, including but not limited to invitations to events, press materials, event backdrops, podium signs, etc. In addition, sub-recipients or sub-awardees are subject to the marking requirements and the grantee shall include a provision in the sub-recipient or sub-awardee's agreement indicating that the standard, rectangular U.S. flag is a requirement.

D. DUNS NUMBER AND SAM REQUIREMENT FOR SUB-AWARDEES

All sub-awardees who will receive funds of \$25,000 or more are required to have a DUNS number and maintain an active SAM.gov account with current information. For information on obtaining a DUNS number and creating an account with SAM.gov please see Part III, Sections [B.1](#) and [B.2](#). **Proposed sub-awardees are not required to have a DUNS number and SAM account prior to the submission of an application.**

E. SUB-AWARDEE REPORTING REQUIREMENT

Grantees awarded under this announcement will be required to report all sub-awardees receiving funds of \$25,000 or more to <http://www.fsrs.gov>. More information about this requirement can be found at this site.

VII. AGENCY CONTACTS

For questions regarding this funding opportunity including: completing an application, financial and grants management issues, or technical matters, contact:

Aimée Ntumba
(202) 776-8575
nea-grants@state.gov

All questions must be submitted in writing to nea-grants@state.gov by September 16, 2015, 2015 at 12:00 pm. NEA/AC will create a document of the submitted questions along with the answers and post it on GrantSolutions and Grants.gov. Questions submitted after the deadline will not be addressed.

For questions regarding creating an account with or using Grants.gov to submit an application, contact the Grants.gov Contact Center. The Contact Center is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, excluding Federal holidays.

Grants.gov Contact Center

(800) 518-4726

support@Grants.gov

For questions regarding creating an account or using GrantSolutions.gov to submit an application, contact the GrantSolutions.gov Contact Center. The Contact Center is available Monday-Friday, 8:00 am – 6:00 pm Eastern Standard Time.

GrantSolutions.gov Contact Center

(866) 577-0771

(202) 401-5282

help@grantsolutions.gov

VIII. 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 published language will not be binding. Issuance of the NOFO does not constitute an award commitment on the part of the Government. The Bureau reserves the right to reduce, revise, or increase proposal 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.

Appendix 1

**U.S. Department of State
Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs
Office of Assistance Coordination**

APPLICATION COVERSHEET

Applicant:	
Partner(s) <i>(local or regional, if any):</i>	
Countries Affected by Project:	
Funding Opportunity Title:	
Priority Area, if applicable:	
Total Estimated Funding for Project:	Proposed Start and End Date for Project:

Executive Summary:

*Please provide a brief summary of the proposed project in the space below (e.g., This project will...). The Coversheet should be a maximum of **one page** (with all the text in blue removed).*

Appendix 2

Applicant Organizational Information

Instructions: The Applicant Organizational Information template should be filled out in its entirety. Please note that the response “Not Applicable,” or “N/A,” is generally not acceptable. Instead, a sufficient explanation should be provided to explain why an item is not applicable.

GENERAL INFORMATION						
1. Organization Name:						
2. Type of Organization <i>(check all that apply)</i>	Non-U.S. Based:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-Profit:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-Governmental:	<input type="checkbox"/>
	U.S. Based:	<input type="checkbox"/>	For-Profit: (Commercial)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Educational Institution:	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Is your Organization incorporated, registered, or licensed as a legal entity: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No						
<i>If Yes:</i>	Place of Incorporation or Registration (State/County):					
	Incorporation or Registration Date (MM/DD/YYYY):					
<i>If No:</i>	List parent company or organization name and address OR explain status below:					
4. Program Director <i>(The person who will oversee the day to day activities of the grant):</i>						
Program Director Name:			Program Director Title:			
Email Address:			Telephone Number:			
Address:						
5. Financial or Business Official <i>(The person who is responsible for the financial components of the grant):</i>						
Budget Officer Name:			Budget Officer Title:			
Email Address:			Telephone Number			
Address:						

Applicant Organizational Information

ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE	
1. Is your organization governed by Board of Directors?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
2. How many employees are employed by your organization?	
3. Is your organization registered with Duns and Bradstreet and the System for Award Management (SAM)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<i>If No, please explain:</i>	

FINANCIAL AND ACCOUNTING MANAGEMENT				
1. What is the ending date of your organization’s fiscal year (MM/DD/YYYY)?				
2. Does your organization have an automated accounting system?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			
2.1: If Yes, respond to the questions below:				
<i>2.1a Does the accounting system account for costs by individual projects?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			
<i>If No, please explain:</i>				
<i>2.1b Can the accounting system generate reports that show costs incurred for individual awards?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			
<i>If No, please explain:</i>				
<i>2.1c Does the accounting system allow for reporting of Cash and In-kind contributions (from non-federal sources) i.e., cost share?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			
<i>If No, please explain:</i>				
2.2: If No, please explain below:				
3. Which of the following best describes your organization’s accounting system? (check the appropriate response)	Manual:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Automated:	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Combination:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other:	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. How frequently do you post to the general ledger? (check the appropriate response)	Daily:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Weekly:	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Monthly:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other:	<input type="checkbox"/>

Appendix 2

Applicant Organizational Information

5. Does your accounting system accurately and completely track receipt and disbursement of funds by each grant and/or funding source?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<i>If No, please explain:</i>	
6. Does your accounting system provide for recording of actual expenditures for each grant/contract by budget cost categories reflected in the approved budget?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<i>If No, please explain:</i>	

REPRESENTATION REGARDING TAX LIABILITY OR CRIMINAL CONVICTION	
1. Has your organization been convicted of a felony criminal violation under a Federal law within the preceding 24 months?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
2. Does your organization have any unpaid Federal tax liability that has been assessed for which all judicial and administrative remedies have been exhausted or have lapsed, and that is not being paid in a timely manner pursuant to an agreement with the authority responsible for collecting the tax liability?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

BUSINESS MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS	
1. Does the organization have a working knowledge of the following U.S. Government, Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circulars? <i>(check the appropriate response)</i>	
Uniform Administrative Requirements (OMB Circular A-110):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure
Cost Principles (OMB Circular A-21 or Circular A-122):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure
Audit Requirements (OMB Circular A-133):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure
2. Does your organization have written policies and procedures for the business management areas below? <i>(check the appropriate response)</i>	
Personnel Policies and Procedures:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure
Procurement Policies and Procedures:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure
Cash Management Policies and Procedures:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure
Sub-Grant Monitoring and Management:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure
Property Policies and Procedures:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure
Travel Policies and Procedures:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure
<i>If No (to any above), please explain:</i>	

Appendix 2

Applicant Organizational Information

3. Are time and activity records maintained by funding source and project for each employee to account for total level of effort (100%) devoted to each project?		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
<i>If No, please explain:</i>			
4. Does your organization have a written budgetary process and controls to preclude incurring obligations in excess of the grant amount of individual cost categories?		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
<i>If No, please explain:</i>			
5. Are appropriate duties separated to ensure one individual (i.e., project or financial) is not controlling all aspects of a transaction/process?		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
<i>If No, please explain:</i>			
6. Does your organization have a current A-133 audit?		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
<i>If Yes:</i>	Has your organization received any adverse findings in any A-133 audit in the past three years?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
<i>If Yes, please explain:</i>			
7. Has your organization received Federal grant funds before?		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
<i>7.1 Please provide the information requested below on all awards or funding received in the last five years, specifically note if funds are U.S. Government (USG) funds.</i>			
<u><i>Name of Donor</i></u>	<u><i>Amount</i></u>	<u><i>Period</i></u>	<u><i>Place of Implementation</i></u>

Appendix 3

Instructions: This Budget Narrative Sample Template should be filled out in its entirety. *Any information that is included in blue text should be deleted prior to submitting this document* as the "Budget Narrative" attachment on Grants.gov or GrantSolutions.gov. It is only included as guidance for sample text or suggested information. Costs listed in any category below should include an explanation of how the requested funds will be used to support the proposed project, whether it be federal or a non-federal/match cost. Please note that the response "Not Applicable," or "N/A," is generally not acceptable. Instead, a sufficient explanation should be provided in either the proposal narrative or within each field to explain why an item is not applicable. **All budgets must be structured so that they print in a readable format.**

<i>Organization Name, Period of Performance</i>				
1. Personnel <i>(Description: An employee of the organization whose work is tied to the proposed project)</i>				
1.a Federal or NEA/AC Cost				
Position	Name of Employee	Annual Salary/ Rate	Level of Effort (%)	Cost <i>(Salary x LOE)</i>
Ex: Program Director	John Doe	\$ 164,890	10.00%	\$ 16,489.00
Ex: Project Coordinator	TBD	\$ 46,276	100.00%	\$ 46,276.00
1.a Personnel Sub-Total				\$ 62,765.00
Narrative Justification: <i>Enter a description of the Personnel funds requested and how their use will support the purpose and goals of your proposal. Be sure to describe the role, responsibilities, and unique qualification of each position.</i>				
SF-424a Note: <i>Enter the total cost above in Section B Column 1 line 6.a of the form.</i>				
1.b Non-Federal Match or Cost Share				
Position	Name of Employee	Annual Salary/ Rate	Level of Effort (%)	Cost <i>(Salary x LOE)</i>
Ex: Clerical Support	Jill Smith	\$ 1,338	100.00%	\$ 1,338.00
1.b Personnel Sub-Total				\$ 1,338.00
Narrative Justification: <i>Enter a description of the Personnel matching funds provided and how their use will support the purpose and goals of your proposal. Be sure to describe how your matching funds will help sustain and enhance your NEA/AC budget request.</i>				
Source of Match Funds: <i>Identify the source of match funds.</i>				

2. Fringe Benefits <i>(Description: May include contributions for social security, employee insurance, pension plans, etc. Only those benefits not included in an organizations indirect cost rate agreement (i.e., NICRA) may be shown as direct costs)</i>			
2.a Federal Cost			
Component	Wage	Rate	Cost <i>(Wage x Rate)</i>

Appendix 3

Ex: FICA	\$ 62,765	7.65%	\$ 4,802.00
Ex: Workers Compensation	\$ 62,765	2.50%	\$ 1,569.00
Ex: Health Benefits	\$ 62,765	2.50%	\$ 1,569.00
2.a Fringe Benefits Sub-Total			\$ 7,940.00
<p>Narrative Justification: Enter a description of the Fringe funds requested, how the rate was determined, and how their use will support the purpose and goals of this proposal.</p> <p>SF-424a Note: Enter the total cost above in Section B Column 1 line 6.b of the form.</p>			
2.b Non-Federal Match or Cost Share			
Component	Wage	Rate	Cost (Wage x Rate)
Ex: Insurance	\$ 62,765	10.50%	\$ 6,590.00
2.b Fringe Benefits Sub-Total			\$ 6,590.00
<p>Narrative Justification: Enter a description of the Fringe matching provided, how the rate was determined, and how their use will support the purpose and goals of the proposal. Be sure to describe how the matching funds will help sustain and enhance your federal budget request.</p>			
<p>Source of Match Funds: Identify source of match funds.</p>			

<p>3. Travel (Description: Explain need for all travel. Must follow U.S. Government regulations. The lowest available commercial fares for coach or equivalent accommodations must be used. Local travel policies prevail.)</p>					
3.a Federal Cost					
Purpose of Travel	Item Description	Unit of Measure	Cost Per Unit/Rate	Number of Units	Cost (Cost Per Unit x No. of Units)
Ex: Leadership Training	Airfare--Origin: Egypt, Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, Yemen, and/or Oman; Destination: Amman, Jordan	Roundtrip Airfare	\$ 500	20	\$ 10,000.00
	Lodging in Amman for 20 participants for 3 days (U.S. Government allowable rate)	day	\$ 183	60	\$ 10,980.00
	Meals and Incidentals for 20 participants for 3 days (M&IE--U.S. Government allowable rate))	day	\$ 127	60	\$ 7,620.00

Appendix 3

Ex: Local Travel	Local travel in Amman, Jordan for 20 participants for 3 days	day	\$ 500	3	\$ 1,500.00
3.a Travel Sub-Total					\$ 30,100.00
<p><i>Narrative Justification: Describe the Purpose of Travel and how costs were determined.</i></p> <p>SF-424a Note: Enter the total cost above in Section B Column 1 line 6.c of the form.</p>					
3.b Non-Federal Match or Cost Share					
Purpose of Travel	Item Description	Unit of Measure	Cost Per Unit/Rate	Number of Units	Cost <i>(Cost Per Unit x No. of Units)</i>
Ex: Leadership Training	Airfare--Origin: Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, Jordan, and/or Qatar; Destination: Cairo, Egypt	Roundtrip Airfare	\$ 500.00	20	\$ 10,000.00
	Lodging in Cairo for 20 participants for 3 days (U.S. Government allowable rate)	day	\$ 175.00	60	\$ 10,500.00
	Meals and Incidentals for 20 participants for 3 days (M&IE--U.S. Government allowable rate))	day	\$ 267.00	60	\$ 16,020.00
Ex: Local Travel	Local travel in Cairo, Egypt for 20 participants for 3 days	day	\$ 500.00	3	\$ 1,500.00
3.b Travel Sub-Total					\$ 38,020.00
<p><i>Narrative Justification: Enter a description of the Travel matching funds provided and how their use will support the purpose and goals of this proposal. Be sure describe how your matching funds will help sustain and enhance your federal budget request.</i></p>					
<p>Source of Match Funds: <i>Identify source of match funds.</i></p>					

4. Equipment <i>(Description: Permanent equipment is defined as non-expendable personal property having a useful life of more than one year and an acquisition cost of \$5,000 or more.)</i>				
4.a Federal Cost				
Item Description	Unit of Measure	Cost Per Unit	Number of Units	Cost <i>(Cost Per Unit x No. of Units)</i>
None			0	\$ -

Appendix 3

4.a Equipment Sub-Total \$ -

Narrative Justification: Enter a description of the Equipment and how its purchase will support the purpose and goals of this proposal.

SF-424a Note: Enter the total cost above in Section B Column 1 line 6.d of the form.

4.b Non-Federal Match or Cost Share

Item Description	Unit of Measure	Cost Per Unit	Number of Units	Cost <small>(Cost Per Unit x No. of Units)</small>
None			0	\$ -

4.b Equipment Sub-Total \$ -

Narrative Justification: Enter a description of the Equipment match provided and how its purchase will support the purpose and goals of this proposal. Be sure to describe how your matching funds will help sustain and enhance your federal budget request.

Source of Match Funds: Identify source of match funds.

5. Supplies (Description: Materials costing less than \$5,000 per unit and often having one-time use.)

5.a Federal Cost

Item Description	Unit of Measure	Cost Per Unit	Number of Units	Cost <small>(Cost Per Unit x No. of Units)</small>
<i>Ex: General Office Supplies</i>	month	\$ 50	12	\$ 600.00
<i>Ex: Laptop</i>		\$ 900	1	\$ 900.00

5.a Supplies Sub-Total \$ 1,500.00

Narrative Justification: Enter a description of the Supplies requested and how their purchase will support the purpose and goals of this proposal.

SF-424a Note: Enter the total cost above in Section B Column 1 line 6.e of the form.

5.b Non-Federal Match or Cost Share

Item Description	Unit of Measure	Cost Per Unit	Number of Units	Cost <small>(Cost Per Unit x No. of Units)</small>
<i>Ex: Fax</i>		\$ 300	1	\$ 300.00
<i>Ex: Postage</i>	month	\$ 37	12	\$ 444.00

5.b Supplies Sub-Total \$ 744.00

Appendix 3

Narrative Justification: Enter a description of the Supplies match provided and how their purchase will support the purpose and goals of this proposal. Be sure to describe how your matching funds will help sustain and enhance your federal budget request.

Source of Match Funds: Identify source of match funds.

6. Contractual (Description: The costs of project activities to be undertaken by a third-party contractor should be included in this category as a single line item charge. A complete itemization of the cost should be attached to the budget. If there is more than one contractor, each must be budgeted separately and must have an attached itemization.)

6.a Federal Cost

Name/Item Description	Unit of Measure	Unit Cost	Number of Units	Cost (Cost Per Unit x No. of Units)
<i>Consultants</i>				
Ex: Jane Smith/Leadership Training Expert	day	\$ 350	12	\$ 4,200.00
Ex: Jane Smith travel from Washington, DC to Amman, Jordan for training conference	Roundtrip Airfare	\$ 1,200	1	\$ 1,200.00
Ex: TBD/Monitoring and Evaluation Expert	day	\$ 275	12	\$ 3,300.00
Ex: Monitoring and Evaluation Expert travel from Washington, DC to Amman, Jordan	Roundtrip Airfare	\$ 1,200	1	\$ 1,200.00
<i>Contracts</i>				
Ex. Sub-Award to Jordanian NGO (budget and terms TBD)	award agreement	\$ 10,000	1	\$ 10,000.00

6.a Contractual Sub-Total \$ **19,900.00**

Narrative Justification: Explain the need for each agreement and how their use will support the purpose and goals of this proposal. For those contracts already arranged, please provide the proposed categorical budgets. For those subcontracts that have not been arranged, please provide the expected Statement of Work, Period of Performance and how the proposed costs were estimated and the type of contract (bid, sole source...etc).

SF-424a Note: Enter the total cost above in Section B Column 1 line 6.f of the form.

6.b Non-Federal Match or Cost Share

Name/Item Description	Unit of Measure	Unit Cost	Number of Units	Cost (Cost Per Unit x No. of Units)
<i>Consultants</i>				
Ex: Jane Smith/Leadership Training Expert	day	\$ 350	12	\$ 4,200.00

Appendix 3

Ex: TBD/Monitoring and Evaluation Expert	day	\$ 275	12	\$ 3,300.00
6.b Contractual Sub-Total				\$ 7,500.00
<p>Narrative Justification: <i>Explain the need for each match contract agreement and how their use will support the purpose and goals of this proposal. Be sure to describe how your matching funds will help sustain and enhance your federal budget request.</i></p>				
<p>Source of Match Funds: <i>Identify source of match funds.</i></p>				

7. Construction: Not Allowable
SF-424a Note: Leave this section blank in Section B Column 1 & 2 line 6g of the form

8. Other Direct Costs (<i>Description: Expenses not covered in any of the previous budget categories.</i>)				
8.a Federal Cost				
Item Description	Unit of Measure	Cost Per Unit	Number of Units	Cost <small>(Cost Per Unit x No. of Units)</small>
Ex: Office Telephone	month	\$ 100	12	\$ 1,200.00
Ex: Amman hotel conference room rental for training	day	\$ 800	3	\$ 2,400.00
8.a Other Direct Costs Sub-Total				\$ 3,600.00
<p>Narrative Justification: <i>Explain the need for each item and how their use will support the purpose and goals of this proposal. Be sure to break down costs into cost/unit and explain the use of each item requested.</i></p> <p>SF-424a Note: Enter the total cost above in Section B Column 1 line 6.h of the form.</p>				
8.b Non-Federal Match or Cost Share				
Item Description	Unit of Measure	Cost Per Unit	Number of Units	Cost <small>(Cost Per Unit x No. of Units)</small>
Ex: DC Office Rent	month	\$ 1,000	12	\$ 12,000.00
8.b Other Direct Costs Sub-Total				\$ 12,000.00
<p>Narrative Justification: <i>Explain the need for each match item and how their use will support the purpose and goals of this proposal. Be sure to break down costs into cost/unit and explain the use of each item requested. Be sure to describe how your matching funds will help sustain and enhance your Federal budget request.</i></p>				
<p>Source of Match Funds: <i>Identify source of match funds.</i></p>				

Appendix 3

9. Total Direct Costs	
<i>9.a Federal Cost</i>	\$ 125,805.00
<i>9.b Non-Federal Match or Cost Share</i>	\$ 66,192.00

10. Indirect Costs (Must reflect a provisional or pre-determined Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement.)		
<i>10.a Federal Cost</i>	0.00%	\$ -
<i>10.b Non-Federal Match or Cost Share</i>	0.00%	\$ -

11. Total Costs (Sum of the Total Direct and Indirect Costs)	
<i>11.a Federal Cost</i>	\$ 125,805.00
<i>11.b Non-Federal Match or Cost Share</i>	\$ 66,192.00

Appendix 3

BUDGET SUMMARY

Budget Categories	Federal Request (Cost)	Non-Federal Match or Cost Share	Total
1. Personnel	\$ 62,765.00	\$ 1,338.00	\$ 64,103.00
2. Fringe Benefits	\$ 7,940.00	\$ 6,590.00	\$ 14,530.00
3. Travel	\$ 30,100.00	\$ 38,020.00	\$ 68,120.00
4. Equipment	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
5. Supplies	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 744.00	\$ 2,244.00
6. Contractual	\$ 19,900.00	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 27,400.00
7. Construction	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
8. Other Direct Costs	\$ 3,600.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 15,600.00
9. Total Direct Costs (lines 1-8)	\$ 125,805.00	\$ 66,192.00	\$ 191,997.00
10. Indirect Costs (reflect provisional, pre-determined rate and allocation base)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
11. Total Costs (lines 9-10)	\$ 125,805.00	\$ 66,192.00	\$ 191,997.00

Appendix 4

Guidance for Applicants

A successful Results Monitoring Plan ensures that applicants focus on achieving project *results*, rather than just activities. Results are the outputs, outcomes, or impact intended by the project. Activities describe specific actions undertaken over a specific time to achieve results.

The key elements of the RMP are:

- a) Project Objective(s): statement of the expected results of the project for which implementers will be held accountable*
- b) Indicators: measures used to gauge progress towards objectives— indicators should be direct, objective, adequate and practical.*
- c) Project activities: major actions carried out with grant funds; activities are directly linked to and adequate for the achievement of the project objectives.*
- d) Milestones: target date for the accomplishment of each major activity within the timeframe of the project.*

Grantees awarded under this opportunity will be required to report quarterly on their agreed-upon indicators and milestones, provide a narrative assessment of progress, and flag any issues affecting performance to NEA/AC project officers. As the project proceeds, NEA/AC grantees confer with NEA/AC project officers regarding any necessary actions to enhance performance over the life of the project.

Appendix 4

RMP—Sample Template

Instructions: The RMP template provides an outline for presenting the key elements which were described in the *RMP Guidance for Applicants* above. All information in blue text should be deleted prior to submitting your RMP on Grants.gov or GrantSolutions.gov.

Part 1: Project Context

This project is intended to support the following NEA/AC Goal:

NEA/AC Goal:

Part 2: NEA/AC Objective(s)

This project will *contribute* to the NEA/AC Objective(s) listed below. The NEA/AC objective(s) should be project-specific and related to achieving the NEA/AC Goal stated in Part 1 of this document.

NEA/AC Objective(s):

Part 3: Project Objective(s) and Indicators

The project will be *accountable for achieving* the project-specific objectives listed below. The project will report against the indicators listed below to measure progress towards achieving its project-specific objectives.

Please limit to three objectives. The project objectives should be project-specific and related to achieving the NEA/AC objective(s) selected in Part 2 of this document.

Project Objective	Indicators
Instructions: Objectives should relate to the project scope included in your Program Narrative.	Instructions: Indicators should be direct, objective, adequate and practical measures of the result to be achieved.

Appendix 4

<p>Project Objective 1:</p> <p><u>Example (Pluralistic Societies):</u> Civic Involvement Increases</p>	<p><u>Example:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number/Percentage of target citizens who show positive change in level of civic activity
<p>Project Objective 2:</p> <p><u>Example (Participatory Societies):</u> Participant Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) engage government on key issues</p>	<p><u>Example:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of CSO-government partnerships created by target CSOs to address key social, political or economic issues
<p>Project Objective 3:</p> <p><u>Example (Prosperous Societies):</u> Private sector engages government to advocate for improved business environment</p>	<p><u>Example:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of new policies supportive of the rights of foreign investors and minority shareholders adopted by the government

Part 4: Project Activities

The major activities the project will carry out to reach the project-specific objectives are listed below.

Project Objective 1: (Insert Project Objective #1 from Part 3 above)

Activity	Milestone (Completion Date)
<i>Example: Training of Trainers Workshop</i>	<i>Example: Month 3</i>

Project Objective 2: (Insert Project Objective #2 from Part 3 above)

Activity	Milestone (Completion Date)

Appendix 4

Project Objective 3: (Insert Project Objective #3 from Part 3 above)

Activity	Milestone (Completion Date)

Appendix 5

Preparing an Application for NEA/AC Funding

TABLE OF CONTENTS

GENERAL GUIDANCE	- 1 -
REQUIRED APPLICATION DOCUMENTS	- 1 -
Application Coversheet.....	- 2 -
Applicant Organization Information.....	- 2 -
SF-424—Application for Federal Assistance	- 2 -
SF-424A—Budget Information—Non-Construction Programs	- 4 -
SF-424B—Assurances—Non-Construction Programs.....	- 7 -
Program Narrative.....	- 7 -
Budget Narrative.....	- 9 -
<i>Budget Definitions</i>	- 9 -
<i>Cost Category Guidelines</i>	- 10 -
<i>Budget Narrative Sample Template</i>	- 12 -
Sustainability Plan	- 12 -
Results Monitoring Plan	- 13 -
NICRA	- 13 -
OPTIONAL DOCUMENTS.....	- 13 -

GENERAL GUIDANCE

It is strongly recommended that applicants submit grant applications using Microsoft Office products. If applicants do not have access to Microsoft Office products, PDF files may be submitted. If an applicant uses a file format other than Microsoft Office or PDF, the application may be unreadable.

The required font is 12-point Times New Roman. The application must be formatted for 8 ½ x 11 or A4 paper and single spaced, with all margins (left, right, top, bottom) being at least one inch each. Also, applicants should ensure all pages in the application are numbered consecutively and meet the page limit requirements outlined in the announcement. **If the application exceeds the page limit, the application will not advance to the Technical Review stage.** In addition, it is strongly recommended that applicants include a Table of Contents.

REQUIRED APPLICATION DOCUMENTS

The documents discussed below are what NEA/AC commonly requests in their program announcements. **Before preparing a submission, applicants should carefully review the announcement to confirm what documents are required.**

Appendix 5

Preparing an Application for Funding

- 2 -

Application Coversheet

The Coversheet provides summary detail about the applicant and their proposed activities and is a separate attachment in the electronic submission. It can be **no more than one page**. A sample template can be found with the announcement and a fill-able template is available for download online.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to use the same format as found in the sample template. If the applicant does not use the template, the applicant must ensure that their submission includes all elements outlined in the sample.

If using the sample template, the Coversheet should be filled out in its entirety. Under the *Executive Summary* header, please provide a mandatory synopsis of the proposed project (e.g., The project will...). **The information in blue text should be deleted prior to submitting the document.**

Applicant Organization Information

The Applicant Organizational Information document provides NEA/AC with information about the organization's structure and policies; and allows NEA/AC to assess the organization's ability to manage Federal funds. It is a separate attachment in your electronic submission. A sample template can be found with the announcement and a fill-able template is available for download online.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to use the same format as found in the sample. If the applicant does not use the template, the applicant must ensure that their submission includes all elements outlined in the sample.

SF-424—Application for Federal Assistance Instructions to Complete the Form

The SF-424—Application for Federal Assistance collects basic information on the applicant, the proposed project, the funding amount requested, and information about the announcement to which you are applying. **The form must be completed online and signed by the Authorized Organization Representative.** Below please find instructions on how to complete each of section of the form.

Item #1—Type of Submission: Select “Application.”

Item #2—Type of Application: Select “New.”

Item #3 - #4—Date Received/Applicant Identifier: Leave blank.

Item #5a - #5b—Federal Entity Identifier/Federal Award Identifier: Leave blank.

Appendix 5

Preparing an Application for Funding

- 3 -

Item #6 - #7—Date Received by State/State Application Identifier: Leave blank.

Item #8—Applicant Information:

8a – Input your organization’s legal name.

8b – U.S. Organization: Enter your EIN or TIN as assigned by the IRS.

International organization: Enter “44-4444444.”

8c – Enter your organization’s DUNS number (this is a nine-digit number).

8d – Enter your organizations address including country.

8e – If applicable, enter the name of a department or division in your organization that will coordinate the proposed activities.

8f – Name of the project person to contact about this application. **It is a best practice that this person not be listed as the authorized representative on this form.**

Item #9—Type of Applicant: Please select all that apply.

Item #10—Name of Federal Agency: Leave as written; it is completed for you.

Item #11—Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number and Title: Leave as written; it is completed for you.

Item #12—Funding Opportunity Number and Title: Leave as written; it is completed for you.

Item #13—Competition Identification Number and Title: Leave as written; it is completed for you.

Item #14—Areas Affected by Project: Attach a one-page document listing the city(ies) and country(ies) where your organization proposes to perform its proposed activities.

Item #15—Descriptive Title of Applicant’s Project: Enter the title of your project.

Item #16—Congressional Districts

16a – Applicant:

U.S. Organization: Enter the congressional district of your organization.

International Organization: Enter “00-000.”

16b – Program/Project:

U.S.-Based Program: Enter all the congressional districts affected by the program.

International Program (outside the U.S.): Enter “00-000.”

Item #17—Proposed Project: Enter the proposed start date and end date (MM/DD/YYYY) of your project. Actual dates will be negotiated if selected for funding.

Item #18—Estimated Funding

18a – Enter the amount of funding your organization is requesting from NEA/AC (Federal funding).

Appendix 5

Preparing an Application for Funding

- 4 -

18b – Enter the amount of any Non-Federal (e.g. non-U.S. Government) resources that will be used to support the project. This includes cost sharing and matching.

18c-d –U.S. Organization: Enter any funding you are receiving from the State and Local governments for this project, if applicable.

18e – Enter any other funding for the project that does not fit into the 18b-18d categories, if applicable. Otherwise leave blank or input “0.00.”

18f – If you anticipate any income to be generated by this project (i.e. registration fees) input that information here, if applicable.

18g – Total all the numbers from 18a-18f

Item #19—Is Application subject to Review by State Under Executive Order 12372 Process? Select “c. Program is not covered by E.O. 12372.”

Items #20—Is Applicant Delinquent of any Federal Debt. Do you owe the U.S. government money? Please select Yes/No. If yes, please provide an explanation.

Item # 21 – Authorized Representative: By checking box 21 and signing the SF-424—Application for Federal Assistance, the authorized representative certifies that the information in the SF-424 form is complete and accurate to the best of the representative’s knowledge **and** that the representative agrees to comply with the required assurances and certifications. Please provide the name, contact information, and signature of the authorized representative. The governing body of the applying organization must have specifically documented the designation for an authorized representative to submit an application for funding to the U.S. Government.

PLEASE NOTE: It is a best practice to have the SF-424 signed by the Authorizing Official who would sign an ensuing award document for the applying organization. It is also a best practice this person not be the same person listed as the point of contact on line “8f” of this form.

SF-424A—Budget Information—Non-Construction Programs Instructions to Complete the Form

The SF-424a—Budget Information—Non-Construction Program provides information on the applicant’s financial plan for carrying out the proposed project. **The form must be completed online.** A more detailed budget will be submitted through the Budget Narrative portion of the application. **NEA/AC recommends that applicants prepare their Budget Narrative and then complete the SF-424a form.**

Section A—Budget Summary

Line #1:

Column (a)—Grant Program Function or Activity: Input “Office of Assistance Coordination”

Column (b)—Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) No: Input CFDA number referenced on the first page of the notice of funding opportunity (NOFO)

Column (c)—Estimated Unobligated Funds, Federal: Leave Blank

Column (d)—Estimated Unobligated Funds, Non-Federal: Leave Blank

Appendix 5

Preparing an Application for Funding

- 5 -

Column (e)—New/Revised Budget, Federal: Enter the amount of Federal funding your organization is requesting.

Column (f)—New/Revised Budget, Non-Federal: Enter the amount of Non-Federal (e.g. non-U.S. Government) funds that will be used to support the project.

Column (g)—New/Revised Budget, Total: Enter the total of Column E and Column F.

Lines #2-4, Columns (a)-(g): Leave Blank

Line #5:

Column (c)—Estimated Unobligated Funds, Federal: Input "\$0.00."

Column (d)—Estimated Unobligated Funds, Non-Federal: Input "\$0.00."

Column (e)—New/Revised Budget, Federal: Enter the amount from Line #1, Column (e)

Column (f)—New/Revised Budget, Non-Federal: Enter the amount from Line #1, Column (f).

Column (g)—New/Revised Budget, Total: Enter the amount from Line #1, Column (g).

Section B—Budget Categories

Line #6—Object Class Categories:

Column (1)—Grant Program, Function, or Activity: Input "Office of Assistance Coordination."

Column (2)-(4)—Grant Program, Function, or Activity: Leave Blank

Column (5)—Total: Leave Blank.

Line #6.a—Personnel:

Column (1): Input the total Federal Request and Non-Federal Request from the "Personnel" category in the Budget Summary section of your Budget Narrative.

Column (2)-(4): Leave Blank

Column (5): Enter the amount from 6.a, Column 1.

Line #6.b—Fringe Benefits:

Column (1): Input the total Federal Request and Non-Federal Request from the 'Fringe Benefit' category in the Budget Summary section of your Budget Narrative.

Column (2)-(4): Leave Blank

Column (5): Enter the amount from 6.b, Column 1.

Line #6.c—Travel:

Column (1): Input the total Federal Request and Non-Federal Request from the "Travel" category in the Budget Summary section of your Budget Narrative.

Column (2)-(4): Leave Blank

Column (5): Enter the amount from 6.c, Column 1.

Line #6.d—Equipment:

Column (1): Input the total Federal Request and Non-Federal Request from the "Equipment" category in the Budget Summary section of your Budget Narrative.

Column (2)-(4): Leave Blank

Column (5): Enter the amount from 6.d, Column 1.

Appendix 5

Preparing an Application for Funding

- 6 -

Line #6.e—Supplies:

Column (1): Input the total Federal Request and Non-Federal Request from the “Supplies” category in the Budget Summary section of your Budget Narrative.

Column (2)-(4): Leave Blank

Column (5): Enter the amount from 6.e, Column 1.

Line #6.f—Contractual:

Column (1): Input the total Federal Request and Non-Federal Request from the “Contractual” category in the Budget Summary section of your Budget Narrative.

Column (2)-(4): Leave Blank

Column (5): Enter the amount from 6.f, Column 1.

Line #6.g—Construction:

Column (1): Input “\$0.00.”

Column (2)-(4): Leave Blank

Column (5): Input “\$0.00.”

Line #6.h—Other:

Column (1): Input the total Federal Request and Non-Federal Request from the “Other” category in the Budget Summary section of your Budget Narrative.

Column (2)-(4): Leave Blank

Column (5): Enter the amount from 6.h, Column 1.

Line #6.i—Total Direct Charges:

Column (1): Enter the total of Lines # 6.a thru #6.h in Column 1.

Column (2)-(4): Leave Blank

Column (5): Enter the amount from 6.i, Column 1.

Line #6.j—Indirect Charges:

Column (1): Input the total Federal Request and Non-Federal Request from the “Indirect Charges” category in the Budget Summary section of your Budget Narrative.

Column (2)-(4): Leave Blank

Column (5): Enter the amount from 6.j, Column 1.

Line #6.k—TOTALS:

Column (1): Enter the total of Lines #6.i thru #6.j in Column 1.

Column (2)-(4): Leave Blank

Column (5): Enter the amount from 6.k, Column 1.

Line #7—Program Income:

Column (1): Input “\$0.00.”

Column (2)-(4): Leave Blank

Column (5): Input “\$0.00.”

Appendix 5

Preparing an Application for Funding

- 7 -

Section C—Non-Federal Resources

Line #8:

Column (a)—Grant Program: Input “Office of Assistance Coordination.”

Column (b)—Applicant: Enter total from Section A, Line #1, Column (F).

Columns (c) & (d): Leave Blank.

Column (e)—Totals: Enter amount from Section C, Line#8, Column (b).

Lines #9-11, Columns (a)-(e): Leave Blank

Line #12:

Column (b)—Applicant: Enter amount from of Section C, Line #8, Column (b)

Columns (c) & (d): Leave Blank.

Column (e)—Totals: Enter amount from of Section C, Line #8, Column (b)

Section D—Forecasted Cash Needs

GrantSolutions will automatically fill in this section. **DO NOT** change the information that auto fills in this section.

Section E—Budget Estimates for Federal Funds Needed for Balance of the Project

Leave this entire section blank.

Section F—Other Budget Information

Line #21—Direct Charges: Use this space to explain amounts for individual direct object class cost categories that may appear to be out of the ordinary or to explain details.

Line #22—Indirect Charges: Enter the type of indirect rate (provisional, predetermined, final, or fixed) that will be in effect during the funding period, the estimated amount of the base to which the rate is applied, and the total indirect expense.

Line #23—Remarks: Add any additional comments you wish to make.

SF-424B—Assurances—Non-Construction Programs

The SF-424B—Assurances—Non-Construction Programs sets forth compliance requirements an application must certify if awarded a grant. **The form must be reviewed and signed online by the Authorized Organization Representative.**

Program Narrative

The Program Narrative provides detailed information about the proposed project, and is reviewed to determine if a project will be considered for funding. Typically, applicants will address a project’s results and benefits, approach, and organizational capacity in this section of

Appendix 5

Preparing an Application for Funding

- 8 -

their application. The Narrative is a separate attachment in the electronic submission and **may not exceed the page limit specified in the announcement.**

Before preparing your Program Narrative, applicants should carefully review the announcement to confirm information should be provided. Below are **some** of the items that, **depending on the announcement,** you will want to address in your Program Narrative:

Results and Benefits

- Clearly explain and specify the proposed project's objectives
- Describe realistic results to be accomplished with the timeframe of the proposed award.
- Clearly identify the anticipated beneficiaries and explain how the project's objectives will positively affect them.
- Provide realistic milestones to indicate progress toward NEA/AC goals and objectives as described in the program announcement.
- Explain how monitoring and evaluation activities will be carried out and who will be responsible for them. Applicants are encouraged to propose a midterm or final evaluation.

Approach:

- Clearly describe how each proposed project activity will address the objectives outlined in the announcement or requested priority area.
- Describe how the proposed project design is innovative and original, as well as feasible.
- Address how the project will engage or obtain support from relevant stakeholders and identify local partners.
- Propose activities that are interactive, practical, and/or experiential in nature.
- Explain how participants will be selected (e.g. criteria for selection, selection process).
- Acknowledges if activities similar to those proposed are already taking or have taken place previously, and provide an explanation as to how proposed new activities will not duplicate or merely add to existing/recent activities.
- Articulates potential challenges to project implementation and propose contingency plans.
- Describe the division of labor among the applicant and any partners.
- Identify and address support for marginalized populations in all proposed activities and objectives and provides specific means for their inclusion.

Organizational Capacity:

- Demonstrate experience (e.g. has previously worked and/or has established contacts/partners) in the proposed country/territory/region.
- Demonstrate an institutional record of successful programs in the content area proposed (e.g. local government skills training).
- Demonstrate capacity for responsible fiscal management of donor funding (e.g. successful management of a previous sub-award or grant).
- Demonstrate the capacity to manage the proposed project, including having adequate staffing.

Preparing an Application for Funding

- 9 -

Budget Narrative

The Budget Narrative is used to determine if costs are reasonable and permissible. All proposed costs funded by Federal and Non-Federal contributions must be reasonable, necessary to achieve project objectives, permissible in accordance with applicable Federal cost principles, auditable, and incurred during the project period. **Before developing a project budget, applicants should carefully review information below. All figures must be in U.S. Dollars and rounded to the nearest dollar.**

The Budget Narrative is a separate attachment in the electronic submission and there is no page limit for this section of the application. A sample template can be found with the announcement and a fill-able template is available for download online. **NOTE: Applicants are strongly encouraged to use the same format as found in the sample templates.** If the applicant does not use the template, the applicant must ensure that their submission includes all elements outlined in the sample. **All budgets must be structured so that they print in a readable format.**

Budget Definitions

Authorized Organization Representative (AOR): The individual authorized to act on behalf of the applicant and assume the obligations imposed by Federal laws, regulations, requirements, and conditions that apply to grant applications and/or awards. This person will be the signatory on the SF-424 and SF-424B forms.

Consultant: An individual or organization who provides professional advice and/or services for a fee and is not a direct hire employee of a grantee's organization. Typically a consultant performs a one-time activity. All consultants require prior approval from NEA/AC.

Contract: A contract under a grant may be awarded for two purposes: 1) goods or services needed to support the grantee's performance of the project or 2) an award to a third party for performance of substantive programmatic work. The first category is termed "vendor relationship," and is described in more detail below under "Vendor." The second category is termed "sub-recipient relationship" and may be in the form of a contract under the grant or, in some cases, a sub-award. More detail on the "sub-recipient" relationship is detailed below under "Sub-Award, Sub-Recipient, or Sub-Grantee." The relationship rather than the terminology drives the governing requirements for these two relationships.

Direct Costs: Project related costs used for salaries, travel, equipment, supplies, contractual arrangements, and tangible goods or services.

Indirect Costs: Costs that cannot be identified readily and specifically with a particular project or activity, but are necessary to the operation of the organization (e.g., overhead, facility maintenance). These costs require a negotiated indirect cost rate (NICRA); otherwise, they must be charged directly and justified in detail.

Appendix 5

Preparing an Application for Funding

- 10 -

Project Costs: The total allowable costs incurred by a recipient and charged to the award during a budget period. Project costs may include expenses provided for through Federal and Non-Federal contributions.

Sub-Recipient or Sub-Awardee or Sub-Grantee: A third-party individual or organization who receives an award for the performance of certain programmatic work. All sub-recipients require prior approval from NEA/AC. The receiving organization (sub-recipient):

- Has its performance measured against whether the objectives of the grantee's project are met;
- Has responsibility for programmatic decision making (to the extent specified in its contract/sub-award);
- Has responsibility for adherence to applicable grant compliance requirements; and
- Uses their awarded federal funds in conjunction with a program of the organization as compared to providing goods or services for a program of the pass-through entity.

Vendor: An organization who receives funding from the grantee for the procurement of a good or service needed to support the grantee's performance of the project. A vendor relationship is one under which the receiving organization (vendor):

- Provides the goods and services within normal business operations or to many different purchasers;
- Operates in a competitive environment;
- Provides goods or services that are supplementary to the operation of the grantee's project; and
- Is not subject to federal programmatic compliance requirements.

When a grantee obtains routine goods and services necessary for performance of the grant-supported project, it may be through activities chargeable to indirect costs (e.g., acquisition of audit services) or, as appropriate, through a direct charge (i.e., contractual).

Cost Category Guidelines

All budgets must include an estimate of the costs projected tasks and activities, based on budget categories identified on the Budget Information Form (SF 424a). Applicants are encouraged to use the following checklist below to ensure that the budget provides all the necessary information.

1. Personnel

- Are the key personnel for this project identified?
 - Key personnel are defined as individuals who contribute to the programmatic development or execution of the project in a substantive, measurable way, whether or not they receive salaries or other compensation under the grant.
 - Key personnel should include a Program Director and or Program Coordinator.

Preparing an Application for Funding

- 11 -

- Is each position identified by title or responsibility?
 - **Program Director:** The individual who will provide daily oversight of the grant, including fiscal and personnel management, community relations, and project implementation and evaluation during the project period.
 - **Program Coordinator:** The individual who will coordinate coalition services and NEA/AC project activities, including training, coalition communication, data collection, and information dissemination.
 - **Financial or Business Official:** The person who handles the financial components of the grant.
- Is the identified position occupied, if so is the name of the employee identified?
- Is the basis for determining each employee's compensation described (annual salary and % time devoted)?
- Are time commitments and the amount of compensation stated and reasonable?
- Are salary increases anticipated during the grant period and are they justified (cost of living allowance, etc.)?
- Are any personnel costs unallowable? (e.g., does the level of effort of the employee exceed 100% of all work on all projects or positions? Is the person identified a Federal Employee?)

2. Fringe Benefits

- Is each type of benefit indicated separately or does the organization have an approved fringe benefit rate (NICRA)?
- Are fringe increases anticipated during the grant period and are they justified?

3. Travel

- Is the travel necessary for the purpose of the program?
- Are travel costs separately identifiable and reasonable (transportation, hotel, meals, and mileage)?
- Is the basis for computation provided?
- Does the organization travel policy follow the Federal guidelines (e.g., Fly America, per diem rates, etc.)?

4. Equipment

- Does the equipment have a useful life of more than one year and an acquisition cost of \$5,000 or more?
- Is the request necessary and reasonable for the purpose of the project?
- Are equipment items specified by unit and cost?
- Are purchases distinguishable from rentals or leases (vehicles, large items of equipment)?

5. Supplies

- Are supplies listed separately?
- Are costs per unit identified and detailed?
- Is the basis for the cost reasonable?

Preparing an Application for Funding

- 12 -

6. Contractual

- Is the type of service to be rendered described?
- Are the consultant(s) or contractor(s) named, if known?
- Is the total amount for any contract in excess of \$100,000?
- Is a separate budget for sub-recipients or contracts provided?

7. Construction

- Construction costs are not allowable and should not be included

8. Other

- Are items grouped by type (space rental, printing, phone, maintenance, sub-award, etc.)?
- Are all costs justified and allowable?
- Is each sub-award (or sub-grant) described (i.e., description of activities to be performed, method of selection, type of agreement, budget with narrative) and the amount of award included?

Budget Narrative Sample Template

The Budget Narrative Sample Template provides examples of possible costs. Applicants should revise the template to reflect the costs associated with their proposed activities. In addition, applicants should remove any descriptions within the document and replace it with their cost justifications.

When completing the template, applicants should ensure the following:

- Provide details of calculations including estimation methods, quantities, unit costs, and other similar quantitative detail sufficient for the calculation to be duplicated;
- Funding should not duplicate on-going activities;
- Budget categories should be clearly labeled and identified;
- The use of "miscellaneous expenses" or any similar term as a budget item is unacceptable; and
- The document should be structured so that it will print in a readable format.

Sustainability Plan

The sustainability plan outlines how the proposed project will be sustained beyond the initial award period. **The plan should be attached as a separate attachment in your electronic submission and may not exceed two pages.**

The plan should address each of the areas list below:

- Discuss how sustainability will be integrated into project planning and implementation from the beginning.
- Describe how project activities and results will create sustainable impact through local ownership.

Appendix 5

Preparing an Application for Funding

- 13 -

- Identify the results and outcomes that can be realistically sustained after NEA/AC funding ends.
- Present a plan to secure the resources needed to sustain the aforementioned results after NEA/AC funding ends.
- Identify potential partners that will play a role in sustaining the project past the scheduled end date and explain the role they will play.

More information about preparing this Plan can be found in Part III of the program announcement.

Results Monitoring Plan

A Results Monitoring Plan (RMP) describes the measures proposed by an applicant to capture and demonstrate progress towards achieving the objectives of the proposed project. **The plan should be attached as a separate attachment in your submission and may not exceed three pages.**

The RMP should include the following elements:

- *Realistic project objectives.* What results are achievable during the period of the grant?
- *Qualitative indicators.* How and what will you measure to show the project's results based on outcomes (impact) as well as outputs (raw numbers)?
- *Data collection and analysis.* How will you collect and present indicator data and analysis to show progress toward the project objectives?
- *Monitoring and reporting.* How will you monitor and assess results during the implementation of the project to adapt to changes on the ground and maintain progress?

More information about preparing this Plan can be found in Part III of the announcement and a fill-able sample template is available for download online.

NICRA

Applicants proposing indirect costs in the Budget Narrative must provide a copy of their Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA).

OPTIONAL DOCUMENTS

Documents not included in the program and budget narratives may be included as attachments or appendices, and **may not exceed the page limit specified in the announcement.** Examples of attachments to be included in this section of your application are:

- **Biographical Sketch or Job Descriptions for key personnel and partners:**
This information may be included within the project narrative or as a separate document included in the optional documents of the application. If these items are not included, applicants will be scored lower under *Staff and Position Specifications* review criteria outlined in Part V, Section A of the announcement.

Preparing an Application for Funding

- 14 -

- **Work Plans, Project Timeline, or Calendar of Activities:** A work plan is a detailed list of proposed activities, milestones, and approximate dates. You may choose to include a work plan, project timeline, and/or calendar of proposed activities.
- **Pre-Submission Checklist** can be found with the announcement and a fill-able template is available for download online. This Checklist ensures that an applicant has accurately documented the eligibility requirements and included all major components of the application.

Appendix 6

PRE-SUBMISSION CHECKLIST

Instructions: The Pre-Submission Checklist ensures that an application meets all submission requirements. Please select each item that has been completed.

Requirements to Submit an Application	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you have a Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal (DUNS) Number?
<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you have an account with the System for Award Management (SAM)*?
<input type="checkbox"/>	Are you registered with Grants.gov (www.grants.gov) <u>OR</u> GrantSolutions.gov (www.grantsolutions.gov)?***
Required Application Documents	
<i>Application Coversheet</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Did you complete and attach the Cover Sheet, and is it no more than one page ?
<i>Applicant Organizational Information</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Did you complete and attach the Applicant Organization Information document?
<i>Federal Assistance Application Form—SF-424</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Did you complete online the Federal Assistance Application Form (SF-424)?
<input type="checkbox"/>	Has the entire proposed project period been identified in item #17 on the SF-424 form?
<input type="checkbox"/>	Did you complete item #18 on the SF-424 form?
<input type="checkbox"/>	Did you check “c” in item #19 on the SF-424 form? Applicants are not covered by E.O. 12372
<input type="checkbox"/>	Did your Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) read and sign item #21 on the SF-424 form?
<i>Federal Assistance Application Form—SF-424a</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Did you complete online the Budget Information—Non-Construction Programs (SF-424a)?
<input type="checkbox"/>	If your application includes cost sharing, did you identify this cost on the SF-424a form?
<i>Federal Assistance Application Form—SF-424b</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Did your AOR read and sign online the Assurances—Non-Construction Programs Form (SF-424b)?
<i>Program Narrative</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Did you attach your Project Narrative and is it no more than the page limit specified in the announcement?

Appendix 6

PRE-SUBMISSION CHECKLIST

<input type="checkbox"/>	Does your Program Narrative address all the goals and priorities outlined in the announcement?
<i>Budget Narrative</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Did you attach a Budget Narrative providing a detailed description of the project costs?
<input type="checkbox"/>	If your application includes cost sharing, did you provide detailed information about this cost in your Budget Narrative?
<i>Sustainability Plan (if required)</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Did you attach a Sustainability Plan and is it no longer than 2 pages ?
<i>Results Monitoring Plan (if required)</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Did you attach a Results Monitoring Plan and is it no longer than 3 pages ?

Optional Documents	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Did you attach any optional documents and ensure that they do not exceed the page limit specified in the announcement?
<input type="checkbox"/>	If your application included partnerships, did you provide details about the roles and responsibilities for each partnership; details on how sub-grant(s) will be managed and monitored in both the program and budget narratives; and did you attach Letters of Agreements or Letter of Intent?
<input type="checkbox"/>	Did you include Biographical Sketches or Job Descriptions for key personnel and partners?

***U.S.-based** and **Foreign-based** applicants must have an account with SAM to submit an application. **All applicants selected for funding must be registered with SAM to receive an award.**

****All applications must be submitted through either [Grants.gov](https://www.Grants.gov) OR [GrantSolutions.gov](https://www.GrantSolutions.gov).**