

U.S. Department of State

Request for Proposals

Program Office: Bureau of International Security and
Nonproliferation, Office of Cooperative Threat
Reduction (ISN/CTR)

CFDA 19.033

Funding Opportunity Title: Global Biosecurity Engagement Activities

Announcement Type: Cooperative Agreement – Initial

Funding Opportunity Number: S-ISNCT-16-001

Deadline for Applications: February 12, 2016

ELIGIBILITY

Eligibility is limited to not-for-profit organizations subject to 501 (c) (3) of the tax code and educational institutions.

Cost Sharing or Matching

This program does not require cost sharing, however proposals which demonstrate cost sharing will be welcomed.

Other Special Eligibility Criteria

Not Applicable.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For assistance with the requirements of this solicitation, please contact:

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I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Department of State's Office of Cooperative Threat Reduction (ISN/CTR) is pleased to announce an open competition for assistance awards through this Request for Proposals (RFP). ISN/CTR invites non-profit/non-governmental organizations and educational institutions to submit proposals for projects that will advance the mission of the Department's Biosecurity Engagement Program (BEP). ISN/CTR has approximately \$40,000,000 available in the current fiscal year to award multiple grants and cooperative agreements in this field. ISN/CTR prefers projects that cost less than \$500,000, though awards may involve multiple projects that cumulatively exceed \$500,000.

II. BACKGROUND AND PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Office of Cooperative Threat Reduction (CTR), part of the Department's Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation (ISN), sponsors foreign assistance activities funded by the Nonproliferation, Anti-terrorism, Demining and Related Programs (NADR) account, and focuses on mitigating proliferation risk in frontline states and regions where the terrorist threat is on the rise, such as South Asia, the Middle East, and North Africa.

ISN/CTR administers the Biosecurity Engagement Program (BEP) program as part of the GTR portfolio. BEP's mission involves institutionalizing biorisk management best practices and securing life science institutions and dangerous pathogens, decreasing the risk that scientists with dual-use expertise will misuse pathogens, and promoting adoption of and compliance with comprehensive international frameworks that advance U.S. biological nonproliferation objectives, including United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1540, the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC), the World Health Organization's International Health Regulations, and the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) / International Organization for Standardization (ISO) standards.

BEP generally funds activities in three priority pillars and has a focus on long-term sustainability. The first pillar increases biosecurity and biosafety through technical consultations, risk assessments, and training courses that develop expertise to create a sustainable culture of laboratory biorisk management. As a part of BEP's biosecurity efforts, the program also sponsors efforts to train foreign law enforcement and security forces on approaches for detecting, investigating, and disrupting bioterrorism plots. The second pillar of engagement focuses on infectious disease detection and control and strengthening the capacity for public and veterinary health systems to detect, report, and control disease outbreaks. The third pillar of engagement focuses on scientific engagement to enhance global health security and foster safe, secure, and sustainable bioscience capacity through joint scientific collaborations designed to help prevent, detect, and respond to biological threats.

Objectives

By the end of the award's period of performance, the recipient will have successfully developed and implemented a project or projects to advance BEP's mission by:

- Promoting biorisk management practices
- Securing life science institutions and pathogens in priority regions
- Decreasing the risk that scientists with dual-use expertise will misuse pathogens
- Promoting the detection, disruption, mitigation, and investigation of biological terrorism plots
- Partnering with non-scientific interlocutors such as policymakers, law enforcement, military, and diplomatic audiences to promote biorisk management
- Promoting the adoption of and compliance with comprehensive international frameworks that advance U.S. biological nonproliferation objectives

Funding Priorities

While global in scope, ISN/CTR focuses its resources on prioritized countries to maximize its aim of reducing biological risks. During the current fiscal year, BEP's highest priority countries for engagement are Iraq, Turkey, and Yemen. BEP's second highest priority countries are Afghanistan, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, and Uganda. The program will also consider project proposals for other countries in the Middle East and North Africa, South Asia, Ukraine, sub-Saharan Africa, Southeast Asia and Latin America. Of note, legal restrictions prevent ISN/CTR from providing assistance to certain countries, including developed states, state sponsors of terrorism, and gross violators of human rights.

The recipient shall leverage relevant subject matter experts to create, develop, and implement projects that advance the BEP mission.

Below is a sample list of the types of biosecurity projects ISN/CTR will consider for funding:

- Projects that promote biorisk management practices such as technical consultations, risk assessments, and biorisk management training courses;
- Projects that secure life science institutions and dangerous pathogens;
- Projects that decrease the risk that scientists with dual-use research expertise will misuse pathogens;
- Projects that promote the detection, disruption, and investigation of potential bioterrorism plots;
- Projects that strengthen the capacity for public and veterinary health systems to safely, securely, and responsibly detect, report, and control infectious disease outbreaks;
- Projects that promote joint scientific and other collaborations designed to help prevent, detect, and respond to biological threats; and
- Projects that promote the adoption of and compliance with comprehensive international frameworks that advance U.S. biological nonproliferation objectives

III. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Eligibility is limited to not-for-profit organizations subject to 501 (c) (3) of the tax code and educational institutions. Direct funding for both U.S. and non-U.S. institutions is available under this announcement.

IV. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Award Period: 12 months

Award Amount: Approximately \$40,000,000 is available for this program during the current fiscal year. CTR will prioritize proposals that efficiently meet RFP and programmatic goals at the lowest technically acceptable cost.

Application Submission Process: Applicants should submit project proposals electronically using Grants.gov. Thorough instructions on the Grants.gov application process are available at <http://www.grants.gov>. For questions relating to Grants.gov, please call the Grants.gov Contact Center at 1-800-518-4726. For questions about this solicitation, contact:

Daniel Jackson, Program Advisor
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Application Deadline: All applications must be submitted on or before February 12, 2016, 11:59 p.m. eastern time. Applications submitted after 11:59 p.m. will be ineligible for consideration. **Begin the application process early**, as this will allow time to address any technical difficulties that may arise in advance of the deadline. There will be no exceptions to this application deadline.

All applicants must register with Grants.gov prior to submitting an application. **Registering with Grants.gov is a one-time process; however, it could take as long as two weeks to have the registration validated and confirmed. Please begin the registration process immediately to ensure that the process is completed well in advance of the deadline for applications.** Until that process is complete, you will not be issued a user password for Grants.gov, which is required for application submission. There are four steps that you must complete before you are able to register: (1) Obtain a Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number from Dun & Bradstreet (if your organization does not have one already) by calling 1-866-705-5711; (2) Register with Central Contractor Registry (CCR); (3) Register yourself as an Authorized Organization Representative (AOR); and (4) Be authorized as an AOR by your organization. For more information, go to www.grants.gov. Please note that your CCR registration must be annually renewed. Failure to renew your CCR registration may prohibit submission of an application through Grants.gov.

Application Content: Applicants must follow the RFP instructions and conditions contained herein and supply all information required. **Failure to furnish all information or comply with stated requirements will result in disqualification from the competition.** Applicants must set forth full, accurate, and complete information as required by this RFP. The penalty for making false statements in proposals to the U.S. government is prescribed on 18 U.S.C.1001.

The completed submission must consist of the following three parts:

Section 1 - Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424):

This form can be found on-line at: <http://apply07.grants.gov/apply/FormLinks?family=15>

Section 2 – Project Proposal(s):

Using the provided template, the applicant must provide a completed project proposal. The proposal form must be completed in its entirety and clearly specify the proposed scope, deliverables, and timeline. Applicants must specify a point of contact for each project that is proposed.

Section 3 - Budget:

Also using the provided project proposal template, applicants must provide a budget for each project. The budget must identify the total amount of funding requested, with a breakdown of amounts to be spent in the following budget categories:

- Personnel and fringe benefits;
- Travel;
- Equipment and supplies;
- Contractual services;
- Construction;
- Other direct costs; and
- Indirect costs

Applicants must adhere to the requirements of the Federal Travel Regulation (FTR), including Fly America Act requirements, when proposing and conducting travel. For further information and current foreign per diem rates, please visit:

http://aoprals.state.gov/content.asp?content_id=184&menu_id=78b

V. AWARD SELECTION CRITERIA

Applicants should note that the following criteria serve as a standard against which all project proposals will be evaluated and identify significant considerations that should be addressed in all proposals. ISN/CTR will award a cooperative agreement to the applicant(s) whose offer represents the best overall value to the government from both a technical and cost perspective.

ISN/CTR will evaluate proposals against the stated criteria. Criteria are listed in descending order of importance.

Proposed Activity or Activities: Applicants should clearly describe what they propose to do and how they will do it. The proposed project(s) must directly relate to meeting the specified objectives and applicants should include specific information on how they will systematically meet ISN/CTR's mission. ISN/CTR will evaluate the project proposal in terms of how well it addresses the issues at hand, relevance and feasibility of the proposed activities, the timeline for completion, and the extent to which the impact of the project will continue beyond the conclusion of the period of performance.

- **Organizational Capability:** Applicants must demonstrate how their resources, capabilities, and experience will enable them to achieve the stated goals and objectives in an international technical context. The proposal(s) must identify all key partners and organizations that will be involved in implementation of this project.
- **Budget:** Proposed costs will be evaluated for feasibility, fiscal control practices, and efficiency. ISN/CTR must be able to determine that proposed costs are reasonable, allowable, and allocable to the proposed project activities. ISN/CTR will evaluate the budget to determine if the overall costs are realistic for the work to be performed, if the costs reflect the applicant's understanding of the allowable cost principles established by OMB Circulars A-122 and/or A-21, and if the costs are consistent with the program narrative.

VI. AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

Award Notices: The cooperative agreement shall be written, signed, awarded, and administered by the Grants Officer. The Grants Officer is the government official delegated the authority by the U.S. Department of State Procurement Executive to write, award, and administer grants and cooperative agreements. The assistance award agreement is the authorizing document and it will be provided to the Recipient through either mail or facsimile transmission. Organizations whose applications will not be funded will also be notified in writing.

Anticipated Time to Award: Applicants should expect to be notified of the *recommended* concepts within 90 days after the submission deadline. Following this initial notification, **selected applicants will be expected to submit a full application within 30 days.** ISN/CTR staff will provide information at the point of notification about the requirements for the full application, which may include revisions to the activities. The full applications will not be subject to further competition, but must incorporate any suggested changes made by ISN/CTR.

Issuance of this RFP does not constitute an award commitment on the part of the Government, nor does it commit the Government to pay for costs incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals. Further, the Government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals received.

Project Implementation Meeting: The Recipient should expect to have a pre-project implementation meeting with ISN/CTR within 30 days after the cooperative agreement is awarded and before any work is performed for the award.

Reporting Requirements: As a cooperative agreement, reporting and deliverable requirements for this project exceed those of typical grants administered by ISN/CTR. Applicants should pay special attention to these enhanced reporting and deliverable requirements. Specifically:

- Using a template provided by ISN/CTR, the Recipient shall submit quarterly progress reports to the designated Grants Officer Representative (GOR) detailing:
 - Assistance activities conducted during the reporting period;
 - Milestones and successes achieved to date;
 - Key assistance activities remaining to be implemented with a projected timetable;
 - Details of any problems encountered with proposed solutions; and
 - Any other pertinent information requested by ISN/CTR.
- The Recipient shall provide the GOR with copies of all materials developed under this cooperative agreement.
- In addition to regular quarterly reports, the Recipient shall furnish the GOR with ad hoc reports as requested from time to time.

In addition to the above, the Recipient shall submit quarterly financial reports throughout the project period. Financial reports are due 30 days after the reporting period. Final programmatic and financial reports are due 90 days after the close of the project period

VII. DISCLAIMER

If a proposal is selected for funding, the Department of State has no obligation to provide any additional future funding in connection with the award. Renewal of an award to increase funding or extend the period of performance is at the total discretion of the Department of State.



BIOSECURITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM (BEP) IN AFGHANISTAN



**Nathan Green, Mo Salman, and Brett Goode
BEP Afghanistan Team
Biosecurity Engagement Program
U.S. Department of State
November 2015**



Background

Mission: Deny terrorist and insurgent organizations access to expertise and especially dangerous pathogens that could be exploited as part of a bioterrorism attack against the U.S. homeland or national interests abroad.

Biological Threat Driven:

- Active groups: Al-Qa'ida, Taliban, Haqqani
- Endemic High-Risk Pathogens
 - Brucella, FMD, Anthrax

Division of Labor:

- Department of Defense – Human Biosecurity
- State Department – **Veterinary Biosecurity**



Current Activities



- Veterinary Capacity Building
 - Zoonotic diseases
- Female Paravet Training
- Train-the-trainer
 - Pharmacology
 - Veterinary Training
 - Clinical Skills
 - Biosecurity and biosafety
- Laboratory Biorisk Management Training
- Sample Transportation
- Afghan Vet Association (AVA)
- Afghanistan Biorisk Association (ABA)

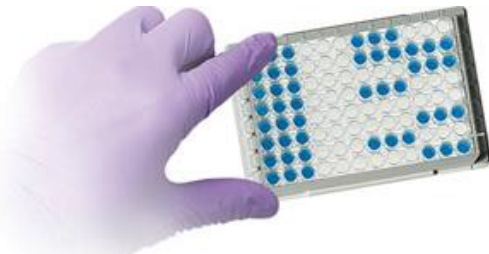




Goals



Enhance Afghanistan's capability to prevent the theft, sale, diversion, or accidental release of biological materials, technology and expertise



Enhance Afghanistan's disease detection, response, and communication network for biological pathogens



Encourage high ethical standards and cultivate a culture of professional responsibility among Afghan life scientists



FY16 FOCUS AREAS



- 1) Improve Biorisk Management Practices
- 2) Develop Secure Sample Transportation in Kabul and Key Provinces (Kandahar, Nangarhar, Mazar-e Sharif, Kunduz)
- 3) Raise Awareness of Bioethics and Promote a Culture of Responsibility Among the Next Generation of Afghan Life Scientists
- 4) Engage Law Enforcement Sector to detect and disrupt bioterrorism plots
- 5) Improve Capacity for Disease Detection (focus on Select Agent pathogens)



FY16 FOCUS AREAS



- 6) Encourage Community-Based Surveillance
- 7) Expand Engagement with Leading Universities
- 8) Gap analysis of current programs





Desired Attributes for Proposals



- **Threat focused**
- **Preference for regional activities**
 - Increasingly complex security situation
- **Data driven**
- **Sustainability**
 - Transition to Afghan lead activities
 - Capitalize on current resources
 - Can Afghan partners sustain long-term costs independently?
 - Location for engagement
 - Human capacity building



Program Contact Information

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BIOSECURITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM (BEP) IN AFGHANISTAN



Discussion & Questions