Issuance Date: January 13, 2015
Deadline for Receipt of Questions: January 21, 2015; 9:00 am [Pretoria time]
Closing Date for Submission of Applications: February 9, 2015; 9:00 am [Pretoria time]

TITLE: PROMOTING INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

Ladies/Gentlemen:

The Center of Excellence on Democracy, Human Rights and Governance (DRG), within the Bureau of Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance (DCHA) of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) through USAID/Southern Africa is inviting all interested non-governmental organizations in South Africa, Swaziland, Lesotho or Botswana to apply for FY14 Disability Funding to increase the participation of people with disabilities in USAID programs/activities; and strengthen the capacity and services of civil society organizations run by and for people with disabilities; herein referred to as Disabled People’s Organizations (DPOs). Please see Notice of Funding Opportunity on the following pages for details.

Any questions concerning this APS must be submitted in writing via email to usaidnotifications@usaid.gov on or before January 21, 2015; 9:00 am [Pretoria time]. If it is determined that the answer to any question(s) is/are of sufficient importance to warrant notification to all prospective recipients, a Questions and Answers document posted on the USAID/Southern Africa website.

USAID/Southern Africa is limited to a maximum of two (2) small fund grants ($20,000 - $300,000) and one (1) large fund grant ($300,000 - $600,000) under this funding opportunity. Selected submissions will be considered as part of the larger global competition. The actual number of awards made under this funding opportunity is subject to the availability of funds, the interests and requirements of USAID, as well as the viability of applications received.

It is USAID policy not to award profit under assistance instruments. However, all reasonable, allocable, and allowable expenses, both direct and indirect, which are related to the award program and are in accordance with applicable cost standards (2 CFR 200 and the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Part 31 for-profit organizations), may be paid under the award(s) issued under this funding opportunity.

Issuance of this announcement does not constitute an award commitment on the part of the United States Government, nor does it commit the United States Government to pay for costs incurred in the preparation and submission of an application. In addition, final award(s) of any resultant grant or agreement cannot be made until funds have been fully appropriated, allocated, and committed through internal USAID procedures. While it is anticipated that these procedures will be successfully completed, potential applicants are hereby notified of these requirements and conditions for award. Applications are submitted at the risk of the applicant; should circumstances prevent award, all preparation and submission costs are at the applicant’s expense.

Sincerely,

Jessica R. Faber
Agreement Officer
NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

TITLE: PROMOTING INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

Submit to: usaidthesouthernafricadisabilitiesgrant@usaid.gov.

I. Statement of Purpose

The Center of Excellence on Democracy, Human Rights and Governance (DRG), within the Bureau of Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance (DCHA) of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) through USAID/Southern Africa is inviting all interested non-governmental organizations in South Africa, Swaziland, Lesotho or Botswana to apply for FY14 Disability Funding to:

- Increase the participation of people with disabilities in USAID programs/activities; and
- Strengthen the capacity and services of civil society organizations run by and for people with disabilities; herein referred to as Disabled People’s Organizations (DPOs).

This Funding Opportunity is intended to solicit applications covering a broad range of program areas including, but are not limited to: agriculture and food security; democracy, human rights & governance; economic growth and trade; education; environment and global climate change; sports; gender equality and women’s empowerment; and science, technology and innovation, among others. Capacity building programs for DPOs may include organizational capacity, advocacy efforts, cross-disability coalition building, coordination, and leadership and training.

All awards (grants or cooperative agreements) under this request for concept papers will be administered through and managed by USAID/Southern Africa.

Qualified organizations in South Africa, Swaziland, Lesotho or Botswana interested in this funding opportunity or those organizations interested in regional programming covering more than one country in the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) should submit questions by the due date above to USAID/Southern Africa at usaidthesouthernafricadisabilitiesgrant@usaid.gov.

II. Background

According to the World Health Organization (2011), approximately 15% of any population has some form of disability, with a higher incidence of disability in countries that are post conflict or affected by natural disasters. The prevalence of disability is expected to rise in coming years due
to an ageing global population and an increase in chronic health conditions. Of the estimated 1 billion people throughout the world with a disability, 80% live in less resourced nations.

People with disabilities are more likely to experience poverty. Women and girls with disabilities often experience double-discrimination on account of gender and disability. Due to stigma, discrimination and inaccessibility, people with disabilities are less likely to access basic services such as education, employment and healthcare. The lack of access to vital services and programs contributes to their marginalization and exclusion, with little or no option to escape from poverty.

Societies that are inclusive of their diverse populations are more likely to be democratic, participatory and equitable. They are more likely to meet their development goals. In spite of this, and although disability is a crosscutting development issue, people with disabilities often remain invisible in the global development agenda.

USAID’s Disability Policy (see http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PDABQ631.pdf) states that USAID will not discriminate against people with disabilities and will work to ensure the inclusion and active participation of people with disabilities in USAID-funded programs and activities. To this end, USAID has mainstreamed disability in several of its key policies and sector strategies, such as the Education Strategy (2011), Gender Equality and Female Empowerment Policy (2012) and Strategy on Democracy, Human Rights and Governance (2013).

The USAID Disability Policy also calls on missions to reach out to partners, host country counterparts and other donors to lead a collaborative effort to end discrimination against and promote equal opportunity for people with disabilities. In response, several USAID missions have addressed disability in their Country Development Cooperation Strategies.

Disability rights are human rights. As noted in the Agency’s Strategy on Democracy, Human Rights and Governance: “… a deliberate human rights lens should be applied across USAID’s portfolio to ensure that the Agency’s programs are not inadvertently contributing to marginalization or inequality. By using a human rights lens, potential beneficiaries who are most at risk of having their rights neglected or abused – such as LGBT persons, people with disabilities, indigenous peoples – will be better recognized and included in USAID programming.”

In July 2009, the US signed the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities affirming its commitment to the human rights of people with disabilities around the world. To date, most of the countries in which USAID operates have also signed and ratified the Convention signaling a global movement towards the full realization of the rights of people with disabilities and their role in the international development community.

III. **Areas of Interest**

USAID is seeking applications for projects that integrate people with disabilities in USAID programs/activities and strengthen the capacity and services of DPOs.

Project areas could include, but are not limited to: agriculture and food security; democracy, human rights & governance; economic growth and trade; education; environment and global climate change; sports; gender equality and women’s empowerment; and science, technology and innovation. Capacity building programs for DPOs may include organizational capacity, advocacy efforts, cross-disability coalition building, coordination, and leadership and training.

Proposed projects should complement the strategic and development objectives of USAID and be guided by the values and provisions set forth by the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Interested organizations are encouraged to engage in dialogue with their local missions to learn of mission priorities. In addition, organizations may also access copies of Mission Country Development Cooperation Strategies, which outline strategic development objectives, via the [www.usaid.gov](http://www.usaid.gov) and mission websites.

Projects that address targeted needs of people with disabilities may be considered. Projects that highlight the needs of marginalized groups, such as women and girls, individuals who are deaf, deaf-blind and those with developmental or psychosocial disabilities, and members of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) communities are encouraged. All programs, regardless of implementing partner, must verify significant involvement of people with disabilities, especially women with disabilities in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the project.

The lists provided under each heading are illustrative - other innovative ideas are welcome.

1. **Increase participation of people with disabilities in new or existing USAID programs**

   **Examples:**
   - Promote the participation of people with disabilities in democratic processes and elections through national awareness campaigns, use of accessible polling stations, provision of accessible voter materials and open exchange between disability communities and politicians.
   - Foster the inclusion of children and youth with disabilities in inclusive education programs through teacher-training, adaptive technology and community outreach. Promote literacy of deaf and blind learners through the use of native sign languages and teaching of Braille.
   - Integrate youth and adults with disabilities in the competitive workforce by facilitating job training, internship opportunities and educating employers on best practices for hiring people with disabilities.
- Support the economic independence of women with disabilities through microcredit programs that provide seed grants to women to invest in their families and start new businesses.

- Improve national laws and policies to better reflect the protection and inclusion of people with disabilities within countries. Support human rights institutions, such as human rights commissions and national ombudsmen, to be responsive to disability rights and monitor implementation of legal frameworks.

- Develop, support and strengthen sports programs for people with disabilities

2. Strengthen the capacity and services of DPOs

   Examples:
   - Improve the organizational capacity, financial management, human/material resources, strategic planning, fundraising, leadership and coordination of DPOs.
   - Support the development and strengthening of national and regional cross-disability networks and coalitions.
   - Support the establishment and strengthening of consumer-controlled disability resource centers (often referred to as “Independent Living Centers” in the U.S.) that promote the full independence and participation of people with disabilities in society.
   - Build advocacy skills of DPOs to increase the inclusion of people with disabilities in programs funded by USAID, host governments and other donors.
   - Provide training on the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

IV. Activities and Programs Excluded

The following activities and programs will not be considered for funding:

- Programs with a significant budget for infrastructure or construction activities
- Programs focused on the provision of assistive devices or physical rehabilitation
- Programs supporting institutionalization of or institutions for children or adults with disabilities
- Employment programs promoting sheltered workshops or income generating activities that perpetuate negative stereotypes of people with disabilities and that do not provide for meaningful employment
- Programs with a primary focus on awareness raising

In addition, due to the availability of significant funding through PEPFAR, the DCHA/DRG disability funding may not be used to support HIV/AIDS-related activities.

V. Proposal Funding Limits
VI. Applicant Eligibility

Applications should be from qualified U.S. or non-U.S. entities, such as private, non-profit organizations (or for-profit companies willing to forego profits), including private voluntary organizations, universities, research organizations, professional associations, and relevant special interest associations working in South Africa, Swaziland, Lesotho or Botswana. Local DPOs are strongly encouraged to apply.

Mainstream (non-DPO) organizations applying for funds must include in their application letter(s) of signed support from local DPOs they wish to partner with for the purpose of the project.

Partners new to USAID are encouraged to submit applications. Prior to award USAID must undertake necessary pre-award reviews of these organizations. This process may significantly delay start up so organizations should take this into account and plan their implementation dates and activities accordingly.

USAID will not accept applications from individuals. All applicants must be legally recognized organizational entities under applicable law. PIOs are not eligible to apply for funding under this program.

VII. The Process

A. General Guidance
USAID/Southern Africa has been informed that global funding is available to implement programs inclusive of people with disabilities. Interested and qualified organizations operating in South Africa, Swaziland, Lesotho or Botswana or those organizations interested in regional programming covering more than one country in the SADC region should submit their applications to USAID/Southern Africa.

1. Contact USAID/Southern Africa – Interested organizations in South Africa, Swaziland, Lesotho or Botswana or those organizations interested in regional programming covering more than one country in the SADC region should contact USAID/Southern Africa with questions or to apply. Other organizations operating in Southern Africa should contact
their local mission or the mission responsible for managing activities in the proposed
country to assess interest and ability to participate in this funding opportunity.

2. **Submitting applications** - Organizations should follow the instructions in Attachment A
   addressing the evaluation criteria listed below. Applications must be submitted
to usaidsouthernafricadisabilitiesgrant@usaid.gov.

3. **Review Process** – USAID/Southern Africa will conduct the first review based
   on the evaluation criteria listed below. After review USAID/Southern Africa
   may request clarifications/revisions to applications submitted. Selected
   applications will be forwarded to DCHA/DRG Washington for further review
   and final selection. Final determinations will be communicated to applicants by
   the USAID/Southern Africa. All organizations submitting an application will be
   notified regarding whether or not they have been selected.

4. **Award and Compliance with USAID Regulations** – USAID may award either
   a cooperative agreement or a grant for this opportunity. The determination will
   be made during negotiation of award and will be based on the technical
   application proposed. The links below provide more information on USAID
   award types and compliance requirements. Any cost implications with regard to
   compliance should be considered when developing your budget:


**B. Submission Deadlines**

Applications must be submitted to USAID/Southern Africa by the date and time on the cover
page of this announcement. Applications submitted after this deadline may not be considered.

**C. Application Format**

Applicants must utilize the required application format provided in **Attachment A - Required
Application Format** for their Application. Applications must be typed or electronically
completed in English on the application form (minimum 11 point font). Handwritten responses
will not be accepted. The 8-page limit must be respected. The cover page, annexes to the budget
and letters of cooperation between the Applicant and other partners are not subject to the page
limit. Be sure to complete all information requested on the application form.

VIII. Evaluation Criteria

Applications will be reviewed and evaluated by USAID/Southern Africa and (if applicable) by DCHA/DRG. Below are the evaluation criteria that will be considered when reviewing the applications.

1. Applicant Information (20 points)
   *To receive a full score the organization will have:*
   - a. Extensive involvement in disability inclusion or be a DPO.
   - b. Previous experience in project management or managing activities related to those proposed in the concept paper.
   - c. A clear understanding of the disability landscape and situation of people with disabilities in the country/region of programming.
   - d. A clear mission, set of objectives and orientation that is in line with proposed activities.

2. Project description (60 points)
   *To receive a full score the project must:*
   - Show a clear link between the described need and the proposed activities.
   - Describe the impact of the proposed project on existing USAID programs, activities or strategies.
   - Define who will benefit from the project (children, youth, adults; people with disabilities or not; government institutions, families, local community, schools, etc.; disaggregated by sex and type of disability if possible).
   - Provide an activity schedule that is well defined and realistic.
   - Describe measurable indicators (beyond the three required indicators) that will be used to show the project impact and success.

3. Integration of People with Disabilities (20 points)
   *To receive a full score the organization will:*
   - Show evidence of linkages with existing disability programs or organizations in the country where activities are being proposed.
   - Illustrate how people with disabilities have been/will be involved in the design, implementation and evaluation of the program.
   - Ensure that women and girls with disabilities will participate in and benefit from activities.

IX. Reporting Requirements

Reporting on the program is required. The exact format for, preparation of, and timing for submission of all reports will be determined by USAID/Southern Africa at the time of award.
At the very least Recipients will be required to report on the following indicators in each progress report:

- Number of People Served; disaggregated by sex/disability (as appropriate)
- Number of People Trained; disaggregated by sex/disability (as appropriate)
- Number of Organizations Strengthened; disaggregated by DPO/non-DPO

Additional indicators may be negotiated at the time of the award based on the nature of the program. Applicants are encouraged to propose indicators in the application.

Though not required, Recipients are encouraged to submit photographs, success stories and/or other media as part of their progress reports.

Attachments:
Attachment A - Required Application Format
EXPANDING PARTICIPATION OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Please provide information in the space given. Please type your responses (minimum 11 point font). Handwritten applications will not be accepted. All answers must be written in English. If partnering with a local DPO, a letter of cooperation from that local DPO must be attached to this application.

Name of Organization: _______________________________________________________

Type of Organization:   Local □   or   International □
                        DPO □   or   non-DPO □

Mailing Address: ____________________________________________________________

Country: __________________________________________________________________

Contact Person: ____________________________________________________________

Position/Title: ____________________________________________________________

Phone: _________________________ Fax: ________________________________

Email: ___________________________ ______________________________

Project Title:

________________________________________________________________________

Amount of funding requested (in US Dollars): ________________________________

Project duration (total months): ______

Proposed start date: _________________ End date: _________________

The proposed project activities address which of the following areas? (Tick all that apply):

_________ Increase participation of people with disabilities in USAID activities

_________ Strengthen the capacity and services of disabled people’s organizations
1. Please provide a brief description of your organization, including background and experience in the disability sector. (Please limit your response to ½ page.)

2. Please provide a brief summary of the proposed project. This must include what this project seeks to achieve, specific objectives, DELIVERABLES, location and expected number of beneficiaries. (Please limit your response to 2 pages)

3. Please justify the NEED for this project. Justification should address overall need for this project and need for each of the main activities/deliverables. (Please limit your response to 1 page)

4. Please explain how the proposed project will further the goals and objectives of the USAID mission/bureau and the provisions set forth in the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. (Please limit your response to ½ page)
5. Please list main activities with target dates for completion for the duration of the proposed project. Please provide summary information using the sample table below. Beneath the table please provide details of the implementation of EACH activity. (Please limit your response to 1 ½ pages)

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6. How many staff will be directly involved in and/ or funded by this project? Please list their role, qualifications and experience. Please note the roles of individuals with disabilities in the project. (Please limit your response to ½ page)
7. Does your organization plan to collaborate with other organizations, government agencies, etc. in achieving this project’s objectives? If so, please explain HOW. If partnering with a local DPO, a letter of cooperation from that local DPO must be attached to this application. (Please limit your response to ¼ page)

8. Please provide your detailed budget summarized under the following budget line items. Below this budget, and as notes to the budget, provide a detailed breakdown of this summary per line item. Please indicate exchange rate used. (Please limit your response to 2 pages; annex acceptable.)

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<th>Description</th>
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<td>Direct labor (e.g. salaries, wages etc)</td>
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Notes to the budget:

9. Please describe the monitoring and evaluation plan for the project (including program indicators, frequency, and method. The M&E plan should
include measurement of the qualitative and quantitative outcomes of the project as well as a final report/analysis of lessons learned. (Please limit your response to 1 page)

End of Application