

**USAID Child Blindness Program**  
**Amendment I, RFA No.: PGRD-14-0002 Child Blindness Program**  
**Letter of Interest (LOI) Question and Answer Period**  
**November 24 - December 3, 2014**

**Applicants are reminded that:**

- LOI submissions are due by **Thursday**, December 18, 2014, 5 pm EST (Eastern Standard Time).
- LOIs must be submitted in the template provided as Attachment A of the RFA and in the language, currency and format required on P. 11 of the RFA. Please review carefully the instructions provided at the top of Attachment A and on P. 11 of the RFA for submission requirements and page limits. **As stated in Attachment A, Section II of the LOI must not exceed three pages.** LOIs that do not conform to these requirements will not be evaluated.

**Questions Regarding Eligibility**

1. **QUESTION:** Please could you clarify if a non US Not for Profit organisation with a European base would be eligible or not for this call. On the RFA in section III. Eligibility p8 there is mention of Local and '*other Non US Not for Profit organisations*'. However, on the table on Maximum Grant Duration and Amounts p10 it is not clear where '*other Non US Not for Profits*' that were not local would fit?

**ANSWER:** European not-for-profit organizations are considered "Non-US Not-For-Profit Organizations" and are, therefore, eligible to apply under this RFA. The maximum amounts and grant durations that apply for "Non-US For-Profit and Not-For-Profit Organizations" are the same as those that apply for "Local For-Profit or Not-For-Profit Organizations."

2. **QUESTION:** According to the RFA, "US Not-For-Profit Organizations, including Private Voluntary Organizations, foundations, and private universities" may apply for grants under the RFA. Does this mean that International IPVOs registered with USAID may apply for grants?

**ANSWER:** Yes, international private voluntary organizations (IPVOs) registered with USAID may apply under this RFA.

3. **QUESTION:** Can a group in Egypt receive funds for work in Egypt for the new RFA?

**ANSWER:** Yes. This RFA is open to applications for work in all countries in the world except work in Cuba, North Korea, Syria, and Iran.

4. **QUESTION:** We are writing to inquire if local non-profits operating in Bolivia are eligible for funding, given that USAID does not currently have a presence in this country.

**ANSWER:** Please see response to Question 3.

5. **QUESTION:** Is it only for US countries or it is allowed for all countries to apply. Our organization is from Bosnia and Hercegovina and we are just looking for such grant funds to support our projects that we have.

**ANSWER:** Please see response to Question 3.

6. **QUESTION:** Could a US based non-profit organization apply for a grant in Bolivia?

**ANSWER:** Yes. Please note that U.S. Organizations are eligible to receive a maximum of \$100,000 per grant as stated in P. 10 of the RFA.

7. **QUESTION:** Please could you clarify if, like in previous RFAs, a registration of the applicant with USAID is necessary prior to submitting an LOI? If so, will this apply for Local and other Non-US Not-For-Profit Organisations as well?

**ANSWER:** Registration with USAID is not required to submit an LOI or a full application.

8. **QUESTION:** Can an <organization's> affiliate office that is established internationally with its own board apply as a local NGO?

**ANSWER:** In order for an organization to be considered local under the rules of this RFA, it must fulfill ALL the criteria listed in P. 10-11 of the RFA.

9. **QUESTION:** Can <an organization> apply on behalf of a local partner NGO?

**ANSWER:** Applicants may propose a partnership in order to accomplish project objectives; however, only one organization can be the applicant. This is described in Section II of the RFA, and examples are provided. Please note that funding limits for a partnership under CBP will be determined based on the eligibility status of the applicant organization. As noted in the RFA (P. 7) "Applicants may partner with another organization by means of a subcontract or services agreement in order to leverage the expertise or experience of the partner to perform a specific task or accomplish a certain objective within the proposed project." See response to Question 12 for further information.

10. **QUESTION:** <Organization>, received a CBP grant in the last grants cycle for its <project country> program. This was originally accepted as a two year proposal but then <organization> was told that funding had been cut to one year grants only and that

they would need to reapply for year two funding for <project country program>? Can we apply for <project country program>'s year two funding under this RFA or is that a separate process?

**ANSWER:** CBP welcomes all applications that conform to the rules and funding priorities established in this RFA. Current CBP grantees may apply for follow-on grants as long as the proposed activities represent a new concept or approach that is a clear, logical expansion of, or derived from, the current grant activities.

11. **QUESTION:** As we await your direction regarding our current application with CBP, I was wondering if there is any need in applying for a second grant this coming year. In our conference call in October, you seemed to indicate the maximum grant for this year was \$100,000. So we adjusted our budget to match this. Should we apply again (see announcement below) for another grant this next year, or does CBP typically only give one grant to an institution?

**ANSWER:** Please see response to Question 10.

12. **QUESTION:** I wonder if I could please clarify the relationship between the US organization and the local NGO if a local NGO is involved in an application. Does this mean that the local NGO is automatically the lead, or can the two organizations be co-leads? Will payments automatically go to the local NGO?

**ANSWER:** Organizations may not apply jointly or “co-lead” an application. Only one organization can be the applicant. Maximum grant amounts depend on whether the organization submitting the application is considered local per the criteria listed on P. 10-11 of the RFA. Additionally the applicant must fulfill all eligibility requirements listed in this RFA. See response to Question 9 for further information.

13. **QUESTION:** May an international organisation partner with local, implementing organisations in different countries to “to ensure that the full gamut of services needed for the CC in paediatric eye care is in place”?

**ANSWER:** Yes. Please see responses to Questions 9 and 12 for further information.

14. **QUESTION:** Should this be possible will the application be submitted by the implementing organisation?

**ANSWER:** Please see response to Question 12.

15. **QUESTION:** My question is if I can submit the RFA, ILO today will I be late? And will you receive my application?

**ANSWER:** Letters of Interest (LOIs) will be accepted through December 18, 2014 at 5:00PM EST. Please review the application timeline on P. 14 of the RFA.

### Questions Regarding Cost

16. **QUESTION:** What constitutes an approved audited overhead rate according to USAID?

**ANSWER:** As noted in Attachment D, *Budget Instructions* “All applicants claiming indirect costs in their budget must submit proof that this rate has been independently verified by a third party. This may be through a copy of their Negotiated Indirect Cost Agreement (NICRA) with a US Government Federal Agency or independently audited financial statements which clearly show the indirect rate and how the organization has determined it.” Note that submission of this proof is only required if the applicant is invited to submit a full application. This is not required at the LOI stage.

17. **QUESTION:** Previous grants did not cover surgery costs. Will they be eligible in this round of D&E grants?

**ANSWER:** Unallowable and restricted costs/goods under this RFA are listed in Section II of Attachment D, *Budget Instructions*. Note that unallowable and restricted costs are not the same. Unallowable costs are those costs that cannot be paid for with CBP funds, while restricted goods are items that require USAID approval before they can be purchased.

### Questions Regarding Grant Categories/Multiple Submissions

18. **QUESTION:** Can we apply to both (D&E) and (Innovation) categories?

**ANSWER:** Yes. Per P. 12 of the RFA, *multiple LOIs may be submitted by a single organization*. However, for each individual LOI, applicants must choose only one of the two grant categories. For descriptions of the two grant categories, see Section II of the RFA.

19. **QUESTION:** May an eligible organisation submit more than one grant per category?

**ANSWER:** Yes. Please see response to Question 18.

20. **QUESTION:** Can we apply first to Innovations (12 months) and after that to (D&E) 24 months?

**ANSWER:** One organization may submit multiple LOIs. Please see response to Question 18 for additional information.