

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE**  
**Notice of Funding Opportunity**

**Funding Opportunity Title:** The Human Rights Engagement Fund

**CFDA Number:** 19.040 - Public Diplomacy Programs

**Funding Opportunity:** 4216-20-002

**Funding Opportunity Contact:** U.S. Embassy, Valletta; email:  
usembmalta@state.gov

**A. Funding Opportunity Description**

The U.S. Embassy in Malta of the U.S. Department of State announces that it will accept proposals for funding under the Human Rights Engagement Fund until July 20, 2020.

**A1. Application Process**

The submission of a Statement of Interest (SOI) is the first step in a two-part process. A SOI is a concise concept note designed to clearly communicate a program idea and its objectives before the development and submission of a full proposal application. The purpose of the SOI process is to allow applicants the opportunity to submit program ideas for evaluation prior to proceeding to the second stage: developing and submitting full proposal applications. Upon review of eligible SOIs, the U.S. Embassy Valletta will inform selected applicants through a Notice of Award and invite them to comply with the full Grants Application Process.

Please carefully follow all the instructions below.

**A2. Program Goals and Objectives**

Funding will support public diplomacy programs that:

- Foster democracy;
- Promote human rights;
- Support labor efforts; and/or
- Fight corruption.

Projects should focus on one or more of the goals outlined below:

- Enhancing global stability by promoting growth of democratic institutions, including during democratic transitions, around the world.
- Increasing respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.
- Promoting internationally recognized worker rights and acceptable conditions of work abroad.
- Commercial diplomacy.
- Empowerment of women and minorities.
- Rule of Law.

Examples of activities that have been funded in the past are:

- Production of a video series in Chad to inform the public about disability rights.
- A 10-day International Visitor Leadership Program on-demand in the United States to examine best practices in the protection of minority rights for implementation in Brazil.
- A virtual speaker program on blockchain and its effects on human rights in Jordan.

### **A3. Program Participants and Target Audiences**

Maltese-based individuals and organizations, including non-governmental organizations (NGOs), government entities and academic institutions, are eligible to apply.

The target audiences for the program will be government officials, media, academia, local non-governmental organizations (NGOs), labor unions, entrepreneurs, women, and refugees/asylum seekers. This program will not address U.S. audiences nor will engage in domestic discussions of United States policy. Therefore, no activities supported under this scope of work shall be directed toward U.S. persons. Any such engagement, if determined to have been intentional, will constitute grounds for termination of this award.

### **A4. Timeline of Program Proposals**

Proposals may be sent to the U.S. Embassy at any time up until midnight on July 20, 2020.

The U.S. Embassy must receive applications by July 20, 2020.

Please contact the Public Affairs Section ([usembmalta@state.gov](mailto:usembmalta@state.gov)) for more information and to receive required standard forms to apply.

### **B. Federal Award Information**

Length of performance period: Varies.

Number of awards anticipated: 1 award.

Award amounts: Awards may range from approximately \$500 to approximately \$5,000.

Funding Instrument Type: Grant, Fixed Award Amount.

**This notice is subject to availability of funding.** The U.S. Embassy in Malta reserves the right to refuse requests in the absence of worthy applications or under such other circumstances as it may deem to be in the best interest of the U.S. government. The U.S. Embassy in Malta reserves the right to award less or more than the amount requested by the applicant.

**B1. Program Performance Period:** Proposed programs must begin by December 31, 2020. Program length can vary. In the event that a project cannot be completed by the stipulated time, grantees must contact their Grants Officer at the U.S. Embassy in Malta prior to the expiry of the grant to discuss a no-cost extension. The U.S. Embassy in Malta will entertain applications for continuation grants funded under this award, beyond the initial budget period, on a non-competitive basis, subject to availability of funds, satisfactory progress of the applicants, and a determination that continued funding would be in the best interest of the United States Government.

## **C. Eligibility Information**

**C1. Eligible Applicants:** Applications are encouraged from all sectors: committed and organized civil-society organizations, local representatives of civil society, think tanks, NGOs, academic institutions, government entities, and individuals. Applicants must be based in Malta, have a Malta-based headquarters, or identify a Malta-based partner to carry out their project.

**C2. Cost-sharing or matching:** Cost-sharing is not required but applications should explain clearly other likely sources of funding or in-kind participation, if applicable.

**C3. Other eligibility requirements:** In order to be eligible to receive an award, organizations that have received Notice of Award must apply for a NCAGE code and register in Sam.gov ([www.SAM.gov](http://www.SAM.gov)). Upon registration in SAM.gov, the organization will be assigned a unique entity identifier. Individuals are not required to have a NCAGE code, unique entity identifier, or be registered in SAM.gov.

## **D. Application and Submission Information**

Proposals should include a program description that describes the human rights and democracy-related program goals, defines target audiences, includes measurable outcomes, notes any plans for follow-on activities, and discusses potential media amplification. The proposal should include a detailed budget, noting any cost-sharing from co-sponsors.

Please contact the U.S. Embassy ([usembmalta@state.gov](mailto:usembmalta@state.gov)) for more information on the relevant documents required. Once all the documents are complete, please send them to the U.S. Embassy ([usembmalta@state.gov](mailto:usembmalta@state.gov)).

Mandatory Application Forms available from Grants.gov:

- SF-424 (Application for Federal Assistance – organizations) or SF-424-I (Application for Federal Assistance -- individuals).
- Local Partner Grant Request Form
- SF424A (Budget Information for Non-Construction programs)

## **D1. Content of Application**

Please ensure:

- The proposal clearly addresses the goals and objectives of this funding opportunity
- All documents are in English
- All budgets are in U.S. dollars
- All pages are numbered
- All documents are formatted to 8 ½ x 11 paper, and
- All Microsoft Word documents are single-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font.

A grants committee will review the preliminary proposal and budget outline to determine eligibility. The U.S. Embassy will inform the applicant of the status of application for funding through a Notice of Award. If successful, the applicant will complete the full grants package.

## **D2. Funding Restrictions**

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

- projects that do not have a business plan for sustaining the activity or monitoring results;
- social welfare projects;
- paying to complete activities begun with other funds;
- projects that contain the appearance of partisanship/support to individual or single party electoral campaigns;
- international travel, unless specifically justified within the project;
- U.S. citizen exchange programs with foreign countries;
- projects that are mainly designed to pay organizational salaries or to cover only logistical costs (e.g., room/chair rental, coffee breaks, etc.); and
- entertainment (e.g. social activities, ceremonies, refreshments, receptions, alcoholic beverages, guided tours, prizes).

## **D3. Other Submission Requirements**

All application materials must be submitted by email to [usembmalta@state.gov](mailto:usembmalta@state.gov).

## **E. Review and Selection Process**

A Grants Review Committee will evaluate all eligible applications and reserves the right to request additional information or refuse applications.

Proposals will be evaluated based on their ability to advance the goals and objectives listed in this notice. The proposal should articulate a clear strategic rationale for how it advances one of the following policy goals:

- Enhance global stability by promoting growth of democratic institutions,

- including during democratic transitions, around the world.
- Increase respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.
  - Promote internationally recognized worker rights and acceptable conditions of work abroad.

## **F. Other Information**

### **F1. Guidelines for Budget Justification**

- **Travel:** Estimate the costs of travel and per diem for this program, for program staff, consultants or speakers, and participants/beneficiaries. If the program involves international travel, include a brief statement of justification for that travel. Bookings on a U.S. carrier, or U.S. code-shared airlines are obligatory for travel to and from the United States, with some exceptions: Please contact the U.S. Embassy in Malta for information, prior to purchasing tickets.
- **Indirect Costs:** These are costs that cannot be linked directly to the program activities, such as overhead costs needed to help keep the organization operating. If your organization has a Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate (NICRA) and includes NICRA charges in the budget, attach a copy of your latest NICRA. Organizations that have never had a NICRA may request indirect costs of 10% of the modified total direct costs as defined in 2 CFR 200.68.
- “Cost-sharing” refers to contributions from the organization or other entities other than the U.S. Embassy. It also includes in-kind contributions such as volunteers’ time and donated venues.