Funding Opportunity Title: “Cyber Security Youth Program” Open Cooperative Agreement 2022
Funding Opportunity Number: PAS-MOROCCO-FY22-07
Deadline for Applications: August 05, 2022
Assistance Listing Number: 19.040
Total Amount Available: $50,000

A. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION
The U.S. Embassy in Morocco announces an open competition for organizations to submit applications to compete for a Cooperative Agreement (CA) award for a new youth cyber security program. The Public Affairs Office invites proposals from established Moroccan associations, committed, and organized civil-society organizations and academic institutions, to design and implement a cyber security awareness program for 60 to 80 Moroccan youth between the ages of 18 and 24 years old. U.S. and third-country organizations or nationals are not eligible for grants under this program unless in partnership with a Moroccan NGO.

Program Objectives:
Youth are on the front lines of the risks and the rewards of the online world. Their passion for tech, games and other online activities makes them vulnerable to cyber-attacks, cyber bullying, and misinformation. Cyber touches everything. We use computer networks for just about everything we do in our current way of life. Therefore, it is important to defend our devices and services from electronic attacks by nefarious actors such as hackers, spammers, and cybercriminals.

This program will teach 80 participants about the exciting world of cybersecurity and will provide hands on training on the basics of cybersecurity during workshops on Information Systems, Cyber Defense, Data Communications & Networking, Cryptography, Digital Forensics, the Internet of Things, and Combatting Mis- and Disinformation. The program should also include true-to-life security simulation, where participants will learn how to root out cyber threats and defend against a targeted attack.

Participant will also be taught the fundamentals of securing computer operating systems such as Windows. They will also learn security features and settings in the operating systems—like password policies—and techniques for updating and creating a stronger, more secure system.
Each proposal should meet the following objectives:

- Strengthen young Moroccans' knowledge of cyber security by exposure to U.S. experts and experience.
- Equip participants with the right tools to protect them from dangerous cyberattacks against networks, data systems and personal information.
- Help participants identify and combat mis- and disinformation, particularly from malign international actors.
- Learn to harness new technologies to confront tomorrow’s security challenges.
- Increase interest in cybersecurity careers

Applicants are encouraged to submit proposals that use a mix of interactive activities and learning experiences to help participants develop their skills. All proposals should contain a proposed syllabus covering the title and content of sessions and how each relate to the overall program objectives. Proposals should also include a detailed explanation of how applicants will be recruited and a description of how program activities will bring about the intended results.

All program activities should have a strong American focus. Curriculum modules should include U.S. models, examples, and precepts. The U.S. Embassy in collaboration with the awardee will identify and fund the participation of one on-site American trainer who will lead training sessions during the program.

Only Moroccan associations committed and organized civil-society organizations and academic institutions with full SAM registration and experience executing youth programs will be eligible to receive funding.

A. GUIDELINES:

- Awardees will work closely with the Embassy’s Public Affairs Office to design and execute the youth cyber security program.
- The activities should be innovative, interactive, and hands-on.
- The program should target youth ages 18-24 from across Morocco. A clear methodology of participant recruitment and selection should be detailed in the proposal including efforts to ensure gender parity and geographic and socio-economic inclusion.
- Awardees should be prepared to design and implement surveys, polls, or other methods for evaluating the program’s effectiveness before, during and after the program’s completion.
- The proposal should include information about how the awardee will identify and recruit local trainers.
- The proposal should contain a detailed sample agenda of sessions and activities.
- Equipment cannot account for more than 10% of the total project cost.
• The cooperative agreement will be only awarded to Moroccan associations, committed, and organized civil-society organizations and academic institutions that already have a final registration receipt and an established bank account at the time that they apply.
• U.S. and third-country organizations or nationals are not eligible for awards under this program unless in partnership with a Moroccan NGO.
• All proposals must be submitted to the U.S. Embassy by Friday August 5, 2022, using the forms provided – no late proposals will be considered.

B. FEDERAL AWARD INFORMATION

Length of performance period: 6 to 9 months
Number of awards anticipated: 1 award
Award amounts: awards may range from a minimum of $40,000 to a maximum of $50,000
Projects for lesser or greater values will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Funding may be renewed for up to an additional two years on a non-competitive basis pending successful performance and availability of funds.
Total available funding: $50,000
Type of Funding: FY22 Smith-Mundt Public Diplomacy Funds
Anticipated program start date: January 2023

This notice is subject to availability of funding.

Funding Instrument Type: Cooperative Agreement. U.S. Embassy staff will:
• Provide standardized logos/branding guidelines for promotional materials
• Initiate and participate in promotional activities, to include promotion of the program through the U.S. Mission to Morocco’s social media platforms and media engagements.
• Approve the selection of the venue.
• Approve participant and trainer recruitment and selection plans.
• Assist in identifying and contacting alumni of U.S. government exchange program, representatives of U.S. companies, and U.S. Mission personnel as potential speakers or trainers.
• Identify, recruit, and fund the travel and lodging of one American expert to participate in the program.
• Review and approve proposed program speaker and trainer rosters and activity/workshop/site visit topics and formats.

Program Performance Period: Proposed programs should be completed in nine months or less. The Department of State will entertain applications for continuation grants funded under these awards beyond the initial budget period on a non-competitive basis subject to availability of funds, satisfactory progress of the program, and a determination that continued funding would be in the best interest of the U.S. Department of State.
C. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

1. Eligible Applicants

The Public Affairs Office invites proposals from established Moroccan associations, committed, and organized civil-society organizations and academic institutions. U.S. and third-country organizations or nationals are not eligible for grants under this program unless in partnership with a Moroccan NGO.

2. Cost Sharing or Matching

There is no minimum or maximum percentage required for this competition.

3. Other Eligibility Requirements

In order to be eligible to receive an award, all organizations must have a unique entity identifier as well as a valid registration on www.SAM.gov. Please see Section D.3 for information on how to obtain these registrations.

D. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

• Applications are due by August 05, 2022.
• The proposal should be $40,000-$50,000.
• Complete UEI, NCAGE and SAM registration.
• The project should not have an intended start date before January 2023.
• All proposals must adhere to the policy explained in the Youth Cyber Security Program Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) including the “eligibility requirements.” Please review these requirements carefully.

Upload and complete these required forms:

• SF424 (Application for Federal Assistance)
• SF424A (Budget Information)
• SF424B (Assurances)
• Project Narrative Form (in English)
• Applicant Organizational Information Form
• Budget Proposal (in USD) (please use $1 = 9.5 MAD as exchange rate)
• CVs for Director and key project personnel

Submit all forms in electronic format to Rabatgrants@state.gov no later than Friday August 05, 2022, at midnight.

All questions about this NOFO should be addressed to: Rabatgrants@state.gov
Content of Application

Please ensure that:

• 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, with a minimum of 1-inch margins.

Eligibility Requirements:

Any applicant listed on the Excluded Parties List System (EPLS) in the System for Award Management (SAM) is not eligible to apply for an assistance award in accordance with the OMB guidelines at 2 CFR 180 that implement Executive Orders 12549 (3 CFR, 1986 Comp., p. 189) and 12689 (3 CFR, 1989 Comp., p. 235), “Debarment and Suspension.” Additionally, no entity listed on the EPLS can participate in any activities under an award. All applicants are strongly encouraged to review the EPLS in SAM to ensure that no ineligible entity is included.

All organizations applying for grants (except individuals) must obtain these registrations. All are free of charge:

• Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) from SAM.gov
• NCAGE/CAGE code
• www.SAM.gov registration

Step 1: Apply for a UEI number and an NCAGE number (these can be completed simultaneously)

UEI application: Organizations must have a Unique Entity Identifier from SAM.gov. If your organization has not yet been assigned a UEI number (if you have had U.S. government funding before and had a DUNS number, you should have been assigned a UEI number) you may obtain one by visiting: https://sam.gov/content/home.

NCAGE application: Application page here:
https://eportal.nspa.nato.int/AC135Public/scage/CageList.aspx
Instructions for the NCAGE application process:
https://eportal.nspa.nato.int/AC135Public/Docs/US%20Instructions%20for%20NSPA%20NCAGE.pdf

For NCAGE help from within the U.S., call 1-888-227-2423
For NCAGE help from outside the U.S., call 1-269-961-7766
Email NCAGE@dls.dla.mil for any problems in getting an NCAGE code.

Step 2: After receiving the NCAGE Code, proceed to register in SAM.gov by logging onto: https://www.sam.gov. SAM registration must be renewed annually.
F. FEDERAL AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

1. Federal Award Notices

The grant award or cooperative agreement will be written, signed, awarded, and administered by the Grants Officer. The assistance award agreement is the authorizing document, and it will be provided to the recipient for review and signature by email. The recipient may only start incurring program expenses beginning on the start date shown on the grant award document signed by the Grants Officer.

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

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

2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

Terms and Conditions: Before submitting an application, applicants should review all the terms and conditions and required certifications which will apply to this award, to ensure that they will be able to comply. These include: 2 CFR 200, 2 CFR 600, Certifications and Assurances, and the Department of State Standard Terms and Conditions, all of which are available at: https://www.statebuy.state.gov/fa/pages/home.aspx

*Note the U.S Flag branding and marking requirements in the Standard Terms and Conditions.

3. Reporting

Reporting Requirements: Recipients will be required to submit financial reports and program reports. The award provisions document will specify how often these reports must be submitted. Applicants should be aware of the post award reporting requirements reflected in 2 CFR 200 Appendix XII—Award Term and Condition for Recipient Integrity and Performance Matters.

Foreign Assistance Data Review: As required by Congress, the Department of State must make progress in its efforts to improve tracking and reporting of foreign assistance data through the Foreign Assistance Data Review (FADR). The FADR requires tracking of foreign assistance activity data from budgeting, planning, and allocation through obligation and disbursement. Successful applicants will be required to report and draw down federal funding based on the appropriate FADR Data Elements, indicated within their award documentation. In cases of more than one FADR Data Element, typically program or sector and/or regions or country, the successful applicant will be required to maintain separate accounting records.
G. OTHER INFORMATION

Guidelines for Budget Justification

Personnel and Fringe Benefits: Describe the wages, salaries, and benefits of temporary or permanent staff who will be working directly for the applicant on the program, and the percentage of their time that will be spent on the program.

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.

Equipment: Describe any machinery, furniture, or other personal property that is required for the program, which has a useful life of more than one year (or a life longer than the duration of the program), and costs at least $5,000 per unit.

Supplies: List and describe all the items and materials, including any computer devices, that are needed for the program. If an item costs more than $5,000 per unit, then put it in the budget under Equipment.

Contractual: Describe goods and services that the applicant plans to acquire through a contract with a vendor. Also describe any sub-awards to non-profit partners that will help carry out the program activities.

Other Direct Costs: Describe other costs directly associated with the program, which do not fit in the other categories. For example, shipping costs for materials and equipment or applicable taxes. All “Other” or “Miscellaneous” expenses must be itemized and explained.

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.

Alcoholic Beverages: Please note that award funds cannot be used for alcoholic beverages.

E. APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

1. Criteria

Each application will be evaluated and rated based on the evaluation criteria outlined below.

Quality and Feasibility of the Proposed Program: The program idea is well developed, with detail about how program activities will be carried out. The proposal includes a reasonable implementation timeline, including for recruitment of participants, trainers, and resident assistants/chaperones. Goals and objectives are clearly stated, and program outline is likely to provide maximum impact in achieving the proposed results.
Organizational Capacity and Record on Previous Grants/Program Implementation: The organization has expertise in its stated field and has the internal controls in place to manage federal funds. This includes a financial management system and a bank account.

U.S. Component: There is strong participation of trainers with a connection to the United States, application of U.S. models, or approaches typically applied in the United States.

Budget: The budget justification is detailed. Costs are reasonable in relation to the proposed activities and anticipated results. The budget is realistic, accounting for all necessary expenses to achieve proposed activities.

Monitoring and evaluation plan: Applicant demonstrates it can measure program success against key indicators and provides milestones to indicate progress toward goals outlined in the proposal. The program includes output and outcome indicators and shows how and when those will be measured.