

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
U.S. EMBASSY LUANDA PUBLIC AFFAIRS SECTION
Notice of Funding Opportunity

The Public Affairs Section (PAS) of the U.S. Embassy in Angola is pleased to request proposals for funding under the Embassy's Public Diplomacy Grants program. Please read and follow all instructions carefully.

Funding Opportunity Title: U.S. Embassy Luanda Public Affairs Section
Request for Statements of Interest: Annual Program
Statement

Funding Opportunity Number: PAS-ANG- FY22-02

Deadline for Applications: Round 1: March 31, 2022 (11:59 p.m.)
Round 2: May 31, 2022 (11:59 p.m.)

CFDA Number: 19.040 - Public Diplomacy Programs

Total Amount Available: Approximately \$150,000 (Subject to Availability of Funds)

Maximum for Each Award: See Section B

Contact Information: Please contact PASInboxLuanda@state.gov with any questions about the application process, including APS 2022 in the subject line.

The U.S. Embassy is unable to provide pre-consultation of Statements or individual feedback on non-selected Statements of Interest. A public summary with general feedback from Round 1 will be offered prior to the submission deadline for Round 2. The information will be available on the Embassy website.

A. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The U.S. Embassy Luanda Public Affairs Section (PAS) of the U.S. Department of State is pleased to announce this Request for Statements of Interest (SOI) from organizations interested in applying for funding of programs that strengthen ties between the people of the United States and Angola through cultural and exchange programming that highlights shared values and promotes bilateral cooperation. This is an Annual Program Statement, outlining our funding priorities and the procedures for submitting requests for funding. Please carefully follow all instructions below.

The submission of a SOI is the first step in a two-part process. Applicants must first submit a SOI, which is a concise, *one-to-two-page* concept note in English designed to clearly communicate a program idea and its objectives before the development of a full proposal application. The purpose of the SOI process is to allow applicants the opportunity to submit program ideas for PAS to evaluate prior to requiring the development of full proposal applications. Upon review of eligible SOIs, PAS will invite selected applicants to expand their ideas into full proposal applications.

Program Objectives:

These small grants intend to strengthen ties and build relationships between the United States and Angola through activities that highlight shared values, goals, and promotes bilateral cooperation. All proposals must have a strong American cultural element, or a connection with American expert/s, organization/s, or institution/s in a specific field that will promote increased understanding of U.S. policy and perspectives.

Examples of PAS-funded programs include, but are not limited to:

- Academic and professional lectures, seminars, and speaker programs.
- Artistic and cultural programs, joint performances, and exhibitions involving the work of American artists or American subjects.
- Cultural heritage conservation and preservation programs.
- Programs that expand PAS American Corners and American Spaces activities.
- Media training.
- Experiential learning activities (e.g., Model UN, Model Government).

Note: Proposed programs may take place virtually or in-person with public health protocols in place, or a combination of both.

Priority Program Objectives:

Shared Democratic Values: Activities that draw on case studies from Angola and the United States to promote a better understanding of the value and function of democratic tools to improve people's lives. Activities can include but are not limited to Model Government/Moot Court competitions and experiential learning using case studies related to the Democracy Workshops curriculum (<https://www.ADEMO.academy/>), to build support for and encourage greater participation in democratic governance. Example target audiences include motivated youth leaders across Angola who lack a formal civics education; and/or youth and young adults active in their communities. (Up to three awards anticipated, maximum \$20,000 award).

U.S.-Angola Partnership: Activities featuring popular American and/or Angolan artists, musicians, cultural figures, and other influencers in order to promote a deeper understanding of the United States' long support for improving health and prosperity in Angola, as well as habits that lead to healthier and more prosperous lives (e.g. anti-malarial campaigns, COVID-19 prevention, promoting U.S.-Angolan trade, etc.). Target audiences include: youth and young adults who use social media or listen to radio as their primary source of information; and/or adults unaware of U.S. initiatives to support Angola's development. (One to three awards anticipated, maximum \$15,000 each).

Skills for Success: Activities to promote learning American English, especially through soft skills (such as resume writing, digital communications, basic financial literacy, public speaking, entrepreneurial skills) and digital literacy, drawing on American and Angolan examples, in order to encourage successful participation in the global economy. Applicants are strongly encouraged to partner with English Clubs, American Spaces, or U.S. exchange alumni to conduct these activities. Target audiences include but are not limited to: underemployed and unemployed youth who will soon complete or have completed formal education; female microentrepreneurs; and/or

graduate/undergraduate students in Science, Technology, Engineering, or Math with a strong interest in improving their English or pursuing graduate study in the United States. (One to three awards anticipated, \$20,000 each).

Journalism Capacity Building: Activities that link Angolan journalists to American journalists or media institutions, and/or promote competition among Angolan journalists producing high-quality reporting on topics of shared U.S.-Angolan interest (e.g., The impact of climate change, effectiveness of U.S. foreign assistance programs, diversity visa scams, human trafficking, etc.), in order to strengthen free press and journalism as an institution in Angola. Target audience: mid-career journalists. (One award anticipated, maximum \$30,000)

Participants and Audiences:

Proposals must identify a clearly defined target audience that the project seeks to influence. Well-defined audiences are countable and accessible through the project's activities. Proposals should specify the changes in knowledge, understanding, attitudes, or behavior change in attitudes or behavioral action that they seek with the project – and how they plan to measure these outcomes.

The following types of programs are not eligible for funding:

- Programs relating to partisan political activity.
- For-profit programs
- Charitable or development activities.
- Construction programs.
- Programs that support specific religious activities.
- Fund-raising campaigns.
- Lobbying for specific legislation or programs.
- Scientific research.
- Programs intended primarily for the growth or institutional development of the organization; or
- Programs that duplicate existing programs.

Authorizing legislation, type, and year of funding:

The Statutory Authority for this program is the Smith-Mundt Act or the Fulbright-Hayes Act. The source of funding is FY2022 Public Diplomacy or Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs funds, dependent on the type of program.

B. FEDERAL AWARD INFORMATION

Length of performance period: 6 to 12 months

Number of awards anticipated: varies (dependent on amounts)

Award amounts: awards may range from a minimum of \$5,000 to a maximum of \$ 100,000

Total available funding: \$150,000 (Anticipated Subject to Availability of Funds)

Type of Funding: Fiscal Year 2022 Public Diplomacy Funding or Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs Funding

Anticipated program start date: Varies

Funding Instrument Type: Grant, Fixed Amount Award, Individual Award, or Cooperative Agreement. Cooperative agreements are different from grants in that bureau/embassy staff are more actively involved in the grant implementation.

Program Performance Period: Proposed programs should be completed in *12 months* or less.

This notice is subject to availability of funds.

The U.S. Embassy Luanda Public Affairs Section reserves the right to award less or more than the funds described in the absence of worthy proposals or under such other circumstances as it may deem to be in the best interest of the U.S. government. All grants will be based on U.S. dollars.

Local grants projects must be completed in eighteen months or less. The Public Affairs Section will entertain proposals for continuation grants funded under these awards, beyond the initial budget period, on a noncompetitive basis, subject to availability of funds, satisfactory progress of the projects, and a determination that continued funding would be in the best interest of the United States Government.

C. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

1. Eligible Applicants

The following organizations are eligible to apply :

- *Not-for-profit organizations, including think tanks and civil society/non-governmental organizations*
- *Educational institutions*
- *Individuals*

2. Cost Sharing or Matching

No cost share or matching is required.

3. Other Eligibility Requirements

In order to be eligible to receive an award, all organizations must have a unique entity identifier (Data Universal Numbering System/DUNS number from Dun & Bradstreet), as well as a valid registration on www.SAM.gov. Please see Section E.4 for more information. Individuals are not required to have a unique entity identifier or be registered in SAM.gov.

- [Dun and Bradstreet Universal Numbering System \(DUNS\)](#): Organization registrations prior to April 2022 require applicants to obtain a DUNS prior to registering in SAM. By April 2022, the federal government will stop using the DUNS number as an entity identifier and will transition to the Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) issued by SAM. Beginning in April 2022, overseas organizations should apply for an NCAGE code and then go to SAM.gov to complete their registration, a UEI will be generated as part of the SAM.gov registration process.

D. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

1. Application Package.

Application forms required below available at: www.grants.gov/web/grants/forms/sf-424-family.html

2. Content and Form of Application Submission:

Please follow all instructions below carefully. SOIs that do not meet the requirements of this announcement or fail to comply with the stated requirements will be ineligible.

Proposals should be submitted to: PASInboxLuanda@state.gov

Proposal Language: English: Final proposal and grant agreement must be in English.

Submission Deadline: Round 1: March 31, 2022 (11:59 p.m.)

Round 2: May 31, 2022 (11:59 p.m.)

Content of SOI must include:

- A brief project description summarizing goals, objectives, outcomes, performance indicators, beneficiaries, and proposed timeline.
- A clear statement of the applicant's organizational capacity to carry out the proposal activity and manage U.S. Government funds.
- Documents in English.
- The anticipated total budget (in U.S. dollars)

If selected, complete proposal packages will be requested to include the following:

- Contact details (name, address, e-mail, phone number) of point of contact
- Description of organization or group/individual capacity
- Past Grants (U.S. Embassy and other sources), if applicable
- Project Justification/Needs Statement – *why is this project necessary?*
- Project Objectives – *what does this project intend to do?*
- Project Activities – *what will be done to accomplish the objectives?*
- Monitoring and Evaluation Plan – *how will you evaluate success?*
- Key Personnel – *who will work on this project?*
- Calendar of proposed activities – *what are the phases of the project?*
- Sustainability – *how will the project's impact continue after the project?*
- Financial budget in USD– *how will funds realistically be spent to conduct the planned activities in order to accomplish the project objectives?*

Proposals should be submitted via email to the U.S. Embassy in Angola Public Affairs Section at the following email address: PASInboxLuanda@state.gov

Proposals are accepted in English and all final grant agreements will be concluded in English. Please note that we cannot guarantee the return of original documents; copies should be provided, if appropriate.

Proposals must include a detailed budget in U.S. dollars. Applicants are encouraged to provide cost-sharing from additional sources in support of proposed projects; proposals should explain clearly other likely sources of funding or in-kind participation. Please use the official currency exchange rate while developing your proposed budget.

Proposals are accepted on a rolling basis and assessed quarterly.

Proposals should:

1. State the nature of the activity/project
2. Include the key audiences and the estimated total number of participants
3. Detail how the activity/project will include and/or reach intended audiences (i.e. women, youth, individuals with disabilities and other socio-economically disadvantaged participants)
4. State the location and duration of the project
5. Explain how the program will have a multiplier effect and be sustainable beyond the life of the grant
6. Provide a traditional and/or social media plan for amplification and advertisement of the program activities and outcomes.
7. Identify specific outcomes to be achieved by the end of the grant period.

E. APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

1. Criteria

Proposal Evaluation Criteria:

- *Goals and Objectives* – The project is likely to provide maximum impact in achieving the proposed results among the clearly identified target audience. The proposed project should be well developed and respond to a specific need in the community while addressing one or more of the U.S. Embassy Angola Public Affairs Section priorities outlined previously.
- *Strengths and Innovation* – The proposal clearly describes the activities used to address the identified priority within the proposed time frame and articulates an innovative strategy or plan to reach the target audience.
- *Organizational Capacity* – The organization has expertise in one or more of U.S. Embassy Angola Public Affairs Section priorities and demonstrates the ability to perform the proposed activities with appropriate personnel.
- *Sustainability* – The proposed project addresses how the project benefits will continue to be realized on a long-term basis after the conclusion of the period of performance of the grant.
- *Budget and Budget Justification* – The budget and narrative justification are reasonable in relation to the proposed activities and anticipated results and the plan for services is realistic.
- *Monitoring and Evaluation Plan* – The proposal realistically indicates how the project will be monitored and evaluated.

2. Review and Selection Process

A Grants Review Committee will evaluate all eligible SOIs. *All eligible SOIs will be reviewed against the criteria listed above. SOIs are reviewed individually against the criteria and not against competing SOIs. For a balanced review all panelists will review the first page of the SOI up to the page limit and no further. The panel may provide conditions and/or recommendations on SOIs to enhance the proposed program. Conditions must be addressed, and recommendations should be addressed in a full proposal application.*

3. Following the review, any successful SOI applicants will be contacted and instructed to submit full applications. A full application will include:

- **SF-424 (Application for Federal Assistance – organizations) or SF-424-I (Application for Federal Assistance --individuals)**
- **SF424A (Budget Information for Non-Construction programs)**
- **SF424B (Assurances for Non-Construction programs) for individual or organization exempted from registering in SAM.**

4. Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management (SAM.gov)

Required Registrations:

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.

Organizations are not required to have a valid Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) number –formally referred to as DUNS (Data Universal Numbering System) number- nor active SAM.gov registration to apply at this stage of the solicitation. **However, if a SOI is accepted for a full proposal application, the organization must obtain a UEI and have an active SAM.gov registration before submitting its full proposal application. Therefore, we recommend starting the process of obtaining a SAM.gov registration as soon as possible. The process can take several weeks. Please note there is no cost associated with UEI or SAM.gov registration.**

F. FEDERAL AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

Administrative and National Policy Requirements

Terms and Conditions: Before submitting the SOI, applicants should review all the terms and conditions and required certifications which will apply if a full proposal application is requested and awarded, to ensure that they will be able to comply. These include:

2 CFR 200, 2 CFR 600, and the Department of State Standard Terms and Conditions which are available at: <https://www.state.gov/about-us-office-of-the-procurement-executive/>

G. FEDERAL AWARDING AGENCY CONTACTS

If you have any questions about the SOI application process, please contact: PASInboxLuanda@state.gov