

MENA Entrepreneurship competition

The U.S.-Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) is pleased to announce an open competition for projects that support entrepreneurship and enterprises that create positive economic and social outcomes in the Middle East and North Africa, particularly activities designed to increase entrepreneurs' access to capital and business networks and facilitate women's entrepreneurship. Through this announcement, we seek to support projects in the following countries:

Category A: Algeria, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, West Bank/Gaza, and Yemen.

Category B: Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, and Morocco.

This will be a two-stage competitive process. In stage one interested applicants submit a concept paper for MEPI's initial review. In stage two, MEPI will invite successful applicants, identified during the initial review, to submit a full application, based on its concept paper, for funding consideration. The guidance included in this program announcement is relevant to stage one where applicants submit a concept paper. **Each submission must propose a single-country project based on the parameters outlined in the announcement.** Applicants may submit **up to two** concept papers in total. The first submission may focus on any of the countries in Category A or Category B; there will no advantage to your choice of country. If an applicant chooses to submit a second concept paper for consideration however, it must be focused on a country in Category A.

Eligible applicants include registered U.S. or foreign non-profit organizations; for-profit organizations; private institutions of higher education, public or state institutions of higher education; public international organizations; and small businesses with function and regional experience in the areas of entrepreneurship in the MENA region. MEPI strongly encourages applications from civil society organizations headquartered in the Middle East and North Africa region. All applicants must be legally registered organizations prior to applying to this announcement.

All applicants must submit their application electronically using either www.grantsolutions.gov OR www.grants.gov. Both systems require registration by the applying organization. **It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure it has an active registration and will be able to submit its application. Applicants must select one of these systems to submit its application; do not submit an application thru both systems.** MEPI is not in a position to grant exceptions to these requirements.

For more information and submission instructions please visit: <http://mepi.state.gov/mepi/english-mepi/funding-opportunities/apply-for-a-grant/open-funding-opportunities.html>, and click on the title *Supporting Entrepreneurship in the MENA Region* to view the full Request for Application.

Be sure to carefully review the Request for Applications before preparing your submission. **All required materials by are due at 23:59:59 Eastern Time on October 29, 2013.** If you have any questions, MEPI staff can be reached at Nea-grants@state.gov.