



SUMMARY OF THE PROGRAM

I. Overview

@iDEAS is a U.S. Embassy-Argentina pilot fund administered by the mission. **@iDEAS** is designed to promote common values between Argentina and the United States through local initiatives in the fields of exchanges, democracy, education, arts and society & culture.

Themes for **@iDEAS** include education, English, science, technology, innovation, participative democracy and protection of human rights. Gender equality is given special consideration in all program areas.

II. Themes and audience

i – Exchange & Innovation

Projects that promote dialogue and exchange among different cultures, with a specific focus on new media, digital communication and the creative use of traditional communication methods.

D – Democracy

Projects that promote citizen engagement in the democratic process and strengthen democratic institutions, including development of institutions focused on youth and female audiences.

Other components could include improved access to public information, promotion of transparency and accountability or of public policies, and the role of civil society in the political process.

E – Education

Projects that facilitate access to education at any literacy level (formal and informal) for youth, improve classroom learning, promote language and reading skills, school attendance, etc.

A – Arts

Projects that promote U.S. culture in the country and/or understanding between the U.S. and Argentine cultures through exchanges in the fields of dance, music, theatre, literature, arts and sports.

S – Society & Culture

Projects that reflect shared U.S. - Argentine cultural values such as community work or volunteer work while building bridges between U.S. and Argentine organizations.

III. Eligible organizations

Projects must be submitted by a non-profit organization (grassroots community organizations, cooperative societies, neighborhood, cultural, and arts associations, etc.), constituted under the legal terms of Argentina, with legal entity granted by competent authority and a designated bank account held by the institution.

- Organizations that do not meet the above requirements can submit their project through a sponsoring organization acting as intermediary and assuming responsibility for its execution.
- Public schools are not eligible to submit projects directly; however, they can do so through their cooperative societies.

IV. Request for Grants

Each project must:

- a) address at least one **@iDEAS** theme;
- b) be a **development initiative** rather than simply a request for funds to buy material or equipment;
- c) be currently active or designed to last at least one year;
- d) be submitted by a regularly constituted non-profit organization (see point III);
- e) have the capacity to self-finance its recurrent costs. Such costs shall be financed by the grantee and/or associated organizations;
- f) include at least 30 % of the budget through either in kind, money or material support by other partners.

V. Exclusions and Limitations

- a. @iDEAS does not provide funds for:
 - ❖ Permanent staff wages
 - ❖ Recurrent costs of the organization such as rent, electricity, water and telephone services
 - ❖ Administrative costs that are not directly related to project execution
 - ❖ Property/land acquisition or rent
 - ❖ Purchase of vehicles
 - ❖ Luxury items

- b. Each organization can submit **only one project** per fiscal year. Priority will be given to organizations that have not received support from the Embassy in the last year.

VI. Grant Amount

The maximum amount per project funded by @iDEAS is \$ 50.000 Argentine Pesos. @iDEAS does not provide full funding for any project, except in exceptional and very justified cases. The project should have self-finance capacity of at least 30% of the amount requested.

The amounts requested for professional fees and project staff must not exceed 30% of the requested amount, except under highly justified circumstances.

VII. Evaluation Criteria

Once the aforementioned requirements are met, the projects submitted will be reviewed by the Embassy's Evaluation Committee. Special consideration will be given to those proposals providing higher benefits to the development and promotion of underprivileged groups. Project evaluation will be done according to the following criteria:

- a) **Sustainability of project activities.** Products, services, benefits and impact generated by the project must be sustained over time once the @iDEAS support has concluded. Therefore, the project execution must consider the creation of conditions and mechanisms to build and sustain the activities and/or benefits generated over time.

- b) **Engagement and commitment of grantees, project executors and associated organizations.** The project must consider the manner of participation of grantees and associated organizations at the different project stages; i.e. design, execution, follow-up and evaluation. The project must clearly demonstrate the aforementioned, noting the concrete actions to be carried out by grantees and each organization. Proposals must be accompanied by letters of commitment by grantees and/or associated organizations as appropriate.

- c) **Accurate and clear description of the problem addressed by the project.** The causes and effects of the problem faced by grantees must be clearly identified and outline the relevance of the project in the local community and on the target audience. For this, it is important to describe the local area and region (geographically, population, main economic activities, different problems being faced; etc.) It is also important to mention if there have been previous efforts to address the problem and if alternative solutions have been considered. All the information provided should be accompanied by verifiable data.

- d) **Quality of project design.** The project must be sustainable over time; therefore, it is essential that the beneficiaries participate in both the preparation and execution phases. This means identifying the number and type of beneficiaries (direct and indirect) before designing the project. There must be a clear connection between the resources and the activities that will be carried out in order to reach the expected outcome. In turn, those outcomes must entail meeting project objectives. The distribution of tasks and activities, as well as the commitment of people involved in the execution of the project, are key success factors.

Efficacy and efficiency. The project must have a realistic and consistent budget. The budget must contain a summarized budget describing the main costs with the corresponding financing source, and an annex describing in detail each project item. The description must specify if the item will be covered in-kind or with grant money, and the financing source to be used. The Evaluation Committee will examine if all budget items are duly justified.

VIII. Submission Process

Organizations with projects that match the policies and themes mentioned, who wish to apply for a grant must fill in the application form that will be made available conveniently and send it via e-mail to: US-Argentinagrants@state.gov

If the project is selected, the following documents must be provided:

- a) A letter of presentation signed by the head of the requesting organization; copy of the organization by-laws, copy of the Argentine resolution granting legal entity to the organization; and copy of the minutes of the last Board of Directors meeting, including a distribution of positions.
- b) If the grantee is utilizing a separate requesting organization, a letter signed by that organization's chief (with proof of that position) giving expressed consent to project execution.

IX. Project Submission

Projects must be submitted via e-mail to: US-Argentinagrants@state.gov

Once the grant application is received, a notice of receipt will be sent to the requesting organization.

X. Communication of Decision

The results of the selection process will be sent by e-mail to all requesting organizations after the final review from the Evaluation Committee. They will be also posted on our website.

The organizations whose projects have been selected will be contacted immediately and requested to come to the Embassy to sign their respective agreement.

XI. Requirements for Disbursement of Approved Funds

Approved funds for each project will be transferred to the responsible organization in two or more stages, according to the budget schedule submitted with the proposal.

The first payment will be made in the maximum amount, but shall not exceed 60% of the total amount approved. The remaining disbursements will be transferred after approval of reports on the progress of activities and the expense report submitted by the organization.