

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
U.S. EMBASSY KINSHASA
DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS FUND PROGRAM**

Funding Opportunity Title: U.S. Embassy Kinshasa Democracy and Human Rights Fund Program

Date Opened: March 1, 2012

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I. Funding Opportunity Description

The U.S. Embassy Kinshasa is pleased to announce funding is available through the embassy's Democracy and Human Rights Fund program. Please follow all instructions below carefully.

Purpose of Grant: Grants are intended for non-governmental organizations and are intended to support projects that promote and defend civil and political rights. Funds will support small, highly focused, short-term, high-impact activities proposed by dedicated indigenous organizations to promote and defend civil and political rights.

Common themes addressed in DHRF grants include, but are not limited to:

Human Rights: education, human rights NGO start-ups, creative projects to improve respect/enforcement of human rights, human trafficking projects focused on protection or prevention measures, torture victim rehabilitation.

Legal: publication, translation into minority dialects and dissemination of the Constitution and other laws, legal education, bar and legal association start-ups, legal aid projects.

Judicial: improving the Judiciary's efficiency, training court officials—including local or traditional officials—on the rule of law or the role of the judicial branch in a democracy.

Legislative: improving the Legislature's efficiency, training MPs and their staff.

Civic Education: public education for independent journalists on the role of an independent media in a democracy, technical assistance, support to journalist association start-ups, civic education for girls, public awareness campaign of voting rights and/or the social costs of public corruption.

Women's Rights: education, counseling and legal support for the prevention of violence against women, empowerment of women (non-economic), women-led NGO start-ups, increased access of women and ethnic groups to the judicial system and to the political processes.

Electoral: very limited assistance to independent electoral commissions, assistance to local NGO election monitoring groups.

Conflict Resolution: limited to activities which promote tolerance and understanding between sectors of society, such as ethnic or religious groups or political factions; e.g., workshops, publication of civic education material pertaining to equality of rights and responsibilities under a democratic system.

II. Award Information

Funding Instrument Type: Grant

Ceiling of Individual Award Amounts: \$25,000

The U.S. Embassy Kinshasa reserves the right to award less or more than the funds described 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.

Project and Budget Periods: Grant projects must be completed in one year or less.

III. Application Submission and Deadline

Proposals should be submitted to the U.S. Embassy in Kinshasa. Applicants are recommended to complete and submit the suggested local grants application format attached to this announcement. Applications must include a description of the organization, background information on the proposed activity, and a description of the activity and its intended impact. Applicants should note any funding or in-kind contributions from other donors that would support the activities proposed under the Democracy and Human Rights Fund. Applicants must also complete and submit a detailed budget. All proposals should be submitted by April 30, 2012 to be considered for 2012 funding.