

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
U.S. EMBASSY ABIDJAN PUBLIC AFFAIRS SECTION
LOCAL GRANTS PROGRAM

Funding Opportunity Title: U.S. Embassy Abidjan Public Affairs Section (PAS)
Annual Program Statement

CFDA Number: 19.040 - Public Diplomacy Programs for Côte d'Ivoire

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I. Funding Opportunity Description

PAS is pleased to request proposals for funding under the U.S. Embassy Abidjan's Public Diplomacy Grants program. Please read and follow all instructions carefully.

Purpose of Grant: Local grants are intended for individuals, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), think tanks, and academic institutions. They support projects that:

1. Encourage the fullest participation, especially of women and youth, in helping Côte d'Ivoire to consolidate its democracy and promote public political discourse;
2. Promote reconciliation among different ethnic groups to contribute to the stability of the country ;
3. Promote diverse, broad based and inclusive economic growth; and,
4. Promote education and literacy, especially among women and youth.
5. Reinforce the bridge of mutual understanding and shared vision between the United States and Côte d'Ivoire.

Local grant proposals must have a connection to American culture and values or should be directed to increasing understanding in Côte d'Ivoire of American

culture and society. Proposals should also be related to one or more of the following U.S. Embassy priorities:

1. **Encourage Participation in Democratic Processes (especially youth and women)**: encourage active citizen participation in government; promote increased voter participation by women and youth in democratic processes at all levels, from local to national; encourage professional media coverage of elections and government; and, increase attention to under-served or disadvantaged populations.
2. **Advance Reconciliation Throughout the Country**: encourage key populations, including university students and other youth groups, to refrain from violence. Encourage youth to play a more active role in promoting peaceful change and dialogue., tolerance, non-violent conflict resolution, and social inclusion.
3. **Increase Economic Diversification Efforts and Boost Economic Growth**: promote increased trade and investment, job creation, support for English language learning to increase marketable skills among Ivorian youth, workshops to promote entrepreneurship, particularly among youth and women, support increased exports by small and medium-sized enterprises, particularly those owned by women.
4. **Support Education and Literacy**
Enhance educational opportunities for women and youth, through support for literacy and libraries; educational advising; English language programs and resources; and Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematic (STEM) activities.
5. **Build Communication Capacity**: foster expanded public outreach capabilities by Côte d'Ivoire's government institutions and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), develop and deepen the creative, idea-forming sectors of Ivorian society, including journalists, artists, broadcasters, and publishers; support creative use of mobile phone technology and of SMS messaging for purpose of raising public awareness.

6. **Reinforce Mutual Understanding between the United States and Côte d'Ivoire:** build connections with Ivoirians at all levels; support the promotion of Ivoirian and American cultural heritage; and, foster English language proficiency by providing language programs and resources.

Activities that are typically funded include, but are not limited to:

- media training projects;
- English language programs;
- community service projects that encourage volunteerism;
- civic education projects that promote democratic processes and human rights;
- proposals that support the dissemination of tolerant viewpoints among traditional and community leaders;
- recreation, leadership, and education programs directed toward women and youth;
- arts and culture programs;
- radio programming in support of the outlined priorities.

Activities that are not typically funded include, but are not limited to:

- projects that do not have a plan for sustaining the activity or monitoring results;
- projects that are mainly designed to pay organizational salaries or to cover only logistical costs (e.g., room/chair rental, coffee breaks, etc.).
- paying to complete activities begun with other funds;
- projects that contain the appearance of partisanship/support to individual candidates or party electoral campaigns;
- international travel, unless specifically justified within the project;
- U.S. citizen exchange programs with foreign countries;
- projects that include substantial fees for radio or TV broadcast; and,
- social welfare projects.

Background Information: PAS is soliciting proposals for local grants that fall into one of the areas specified above from individuals, non-governmental organizations, think tanks, and academic institutions. More information about the PAS and its Grants Program can be found at: <http://abidjan.usembassy.gov/>.

Electronic Link to Full Announcement: Go to [http:// abidjan.usembassy.gov/](http://abidjan.usembassy.gov/).

II. Award Information

Funding Instrument Type: Grant

Floor of Individual Award Amounts: \$500

Ceiling of Individual Award Amounts: \$10,000

PAS 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 United States government.

Project and Budget Periods: Local grants projects must be completed in one year or less. PAS will entertain applications 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 applicants, and a determination that continued funding would be in the best interest of the United States Government.

III. Eligibility Information:

Applications are encouraged from all sectors: committed and organized civil-society organizations, local representatives of civil society, think tanks, non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, and individuals. Applicants are encouraged to provide cost-sharing from additional sources in support of proposed projects; applications should explain clearly other likely sources of funding or in-kind participation.

IV. Application Submission and Deadline

Proposals should be submitted via email to PAS at the following email address: AbidjanPAS@state.gov. Proposals will also be accepted in hard copy and should be delivered to: Public Affairs Section, ATTN: Funding Proposal, U.S. Embassy in Côte d'Ivoire, Cocody Riviéra Golf, 01 BP 1712 Abidjan 01. Applications are accepted in English and French; however, final grant agreements will be written in English. Please note that we cannot guarantee the return of original documents; copies should be provided, if appropriate. Applicants must complete and submit a detailed budget with all grant requests.

V. Review and Selection Process

Each application submitted under this announcement will be evaluated and rated on the basis of the evaluation criteria outlined below. The criteria are designed to assess the quality of the proposed project and to determine the likelihood of its success. The criteria are closely related and are considered as a whole in judging the overall quality of an application. Applications will be reviewed on the basis of their completeness, coherence, clarity, and attention to detail.

Applicants must submit a full project description, including a detailed narrative that outlines the plan of action, describing the scope of the proposed work and how it will be accomplished. The narrative should be accompanied by a detailed budget that includes all program costs and clearly indicates the proposing organization's cost-share and/or in-kind participation.

Application Evaluation Criteria:

Goals and Objectives – The project is likely to provide maximum impact in achieving the proposed results and the organization. The project addresses one or more of the PAS priorities outlined previously.

Strengths and Innovation – Applicant clearly describes how the proposal will execute the program within the proposed time frame and articulates an innovative strategy or plan. The project builds civil society leadership and capacity, and demonstrates sustainable capacity building.

Organizational Capacity – The organization has expertise in one or more of PAS priorities and demonstrates the ability to perform the proposed activities.

Sustainability – The organization demonstrates a clear plan for sustainable activity or impact of the activity after the grant period of performance.

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.

VI. Award Administration

Award Notices: The grant award shall be written, signed, awarded, and administered by the Grants Officer (GO). The Grants Officer (GO) is the U.S. government official delegated the authority by the U.S. Department of State Procurement Executive to write, award, and administer grants. The GO is assisted by the Grants Officer Representative (GOR), who works with the GO to make sure that all assistance awards are administered correctly, and may be the primary point of contact for grantees. The assistance award agreement is the authorizing document and it will be provided to the recipient. Organizations whose applications will not be funded will also be notified in writing.

Anticipated Time to Award: Proposals are accepted on a rolling basis. Applicants should expect to be notified of the recommended within 30 days after submission.

Reporting Requirements: All awards issued under this announcement will require both program and financial reports on a frequency specified in the award agreement. The disbursement of funds may be tied to submission of these reports in a timely manner. All other details related to award administration will be specified in the award agreement.