

The deadline for receiving applications is January 31, 2011.

**APPLICATION GUIDELINES FOR
DEMOCRACY COMMISSION SMALL GRANTS
FOR 2011**

Grant Applicant

Name of the organization, address, phone/fax number/e-mail address, name and title of director and other significant staff members, particularly those who will be involved in the project.

Applicants should also attach a CV, resume or personal history of the people who will be engaged in the project. No one CV should exceed one page.

Background on Applicant

When was the organization founded, what are its principle activities, significant achievements, etc.? A copy of the registration papers of the organization as issued by host country authorities should be attached.

Program Description/Purpose

What does the applicant propose to do? The proposal should contain sufficient information that anyone not familiar with it would understand exactly what the applicant wants to do and why. The more specific, detailed, and clear the program description, the better. Remember that the Democracy Commission will only award funds to the best proposals, those that can clearly show how the proposed project will help the development of democratic and civil society in the host country by involving groups of citizens.

Project Justification

This is a very important aspect of the proposal and applicants should pay particular attention to it. What is the importance of the project? Why should it be funded? Who will be affected by this project? What difference does it make for your country? Remember that the Democracy Commission will only support those projects that will make an important contribution. Please be concise and explicit.

Applicants may also attach letters of endorsement attesting to the seriousness of the proposal.

Project Sustainability

Describe the expected long-term effects of the project. If the project is intended to continue after the funding from the Democracy Commission ends, the proposal must also contain a very thorough explanation how the organization will fund the activity in the future. If a convincing explanation is not included, this will disqualify the project from consideration for Democracy Commission support. Please be short, explicit and concise, and to the point.

Proposed Program Dates

When will the project be carried out, if it is funded? Be realistic about dates. Remember that, even if approved, funds from the Democracy Commission may not be available for as long as up to two or three months. (March or April, at the earliest.) If your project gets approved, you can be asked to change project dates.

Detailed Budget, Including Supporting Narrative

In order to be sure that the Commission understands why there is a need for money, the applicant should prepare a line-by-line list of expenses that will be generated by this project. The budget should be prepared in a logical manner and offer enough detail that a reviewer will be able to understand exactly what the figures mean and how that figure was determined.

ALL PROJECT EXPENSES SHOULD BE CALCULATED IN ADVANCE AND BE REALISTIC. THE DEMOCRACY COMMISSION MEMBERS WILL NOT AUTHORIZE ANY FUNDS IF THERE IS ANY QUESTION ABOUT THE BUDGET. PLEASE CHECK THE EXCHANGE RATE U.S. DOLLAR – EURO WHEN CALCULATING THE COSTS IN U.S. DOLLARS.

The budget narrative should follow the actual budget presentation itself and describe in some detail the costs presented in the budget. In other words, the narrative explains, line by line, what the numbers mean and how they were determined. (For example, Travel: \$3,000." Explanation: Two day conference in (location) for 30 participants with a 2 X \$50.00 travel grant to each participant for room, board and transportation costs.)

If the proposal seeks funding to purchase a service or equipment, the application must include three pro-forma estimates from the service or equipment vendor. Simply listing Computer and printer: \$4,000" is not sufficient. The Commission will want to know what kind of computer, what kind of printer and how much three different vendors will charge for the same equipment.

Budget Guidelines

Program expenses should cover all costs for the project activities. They may include all honoraria to specialists or associates; travel/per diem/lodging expenses for trips; and all expenses for seminars or conferences (speakers' fee, preparation of materials and room rental).

Fees could be paid only to the people who will spend a majority of their time on the project and have signed contracts. The fees should be calculated on the total number of hours worked for the duration of the project. Fee levels should be reasonable and not higher than other local salaries, and should include all local taxes. NGO's permanent staff members involved in implementing the program cannot receive extra money for conducting other activities related to the program.

Equipment means computer, copying machine, printer or other technical devices necessary for the fulfillment of the project (for example, the purchase of a computer for organizing a conference is not a justified expense).

Administrative expenses include communication expenses (phone, fax, e-mail, postage); bank fees; copying and print services; office materials (paper, toner, envelopes, etc.).

Bank charges should be pre-calculated and included in the budget. The use of "miscellaneous expenses" as a budget item is unacceptable.

Cocktail parties and meals not integral to a program event **are not acceptable** grant expenses. An effort should be made to secure funding from other sources for food costs.

Entertainment and other costs (amusement, diversion, social activities, ceremonials, alcoholic beverages, t-shirts) **are not allowable** expenses.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE BUDGET ITEMS CANNOT BE CHANGED DURING THE FULFILLMENT OF THE PROJECT.

Reporting Requirements

If you receive funding from the Democracy Commission, you will be required to submit a detailed program and financial report on the outcomes of the project. Please describe when you will submit the report on the outcomes and who will prepare the financial report (e.g. an accountant).

Other Sources of Support for this Project, Including the In-kind Contribution of the Applying Organization

Please describe the possibilities for co-funding of the project by other organization.

Please describe the in-kind contribution of your organization - it can be voluntary work, use of premises, vehicles, classroom supplies, equipment or payment of a program event from your own funds (e.g. rental of a hall, printing of announcements, meals, travel, etc.).

Please state which other organizations you have applied to for funding with the same project, and the status of those applications.

Please write the name of the field of your project.

On half a page you are asked to present your NGO and project you will be implementing.

A DUNS number **must be** included in every application for a new or competing continuation grant or cooperative agreement. DUNS will be used for tracking purposes, and to validate addresses and points of contact information. Applicants should verify that they have a DUNS number or take steps needed to obtain one. Organizations that do not have a DUNS number can receive it at <http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform>. Internationally, a foreign organization can request a DUNS number from the local D&B office via the telephone. The list of international offices is available at http://www.dnb.com/US/customer_service/global_listing.asp, organized by region and/or country.

PLEASE DO NOT SEND IN THE APPLICATION BEFORE YOU:

- * Read once again the Democracy Commission Guidelines. Make sure you understand those guidelines and that your proposal fits the purposes it

discusses.

- * Carefully review the application to make sure it is complete and free of errors.
- * Ask someone who does not know anything about your project to read your proposal to determine if it is understandable. Remember that the members of the Democracy Commission will not know anything about your proposal until they read it. If they cannot understand it simply by reading what you have written, it will not be approved.
Please try to avoid writing more than you are asked in certain sections of the Application Form.
- * Make sure the application is **in English**, neatly typed and easy to read. Perfect English is not required but the proposal must be understandable to an English speaker. **Please use Times New Roman 14 font letters.**

Applications which do not include the required information or do not comply with the requirements of the Application Guidelines will not be reviewed (Duns number included).

Applications should be sent by regular mail (Post Office) or delivered in person at the address bellow. Please do not send applications and related papers via e-mail. If you decide to bring the application and papers in person, please leave the envelope at the Embassy's Entrance 2 (near the Medical School) from Monday – Friday from 08:30h – 17:00h.

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Democracy Commission Small Grants
Public Affairs Office
United States Embassy
Džona Džeksona 2
81000 Podgorica

In case you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Public Affairs Office, U.S. Embassy Podgorica, at: 020/410-532, or e-mail: rosics@state.gov