



U.S.-Middle East Partnership Initiative



MIDDLE EAST PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE (MEPI) LOCAL GRANTS PROGRAM

DEADLINE: January 4, 2016

Background information about MEPI

The U.S.-Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) offers assistance, training, and support to groups and individuals striving to bring change to the Middle East and North Africa. MEPI supports projects, partnering with civil society organizations, community leaders, youth and women activists, private sector groups, and others to advance their efforts to create positive change in their societies. For more information about MEPI programs visit www.mepi.state.gov.

Funding Opportunity Description

The Local Grants program serves as MEPI's most direct means of supporting organizations and individuals in the Middle East and North Africa. These grants are designed to:

- Promote positive change, advocacy, and civic activism;
- Strengthen civil society;
- Support citizen efforts to achieve economic, social, and political empowerment;
- Expand opportunities for women and youth;
- Strengthen the rule of law;
- Develop independent media; and
- Help communities work alongside governments in shaping their own futures.

The Embassy welcomes applications that seek to address any of the priority areas listed above. In addition, for this round of grants, added consideration will be given to projects that:

Seek to contribute to Morocco's efforts to protect and preserve the environment, combat climate change, and promote sustainable development and/or efforts that raise awareness about these issues.

Focus on nonpartisan civic engagement in the 2016 national elections.

Please note - Project outcomes must be linked to actual measurable outcomes.

The Mission encourages joint submissions of organizations working together.

The Amount of Funding

Local grants are generally for projects from \$50,000 to \$150,000, although there is flexibility for grants outside of this range. Projects are usually funded for one year, but the project period can be a minimum of three months and up to two years if a longer time period would yield more significant or better results. MEPI can award a grantee additional funding and extend the period of performance beyond the initial project and budget period, on a noncompetitive basis, subject to availability of funds, satisfactory progress, and a determination that continued funding would be in the best interest of the Department of State.

Eligibility Information

Eligible applicants include local representatives of civil society, non-profit organizations, community groups, non-governmental organizations, professional associations, private sector organizations, and universities.

Application and Submission Information

How to Apply

Applicants interested in MEPI Local Grants funding must complete and submit the following four documents:

- **Application for Federal Assistance Form (SF-424)**
- **Project Narrative**
- **Budget Narrative**
- **Budget Information Forms (SF-424a)**

All submissions must include these components, and may only be submitted in English. To prepare these documents, please go to <http://mepi.seiservices.com/LocalGrants/English/Applications.aspx>. This website will assist you in preparing and submitting your proposal.

Submitting an Application

To submit your application, please follow the steps below:

1. Review all four of the completed application documents (listed above) for accuracy, making any necessary changes.
2. Print, sign, and scan a copy of the **Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)**. **Please note:** A signature is required.
3. Send all four documents via email to the U.S. Embassy at MEPIRabat@state.gov. **If you are unable to email the documents, please contact the U.S. Embassy to discuss other delivery options.**

Allowable Project Activities

Local grant applications that are often selected for funding include, but are not limited to:

- Community-level activities that provide practical experience in democratic processes and strengthen civic action and advocacy;
- Public education and awareness-building activities;
- Networking and advocacy campaigns that promote citizen rights and interests;
- Workshops, meetings, or training events of a practical and professional nature, which are an integral part of and contribute to the overall project (note: ideally, the training should be a means to an end, not the sole purpose of the grant); and/or
- Capacity-building for civil society organizations/nongovernmental organizations.

Application Review and Selection Process

A MEPI Committee at the U.S. Embassy reviews all local grant proposals; the MEPI regional office in Morocco processes and negotiates the awards. Proposals will be evaluated by the following criteria: Strength of project rationale, clear description of how activities address MEPI's goals and Embassy Rabat's priority areas, demonstrated benefit to beneficiaries after project's completion, relationship between activities and intended results and costs that are reasonable and allowable.

The current proposal deadline is January 4, 2016. For the most up-to-date information, applicants should check the U.S. Embassy website before preparing their submission. Only the most competitive proposals will be selected for further consideration by MEPI's regional office.

For more information about MEPI: <http://mepi.seiservices.com/LocalGrants>  <http://www.facebook.com/USEmbassyRabat>