

# **U.S. Embassy Youth Council Notice for Funding Opportunity September, 2015**

## **Background**

The U.S. Embassy in Nepal created the Youth Council in 2011 in order to interact directly with Nepal's youth about the issues that concern them. The Council currently consists of 54 Nepalis under the age of 30 from all regions of Nepal and representing various backgrounds, castes, religions, and professions.

The Council helps coordinate, amplify and oversee efforts in three primary areas:

1. Engaging youth in honest two-way dialogue -- including through our network of over 90 youth councils and regional networks;
2. Empowering youth as drivers of their own destinies through programs on expanded economic opportunity and skills building;
3. Elevating youth voices and causes by raising the profile of young people and the issues that they care about.

The Council members are chosen through open call for application. After selection in the Youth Council, their term launches with a national orientation. Over the span of one year term of the Youth Council, Council members engage with the U.S. mission through various programs. Teams of Youth Council will compete for innovative and community-focused Civic Engagement Projects which receive seed funding from the U.S. Embassy. Individual members are also encouraged to organize programs of their interest through Thematic Programs that will have to fall under these focus areas: Equality, Entrepreneurship, Education and Environment. The Youth Council term ends in a year with new members forming a new Youth Council.

## **Program Description and Requirements**

The U.S. Embassy seeks proposals that will build upon the foundation of the Youth Council and broaden the Council's activities in 2015-16. Successful proposals will include the following elements in their project narrative:

- A large-scale three-day orientation retreat and a closing national conference where Council members learn about the purpose and objectives of the Youth Council, discuss issues that are of concern to youth, brainstorm project ideas; and later to reflect upon them.
- Other mechanisms for ongoing interaction and networking among Council members (many of whom live in remote areas and do not have regular access to the Internet), and between the Council, the Ambassador, and the Embassy.
- Activities that encourage Council members to be active in their local communities, spread awareness of political issues among youth, and expand youth involvement in civil society.
- Recommendations for ways the Embassy can increase its use of the Council and engagement with its members.

- The establishment of an alumni group for former Council members.

### **Application Procedures and Deadline**

For proposals to be considered, they must include the following information on the organization's letterhead:

- Organization contact information
- DUNS number
- Background of organization and leaders
- Project narrative – planned activities for a year
- Budget – cost of two conferences and other regular engagements
- Timeline of project milestones

Proposals should be submitted via email **no later than September 19, 2015** to [KathmanduMedia@state.gov](mailto:KathmanduMedia@state.gov) with the subject, "U. S. Embassy Youth Council Proposal."

### **Selection Process**

The U.S. Embassy will review all proposals submitted by the deadline. If additional information is required, the U.S. Embassy may contact organizations after the deadline. The U.S. Embassy will make a final selection very soon and will inform the selected organization.

### **Eligibility**

Any non-governmental organization may submit a proposal. Cost-sharing or matching is encouraged but is not required.

In order to receive funding from the U.S. Embassy an organization must have a Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number. Detailed instructions on how to obtain a DUNS number at no cost is available at <http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform>.

### **Reporting Requirements**

The selected organization is required to submit a final report at the conclusion of the project; intermediate reports may also be required as agreed upon by the U.S. Embassy and the selected organization. Additionally, the organization must submit financial records to the U.S. Embassy to close out the project.