

Youth Empowerment Grants Program 2010

U.S. Embassy Colombo Grant Application Guidelines

Introduction

The U.S. Embassy in Sri Lanka announces the Youth Empowerment Grants Program to fund projects for Sri Lankan and Maldivian youth. The main objective of the grant program is to support innovative, small-scale, cutting-edge projects developed and implemented by and/or for young people in the areas of educational development, environment issues, community development, civil society building, human rights, youth enrichment activities, health and human services and employability for youth between the ages of 15 - 25.

Application Procedure and Eligibility

- The U.S. Embassy in Sri Lanka invites registered NGOs (working for and with youth) to submit proposals up to 1,000,000 (one million) rupees or 115,000 rufiyaa.
- **Language:** Proposals to the U.S Embassy must be ***submitted in English***
- The project duration can be minimum of 3 months and maximum of 12 months.
- Proposals for funding new activities as part of an ongoing funded project will also be eligible for consideration.

Deadlines and Key Dates:

Round 1: Submission Deadline: August 15, 2010

Disbursement: The grants will be disbursed within one month period to the registered NGOs, schools and community organizations and individuals after their proposal is approved by the selection committee.

While submitting the application there are also additional documents that the registered NGOs need to submit;

- *Most recent annual financial statement listing income sources (audited if available)*
- *Copy of the applicant organization's registration status*

Themes

Possible themes of the "Youth Empowerment Grants Program" focus on:

I) Educational Development

II) Environmental Issues

III) Community development/ Civil Society Building/ Human Rights

IV) Enrichment activities for youth such as Summer Camps, Debates, Competitions, IT Classes

V) Health and Human Services

VI) Employability among youth

VII) or other related subtopics

Assessment Criteria

- **Targeting:** Aims at improving and expanding the opportunities, skills, world views
- **Innovation:** Applies approaches and ideas that vary from current approaches. The U.S. Embassy is particularly interested in projects which introduce a new approach, process or technology in tackling one of the issues listed above.
- **Sustainability:** Demonstrates the organizational capacity, viability of partnerships and the longer term financial viability of the project (i.e. the organization's capacity to continue the project beyond the initial funding period).
- **Results and Measurability:** Demonstrates a quantifiable, direct impact on the target group with clearly articulated mechanisms to measure the project's effectiveness in reaching them within the timeframe of implementation.
- **Cost Sharing:** Demonstrates cost sharing (funds or in kind contributions are acceptable) from the organizations involved in the proposal. Cost sharing is required and should be clearly indicated and adequately calculated in the budget.

Activities that will not be supported

The Youth Empowerment Grants Program cannot fund: General research programs, ongoing institutional core support (such as equipment, office supplies, rent, maintenance costs, computers/ IT equipment, entertainment costs, international travel, utilities), scholarships, and fellowships.

Additional weight is given to:

- **Ownership and Community Involvement:** Acceptance and ownership from local implementing/beneficiary communities; creates synergies, emphasizes community contributions and utilizes the strengths and the resources of the respective communities.

- **Promoting Gender Equity:** Promotes inclusion and active participation of young women.

Promotion and Visibility Guidelines:

As this is a grant program funded by the U.S. Embassy, the grantees are **obligated** to put Embassy logo on all promotional material and related documents that are visible to third parties.

Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

M&E will be administered through the Outreach Coordinator at the U.S. Embassy in Colombo. The Outreach Coordinator will act as the main contact point with the grantee organizations and/or individuals.

Applicants whose grant proposals are accepted by the Youth Empowerment Grants Program Committee are required to:

- Submit at minimum an interim and final progress report
- Submit an interim and final financial report for the project
- Answer any inquiries from the U.S. Embassy in Colombo during the grant period
- Allow for field visits at mutually convenient times during the grant period

Call for Proposals

The Proposal form is available at: <http://srilanka.usembassy.gov> Proposals will only be accepted as a Microsoft Word Document, in English, via e-mail to: AmCenterSL@state.gov.