

**U.S. Department of State  
Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs**

**Office of the Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI)**

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 19.500

**Establishing MEPI Alumni Network Local Chapters**

**Opportunity Number:** NEAPI-11-AW-034-MENA-041611

**Competition ID:** Alumni

**Announcement Type:** New

**Key Information:**

<b>Application Deadline</b>	23:59:59 Eastern Time on May 31, 2011
<b>Federal Agency Contact</b>  <b>Note:</b> Questions about the goals and intentions of this program announcement should be submitted within the first 30 days of the open announcement period.	<b>Jessica Baker</b> Nea-grants@state.gov 202-776-8524
<b>Date Opened</b>	April 16, 2011
<b>Electronic Link for Full Announcement</b>	(MEPI Website): <a href="http://www.mepi.state.gov">www.mepi.state.gov</a>

**Funding Opportunity Synopsis:**

**Project Synopsis:**

The Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) announces a competition for proposals to establish a network that connects all alumni of MEPI-funded projects. Currently, there are over 11,000 MEPI alumni and this number is growing daily. The MEPI Alumni Network will connect a group of local MEPI Alumni Chapters (single or multi-country) that together provide coverage for the entire region where MEPI operates. Through this MEPI Alumni Network, we hope to support and strengthen MEPI alumni and their commitment to and engagement in civic activism, creating an environment where MEPI alumni can work together to bring positive change to the region using and expanding upon the skills acquired through their various MEPI experiences.

MEPI will accept applications from organizations that fall into one of two categories. **Applicants must indicate under which category they intend to apply:**

**Category 1:** Existing or newly established organizations applying to become MEPI Local Alumni Chapters (the sole purpose of the organization will be to support MEPI Alumni)

**OR**

**Category 2:** Organizations applying to establish MEPI Alumni Local Chapters as a part of their work (the organization has other projects and the establishment of the MEPI Alumni Local Chapter is only a part of its overall work). In this case, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) must be signed to govern the relationship between the applicant and the MEPI Alumni Network Local Chapter (See Appendix 1 for an Example MOU). **Although the document will be reviewed by MEPI staff in Washington, D.C., the MOU is an agreement between successful applicants and Local Chapters. The MOU does not signify an agreement with any government.** MEPI will work with both the Local Chapters and the successful applicants to ensure that the MOU is respected.

***Eligible Countries:***

MEPI is seeking to establish Local Chapters of the MEPI Alumni Network in the following countries and territories: Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, West Bank and Gaza, and Yemen.

***Priority Areas:***

All applicants, regardless of category and country, are welcome to apply to become a single-country or multi-country chapter. Applicants must indicate under which priority area intend to apply.

While preference will be given to single-country chapters, we recognize that the circumstances are not conducive in all countries to create and sustain a Local MEPI Alumni Network chapter. Our goal is to provide 100% coverage for the entire Middle East and North Africa region to include all countries listed under ‘eligible countries’ in this program announcement. **Any organization applying to be a multi-country chapter will also automatically be considered for a single-country chapter in the country where the applicant is legally registered.**

**Funding Mechanism Type:** Cooperative Agreement or Grant

**Estimated Number of Awards:** up to 18

**Estimated Total Program Funding:** Up to \$125,000 per year

**Estimated Award Ceiling:** \$375,000

**Estimated Award Floor:** \$60,000

**Length of Project Period:** 3 years

***Eligible Applicants:***

Eligible applicants include any registered non-profit organizations, non-governmental organizations, private sector organizations, for-profit organizations, small businesses, and institutions of higher education (such as colleges and universities) based in the eligible countries. **Any organization whose headquarters is located outside the eligible countries will not be considered.**

***All applicants must be legally registered organizations prior to applying to this RFA.***

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Questions about the goals and intentions of this program announcement should be submitted to [nea-grants@state.gov](mailto:nea-grants@state.gov) within the first 30 days of the open announcement period.

**Background Information about MEPI and the MEPI Alumni Network:**

The Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI), located in the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs at the U.S. Department of State, is a unique program designed to engage directly with and invest in the peoples of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). MEPI works to create vibrant partnerships with citizens to foster the development of pluralistic, participatory, and prosperous societies throughout the MENA region. To do this, MEPI collaborates with local, regional, and international non-governmental organizations, the private sector, academic institutions, and governments.

Through its Washington, D.C. headquarters and Regional Offices in Abu Dhabi and Tunis, MEPI has contributed more than \$580 million to more than 680 projects in 18 countries and territories since its establishment in 2002. More information about MEPI can be found at: [www.mepi.state.gov](http://www.mepi.state.gov).

MEPI seeks to establish a network that connects all alumni of MEPI-funded projects. Currently, there are approximately 11,000 MEPI alumni in the region. The MEPI Alumni Network of Local Chapters will connect groups of alumni and enable them to work together to bring positive change to the region using the skills acquired through their MEPI experiences.

MEPI will partner with successful applicants throughout the start-up phase of the Local Chapter, and will maintain a close relationship with each Chapter to support its activities throughout the entire grant period. A dedicated MEPI staff member based in Washington, D.C. will work closely with each Chapter and successful applicant. In addition, staff at local U.S. embassies will support Chapter start-up and activities throughout the grant period.

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## I. FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

### Overview of Funding Opportunity

The Middle East Partnership Initiative seeks to establish a network that connects all alumni of MEPI-funded projects. Currently, there are over 11,000 MEPI alumni and this number is growing daily. The MEPI Alumni Network will connect a group of local MEPI Alumni Chapters (single or multi-country) that together provide coverage for the entire region where MEPI operates. Through this MEPI Alumni Network, we hope to support and strengthen MEPI alumni and their commitment to and engagement in civic activism, creating an environment where MEPI alumni can work together to bring positive change to the region using and expanding upon the skills acquired through their various MEPI experiences.

#### *Eligible Countries:*

MEPI is seeking to establish Local Chapters of the MEPI Alumni Network in the following countries and territories: Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, West Bank and Gaza, and Yemen.

#### *Eligible Applicants:*

Eligible applicants include any registered non-profit organizations, non-governmental organizations, private sector organizations, for-profit organizations, small businesses, and institutions of higher education (such as colleges and universities) based in the eligible countries may apply for this funding opportunity. **Any organization whose headquarters is located outside the eligible countries will not be considered. Further, all applicants must be legally registered organizations prior to applying to this RFA.**

MEPI will accept applications from organizations that fall into one of two categories. **Applicants must indicate under which category they intend to apply:**

**Category 1:** Existing or newly established organizations applying to become MEPI Local Alumni Chapters (the sole purpose of the organization will be to support MEPI Alumni)

**OR**

**Category 2:** Organizations applying to establish MEPI Alumni Local Chapters as a part of their work (the organization has other projects and the establishment of the MEPI Alumni Local Chapter is only a part of its overall work). In this case, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) must be signed to govern the relationship between the applicant and the MEPI Alumni Network Local Chapter (See Appendix 1 for an Example MOU). **Although the document will be reviewed by MEPI staff in Washington, D.C., the MOU is an agreement between successful applicants and Local Chapters. The MOU does not signify an agreement with any government.** MEPI will work with both the Local Chapters and the successful applicants to ensure that the MOU is respected.

***Priority Areas—Applications for Single-Country and Multi-Country Chapters:***

**All applicants, regardless of category, are welcome to apply to become a single-country or multi-country chapter. Applicants must indicate under which priority area intend to apply.**

While preference will be given to single-country chapters, we recognize that the circumstances are not conducive in all countries to create and sustain a Local MEPI Alumni Network chapter. Our goal is to provide 100% coverage for the entire Middle East and North Africa region to include all countries listed under ‘eligible countries’ in this program announcement. **Any organization applying to be a multi-country chapter will also automatically be considered for a single-country chapter in the country where the applicant is legally registered.**

**Local Chapter Roles and Responsibilities - All Categories and Priority Areas**

MEPI will partner with successful applicants throughout the start-up phase of the Local Chapter, and will maintain a close relationship with each Chapter to support its activities throughout the entire grant period. A dedicated MEPI staff member based in Washington, D.C. will work closely with each Chapter and successful applicant. In addition, staff at local U.S. embassies will support Chapter start-up and activities throughout the grant period.

Working closely with MEPI, each Local Chapter will organize activities, projects, and programs consistent with the MEPI Alumni Network goals outlined below.

***MEPI Alumni Network Goal 1: Strengthen Connections among Alumni, Activists, and Civil Society Organizations***

Local Chapter Roles:

- Increase links among MEPI alumni and with other U. S. Government alumni networks
- Promote and support activities that further MEPI’s mission among alumni and active citizens across the region

***MEPI Alumni Network Goal 2: Enhance Alumni Skills to Seize Opportunities for Civic Engagements***

Local Chapter Roles:

- Provide professional development and leadership training
- Strengthen civic engagement and advocacy skills
- Promote innovation through mentoring

***MEPI Alumni Network Goal 3: Maintain and Strengthen Relationships with MEPI Alumni***

Local Chapter Roles:

- Forge ongoing relationships between MEPI alumni, MEPI staff, and Embassy officials
- Expand MEPI projects to new audiences, by identifying new grantees and new program participants
- Facilitate Alumni feedback of MEPI projects and activities
- Facilitate the collection of follow-up data for evaluation and monitoring MEPI long-term activities

***MEPI Alumni Network Goal 4: Encourage MEPI Network Alumni to Remain Active in Civic Life***

Local Chapter Roles:

- Organize volunteer and community service activities
- Inform alumni of opportunities to become involved in community service and advocacy projects
- Establish links among MEPI alumni that focus on activism, advocacy, civic engagement, and social entrepreneurship

Within the first six months of operation, Local Chapters, either single country or multi-country, will work with MEPI staff and local U.S. embassy staff, to establish the following:

- Create by-laws for chapter governance and administration, including selection of officers and establishment of operating procedures
- Create a steering committee elected by chapter membership to manage projects and identify revenue-generating activities

Program activities organized by Local Chapters should address the following key MEPI priorities:

- Supporting local civil society, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), women's groups, and professional associations at the grassroots level committed to building democracies and undertaking reform.
- Encouraging programs for youth, particularly programs that provide practical opportunities to experience democracy in action, participate in public service, engage in volunteerism, and contribute to improving their local communities.
- Fostering networks among local NGOs, civil society, local government structures, and the business community as a mechanism for promoting democratic reforms.
- Encouraging women's participation in public life at the local, regional and national levels.
- Promoting good governance programs that include anti-corruption and transparency components.
- Promoting the rule of law and legal reforms including legal rights education and professional legal education.
- Promoting public awareness and involvement in current political issues, including voter education, and building advocacy skills among individuals and groups.

## Successful Applicant Roles and Responsibilities – All Categories and Priority Areas

In addition to working closely with MEPI Washington and staff at local U.S. embassies, successful applicants will provide the Local Chapter:

- administrative and financial management of the grant
- operational and logistical support
- activity ideas
- realistic goals for the operation of the Chapter

### *Personnel Requirements*

Successful applicants will designate one staff member to serve as the Project Director. This person will handle the day-to-day administration of the award and management or, if necessary, the establishment of the Local Chapter. Successful applicants will also participate in the selection of a MEPI Local Chapter Alumni Coordinator with input from MEPI Washington and the U.S. Embassy in the country (or countries).

### *Budget Requirements*

Successful applicants must budget for office and meeting space for Local Chapter meetings and activities as well as sending representation to an annual MEPI Alumni Network Regional meeting. More information and guidance on submitting a budget can be found in Part IV, Section D—Preparing an Application and Formatting Requirements.

### *Reporting Requirements*

Successful applicants will be legally responsible for satisfying all requirements associated with receiving federal funds:

- Demonstrating sound financial management
- Maintaining current, accurate, and comprehensive financial records and fulfilling audit requirements
- Providing regular and accurate reports on financial status, program activity, progress toward goals, and other performance measures

### *Activity Requirements*

Successful applicants, regardless of category or priority area, will perform the following within the **first six months** of the grant:

- Recruit and hire, with the advice and consent of MEPI staff in Washington, D.C. and at local U.S. Embassies, a MEPI Local Chapter Alumni Coordinator to guide and supervise the Local MEPI Alumni Chapter activity.
- Provide and maintain an office(s) for the Chapter Coordinator and a meeting/activity locale(s) for the Local Chapter

- Budget for and send the MEPI Local Chapter Alumni Coordinator and Project Director to a three-day MEPI Alumni Network meeting in the Middle East or North Africa in the first year of the grant award

***Regional MEPI Alumni Network Meeting***

Applicants funded through this RFA are required to budget for and send two people (one must be the MEPI Local Chapter Alumni Coordinator and the other the Program Director or the person who handles the day-to-day operation of the grant) to a three-day MEPI Alumni Network meeting each year of the grant award. This meeting will be held in the Middle East or North Africa. To help budget these costs applicants may use Istanbul, Turkey as a reference.

- Be prepared to send two personnel to a possible Washington, D.C. MEPI Alumni Network meeting.

***Washington, D.C. MEPI Alumni Network Meeting***

In addition to the Regional MEPI Alumni Network meeting, all selected organizations must be prepared to send two people to up to two Washington, D.C. MEPI Alumni Network meeting(s). The Washington, D.C. meeting(s) will be a multi-day training program designed to train Chapter Coordinators and Project Directors in the Federal grant policies and processes and guide the creation of the products necessary for successful chapter functioning and operation. **MEPI Washington will cover all costs associated with the Washington, D.C. Alumni Network meeting(s) (e.g., flight, lodging and meals).**

***Special Activity Requirement for Category 2 Applicants:***

- All category 2 applicants must have a signed Memorandum of Understanding in place with the Local Chapter within six months of the establishment of the Local Chapter. This is not a requirement for Category 1 applicants.

***Memorandum of Understanding***

As stated previously, in those cases where the selected applicant is not the actual Local Alumni Chapter, an MOU will govern the relationship between the successful applicants and the local chapter to establish the roles and responsibilities of each entity. This MOU will define the existence of each Local Chapter as a separate and autonomous entity, independent of the successful applicant. An example MOU is provided (Appendix 1). This MOU will be an agreement between the successful applicant and the Local Chapter (once established). **Although the document will be reviewed by MEPI staff in Washington, D.C., the MOU is an agreement between successful applicants and Local Chapters. The MOU does not signify an agreement with any government.** MEPI will work with both the Local Chapters and the successful applicants to ensure that the MOU is respected.

## II. AWARD INFORMATION

*The instructions below apply to all the categories and priority areas under which you may apply.*

<b>Funding Mechanism Type:</b>	Cooperative Agreement or Grant
<b>Estimated Number of Awards:</b>	Up to 18
<b>Estimated Total Program Funding:</b>	Up to \$125,000 per year
<b>Estimated Award Ceiling:</b>	\$375,000
<b>Estimated Award Floor:</b>	\$60,000
<b>Length of Project Period:</b>	3 years

Approximately \$3,000,000 in Economic Support Funds for approximately 18 grants will be awarded through this RFA. If selected to receive a grant, applicants will be awarded funds for 3 years.

**Competing Continuation:** Grants funded under these awards, beyond the initial budget period, will be entertained on the basis of a competing continuation. MEPI will review each grantee's progress in meeting grant requirements, including timely submission of required reports, and compliance with all terms and conditions of the award; timely submission of a request for additional funding; the availability of funds; and that continued funding would be in the best interest of the Department of State.

MEPI is seeking to establish Local Chapters of the MEPI Alumni Network in the following countries and territories: Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, West Bank and Gaza, and Yemen.

## III. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

All applications will be screened by the Office of the Middle East Partnership Initiative to determine whether each applicant meets all of the program eligibility requirements detailed below. *The instructions below apply to all the categories and priority areas under which you may apply.*

**NOTE: Applications that do not demonstrate that they meet all of the eligibility requirements will not advance to the Technical Review stage. Nothing can be added to an application once it has been submitted.**

## A. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

### A.1 *Grants.gov*

The Office of the Middle East Partnership Initiative requires that all applications for funding be submitted through Grants.gov. In order to apply, your organization must complete the Grants.gov registration process. To register, please go to [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) and click on “Get Registered.”

The registration process can take 10 business days or longer, even if all the registration steps are completed in a timely manner. Registration is a five-step process: 1) obtain a DUNS number; 2) register with Central Contracting Registration (CCR); 3) create a profile, including username and password; 4) obtain Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) authorization; and 5) track AOR status.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Additional guidance on registering with Grants.gov can be found at MEPI’s website ([www.mepi.state.gov](http://www.mepi.state.gov)). You can also contact MEPI at [nea-grants@state.gov](mailto:nea-grants@state.gov) to request this guidance.

### A.2 *Types of Applicants*

The Middle East Partnership Initiative is committed to anti-discrimination policy in all its programs and activities. MEPI welcomes proposals irrespective of applicants’ race, ethnicity, color, creed, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, or disability. We invite applications from organizations working with minority, disenfranchised, and lesser-served communities, including women, people with disabilities, and youth.

Eligible applicants include any registered non-profit organizations, non-governmental organizations, private sector organizations, for-profit organizations, small businesses, and institutions of higher education (such as colleges and universities) based in the eligible countries.

**Any organization whose headquarters is located outside the eligible countries will not be considered.**

The eligible countries and territories include: Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, West Bank and Gaza, and Yemen.

### A.3 *Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal Number System*

Applicants must provide a Data Universal Number System (DUNS) number to apply to this funding opportunity. Obtaining a DUNS number is the first step, required by an organization, to register with the Grants.gov system. The Data Universal Number System is a nine-digit number established and assigned by Dun and Bradstreet, Inc. (D&B) to uniquely identify business entities.

If your organization does not already have a DUNS number, please begin this process immediately. This process normally takes one business day. A DUNS number may be acquired at no cost on-line at: [fedgov.dnb.com](http://fedgov.dnb.com) or via telephone at: 1-866-705-5711.

#### ***A.4 Central Contractor Registration***

Applicants must be registered with the Central Contractor Registration (CCR) to apply to this funding opportunity. Obtaining Central Contractor Registration is the second step, required by an organization, to register with the Grants.gov system. The CCR is the Federal repository in which an applicant must provide information required for the conduct of business as an award recipient.

CCR registration expires each year and must be updated annually. Further, applicants must maintain an active CCR registration, with current information, while their application is under consideration for funding.

If your organization is not already registered please begin this process immediately. This process can take three to five business days or up to two weeks. Registration procedures may be found at [www.ccr.gov](http://www.ccr.gov).

## **IV. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION**

*The instructions below apply to all the categories and priority areas under which you may apply.*

### **A. PRE-APPLICATION WEB SESSIONS**

Potential applicants, especially those applying for MEPI funding for the first time, are encouraged to participate in online question and answer sessions with a MEPI Grants Officer. Please check [www.mepi.state.gov](http://www.mepi.state.gov) for the dates and times of these online sessions.

Applicants may email questions in English, Arabic, or French to [nea-grants@state.gov](mailto:nea-grants@state.gov) and the answers will be posted during these online sessions.

These question and answer sessions are not mandatory in order to apply for this grant. These online sessions will provide technical assistance to help applicants complete their applications. Attendees should read this RFA in advance and come prepared to ask questions related to the application forms and procedures. If an applicant is not able to join the online session, they can get the information posted later on the MEPI website.

### **B. DOWNLOADING THE APPLICATION PACKAGE FROM GRANTS.GOV**

To submit an application, applicants must download the application package. To download the application package, applicants must go to [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov), and follow the steps below:

1. Select “Apply for Grants” under the “For Applicants” category on the left-hand side of the Grants.gov home page.
2. Select “Download a Grant Application package.”
3. Complete the search engine you wish to use and click “Download Application.”
4. Review the search results, at the bottom of the page, and click the “Download” link next to the correct program announcement or competition title.

**NOTE:** When downloading the Grant Application Package, applicants must be sure to select and move the following mandatory forms to the “Mandatory Documents for Submission” field displayed on Grants.gov:

- Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)
- Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs (SF-424a)
- Project Narrative Attachment Form
- Budget Narrative Attachment Form
- Assurances for Non-Construction Programs (SF-424b)

To include the requested and optional documents outlined in Section C.2 below, applicants should select and move the optional form “Attachments” to the displayed “Optional Documents for Submission” field.

For more information about downloading the application package, please read the instructions in the User Guide found at the Grants.gov apply site, on the Help page.

## **C. APPLICATION SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

All applications must include the application components detailed in this section. Please refer to Section D.3 for additional submissions requirements (e.g., font size, page margins). Failure to submit all of the required documentation described in this RFA will result in the application not being considered for funding.

**NOTE: All applications must be submitted in English.**

### ***C.1 Required Documents***

#### **Federal Assistance Application Forms (SF-424, SF-424a, and SF424b):**

Applicants must complete all three forms to be considered for funding. **Information on how to complete the SF-424 and SF-424a can be found in Appendix 5.**

#### **Project Narrative:**

The Project Narrative describes the efforts the applicant will undertake to address the priorities and goals of this announcement. It may be no longer than 10 pages. More details on preparing the Project Narrative can be found in Section D.1—Preparing the Project Narrative below.

**Applicants are strongly encouraged to review this information before preparing their Narrative.**

#### **Budget Narrative:**

The Budget Narrative provides narrative detail about both the Federal request and the non-Federal match. Please note that budget requests cannot exceed \$125,000 USD per year for a three year period. There is no page limit for this section of your application. A sample template can be found in Appendix 3. **NOTE: Applicants must use the same format as found in the sample.** More details on preparing the Budget Narrative can be found in Section D.2—Preparing the Budget Narrative below and in Appendix 5. **Applicants are strongly encouraged to review this information before preparing their Narrative.**

### **MEPI Application Coversheet:**

The Coversheet provides summary detail about the applicant and their proposal, and **must include a maximum two-page executive summary**. In addition, applicants will identify the category and priority area under which they are applying in this document. A sample template can be found in Appendix 2. **NOTE: Applicants must use the same format as found in the sample.** This should be included as a separate document attachment in your submission.

### **Applicant Organizational Information:**

This document provides details about the type of organization, an organizations structure and policies, and an applicant’s ability to manage Federal funds. A sample template can be found in Appendix 4. **NOTE: Applicants must use the same format as found in the sample.** This should be included as a separate document attachment in your submission.

### ***C.2 Optional Documents***

These documents may not exceed a total of 10 pages, and may be included as separate attachments with your submission. More detailed instructions for preparing attachments are provided in Appendix 5.

### **Resumes, Biographical Sketch, or Job Descriptions for key personnel and partners:**

They may be included within the project narrative or as a separate document included in the appendices portion of your application. If these items are not included, applicants will be scored lower under *Staff and Position Specifications* review criteria outlined in Part V, Section A—Application Evaluation Criteria.

### **Pre-Submission Checklist:**

The Checklist ensures that you have accurately documented the eligibility requirements and included all major components of the application. It can be found in Appendix 6 in the announcement.

### ***C.3 Application Submission Sample Templates***

Fill-able versions of the sample templates mentioned in Sections C.1 and C.2 can be downloaded from [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) by following the instructions below:

1. Select “Find Grant Opportunities” under the “For Applicants” category on the left-hand side of the Grants.gov home page, and select Basics Search.
2. Enter the Funding Opportunity Number or CFDA number, and click “Search.”
3. Click on the appropriate announcement link. (Applicant will be directed to the announcement’s synopsis page.)
4. At the top of the announcement page, click on the header entitled “**Full Announcement**”
5. On the “Full Announcement,” page, select the files entitled “Other Supporting Documents—Fillable Sample Template Documents and Appendices.”

## **D. PREPARING AN APPLICATION AND FORMATTING REQUIREMENTS**

### ***D.1 Preparing the Project Narrative***

The Project Narrative must be a separate document in the electronic submission on Grants.gov. Your project narrative should address either Category 1 or Category 2 and should indicate if the application is for a single or multi-country chapter, as outlined in Part 1—Funding Opportunity Description . The Project Narrative may not exceed 10 pages. **If it exceeds the page limit, the extra pages will be removed from the application package.**

#### **Preparing the Project Narrative for Category 1 Applicant and All Priority Areas:**

If you are applying to become a Local Chapter, or if you already exist as a MEPI Alumni Network Local Chapter and you are applying to continue this work, your Project Narrative should include the following elements:

##### **Approach and Activities:**

- Outline a plan of action that explains how the start-up work and requirements will be accomplished in the first six months;
- Clearly describe proposed activities that match the MEPI Alumni Network goals and objectives;
- Outline a plan of action that explains how the work will be accomplished in the first six months;
- Outline a plan of action to reach alumni in your country;
- Describe any unusual features of the proposed Local Chapter, such as design or technological innovations, geographical reach, reductions in cost or time, the targeting of underrepresented groups, or extraordinary social and community involvement.

##### **Results and Benefits:**

- Describe the benefits and outcomes that will occur as a result of the applicant's management of the grant;
- Describe how results and impact will be sustained if MEPI funding should end.

##### **Organizational Capacity:**

- Demonstrate the experience of the applicant for the area of work for which activities are proposed;
- Describe the applicant's understanding of the current country context, including how previous work in country will inform the proposed activities and approach;
- Demonstrate the capacity to launch and manage the project effectively in country.

##### **Staff and Positions:**

- Describe the roles of key personnel and their skills and qualifications to carry out the proposed work; and
- Provide resumes, biographical sketches, or job descriptions for key personnel.

### **Preparing the Project Narrative for Category 2 Applicant and All Priority Areas:**

If you are applying as an eligible organization to establish and maintain a Local Chapter as part of your organization's work, your Project Narrative should describe the efforts you will undertake to address the roles and responsibilities outlined in this RFA, including:

#### **Approach and Activities:**

- Clearly outline a plan of action that explains how the work to establish a MEPI Alumni Local Chapter will be accomplished within the proposed start-up time frame of six months;
- MEPI would like to see that the applicant will provide guidance and logistical support for the Local Chapter, but will allow for the independence of the Local Chapter.

#### **Results and Benefits:**

- Describe the benefits and outcomes that will occur as a result of the applicant's management of the grant;
- Describe how results and impact will be sustained if MEPI funding should end.

#### **Organizational Capacity:**

- Demonstrate the experience of the applicant for the area of work for which activities are proposed;
- Describe the applicant's understanding of the current country context, including how previous work in country will inform the proposed activities and approach;
- Demonstrate the capacity to launch and manage the project effectively in country.

#### **Staff and Positions:**

- Describe the roles of key personnel and their skills and qualifications to carry out the proposed work; and
- Provide resumes, biographical sketches, or job descriptions for key personnel.

### ***D.2 Preparing the Budget Narrative***

All applicants, regardless of category or priority area, must submit a Budget and Budget Narrative. Please note that budget requests cannot exceed \$125,000 USD each year. There is no page limit for this section of your application. A sample template can be found in Appendix 3.

Applicants must budget for the following items:

- **Regional MEPI Alumni Network Meeting**—Applicants funded through this RFA are required to budget for and send two people (one must be the Alumni Coordinator and the other the Program Director or the person who handles the day to day operation of the grant) to a three-day Regional MEPI Alumni Network Meeting in the first year of the grant award.

When preparing your budget, you may include the following costs:

- Office and meeting space costs for Local Chapter Activities
- Alumni travel within country or in the region.
- Costs for speakers and/or trainers
- Office supply costs, including a laptop computer, printer, and projector

### ***D.3 Application Formatting Requirements***

**It is strongly recommended that applicants submit grant applications using Microsoft Office.** If applicants do not have access to Microsoft Office products (e.g., MS-Word, MS-Excel) they may submit their documents in Adobe PDF format.

**All applications must be submitted in English.**

*Text legibility:* The required font is 12-point, Times New Roman. The application must be single spaced, with all margins (left, right, top, and bottom) of at least one inch each.

*Page numbering:* Pages should be numbered consecutively **from beginning to end**, so that information can be located easily during review of the application (hand write page numbers if necessary). In addition, applicants are strongly encouraged to include a Table of Contents with their submission. Attachments should be labeled and separated from the Project Narrative and Budget Narrative, and the pages should be numbered to continue the sequence. **Documents containing scanned images must also contain page numbers to continue the sequence.** The Standard Forms 424 (SF-424, SF-424a, and SF-424b), MEPI Application Coversheet, Applicant Organization Information are excluded from the page numbering requirement.

*Page Limits:* The limitation of pages for each submission should be considered as a maximum and not necessarily a goal, and excludes the SF-424 forms, MEPI Application Coversheet, Applicant Organization Information, and the Budget Narrative.

Adhering to the standards outlined above will help to ensure the accurate submission of your document. Failure to comply with these requirements may affect the successful transmission and consideration of an application.

## **E. SUBMITTING AN APPLICATION**

**Please allow sufficient time for entering your application into Grants.gov.** The process of electronic submission through Grants.gov includes multiple e-mails from Grants.gov. When an applicant submits an application, a notice that the application is being processed will be sent and the individual whose e-mail address was entered will receive two e-mails from Grants.gov within 24-48 hours. One e-mail will confirm receipt of the application in Grants.gov, and the other will indicate that the application was either successfully validated by the system (**with a tracking number**) or rejected due to errors. It will also provide instructions that if the named individual did not receive a receipt confirmation **and** a validation confirmation or a rejection e-mail within 48 hours, he/she must contact Grants.gov directly.

It is important to understand that **the application process is not complete until an applicant has received a Grants.gov tracking number**. Receipt of the tracking number is the only indication that Grants.gov has successfully received and validated an application. If an applicant does not receive a Grants.gov tracking number, contact the Grants.gov Contact Center for assistance.

Please note that it is incumbent on applicants to monitor their applications to ensure that they are successfully received and validated by Grants.gov. **If an application is not successfully validated by Grants.gov, it will not be forwarded to MEPI as the receiving institution.**

#### **F. SUBMISSION DATES AND TIMES**

Applications are due before 23:59:59 eastern time (ET) on **May 31, 2011**. **There will be no grace period, and any application not received by the application deadline will not be considered for review.**

Applicants are encouraged to submit their proposals far enough in advance of the deadline so they can alert MEPI ([nea-grants@state.gov](mailto:nea-grants@state.gov)) of any technical difficulties they might encounter in submission, and obtain and avail themselves of alternative submission procedures prior to the deadline.

Within 30 days of submission, applicants will be notified via email (from [nea-grants@state.gov](mailto:nea-grants@state.gov)) that their applications have been received. This notification will include an application log number that applicants must use to track their applications.

### **V. APPLICATION REVIEW AND SELECTION PROCESS**

#### **A. APPLICATION EVALUATION CRITERIA**

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 proposal 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. Proposals will be reviewed on the basis of their fullness, coherence, clarity, and attention to detail. Points are awarded only to applications that are responsive within the context of this program announcement.

##### ***A.1 Category 1 Applicants—Application Evaluation Criteria:***

*Approach and Activities* –The applicant clearly describes how its proposal will address the requested program area and how the proposed activities match the goals of the MEPI Alumni Network. The applicant outlines a plan of action that explains how the start-up work and requirements will be accomplished in the first six months. Further, the applicant outlines a plan of action to reach alumni in each country where it is applying to maintain a Local Chapter. The applicant describes any unusual features of the proposed Local Chapter, such as design or technological innovations, geographical reach, reductions in cost or time, the targeting of underrepresented groups, or extraordinary social and community involvement. (30 points)

*Results and Benefits* – The applicant describes the benefits and outcomes that will occur as a result of the applicant’s management of the grant. The applicant describes how results and impact will be sustained if MEPI funding should end. (10 points)

*Organizational Capacity* – The applicant has expertise and capacity to work with and engage local organizations, and community leaders in the MENA region. The applicant demonstrates a high level of regional and/or country expertise. (30 points)

*Staff and Position Specifications* – Each key person whether staff or volunteer is described in a biographical sketch; a job description is provided for each open key position. A biographical sketch of required credentials describes any positions to be advertised post-award. Individual organization staffs, including volunteers, are well qualified and described. (10 points)

*Budget Narrative* - The detailed budget includes the Budget Information—Non-Construction Programs (SF-424a) and a budget narrative (as outlined in Appendix 3). The budget narrative provides details of calculations including estimation methods, quantities, unit costs, and other similar quantitative detail sufficient for the calculation to be duplicated. The costs proposed are reasonable in relation to the proposed activities and anticipated results, and the plan for services is realistic. The budget narrative documents the necessity, reasonableness, and allocation of all proposed costs. Adequate travel to and within the Middle East and North Africa is proposed. (20 points)

## **A.2 Category 2 Applicants—Application Evaluation Criteria**

*Approach and Activities* –The applicant clearly describes how its proposal will address the requested program area. The applicant outlines a plan of action that explains how the start-up work and requirements will be accomplished in the first six months. The applicant describes how it will provide guidance and logistic support for the Local Chapter, but will allow for the independence of the Local Chapter. (30 points)

*Results and Benefits* – The applicant describes the benefits and outcomes that will occur as a result of the applicant’s management of the grant. The applicant describes how results and impact will be sustained if MEPI funding should end. (10 points)

*Organizational Capacity* – The applicant has expertise and capacity to work with and engage local organizations, and community leaders in the MENA region. The applicant demonstrates a high level of regional and/or country expertise. The applicant demonstrates that it has the capacity to manage the new project in addition to its other activities. (30 points)

*Staff and Position Specifications* – Each key person whether staff or volunteer is described in a biographical sketch; a job description is provided for each open key position. A biographical sketch of required credentials describes any positions to be advertised post-award. Individual organization staffs, including volunteers, are well qualified and described. (10 points)

*Budget Narrative* - The detailed budget includes the Budget Information—Non-Construction Programs (SF-424a) and a budget narrative (as outlined in Appendix 3). The budget narrative provides details of calculations including estimation methods, quantities, unit costs, and other similar quantitative detail sufficient for the calculation to be duplicated. The costs proposed are reasonable in relation to the proposed activities and anticipated results, and the plan for services is realistic. The budget narrative documents the necessity, reasonableness, and allocation of all proposed costs. Adequate travel to and within the Middle East and North Africa is proposed. (20 points)

## **B. REVIEW AND SELECTION PROCESS**

The Office of the Middle East Partnership Initiative is committed to ensuring a competitive and standardized process for awarding Economic Support Funds grants. Applications will be screened initially by MEPI to determine whether applicants meet all eligibility requirements outlined in Part III; the required documents outlined in Part IV; and address the priorities outlined in Part I. Applications that do not meet these requirements will not advance to the Technical Review stage.

All applications that proceed to Technical Review will be rated on a 100-point scale. Point values for individual elements of the application are presented in Part V, Section A—Application Evaluation Criteria. Technical Reviewers' ratings, and any resulting recommendations, are advisory. All final grant award decisions will be made by the Deputy Assistant Secretary.

## **VI. ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION**

### **A. AWARD NOTICES**

Within 30 days of receipt of the application, MEPI will notify the authorized representative and program point of contact listed on the SF-424 through email (from [nea-grants@state.gov](mailto:nea-grants@state.gov)) that the application has been received. The correspondence will include an application log number that the applicant must reference when asking questions about their submission. If an applicant submits an application on time and does not receive notification by June 30, 2011 MEPI may be contacted at [nea-grants@state.gov](mailto:nea-grants@state.gov) for additional information.

By July 29, 2011 if an applicant is under consideration for funding, the authorized representative, project director, and business official will receive a pre-award letter via email (from [nea-grants@state.gov](mailto:nea-grants@state.gov)), signed by the Office's Deputy Director. The pre-award letter begins the negotiation process for a Financial Assistance Award. A Financial Assistance Award document, sets forth the amount of funds granted; the terms and conditions of the grant, the effective date of the grant; the budget period for which initial support will be given; the non-Federal share to be provided (if applicable); and the total project period for which support is contemplated. The Financial Assistance Award will be signed by a warranted Department of State Grant Officer and the award package will be transmitted electronically.

By August 1, 2011 if the applicant is not funded, the authorized representative and program point of contact listed on the SF-424 will receive a letter via email (from [neagrants@state.gov](mailto:neagrants@state.gov)), signed by the Office's Deputy Director.

## **VII. AGENCY CONTACTS**

For questions regarding this funding opportunity including: completing an application, financial and grants management issues; or technical matters, contact:

**Jessica Baker**

(202) 776-8524

[nea-grants@state.gov](mailto:nea-grants@state.gov)

For questions regarding registering with Grants.gov or using Grants.gov to submit an application, contact the Grants.gov Contact Center. The Contact Center is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, excluding Federal holidays.

**Grants.gov Contact Center**

(800) 518-4726

[support@Grants.gov](mailto:support@Grants.gov)

## Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between an Alumni Chapter and Partnering Organization Serving as the Grantee

Below is a sample MOU that can be used between a Local MEPI Alumni Chapter and partnering organization when the Local Chapter is not considered a legally eligible entity for the purposes of applying for Federal funding. Applicants can tailor the agreement as needed. **If a Local MEPI Alumni Chapter is using a partnering organization as the official grantee, an MOU must be included in the application as Attachment 5.**

### Sample MOU between a Local MEPI Alumni Chapter and a Grantee

- 1- This agreement between *[Alumni Chapter Name]* and *[Grantee Name]* shall be from *[Date]* until terminated by mutual agreement:

#### RESPONSIBILITIES

- 2- *[Alumni Chapter Name]* shall be responsible to:
  - a. Set policy for its own programs.
  - b. Formulate goals and objectives in compliance with MEPI Terms and Conditions.
  - c. Oversee operation of the Alumni Chapter's activities and programs.
  - d. With *[Grantee Name]*, jointly select and direct *[Alumni Chapter Name]* staff and volunteers, set goals and objectives for contract employees, and negotiate and approve contracts.
  - e. Create, approve, and follow its budget in compliance with MEPI requirements.
  - f. Provide to *[Grantee Name]* copies of all required documentation, such as grant proposals, by-laws, meeting minutes, goals and objectives, budgets, and personnel and program policies.
  - g. Reimburse *[Grantee Name]* for any indirect or direct expenses incurred by *[Grantee Name]* on behalf of *[Alumni Chapter Name]* with prior approval of *[Alumni Chapter Name]*.
  - h. Be solely responsible for liabilities arising out of its program and its interaction with program participants. *[Alumni Chapter Name]* specifically indemnifies *[Grantee Name]* against claims arising from actions of *[Alumni Chapter Name]*.
  - i. Maintain a physical mailing address (not a Post Office Box).
- 3- *[Grantee Name]* shall be responsible to:
  - a. Provide *[Alumni Chapter Name]* staff with office space.
  - b. Compile *[Alumni Chapter Name]* financial reports on a mutually agreed upon schedule.
  - c. Provide banking services, perform bookkeeping, prepare and distribute payroll, pay invoices, and prepare and submit the appropriate forms for employment taxes. Wages and payroll taxes due, along with approved invoices, shall be paid from *[Alumni Chapter Name]* funds.

- d. With *[Alumni Chapter Name]*, jointly select and direct *[Alumni Chapter Name]* staff and volunteers, set goals and objectives for contract employees, and negotiate and approve contracts.
- e. Maintain all records pertaining to costs and expenses to properly reflect all direct costs of labor, materials, equipment, supplies, services, and other costs and expenses when reimbursement is claimed or payment is made.
- f. Maintain a nonprofit mailing permit which can be used by *[Alumni Chapter Name]*.
- g. Obtain or continue current liability coverage for *[Grantee Name]* premises.

**EQUAL OPPORTUNITY**

4- *[Grantee Name]* and *[Alumni Chapter Name]* mutually agree to abide by all applicable Federal and State anti-discrimination statutes, regulations, policies, and procedures.

This agreement shall be subject to all applicable provisions of State and Federal law and regulations related to the delivery and funding of social service.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Local Chapter Representative's Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Grantee Representative's Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Local Chapter Representative's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Grantee Representative's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
Title Date

**Instructions:** This Application Cover Sheet should be filled out in its entirety. Any information that is in blue text should be deleted prior to submitting this document as Attachment #1 with your application package. Please be sure to indicate the category and priority area under which you are applying. Under *Executive Summary*, please summarize the proposed project. The summary should be a maximum of two pages.

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
OFFICE OF THE MIDDLE EAST PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE  
APPLICATION COVER SHEET**

<b>Applicant:</b>	
<b>Partner(s)</b> <i>(local or regional, if any):</i>	
<b>Countries Affected by Project:</b>	
<b>Funding Opportunity Title:</b>	<b>Funding Opportunity Close Date:</b>
<b>Identify Category 1 or Category 2 Applicant:</b>	
<b>Priority Area—Identify Single or Multi-Country:</b>	
<b>Total Estimated Funding for Project:</b>	<b>Proposed Start and End Date for Project:</b>

**Executive Summary:**

*Please summarize the proposed project in the space below. The summary should be a maximum of two pages.*

**Instructions:** This Budget Narrative Sample Template should be filled out in its entirety. Any information that is included in blue text should be deleted prior to submitting this document as the "Budget Narrative" attachment on Grants.gov. It is only included as guidance for sample text or suggested information. Costs listed in any category below should include an explanation of how the requested funds will be used to support the proposed project. Please note that the response "Not Applicable," or "N/A," is generally not acceptable. Instead, a sufficient explanation should be provided in either the proposal narrative or within each field to explain why an item is not applicable.

<i>Organization Name, Period of Performance</i>				
<b>1. Personnel</b> <i>(Description: An employee of the organization whose work is tied to the proposed project)</i>				
Position	Name of Employee	Annual Salary/ Rate	Level of Effort (%)	Cost <i>(Salary x LOE)</i>
Ex: Program Director	John Doe	\$164,890	10.00%	\$16,489
Ex: Project Coordinator	TBD	\$46,276	100.00%	\$46,276
<b>1. Personnel Sub-Total</b>				<b>\$62,765</b>
<p><b>Narrative Justification:</b> <i>Enter a description of the Personnel funds requested and how their use will support the purpose and goals of your proposal. Be sure to describe the role, responsibilities, and unique qualification of each position.</i></p> <p><b>SF-424a Note:</b> <i>Enter the total cost of 1.a in Section B Column 1 line 6a of the form.</i></p>				

**2. Fringe Benefits** (Description: May include contributions for social security, employee insurance, pension plans, etc. Only those benefits not included in an organizations indirect cost rate agreement (i.e., NICRA) may be shown as direct costs)

Component	Wage	Rate	Cost (Wage x Rate)
Ex: FICA	\$62,765	7.65%	\$4,802
Ex: Workers Compensation	\$62,765	2.50%	\$1,569
Ex: Health Benefits	\$62,765	2.50%	\$1,569
<b>2. Fringe Benefits Sub-Total</b>			<b>\$7,940</b>

**Narrative Justification:** Enter a description of the Fringe funds requested, how the rate was determined, and how their use will support the purpose and goals of this proposal.

**SF-424a Note:** Enter the total cost of 2.a in Section B Column 1 line 6b of the form.

**3. Travel** (Description: Explain need for all travel. Must follow U.S. Government regulations. The lowest available commercial fares for coach or equivalent accommodations must be used. Local travel policies prevail.)

Purpose of Travel	Item Description	Unit of Measure	Cost Per Unit/Rate	Number of Units	Cost (Cost Per Unit x No. of Units)
Ex: Leadership Training	Airfare--Origin: Egypt, Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, Yemen, and/or Oman; Destination: Amman, Jordan	Roundtrip Airfare	\$ 500.00	20	\$10,000
	Lodging in Amman for 20 participants for 3 days (U.S. Government allowable rate)	day	\$ 183.00	60	\$10,980
	Meals and Incidentals for 20 participants for 3 days (M&IE--U.S. Government allowable rate))	day	\$ 127.00	60	\$7,620
Ex: Local Travel	Local travel in Amman, Jordan for 20 participants for 3 days	day	\$ 500.00	3	\$1,500
<b>3. Travel Sub-Total</b>					<b>\$30,100</b>

**Narrative Justification:** Describe the Purpose of Travel and how costs were determined.

**SF-424a Note:** Enter the total cost of 3.a in Section B Column 1 line 6c of the form.

**4. Equipment** (Description: Permanent equipment is defined as non-expendable personal property having a useful life of more than one year and an acquisition cost of \$5,000 or more.)

Item Description	Unit of Measure	Cost Per Unit	Number of Units	Cost (Cost Per Unit x No. of Units)
None			0	\$ -
<b>4. Equipment Sub-Total</b>				<b>\$ -</b>

**Narrative Justification:** Enter a description of the Equipment and how its purchase will support the purpose and goals of this proposal.

**SF-424a Note:** Enter the total cost of 4.a in Section B Column 1 line 6d of the form.

**5. Supplies** (Description: Materials costing less than \$5,000 per unit and often having one-time use.)

Item Description	Unit of Measure	Cost Per Unit	Number of Units	Cost (Cost Per Unit x No. of Units)
<i>Ex: General Office Supplies</i>	month	\$ 50.00	12	\$600
<i>Ex: Laptop</i>		\$ 900.00	1	\$900
<b>5. Supplies Sub-Total</b>				<b>\$1,500</b>

**Narrative Justification:** Enter a description of the Supplies requested and how their purchase will support the purpose and goals of this proposal.

**SF-424a Note:** Enter the total cost of 5.a in Section B Column 1 line 6e of the form.

**6. Contractual** (Description: The costs of project activities to be undertaken by a third-party contractor should be included in this category as a single line item charge. A complete itemization of the cost should be attached to the budget. If there is more than one contractor, each must be budgeted separately and must have an attached itemization.)

Name/Item Description	Unit of Measure	Unit Cost	Number of Units	Cost (Cost Per Unit x No. of Units)
<i>Consultants</i>				
Ex: Jane Smith/Leadership Training Expert	day	\$350	12	\$4,200
Ex: Jane Smith travel from Washington, DC to Amman, Jordan for training conference	Roundtrip Airfare	\$1,200	1	\$1,200
Ex: TBD/Monitoring and Evaluation Expert	day	\$275	12	\$3,300
Ex: Monitoring and Evaluation Expert travel from Washington, DC to Amman, Jordan	Roundtrip Airfare	\$1,200	1	\$1,200
<i>Contracts</i>				
Ex. Sub-Award to Jordanian NGO (budget and terms TBD)	award agreement	\$10,000	1	\$10,000
<b>6. Contractual Sub-Total</b>				<b>\$19,900</b>

**Narrative Justification:** Explain the need for each agreement and how their use will support the purpose and goals of this proposal. For those contracts already arranged, please provide the proposed categorical budgets. For those subcontracts that have not been arranged, please provide the expected Statement of Work, Period of Performance and how the proposed costs were estimated and the type of contract (bid, sole source...etc).

**SF-424a Note:** Enter the total cost of 6.a in Section B Column 1 line 6f of the form.

**7. Construction: Not Allowable**

SF-424a Note: Leave this section blank in Section B Column 1 &amp; 2 line 6g of the form

**8. Other Direct Costs** (Description: Expenses not covered in any of the previous budget categories.)

Item Description	Unit of Measure	Cost Per Unit	Number of Units	Cost (Cost Per Unit x No. of Units)
Ex: Office Telephone	month	\$100	12	\$1,200
Ex: Amman hotel conference room rental for training	day	\$800	3	\$2,400
<b>8. Other Direct Costs Sub-Total</b>				<b>\$3,600</b>

*Narrative Justification: Explain the need for each item and how their use will support the purpose and goals of this proposal. Be sure to break down costs into cost/unit and explain the use of each item requested.*

**SF-424a Note: Enter the total cost of 8.a in Section B Column 1 line 6h of the form.**

**9. Total Direct Costs**

SF-424a Note: Enter the total cost in Section B Column 1 line 6i of the form.

**\$125,805****10. Indirect Costs (Must reflect a provisional or pre-determined Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement.)**

SF-424a Note: Enter the total cost of 10.a in Section B Column 1 line 6j of the form.

0.00%

**\$0****11. Total Costs (Sum of the Total Direct and Indirect Costs)**

SF-424a Note: Enter the total cost in Section B Column 1 line 6k of the form.

**\$125,805**

## BUDGET SUMMARY

<b>Budget Categories</b>	<b>Federal Request (Cost)</b>
1. Personnel	\$62,765
2. Fringe Benefits	\$7,940
3. Travel	\$30,100
4. Equipment	\$0.00
5. Supplies	\$1,500
6. Contractual	\$19,900
7. Construction	\$0
8. Other Direct Costs	\$3,600
9. Total Direct Costs (lines 1-8)	\$125,805
10. Indirect Costs (reflect provisional, pre-determined rate and allocation base)	\$0
11. Total Costs (lines 9-10)	\$125,805

**Instructions:** The Applicant Organizational Information template should be filled out in its entirety. Any information that is included in blue text should be deleted prior to submitting this document as Attachment #2 with your application package. Please note that the response “Not Applicable,” or “N/A,” is generally not acceptable. Instead, a sufficient explanation should be provided in either the project narrative or within each field to explain why an item is not applicable.

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

1. Organization Name:					
2. Type of Organization <i>(check all that apply)</i>	<b>Overseas:</b>		<b>Non-Profit:</b>		<b>Non-Governmental:</b>
			<b>For-Profit: (Commercial)</b>		<b>Educational Institution:</b>
3. Is your Organization incorporated, registered, or licensed as a legal entity					
<i>If Yes:</i>	<b>Place of Incorporation or Registration (State/County):</b>				
	<b>Incorporation or Registration Date:</b>				
<i>If No:</i>	<b>List parent company or organization name and address OR explain status below:</b>				
4. Program Director <i>(The person who will oversee the day to day activities of the grant):</i>					
<b>Program Director Title:</b>			<b>Email Address:</b>		
<b>Address:</b>			<b>Telephone Number</b>		

5. Financial or Business Official ( <i>The person who is responsible for the financial components of the grant.</i> )			
<b>Budget Officer Title:</b>		<b>Email Address:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>		<b>Telephone Number</b>	

**ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE AND POLICIES**

6. Is your organization governed by Board of Directors? (Yes or No):	
7. Does your organization have a written personnel policy and procedure manual? (Yes or No):	
8. Does your organization have a written accounting and financial policy and procedure? (Yes or No):	

**FINANCIAL AND ACCOUNTING MANAGEMENT**

9. What is the ending date of your organization's fiscal year (MM/DD/YYYY)?		
10. Does your organization have an automated accounting system? (Yes or No):		
<i>If Yes:</i>	<b>Can the accounting system show amounts incurred for individual awards and show charges to separate funding sources? (Yes or No):</b>	
	<b>Can the accounting system generate reports that show these specific costs incurred for individual awards? (Yes or No):</b>	
	<b>Does the accounting system allow for reporting of Cash and In-kind contributions (from non-federal sources) i.e., cost share? (Yes or No):</b>	

11. Are there written procedures for determining reasonableness, allocability, and allowability of costs?				
12. Does your organization prepare annual financial statements (e.g., balance sheet, income and expense statement)?				
13. Does your organization have written policies and procedures for monitoring sub-awardees or sub-recipients, including consultants?				
14. Has your organization received grant or agreement funds before? (Yes or No):				
<i>If Yes:</i>	<b>Please provide the following information on awards or funding received in the last five years. Please specifically note if funds are U.S. Government (USG) funds.</b>			
	<u><i>Name of Donor</i></u>	<u><i>Amount</i></u>	<u><i>Period</i></u>	<u><i>USG Funds?</i></u> <u><i>(Yes or No)</i></u>

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### **GENERAL GUIDANCE**

**It is strongly recommended that applicants submit grant applications using Microsoft Office products.** If applicants do not have access to Microsoft Office products (e.g., MS-Word, MS-Excel) they may submit their documents in Adobe PDF format. If an applicant uses a file format other than Microsoft Office or PDF, the application may be unreadable.

The required font is 12-point Times New Roman. The application must be single spaced, with all margins (left, right, top, bottom) being at least one inch each. Adhering to these standards will help to ensure the proper transmission of your document.

**It is strongly recommended that applicants include a Table of Contents.** The Table of Contents should include the page numbers for each of the major sections of the application and for each attachment. The Table of Contents need not include page numbers for the SF-424 forms, MEPI Cover Sheet, and Applicant Organization Information.

Applicants should also ensure all pages in the application are numbered consecutively and meet the page limit requirements outlined in Part IV, Section D—Preparing an Application and

Formatting Requirements of the RFA. **If the application exceeds the page limit, the extra pages will be removed from the application package.**

**Documents containing scanned images must also contain page numbers to continue the sequence.** Failure to comply with these requirements may affect the successful transmission and consideration of an application.

## **REQUIRED APPLICATION DOCUMENTS**

### **Federal Assistance Application Forms**

#### *How to Complete the Application for Federal Assistance—SF-424*

**Item #1—Type of Submission:** Select “Application or Pre-Application” (The Request for Application will specify what type of application.)

**Item #2—Type of Application:** Select “New”

**Item #3 - #4—Date Received/Applicant Identifier:** Leave blank, it will be assigned by the Federal agency

**Item #5 - #7—Federal Entity Identifier/Federal Award Identifier:** Leave blank, it is not applicable to this program

**Item #8—Applicant Information:**

**8a** – Input your organization’s legal name

**8b** – Enter “44-4444444”

**8c** – Enter your organization’s DUNS number.

**8d** – Enter your organizations address including country

**8e** – If applicable, enter the name of a department or division that will coordinate the proposed activities.

**8f** – Name of the project person to contact about this application.

**Item #9—Type of Applicant** - Please select all that apply.

H. Public/State Controlled Institution of Higher Learning

N. Nonprofit

O. Private Institution of Higher Learning

Q. For Profit

R. Small Business

W. Non-domestic (non-US entity)

X. Other (Specify)

**Item #10—Name of Federal Agency:** Input – “Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs, Office of the Middle East Partnership Initiative”

**Item #11—Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number and Title:** Input – “19.500” and the title is “Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI).” This is a required field.

**Item #12—Funding Opportunity Number and Title:** Input the number and title provided in the request for application.

**Item #13—Competition Identification Number and Title:** Input the title provided in the request for application.

**Item #14—Areas Affected by Project:** List country or countries where your organization proposes to perform its proposed activities.

**Item #15—Descriptive Title of Applicant’s Project:** Provide a brief descriptive title of your project. This description can either be typed in the box or added as an attachment.

**Item #16—Congressional Districts**

**16a – Applicant:** Enter “00-000.”

**16b – Program/Project:** Enter “00-000.”

**Item #17—Proposed Project:** Enter the proposed start date and end date of your project. This is a required field; however, actual dates will be negotiated if selected for funding.

**Item #18—Estimated Funding**

**18a –** Enter the amount of funding your organization is requesting from MEPI (Federal funding).

**18b –** Enter “\$0.00.”

**18c-d –** Enter “\$0.00.”

**18e –** Enter the total of all other costs.

**18f –** If you anticipate any income to be generated by this project (i.e. registration fees) input that information here, if applicable.

**18g –** Total all the numbers from 18a-18f

**Item #19—Is Application subject to Review by State Under Executive Order 12372 Process?** Select “c. Program is not covered by E.O. 12372”

**Items #20—Is Applicant Delinquent of any Federal Debt.** Please select yes/no. If yes, please complete page 3, providing an explanation.

**Item # 21 – Authorized Representative:** Please provide the name, contact information, and signature of the authorized representative for your organization. The governing body of your organization must have specifically documented the designation for an authorized representative to submit an application for funding to the U.S. Government. If selected for funding this documentation may be requested. **PLEASE NOTE:** It is a best practice to have the SF-424 signed by the same authorized representative that would sign any ensuing award document for your organization. If a different authorized representative must sign any ensuing award

document, that person will need to attach documentation confirming that they have the recipient organization's delegation of authority to commit the organization to an award.

***How to Complete the Budget Information—Non-Construction Programs—SF-424a***

*The sections below, highlighted in yellow, provide guidance for completing the official SF-424a form. The information is displayed as it will appear on the official form. The official form can be downloaded from Grants.gov.*

<b>Section A – Budget Summary</b>						
Grant Program Function or Activity (a)	Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance No (b)	Estimated Unobligated Funds		New or Revised Budget		
		Federal (c)	Non-Federal (d)	Federal (e)	Non-Federal (f)	Total (g)
<i>1. Enter the “Funding Opportunity Title”</i>	<i>19.500</i>	\$0.00	\$0.00	<i>Enter Amount Requesting From MEPI</i>	\$0.00	<i>Enter Total of Federal and Non-Federal Costs</i>
2.						
3.						
4.						
<b>5. TOTALS</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b><i>Enter Total Amount Requesting</i></b>	<b><i>Enter Total Cost Share</i></b>	<b>Total Amount</b>

**Section B – Budget Categories**

<b>6. Object Categories</b>	Grant Program, Function or Activity				Total
	<b>(1) Enter Federal Cost (MEPI Cost)</b>	(2) Leave Blank	(3) Leave Blank	(4) Leave Blank	<b>(5)Totals</b>
<b>a. Personnel</b> (costs of employee salaries and wages)	<i>Total Personnel from Budget Summary</i>				
<b>b. Fringe Benefits</b> (Costs of employee fringe benefits, i.e. Health insurance, retirement insurance, taxes, etc.)	<i>Total Fringe from Budget Summary</i>				
<b>c. Travel</b> (Costs of projected-related travel)	<i>Total Travel from Budget Summary</i>				
<b>d. Equipment</b> (Costs of tangible, non-expendable, personal property having a useful life of more than one year and a cost of \$5,000 or more per unit)	<i>Total Equipment from Budget Summary</i>				
<b>e. Supplies</b> (Office or program supplies, other than those included in Equipment category)	<i>Total Supplies from Budget Summary</i>				
<b>f. Contractual</b> (Allowable direct expenses to sub-recipients, including consultant fees and travel expenses)	<i>Total Contractual from Budget Summary</i>				
<b>g. Construction</b> (If applicable)	<b>\$0.00</b>				
<b>h. Other</b> (Enter total of all Other Costs)	<i>Total Other from Budget Summary</i>				

<b>i. Total Direct Charges (Sum of 6a-6h)</b>		<b>Sum of Federal Direct Costs (6a-6h)</b>					
<b>j. Indirect Charges</b> (Category may be used only when the applicant has an approved indirect cost rate from a U.S. government agency)		<i>Enter Total from Budget Summary, if applicable</i>					
<b>k. TOTALS (sum of 6i and 6j)</b>		<b>Sum of Federal Direct and Indirect Costs (6i-6j)</b>					
<b>7. Program Income</b> (The estimated amount of income, if any, that would be generated from this project. Interest gained from U.S. Government funds is not an allowable expense.)		<b>\$0.00</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>			<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Section C – Non-Federal Resources</b> (Amount of Non-USG resources that will be used to support the project) <i>NOTE: Leave this Section Blank</i>							
(a) Grant Program		(b) Applicant		(c) State	(d) Other Sources	(e) TOTALS	
8.							
9.							
10.							
11.							
<b>12 Total (sum of line 8-11)</b>							
<b>Section D – Forecasted Cash Needs</b> (for Year 1 of the Project) <i>NOTE: Leave this Section Blank</i>							
<b>13. Federal</b>		Total for 1 <sup>st</sup> year	1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter	2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter	3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter	4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter	
<b>14. Non-Federal</b>							
<b>15. Total (Sum lines 14 and 14)</b>							

**Section E – Budget Estimates for Federal Funds Needed for Balance of the Project**

*NOTE: Leave this Section Blank*

(a) Grant Program	Future Funding Periods (Years)			
	(b) First (Year 1)	(c) Second (Year 2)	(d) Third (Year 3)	(e) Fourth (Year 4)
16.				
17.				
18.				
19.				
20. Total (Sum of lines 16-19)				

**Section F - Other Budget Information**

<b>21. Direct Charges (total from 6i)</b>	<i>Total from 6i above</i>	<b>22. Indirect Charges (Total from 6j)</b>	<i>Total from 6j above</i>
23. Remarks: (any additional comments you wish to add)			

## Project Narrative

The Project Narrative must be a separate document in the electronic submission on Grants.gov. It must be uploaded to Grants.gov under the “Project Narrative Attachment Form” field. Your project narrative should address the categories and priority areas outline in Part 1—Funding Opportunity Description. Applicants must identify the category and priority area under which they are applying.

*Page Limit allowed for Project Narrative:* The Project Narrative may not exceed 10 pages. **If it exceeds the page limit, the extra pages will be removed from the application package.**

### *Preparing the Project Narrative for Category 1 Applicant and All Priority Areas:*

If you are applying to become a Local Chapter, or if you already exist as a MEPI Alumni Network Local Chapter and you are applying to continue this work, your Project Narrative should include the following elements:

#### **Approach and Activities:**

- Outline a plan of action that explains how the start-up work and requirements will be accomplished in the first six months;
- Clearly describe proposed activities that match the MEPI Alumni Network goals and objectives;
- Outline a plan of action that explains how the work will be accomplished in the first six months;
- Outline a plan of action to reach alumni in your country;
- Describe any unusual features of the proposed Local Chapter, such as design or technological innovations, geographical reach, reductions in cost or time, the targeting of underrepresented groups, or extraordinary social and community involvement.

#### **Results and Benefits:**

- Describe the benefits and outcomes that will occur as a result of the applicant’s management of the grant;
- Describe how results and impact will be sustained if MEPI funding should end.

#### **Organizational Capacity:**

- Demonstrate the experience of the applicant for the area of work for which activities are proposed;
- Describe the applicant’s understanding of the current country context, including how previous work in country will inform the proposed activities and approach;
- Demonstrate the capacity to launch and manage the project effectively in country.

**Staff and Positions:**

- Describe the roles of key personnel and their skills and qualifications to carry out the proposed work; and
- Provide resumes, biographical sketches, or job descriptions for key personnel.

***Preparing the Project Narrative for Category 2 Applicant and All Priority Areas:***

If you are applying as an eligible organization to establish and maintain a Local Chapter as part of your organization's work, your Project Narrative should describe the efforts you will undertake to address the roles and responsibilities outlined in this RFA, including:

**Approach and Activities:**

- Clearly outline a plan of action that explains how the work to establish a MEPI Alumni Local Chapter will be accomplished within the proposed start-up time frame of six months;
- MEPI would like to see that the applicant will provide guidance and logistical support for the Local Chapter, but will allow for the independence of the Local Chapter.

**Results and Benefits:**

- Describe the benefits and outcomes that will occur as a result of the applicant's management of the grant;
- Describe how results and impact will be sustained if MEPI funding should end.

**Organizational Capacity:**

- Demonstrate the experience of the applicant for the area of work for which activities are proposed;
- Describe the applicant's understanding of the current country context, including how previous work in country will inform the proposed activities and approach;
- Demonstrate the capacity to launch and manage the project effectively in country.

**Staff and Positions:**

- Describe the roles of key personnel and their skills and qualifications to carry out the proposed work; and
- Provide resumes, biographical sketches, or job descriptions for key personnel.

## Budget Narrative

The Budget Narrative must be a separate document in the electronic submission on Grants.gov. It must be uploaded to Grants.gov under the “Budget Narrative Attachment Form” field. A sample template can be found in Appendix 3. **NOTE: Applicants must use the same format as found in the sample.**

Before developing a project budget, applicants should review the Middle East Partnership Initiative’s (MEPI) guidelines detailed below and in the RFA to determine application details including program expectations and any restrictions on the types of costs that may appear in the budget.

The Budget Narrative is used to determine if the costs in a MEPI application are reasonable and permissible. All of the proposed costs listed must be reasonable, necessary to achieve project objectives, permissible in accordance with applicable Federal cost principles, auditable, and incurred during the project period. All figures must be in U.S. Dollars and rounded to the nearest dollar.

*Page Limit allowed for Budget Narrative:* There is no page limit for this section of your application.

### *Budget Definitions:*

**Authorized Organization Representative (AOR):** The individual authorized to act on behalf of the applicant and assume the obligations imposed by the Federal laws, regulations, requirements, and conditions that apply to grant applications or awards. This person will be the signatory on the SF-424 and SF-424b forms.

**Consultant:** An individual or organization who gives professional advice and provides services for a fee and is not a direct hire employee of a grantee’s organization. Typically a consultant performs a one-time activity.

**Contract:** A contract under a grant may be awarded for two purposes: 1) goods or services needed to support the grantee’s performance of the project or program or 2) an award to a third party for performance of substantive programmatic work. The first category is termed “vendor relationship,” and is described in more detail below under “Vendor.” The second category is termed “sub-recipient relationship” and may be in the form of a contract under the grant or, in some cases, a sub-award. More detail on the “sub-recipient” relationship is detailed below under “Sub-Award or Sub-Recipient or Sub-Grantee.” The relationship rather than the terminology drives the governing requirements for these two relationships.

**Direct Costs:** Costs used for salaries, travel, equipment, supplies, contractual arrangements, and tangible goods or services associated with this project.

**Indirect Costs:** Costs that cannot be identified readily and specifically with a particular sponsored project, program, or activity, but are necessary to the operation of the organization (e.g., overhead, facility maintenance). These costs require a negotiated indirect cost rate (NICRA); otherwise, they must be charged directly and justified in detail.

**Project Costs:** The total allowable costs incurred by a recipient and charged to the award during a budget period. These costs may include those costs supported by Federal funds, costs contributed by the recipient to meet a matching requirement, and the value of any third-party in-kind contributions counted toward the recipient's matching requirement.

**Sub-Recipient or Sub-Awardee or Sub-Grantee:** A third-party individual or organization who receives an award for the performance of certain programmatic work. All sub-recipients require prior approval from MEPI. The receiving organization (sub-recipient):

- Has its performance measured against whether the objectives of the grantee's project are met;
- Has responsibility for programmatic decision making (to the extent specified in its contract/sub-award);
- Has responsibility for adherence to applicable grant compliance requirements; and
- Uses their awarded federal funds in conjunction with a program of the organization as compared to providing goods or services for a program of the pass-through entity.

**Vendor:** An organization who receives funding from the grantee for the procurement of a good or service needed to support the grantee's performance of the project. A vendor relationship is one under which the receiving organization (vendor):

- Provides the goods and services within normal business operations or to many different purchasers;
- Operates in a competitive environment;
- Provides goods or services that are supplementary to the operation of the grantee's project; and
- Is not subject to federal programmatic compliance requirements.

When a grantee obtains routine goods and services necessary for performance of the grant-supported project, it may be through activities chargeable to indirect costs (e.g., acquisition of audit services) or, as appropriate, through a direct charge (i.e., contractual).

### *Allowable Project Costs*

The cost principles below address four tests in determining the permissibility of costs. These four tests apply regardless of whether the particular category of costs is one specified in the cost principles or one governed by other terms and conditions of an award. These tests also apply regardless of treatment as a direct cost or an indirect cost. The fact that a proposed cost is awarded as requested by an applicant does not indicate a determination of permissibility.

1. **Reasonable:** A cost is reasonable if, in its nature or amount, it does not exceed that which would be practical under the circumstances prevailing at the time the decision was made to incur the cost. The cost principles elaborate on this concept and address considerations such as whether the cost is necessary for the organization's operations or the grant's performance, whether the recipient complied with its established organizational policies in incurring the cost or charge, and whether the individuals responsible for the expenditure acted with due prudence in carrying out their responsibilities to the Federal government and the public at large, as well as to their organization.
2. **Allocable:** A cost is allocable to a specific grant, function, department, or other component, known as a cost objective, if the goods or services involved are chargeable or assignable to that cost objective in accordance with the relative benefits received or other equitable relationship. A cost is allocable to a grant if it is incurred solely in order to advance work under the grant; it benefits both the grant and other work of the organization, including other grant-supported projects or programs; or it is necessary to the overall operation of the organization and is deemed to be assignable, at least in part, to the grant.
3. **Conforming:** A cost conforms if it matches with any limitations or exclusions set forth in the Federal cost principles outlined in the award terms and conditions. These costs may vary in type of activity, the type of recipient, and other characteristics of individual awards.
4. **Consistent:** A cost must be consistent with regulations, policies, and procedures of the recipient that apply uniformly to both Federally supported and other activities of the organization. Recipients must be consistent in assigning costs to cost objectives. They must be treated consistently for all work of the organization under similar circumstances, regardless of the source of funding, so as to avoid duplicate charges (e.g., direct costs, indirect costs, cost sharing).

### *Budget Narrative Sample Template*

The Budget Narrative Sample Template--Appendix 3 provides examples of possible costs. Applicants should revise the template to reflect the costs associated with their proposed activities. In addition, any blue text in the template should be deleted prior to submitting this document. Applicant should replace this information with their proposed costs and justifications.

When completing the template, applicants should ensure the following:

- Presented in U.S. dollars, rounded to the nearest dollar;
- Include an estimate of the cost of tasks and activities projected based on budget category identified on the Budget Information Form (SF 424a);
- Provide details of calculations including estimation methods, quantities, unit costs, and other similar quantitative detail sufficient for the calculation to be duplicated;
- Funding should not duplicate on-going activities;

- Budget categories should be clearly labeled and identified;
- The use of “miscellaneous expenses,” “etc.,” or any similar term as a budget item is unacceptable;
- Cost-sharing (salaries, rent, utilities, equipment etc.) is strongly encouraged. Applicants will be expected to document cost-sharing arrangements. Not included as a cost in any other Federally supported award.

### *Cost Category Guidelines*

Use the checklist information below to ensure that your budget provides all the necessary information.

#### **1. Personnel**

- Is each position identified by title or responsibility?
  - **Program Director:** The individual who will provide daily oversight of the grant, including fiscal, and personnel management, community relations, and project implementation and evaluation during the project period.
  - **Project Coordinator:** The individual who will coordinate coalition services and MEPI project activities, including training, coalition communication, data collection, and information dissemination.
  - **Financial or Business Official:** The person who handles the financial components of the grant.
  - **Key Personnel:** MEPI grant key personnel include a Program Director and or Project Coordinator. Key personnel are defined as individuals who contribute to the programmatic development or execution of the project in a substantive, measurable way, whether or not they receive salaries or other compensation under the grant.
- Is the identified position occupied, if so is the name of the employee identified?
- Is the basis for determining each employee’s compensation described (annual salary and % time devoted)?
- Are time commitments and the amount of compensation stated and reasonable?
- Are salary increases anticipated during the grant period and are they justified (Cost of Living Allowance, etc.)?
- Are any personnel costs unallowable?
  - Does the level of effort of the employee exceed 100% of all work on all projects or positions?
  - Federal Employee

#### **2. Fringe Benefits**

- Is each type of benefit indicated separately or does the organization have an approved fringe benefit rate (NICRA)?
- Are fringe increases anticipated during the grant period and are they justified?
- Are any fringe costs unallowable?

### **3. Travel**

- Is the travel necessary for the purpose of the program?
- Are travel costs separately identifiable and reasonable (transportation, hotel, meals, and mileage)?
- Is the basis for computation provided?
- Does the organization travel policy follow the Federal guidelines (e.g., Fly America, per diem rates, etc.)?

### **4. Equipment**

- Does the equipment have a useful life of more than one year and an acquisition cost of \$5,000 or more?
- Is the request reasonable and allowable under the project?
- Are equipment items specified by unit and cost?
- Are purchases distinguishable from rentals or leases (vehicles, large items of equipment)?

### **5. Supplies**

- Are supplies listed separately?
- Are costs per unit identified and detailed?
- Is the basis for the cost reasonable?

### **6. Contractual**

- Is the type of service to be rendered described?
- Did you name the consultant or contractor, if known?
- Is the total amount for any contract in excess of \$100,000?
- Did you provide a separate budget for sub-recipients or contracts?

### **8. Other**

- Are items grouped by type (space rental, printing, phone, maintenance, sub-award, etc.)?
- Are all costs justified and allowable?
- Is each sub-award (or sub-grant) described (i.e., description of activities to be performed, method of selection, type of agreement, budget with narrative) and the amount of award included?

## MEPI Application Coversheet

The Coversheet provides summary detail about the applicant and their proposed activities. In addition, applicants will identify the category and priority area under which they are applying in this document. A sample template can be found in Appendix 2. **NOTE:** Applicants must use the same format.

The Coversheet should be a separate document and included as Attachment #1 under the “Optional Documents for Submission” field on Grants.gov.

*Page Limit allowed for MEPI Application Coversheet Executive Summary:* The executive summary portion of the Coversheet may not exceed 2 pages. **If the executive summary exceeds the page limit, the extra pages will be removed from the application package.**

## Applicant Organization Information

A sample template can be found in Appendix 4. **NOTE:** Applicants must use the same format. This document provides MEPI with information about your organization’s structure and policies; and allows MEPI to assess your organization’s ability to manage Federal funds.

The Applicant Organization Information should be a separate document and included as Attachment #2 under the “Optional Documents for Submission” field on Grants.gov.

## OPTIONAL DOCUMENTS

Those documents that are not included in the proposal narrative and budget may be included as attachments or appendices. Examples of attachments to be included in this section of your application are:

- **Resumes, Biographical Sketch, or Job Descriptions for key personnel and partners.** They may be included within the project narrative or as a separate document included in the appendices portion of your application. If these items are not included, applicants will be scored lower under the *Staff and Position Specifications* review criteria outlined in Part V, Section A—Application Evaluation Criteria.
- **Pre-Submission Checklist** can be found in Appendix 6. This Checklist ensures that you have accurately documented the eligibility requirements and included all major components of the application.

*Page Limit allowed for Attachments:* These additional document may not exceed 10 pages. **If these documents exceed the page limit, the application will be screened out and will not be reviewed.**

**Please consolidate all other materials in your application to ensure the fewest possible number of attachments. Be sure to label each file according to its contents (e.g., Attachments 1-3, Attachments 4-5).**

**Instructions:** The Pre-Submission Checklist ensures that an application meets all submission requirements. Please place an “X” beside each item that has been completed. Any information that is included in blue text should be deleted prior to submitting this document as the last attachment with your application package.

## PRE-SUBMISSION CHECKLIST

Items to Complete	“X” if Completed
Do you have a DUNS number?	
Are you registered with the Central Contractor Registration?	
Has the entire proposed project period been identifier in item #17 on the SF-424 form?	
Did you complete item #18 on the SF-424 form?	
Did you check “c” in item #19 on the SF-424 form? MEPI applicants are not covered by E.O. 12372	
Did your Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) read and sign item #21 on the SF-424 form?	
Did you complete the Budget Information—Non-Construction Programs (SF-424a)?	
Did your AOR read and sign the Assurances—Non-Construction Programs (SF-424b)?	
Is your Executive Summary on the MEPI Cove Sheet no more than 2 pages?	
Did you identify if you are a Category 1 or Category 2 Applicants on the MEPI Cover Sheet?	
Did you identify if you are a Single or Multi-Country priority area on the MEPI Cover Sheet?	
Did you complete and attach as Attachment #1 the MEPI Cover Sheet?	
Did you complete and attach as Attachment #2 the Applicant Organization Information Document?	
Did you prepare and include a Table of Contents outlining the sections of your application?	

<b>Items to Complete</b>	<b>“X” if Completed</b>
Is your Project Narrative no more than 10 pages?	
Has your Project Narrative addressed all the RFA goals and priorities?	
Did you upload your Project Narrative to the “Project Narrative Attachment Form” field on Grants.gov?	
Did you include a Budget Narrative as outlined in Appendix 3 using the Budget Narrative Sample Template?	
Did you upload your Budget Narrative to the “Budget Narrative Attachment Form” field on Grants.gov?	
Did you include Resumes, Biographical Sketch, or Job Descriptions for key personnel and partners?	
Did you include Attachments and are they no longer than 10 pages? This excludes the MEPI Cover Sheet and Applicant Organization Information.	