



**PUBLIC AFFAIRS SECTION  
EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

**ВІДДІЛ ПРЕСИ, ОСВІТИ І КУЛЬТУРИ  
ПОСОЛЬСТВО СПОЛУЧЕНИХ ШТАТІВ АМЕРИКИ**

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**DEMOCRACY COMMISSION SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM / MEDIA DEVELOPMENT FUND  
THEMATIC COMPETITION: FREE & FAIR ELECTIONS**

The U.S. Embassy in Ukraine calls for proposals from Ukrainian NGOs and media outlets to support free, fair, and transparent elections in Ukraine.

The project activities must fall into the following areas to be considered for funding in this thematic competition:

- Conducting voter education campaigns focused on election procedures and the voter registration system, in order to enable the largest number of eligible voters to participate. Such campaigns must be impartial and non-partisan, and may involve radio, print, TV, or new media.
- Organizing non-partisan get-out-the-vote drives to mobilize people to vote; and/or to increase young voters' turnout through running peer-to-peer activities or new media campaigns.
- Freelance or regional reporting on media and journalist access to political parties and party coalitions, transparency of election committees, voter registration, preventing violations of election law, etc.
- Conducting trainings for journalists on their rights to access on information, and how to best implement those rights in the context of elections. Providing legal aid or assistance to journalists to ensure they are protected under the law and able to freely document irregularities.
- Organizing TV or radio debates and online forums with candidates and/or political parties or party coalition representatives. The goals of the debates and forums should be to increase public participation and awareness of party and coalition programs and platforms.
- Organizing trainings for journalists on how to cover elections in a non-partisan and unbiased manner; organizing trainings for journalists on the mechanics of Ukraine's electoral system to ensure informed reporting.

The U.S. Embassy will fund high-quality and results-oriented projects from media and NGOs throughout Ukraine. The duration of programs may vary depending on the proposals, but the length of the project should be no longer than six months. The average project budget will be \$5,000–\$15,000, subject to availability of funds and subject to potential changes in election procedures.

## COMPETITION REQUIREMENTS

- Eligible organizations and their members may not represent any political party, or serve as appointed or elected public officials at the time of application or for the duration of the grant. Media organizations which belong to and/or are financially supported by any political party (other than via intermittent advertising) are not eligible to apply.
- Eligible organizations may not make any expenditures with their own funds on behalf of political parties, party coalitions, or their representatives.
- Grant money may not be used to contribute to any political campaigns, nor may it be used to offset the expense of contributing to any political campaign.
- Eligible organizations may not publish or communicate anything that explicitly or implicitly favors or opposes any political candidate, political party, or party coalition.
- Application to, or receipt of funds from this thematic competition, does not disqualify any organization from competing for other U.S. government funds, including the general competition for the Democracy Commission Small Grants Program or the Media Development Fund, or other thematic competitions.

## TO APPLY:

Only electronic applications will be accepted. No paper application will be accepted. You must submit your application in PDF format. Applications must be completed in both English and Ukrainian.

Project proposals, marked “Free & Fair Elections,” must be received no later than 11.59pm (Ukraine time) on **January 31, 2012** at one of the following email addresses:

Electronic copy:

[KyivDemgrants@state.gov](mailto:KyivDemgrants@state.gov) (for Democracy Commission projects)

[KyivMDF@state.gov](mailto:KyivMDF@state.gov) (for Media Development projects)

In all correspondence please refer to the Free & Fair Elections Competition.

You must use the standard Democracy Grants Program or Media Development Fund application forms and follow the instructions provided at:

<http://ukraine.usembassy.gov/democracy-grants.html>

or

<http://ukraine.usembassy.gov/media-fund.html>

Applicants may also request information by calling (044) 521-5044 or by writing to [KyivDemgrants@state.gov](mailto:KyivDemgrants@state.gov) or [KyivMDF@state.gov](mailto:KyivMDF@state.gov).

Late or incomplete applications will not be considered for the thematic competition.