

**Development Grants Program
Q&A in response to draft APS posted in May 2008- Public
USAID/ODP/PVC**

General Eligibility Criteria:

- a) To ensure that DGP awards are consistent with Congressional intent, priority will be given to NGOs that have had either limited or no prior direct funding from USAID. For this purpose only NGOs that have received \$5,000,000 or less in the aggregate from USAID during the past five year period will be considered eligible for the DGP. This includes any type of assistance from USAID in the aggregate including grants, contracts, subgrants, subcontracts, cooperative agreements or other funds.
- b) Selection criteria cited in (a) above will apply not only to the principal Applicant but to any organization with which the principal Applicant may chose to enter into subaward, subgrant or partnership.

I Eligibility Requirements Questions

- 1) I'm looking for clarification on the eligibility of PVO's for this upcoming APS. The APS mentions "a grant from USAID." What if a PVO has received more than one single grant totaling less than the \$5M? Would that PVO be eligible? If the PVO receives funds through other funding mechanisms other than grants such as cooperative agreements, or IQC Task Orders would those PVO's be eligible?

Answer: Only U.S. PVOs and local NGOs that have received \$5,000,000 or less in the aggregate through grants, cooperative agreements, contracts, or other forms of assistance from USAID during the past five year period will be considered eligible for the DGP

- 2) Regarding the second eligibility criterion, if a PVO has received more than one grant from USAID, but each grant is below 5 million dollars, is the firm eligible to apply for the grant?

Answer: See answer to question 1). The \$5,000,000 is inclusive of all awards received by the organization.

- 3) I'm not a non-profit organization as I do not have enough money to set that up. Can you please help me obtain a grant?

Answer: The Development Grants Program is only open to U.S. Private Voluntary Organizations (U.S. PVO) registered with USAID and local Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) where USAID activities are implemented. For further information about registering as a PVO with USAID, see http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/cross-cutting_programs/private_voluntary_cooperation/pvc.html

4) Is the Development Grants Program open only to registered PVOs?

Answer: See response to question 3)

5) Should our organization be registered with USAID? Our organization has the 501c3 tax-exempt status from IRS.

Answer: See response to question 3)

6) Can a US registered NGO that has a branch office in Kenya qualify to apply?

Answer: USAID-registered U.S. PVO with branches overseas must meet the eligibility requirements for the Development Grants Program. The \$5,000,000 threshold is applicable to all the awards received by the organization (inclusive of the awards received by both the US Headquarters and branches overseas).

7) I was curious as to what this grant is and who might be eligible.

Answer: See responses to questions 1), 2) and 3).

II Partnerships Questions

8) Are local NGO and CBO partners encouraged or required?

Answer: If a U.S. PVO or a local NGO proposes to provide funds to a partner, that partner must also meet the eligibility requirements. Applicants may partner with for-profit organizations to leverage funds and/or technical or other expertise, including the creation of public-private partnerships described at http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/global_partnerships/gda/.

9) Can U.S. PVOs be subcontracted by local NGOs as partners that strengthen their capacities for service delivery, reporting to USAID, monitoring and evaluation, etc.?

Answer: See a) and b) under General Eligibility Criteria in section I Eligibility Requirements above.

10) Would a for profit 8(a) certified small disadvantaged firm be allowed to partner with a PVO on this grant if it were to wave its fee?

Answer: See a) and b) under General Eligibility Criteria

III Accessing the APS through www.grants.gov Questions

11) When will the final RFP be released for the DGP--PVO program?

Answer: The APS is effective on the date it is posted on <http://www.grants.gov>. Information on submission of concept papers can be found in the APS.

12) What are the deadlines for the application and where do we send it to?

Answer: Deadlines and submission instructions will be contained in the APS when posted to www.grants.gov.

13) I am interested in applying for your grant but I could not get the application to open. If you could email me a copy of the application or direct me to a link of the application I would gladly appreciate it.

Answer: The APS will be posted on the Grants.gov website (www.grants.gov). It will also be posted on the ODP/PVC webpage at http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/cross-cutting_programs/private_voluntary_cooperation/dgp.html

14) I do not have access to the full announcement of the Development Grant Program - Local NGO's electronically. Could you please send it to my mail address?

Answer: see response to Question 13)

15) I could not access the PDF announcement via your link on grants.gov. Would you send me another link/file?

Answer: See response to Question 13)

16) Can you please send us information and an application form on the ways and conditions for applying for a project with your organization?

Answer: See response to question 13). Instructions on how for a DGP award are contained in the APS.

17) The links to the application were difficult to access.

Answer: See response to Question 13)

IV USAID Missions Participating in the DGP

18) When will the specific Mission countries be announced?

Answer: Please refer to Appendix G in the Local NGO APS for a list of participating USAID Missions. The DGP is not accepting proposals for multiple country activities as part of any one proposal.

19) Which countries are eligible for the Development Grant Program?

Answer: See response to Question 18)

20) Will this program give priority to local NGOs from countries where there are no USAID grant programs?

Answer: See response to Question 18)

21) Could you provide some guidance on whether proposals assisting several countries in a region will be accepted under the upcoming Request for Assistance or perhaps even preferred?

Answer: See response to Question 18)

22) Will this program give priority to local NGOs from countries where there are no USAID grant programs? If yes, how will USAID provide capacity training to these NGOs?

Answer: See response to Question 18)

23) Are multi-country programs within the same region possible?

Answer: See response to Question 18)

24) Can we submit two applications for different projects?

Answer: An organization may submit more than one concept paper.

25) The draft APS states that if you want to submit an application for more than one country, you must submit a five-page concept paper for each country ensuring that each submission, meets all applicable APS criteria. How would a multi-country, regional program work if applicants must apply to each country's USAID mission?

Answer: See response to Question 18)

26) Are Costa Rica NGOs eligible to participate on this grant?

Answer: See response to Question 18)

V Domestic Programs

27) We know that grants are available for some stages of domestic housing development but I do not know which ones are the best to apply for.

Answer: The Development Grants Program is sponsored by the United States Agency for International Development in support of our country's foreign assistance programs. It is not intended for domestic programs.

28) Does this grant include those trying to develop jobs for those in the United States?

Answer: See response to question 27)

29) I want to start a Recruiting Company for corporations in Dubai who seek employments for Americans. Can I qualify to apply for a grant to start this business?

Answer: See response to question 27)

30) Please send me information on grants to qualify me to help neighborhoods in educating, jobs, business, etc.

Answer: See response to question 27)

31) I'm looking for a grant to build single family homes, GREEN, one at a time. Can you help me?

Answer: See response to question 27)

VI Sector-Specific

32) We are in the process of developing a web site that promotes trades between USA and Vietnam. Does this objective fit one of the goals of the proposed grant?

Answer: For information on the types of programs supported by the DGP, please see the Sector Description section of the APS, the corresponding Appendices and Appendix G for a list of Missions participating in DGP and Mission supplemental information.

33) Is the Dairy/Agriculture sector restricted to cows or will dairy goats also be a consideration for projects for this grant program?

Answer: See response to question 32)

34) Under Section F.1.C. entitled “Equal Economic Rights for Women,” what other types of proposals might be considered? For example, there is no mention of public education programs specifically designed to educate men and women about women’s economic rights (the “right to have rights”).

Answer: See response to question 32)

35) Under section F.1.D. Property Rights for Poor Women, the first bulleted proposal suggestion that might be considered for funding is one that “promote[s] a gender-equitable land policy, law and enforcement of equitable property rights including training of legislators, lawyers and administrators.” Should the police and community leaders also be considered and included for possible training in the above list?

Answer: See response to question 32)

36) F4 Dairy: The Environment: section of the DGP says "The Agency's strategy has been to incorporate climate change consideration into development projects to provide climate related benefits." Since cattle are a significant source of climate changing gasses, and the transformation of forests into pastures is a significant environmental problem, what requirements for mitigating these effects will be required of dairy projects funded under this DGP?

Answer: See response to question 32)

37) In the Environment, Clean Energy sector, could the development of regional provincial or municipal action plans for low carbon energy future be allowable, as well as the specified nation action plans?

Answer: See response to question 32)

38) We suggest that USAID supports grants to put more girls in schools, colleges, etc.

Answer: See response to question 32)

39) Request to have Disabilities included as a key sector with funding up to \$9 million

Answer: Concept papers may focus on disability-related programs within the sectors funded in this APS

VII Comments on APS and Concept Papers Submitted Prior to Final APS Posting

40) If we want to apply for this program, do we obligatorily need to make comments about the draft APS? Or can we simply wait for the publication of the final APS and the related call for concept papers?

Answer: The due date for comments about the draft APS was August 15, 2008. Submission of comments is not mandatory for those who wish to submit a concept paper proposal.

41) Is there a distinction between the call for comments and the 5 page concept paper or are they the same?

Answer: See response to question 40). Organizations interested in applying for a DGP award are to follow the submission instructions contained in the APS when posted. Concept papers or application information submitted during the comment period will not be reviewed.

42) Were you requesting comments on the APS by August 15 or concept paper submissions?

Answer: see response to question 41)

43) I am sending you a copy of my proposal and maybe you can help me find the grant I need.

Answer: see response to question 41)

44) This attached file contains concept paper and Budget summary for our NGO.

Answer: see response to question 41)

45) We are hereby applying for funding from DGP-USAID Government to development in South Sudan.

Answer: see response to question 41)

46) Please find the attached concept paper.

Answer: see response to question 41)

VIII DGP General

47) Are multiyear grants possible? For what length of time?

Answer: The total DGP funding award to any recipient will support up to a three-year program period, from 2009-2011

48) What is the award floor for US PVOs?

Answer: There is no award floor for US PVOs

49) The figures given in section F for each sector do not add up to \$30 million.

Answer: Total funding amount for USPVO and Local NGO's will be made available in the posted APS.

50) The award allocation could be made clearer.

Answer: See response to question 49). The amount contained in the draft APS were estimates.

51) What is the relationship between this grant program and grant programs administered by USAID implementers who not only provide grants to organizations working in USAID priority areas but also provide training and TA?

Answer: The DGP is a new program inviting organizations that have had limited partnership experience and funding with USAID. USAID will work closely with new partner organizations to ensure that they receive training and capacity building to implement their programs.

52) Many of the USAID priorities emphasize advocating for changes in policy or practice at the national, regional, or local level; yet, many local NGOs lack the leadership and advocacy skills to make his happen. Is USAID going to provide training to local NGOs in advocacy and leadership (along with how to manage USAID accountability requirements)? Recommendation: Conduct a separate procurement for an organization to provide training and TA services to Development grantees, include advocacy and leadership component.

Answer: See response to question 51. A portion of the funds will be utilized for program and capacity building support