

PUBLIC NOTICE

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS (RFA) CSA/Counterpart for Intermediate Service Organization (ISO)

Issuance Date: 21 March 2023
Closing Date: 12 April 2023
Closing Time: 18:00

I. SUMMARY:

The Civil Society in Action (CSA) is a five-year program funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and implemented by Counterpart. The goal of CSA is to enhance civil society sustainability through improved financial viability, organizational capacity, and policy dialogue. Counterpart's vision for CSA is to enable local organizations and civic movements to enhance two key dimensions of civil society: CSOs' impacts on policy discourse (the external effect) and CSOs' representation of constituents (the internal effect).

To this end, CSA will support the civil society sector's financial viability at the national and community levels (objective 1) and enhance the capacity of community-based organizations (objective 2), ensuring that CSOs improve their delivery of both external and internal effects. CSA will also enhance CSOs' skills, knowledge, and opportunities for dialogue (objective 3) to effectively engage in public policy and evidence-based advocacy, further enabling CSOs' ability to deliver external effects. We will achieve these objectives through a process that is locally-led and ensures local ownership of development results (objective 4).

II. PURPOSE:

This RFA is seeking applicants to propose effective approaches for implementing the following activities:

- Actively participate in various trainings and training-of-Trainers (TOT) organized by CSA on systems mapping, the use of 5-R tool (results, roles, relationships, rules, and resources), Counterpart's Missing Voice Analysis (MVA) methodology and any other workshops required by the Program;
- Participate or facilitate organizational development assessments of partner organizations with the follow up action planning;
- Deliver technical assistance (needs assessment, trainings, consultations, etc.) to CBOs based on the findings of OD assessments and per project needs;
- Organize roundtable discussions, brainstorming sessions, and other forms of gatherings based on project needs;
- Assist CSA/Counterpart in managing grant competition and award processes. It is expected to assist CSA/Counterpart in performing grant selection, administration, and management tasks to 10 CBOs during the first year and an additional 10 CBOs starting from the second year and beyond.
- Monitor, evaluate and report on grants awarded to CBOs;
- Disseminate project related information through its networks;

- Provide logistical assistance to CSA activities;
- Organize learning exchanges for selected CBOs across selected Marzes.

III. LOCATION OF ACTIVITIES:

The geographic focus under consideration includes the following regions (Marzes):

- for the Year one: Ararat; Kotayk; Armavir; Aragatsoth and Gegharkunik.

Note: From the Year Two the remaining five Marzes will be added to the ISO portfolio: Syunik, Vayots Dzor, Shirak, Lori and Tavush.

IV. CSO PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:

Objective 1: CSO financial viability improved

Objective 2: Organizational capacity of CBOs enhanced

Objective 3: CSO and government dialogue on public policy enhanced

Objective 4: Locally-led development promoted

V. APPLICANTS ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

Be officially registered in Armenia and working in compliance with all applicable civil and fiscal regulations, including, but not limited to pertinent local laws and status.

- Applicant is not in the list of the US Government debarred organizations.

Types of Grantees Eligible:

- Community Based Organization (CBOs)
- Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)
- Foundations
- Professional Associations

VI. COST SHARE REQUIREMENTS:

Twenty (20%) percent of the cost share (cash or in kind) is required; applicants are encouraged to contribute resources from their own private or other sources excluding US Government funding for the implementation of this program where feasible.

VII. AWARD INFORMATION:

Subject to the availability of funds, Counterpart expects to award one grant to the Intermediate Service Organization (ISO), ranging from AMD 8,000,000 to AMD 12,000,000 annually. The expected duration of Counterpart's support or the period of performance is from one to four years throughout duration of the CSA Action from 20 October 2022 to 19 October 2027.

Please note the award is exempt from VAT. All grantees will be provided with an official VAT exemption letter.

CSA/Counterpart reserves the right to fund any or none of the applications submitted. Further, CSA/Counterpart reserves the right to make no awards as a result of this RFA.

VIII. CONTACT INFORMATION:

Please see the full RFA documentation on the following link: [here](#)

Any prospective applicant desiring an explanation or interpretation of this RFA must send questions in writing to grants.CSA@counterpart.org by March 27, 2023, 18:00 to allow a reply to

reach all prospective applicants before the submission of their applications. After the specified deadline no questions will be accepted. Oral explanations or instructions given before award of a grant will not be binding. Questions and answers will be published [here Q&A](#) by March 30, 2023, 18:00.

Note: for the Armenian version of the Public Notice please visit [here](#)