
Micro Grant RFA Questions & Answers

IDEAL was pleased to release our first [Request for Applications \(RFA\)](#) for the IDEAL Micro Grants on July 2. The question period for the Micro Grant RFA ended on July 15, and this document outlines questions and answers received during that period.

There were several questions concerning specific ideas that organizations had in mind for a Micro Grant application. In an effort to remain fair and transparent, we cannot comment on organization's application ideas. However, we encourage people to refer to the evaluation criteria outlined in the RFA for guidance.

As you are thinking of appropriate application ideas, please remember the IDEAL activity's goal of "addressing knowledge and capacity gaps expressed by the food and nutrition security community to support them in the design and implementation of effective development and emergency food security activities."

RFA ideas should contribute to that objective by not only implementing impactful activities but also capturing learnings that address knowledge gaps and sharing knowledge with the broader food security community to support the design and implementation of future activities.

Lastly, we received questions regarding purchasing capital assets through the Micro Grants program. We have updated the RFA to clarify this point. Award funding cannot be used to purchase capital assets including land, buildings, equipment, and intellectual property. IDEAL will allow exception if the combined value of the equipment is less than \$5,000 or if purchasing computer software is required for the project. Please see section B.2 in the updated RFA for this change

Q: Is IDEAL seeking applications only from USAID/Food for Peace (FFP)-funded activities (past or present)? Or is there a strong preference for applications to center around programs funded by another entity, such as Food for Education (FFE)?

A: There is no preference by IDEAL for small grants proposal ideas coming from FFP-funded or FFE-funded activities. We welcome food and nutrition security project ideas that align with the IDEAL Content Focus Areas, regardless of who is funding the larger activity/program.

Q: I am interested in the IDEAL Small Grants Program but I do not have any experience in food security programming or with FFP as a lead applicant. Am I still eligible to apply for a Micro Grant as the lead applicant?

A: Experience with food security programming or Food for Peace funding is not an eligibility requirement to apply. With that said, the grant application scoring criteria does take into account the applicant's experience in food security and nutrition programming and grant application reviewers will be evaluating high quality food security technical details in each application.

Q: Is it possible to apply for a Micro Grant with a project based in Peru?

A: Yes, the Micro Grant funds can be used for a project in Peru or anywhere else in the world. There are no geographical limitations for the IDEAL Small Grants Program. However, IDEAL does prioritize learnings that will apply to FFP targeted populations.

Q: Can one organization apply for more than one Micro Grant?

A: Yes, if one organization has different project ideas for different offices or country programs, they can submit more than one Micro Grant application.

Q: What is the submission deadline for applications (July 15, 2019 or August 30, 2019)?

A: The RFA question period ended on July 15, 2019. Applications can be submitted until August 30 (11:59 pm ET) to be reviewed with the first batch of applications. If you cannot submit by August 30, applications will be accepted until November 1 (11:59 pm ET).

Q: Can Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) apply for these grants?

A: Yes, CBOs and NGOs are welcome to apply. In certain countries, CBOs have unique regulations under national law so these organizations must ensure they have authority from the government to implement the activities proposed in their small grant application.

Q: We don't have direct experience working with USAID. Should we apply?

A: Experience with USAID is not required to receive a Micro Grant.

Q: Would a project led by an international NGO based in Australia or the UK be eligible? We would engage our partners in Timor-Leste and Kiribati for implementation of the project.

A: Yes, an organization based in Australia or the UK (or any other nation) would be eligible to lead a project/activity if they establish a written partnership agreement with a local organization that has

completed all required steps with the host government to legally implement their program at the time of award.

Q: Can we use the Do No Harm (DND) framework?

A: IDEAL will not restrict applicants from using the Do No Harm framework, or any other established international development frameworks, in their activities. To remain impartial and avoid potential conflicts of interest, IDEAL staff will not advise organizations regarding the appropriateness of their activity idea/concept to meet RFA guidelines.

Q: Are we to use “(RFA: SC-IDEAL-MG-RFA-2019-01)” throughout our application document when numbering the pages or will there be any changes?

A: Yes, “SC-IDEAL-MG-RFA-2019-01” can be included in the footer along with the numbers for each page.

Q: Do the IDEAL small grants have the same procurement and reporting requirements that other USAID grants have? These procurement and reporting requirements can make these grants challenging to follow up.

A: Any IDEAL Small Grants recipient would be considered a sub-grantee of the IDEAL Activity award and thus would need to comply with the same USAID regulations and restrictions as the IDEAL Activity. This flow-down of regulations will be clearly written into the sub-award agreement (between Save the Children US and the lead applicant) before funding is made available. Applicable USAID regulations are highlighted in each RFA and vary based on the award mechanism.

As the Micro Grants are relatively small awards, programmatic reporting requirements will be significantly less comprehensive than what is typically required for USAID awards. The final report template in Microsoft Word will be shared with applicants who are approved by FFP before signing the agreement. Based on our experience with the TOPS Small Grants Program, the final report is usually only 5-10 pages in length to be proportionate with the funding awarded and project scope.

Each Micro Grant is a fixed amount award and requires no financial reporting as set payments will be processed once each activity milestone is completed. The exact milestones and payment amounts (cumulatively equal to or less than \$50,000) will be agreed upon in the sub-award process based on the proposed activity and budget. See [USAID Standard Provisions for Fixed Amount Awards](#) for details.

Q: Do these grants require annual audits of an organization's accounts?

A: If the organization does not undergo an annual audit, Save the Children may opt to require a project-specific audit based on identified risks for regulatory compliance from the pre-award assessment.

Q: Can you provide more information concerning the DUNS application process as it relates to this program?

A: Here is the [link to apply](#). A DUNS number is required for any United States Government grant or contract. You do not need the DUNS number when you apply but must have it before the sub-award is finalized.

Q: If a program receives a Micro Grant during this year, would this disqualify them from receiving a larger IDEAL grant (Program Improvement Award or Research Award) during the same year?

A: No, receiving a Micro Grant during this year will not disqualify an organization or DFSA from receiving larger grants during the same year.

Q: What tips can you offer potential applicants to the SGP?

A: Carefully review the scoring criteria as you are thinking of your project idea and when completing the application. This clarifies what IDEAL is prioritizing.

IDEAL is not a typical food security activity and its Small Grants Program (SGP) is different from other food security grants programs. The Small Grants Program aims to support learning, knowledge development, capacity building and knowledge sharing that benefit the larger food and nutrition security community. It is not just about project implementation and creating benefits to your target community. As you are thinking of project ideas, identify the knowledge or capacity gap that you are addressing. Look for available resources, such as tools and events, currently out there on the topic. Think about how the products of your proposed small grant activity might be applied both by your own organization and by other organizations in the future.

Q: Is the IDEAL Small Grant Program funding restricted to countries that have received FFP support in 2018?

A: No, small grant funding is not restricted to any specific country based on past, current, or future FFP funding. Implementing partners from all countries are welcome to apply for grants with the goal of addressing knowledge and capacity gaps in food and nutrition security. However, IDEAL does prioritize learnings that will apply to FFP.