



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



Understanding the Gender and Youth Activity (GAYA) Program Improvement Awards

Webinar Question Responses

On November 11, 2022, the [Gender and Youth Activity](#) (GAYA) released a Request for Application (RFA) for our [small grants program](#). This Program Improvement Award RFA responds to feedback from implementers of USAID/Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA)-funded activities indicating a need for practical, program-oriented approaches to integration and use of data to better understand gender norms and youth dynamics. Implementing partners have asked for user-friendly process improvement, innovation, or research that can be used to strengthen capacity for meaningful integration of gender norms and youth data in their activities.

On December 6, 2022, GAYA hosted a webinar to answer questions about the funding opportunity. This document respond to relevant questions submitted before or during the webinar. Learn more about the webinar [here](#).

Who is eligible to apply for this funding opportunity?

The list of eligibility criteria to apply for this opportunity can be found in the RFA and is explained in the webinar recording; both are available on [GAYA's webpage](#).

Can an organization that has not received or implemented USAID/BHA funding in the last three years (2020, 2021, 2022) be considered eligible to apply for this opportunity?

Unfortunately, because of the nature of our funding, we are not able to make exceptions to this. Organizations must have successfully received and managed USAID Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance funding within the past three calendar years (2020, 2021, or 2022). This does include receiving funds as the Prime awardee, or as any level of sub-awardee.

In the eligibility criteria, are we required to have a three years consecutive funding from BHA (2020,2021,2022) to be eligible or just one year?

To be eligible, applicants only need to have received BHA funding *within* the last three years; it does not need to be consecutive funding.

In order to receive funding under GAYA do sub-grantees have had to receive BHA funding in the past three years? Or only the lead organization submitting the GAYA application have had to receive BHA funding in the past three years as either a prime awardee or a sub-grantee from BHA?

The latter is correct. Only the lead organization, or prime organization, applying for the award needs to have received BHA funding in the past three years. The lead organization could have received BHA funding within the last three years as either a prime awardee or as a sub-grantee.

Partners who are brought on as sub-grantees do not need to have received BHA funding within the last three years.

If the organization is implementing BHA funding in one country, can they apply for another BHA funded country where that implementer is present but not [implementing] BHA funding there?

Yes! An organization can apply to implement activities in any countries where USAID/BHA works or has funded activities in the past three years. The organization also must have received BHA funding within the past three years (2020, 2021, 2022), but they can implement anywhere they see a need.

Which countries are eligible to apply?

The RFA is open to all countries that have received USAID/Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance funding in the last three years (2020, 2021, 2022). More information about which countries have received BHA funding can be found on the [USAID/BHA website](#).

Can more than one person from the same institution, but different departments apply for the grant? Or can an NGO submit more than one application from different geographic codes?

Unfortunately no, this was a decision out of lessons learned from a previous small grants program. There is a maximum of 1 application per organization. If there are several interested parties from one institution, we encourage departments to work together to put together the strongest application.

When you say only 1 application may be submitted per organization, do you mean registered organization, or does this go across a broader organization: e.g. the Red Cross Movement - where only one Red Cross National Society may apply?

If the organizations are different legal entities with separate governing boards and separate registrations, they may apply independently.

Can a lead applicant also be a partner on another project for which they are not the lead applicant?

Unfortunately, no. Organizations are only allowed to be involved in one application.

Can Mercy Corps apply? Can Save the Children apply?

Mercy Corps and Save the Children Offices (whether headquarter offices, other fundraising offices or country offices) are not eligible to apply since they are administering the GAYA program.

Can the applicant propose a project that is connected to an on-going activity where they may be a partner to Save the Children or Mercy Corps?

Yes.

Can a newly registered or youth-led organization apply?

Yes! A newly registered organization can apply if it meets all other eligibility criteria, including previous BHA funding and a System for Award Management (SAM.gov) and Unique Entity ID (UEI) number requirements. Of course, they also need to be sure they are legally registered in their country as well.

Youth-led organizations are encouraged to apply, and will be given preference. A youth-led organization is defined as one led/managed by a young person, 29 years of age or younger. All non-youth-led organizations are also eligible to apply.

What if the organization is headed by young people above 29 years; up to 35 years?

For this funding opportunity youth is defined by USAID as up to 29 years of age. An organization that is being led by youth up to 35 years of age are welcome to apply, but will not be considered youth-led for the purpose of this grant.

Can a small local organization apply for this award?

Yes! Applications from local or regional organizations, specifically those led by youth up to the age of 29 years, and those led by or focused on women are encouraged to apply.

Can a small business enterprise in agriculture apply?

No, firms operating as commercial companies are NOT eligible to apply.

Can a small civil society organization apply?

Yes, as long as the civil society organization meets all other eligibility criteria to apply. See the RFA for eligibility details.

Is the application open to individuals who are interested in participating?

No. Individuals are not eligible to apply for this funding opportunity.

What is the application process for this award and when is the deadline for submission of applications?

The timeline for the application process, and due date for application submission for this opportunity can be found in the RFA and is explained in the webinar recording; both are available on GAYA's website.

Is it just a concept with a few pages or a proposal? Is there a template that applicants will use or use any format of our choice?

Applications will be evaluated through a two-stage process: first a concept note and then a full application submission. To be considered for a grant, all applicants must first submit a concept note before the deadline on January 16th, 2023 at 5pm ET. Concept notes will be competitively reviewed and evaluated by a selection committee. Only selected concept notes, and those who pass a pre-award assessment, will be invited to submit a full application.

Concept notes must be submitted in accordance with the general content of the Concept Template, which can be found in Attachment 1 of the RFA. They should be no more than 5 pages long for the technical application and one page of budget and budget notes.

The RFA states that the Concept Note cannot be more than 5 pages. Is the budget summary and brief budget description by line item included in the 5 pages?

No. The budget summary and brief budget description can be separate from the 5 pages used for the project narrative. However, the budget summary and description should not be more than 1 page long, making the total concept note submission 6 pages at maximum.

This RFA is specifically focusing on the improvement of youth and gender data collection for development and emergency food security, resilience, and emergency response activities. Can an organization design a project proposal that is related to broader youth and gender issues in development and emergency food security activities?

The GAYA program supports broader youth and gender issues in development and emergency food security activities, so we encourage you to get involved with GAYA. However, for this funding opportunity, Concept Notes with project ideas that support the integration of data into gender and/or youth activities will be given preference.

Is the RFA available for ongoing gender and youth activities, or do organizations need to create a standalone activity for these funds?

There does not need to be a newly created standalone activity. This RFA can support ongoing activities, as long as the idea proposed is not an already planned or required activity under an existing BHA award. The idea proposed should be *in addition* to already required activities.

What kind of gender and/or youth data does the project want to focus on?

The GAYA RFA is open to all ideas of how applicants want to focus on the collection, use, and/or integration of data within gender and/or youth activities.

Could the focus areas for the RFA potentially shift a bit once GAYA's Gender & Youth Study is released in January 2023?

No, the focus of this RFA will not shift.

Why must the grants “benefit the wider food security and nutrition community” if the eligibility criteria allows for applications who have emergency grants from BHA to apply? The emergency grants might or might not be related to food security and nutrition but could cover other BHA sectors.

The purpose of the small grants program is to create products that many organizations, not just the applicant who received the funds, find informative, useful and relevant to their work. Therefore, a grantee working on emergency programs would need to ensure that the product created from their grant is relevant to the larger emergency implementing community.

Can organizations include an aspect of technology into their idea?

Yes, we encourage applicants who want to explore the use of technology in data around gender and youth, to propose an idea. From our past experience with small grants we have seen that experimenting with new technology can get very expensive, so we advise applicants to be budget conscious when considering integrating technology into their idea.

Does this award support refugee initiatives?

Unfortunately no, as BHA does not fund refugee initiatives.

Is there a threshold/limit for staffing/HR costs in the total budget?

No, there is no limit. GAYA will consider the budget as a whole to determine whether the intended deliverables match the proposed budget.

Would the grant cover the cost of an external consultant hired to conduct an assessment to identify areas of improvement as part of the proposal?

Yes, absolutely, consultants and subawards are allowable under this award.

Does the funding cover the operation and Admin costs?

Yes.

Will the RFA be made available in other languages, given that applicants can submit applications in other languages?

There are no plans at this time to translate the RFA into other languages. There are good online translators available in case you need extra assistance. Google translate and Deepl.com are two that are free and easy to access.

For those of us at non-eligible organizations (for example, Mercy Corps and Save the Children), how can we support our partners with their applications?

We greatly encourage those offices to support partners and local actors to apply. You are welcome to support in any way that feels right. That might mean helping the partner navigate the process to obtain a Unique Entity ID with the US government, or offering to proofread their application. We love that you're looking to support!

What are key USAID rules and regulations that applicants need to be aware of and prepared to comply with?

This is an important question for all applicants. The main set of regulations governing these grants is linked at the bottom of the RFA - it's USAID's Standard Provisions for Fixed Amount Awards. We encourage everyone considering applying to read through those regulations and make sure they are able to comply.

How many grants will we be awarded out of this RFA?

GAYA expects to award up to four grants, of up to USD \$240,000, out of this RFA.

Are there possibilities of extending the program/grant after the first 24 months?

No cost extensions will be considered on a case-by-case basis and only discussed near the end of the original grant period.

Is this the only funding cycle from GAYA, or can we expect future solicitations/RFA?

This is the only funding cycle for GAYA.

Disclaimer

This document was made possible by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The contents are the responsibility of the Gender and Youth Activity (GAYA) and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the U.S. Government.