



International Foundation
for Electoral Systems

INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR ELECTORAL SYSTEMS (IFES)

**REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS (RFA) for
She Leads Women's Leadership Program in Nepal**

RFA-21-011

Date: December 02, 2020

1. Request for Application (RFA)

1.5. Purpose

The purpose of this Request for Applications (RFA) is to invite civil society organizations to submit applications for a project to conduct IFES' She Leads Women's Leadership Program in Nepal. This program will provide locally elected women representatives with knowledge about elections and political processes, the federal structure of Nepal and functions of local ward committees as well as soft skills including leadership, communication, building self-confidence and decision-making. The program aims to empower locally elected women to perform their roles as elected representatives and meaningfully participate in political decision making. The RFA provides prospective organizations with the relevant operational and performance requirements.

IFES plans to issue a Subaward from approximately February 2021 to December 2022.

1.5. RFA Schedule

IFES will conduct a competitive process to identify grantees per the tentative timeline below:

Issuance of RFA	December 2, 2020
Questions Due	December 22, 2020; by 17:00 Washington DC (EST)
Response from IFES	December 30, 2020
RFA Closes—All Applications Due	January 8, 2021; by 17:00 Washington DC (EST)
Implementation Period	February 2021 – December 2022

2. General Information

2.5. Background

IFES is an independent, non-governmental organization providing professional support to electoral democracy. IFES supports citizens' rights to participate in free and fair elections. Our independent expertise strengthens electoral systems and builds local capacity to deliver sustainable solutions.

As the global leader in democracy promotion, we advance good governance and democratic rights by Providing technical assistance to election officials, Empowering the underrepresented to participate in electoral and political processes, and Applying field-based research to improve the electoral cycle.

Since 1987, IFES has worked in over 145 countries – from developing democracies, to mature democracies.

3. Application Preparation Instructions

3.5. Applicant's Understanding of the RFA

In responding to this RFA, the applicant accepts full responsibility to understand the RFA in its entirety, and in detail, including making any inquiries to IFES as necessary to gain such understanding. IFES reserves the right to disqualify any applicant who demonstrates less than such understanding. Further, IFES reserves the right to determine, at its sole discretion, whether the applicant has demonstrated such understanding. Such disqualification and/or cancellation shall be at no fault, cost, or liability whatsoever to IFES.

3.5. Good Faith Statement

All information provided by IFES in this RFA is offered in good faith. Individual items are subject to change at any time. IFES makes no certification that any item is without error. IFES is not responsible or liable for any use of the information or for any claims asserted there from.

3.5. Communication

Verbal communication shall not be effective unless formally confirmed in writing by the IFES officials identified in Section 3.5 of this RFA. In no case shall verbal communication govern over written communication.

3.5.1. Applicant Inquiries

Inquiries, questions, and requests for clarification related to this RFA should be submitted in writing, **no later than December 22, 2020; by 17:00 Washington DC (EST)** and be submitted to the representatives listed below.

Mr. Abdullah Abdullah
Contracts and Grants Manager
aabdullah@ifes.org

Mr. Khurram Naz
Contracts and Grants Administrator
Knaz@ifes.org

Note: Questions/Answers and Addenda(s) related to this RFA can be found on [IFES Procurement Notices](#) and [Devex.com](#).

3.5.2. Formal Communications shall include, but are not limited to:

- Questions concerning this RFA
- Expressions of Interest
- Pre-award negotiations under this RFA
- Addenda to this RFA

3.5.3. Addenda

IFES will make a good-faith effort to provide written responses to the questions or requests for clarifications that require addenda by the date set in the RFA Schedule above. All questions, answers, and addenda will be shared with all interested organizations.

3.4 Eligibility

Applications are limited to locally registered Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Community Based Organizations (CBOs), Non-Political Party Organizations or other similar not-for-profit institutions.

Individuals and the following organizations are not eligible to access funding:

- Governmental and semi-governmental institutions
- International organizations
- Political parties or organizations affiliated with or engaging in partisan activities
- Organizations running on a for-profit basis

3.5. Application Instructions

All applications should include the following, in order for their application to be considered:

3.5.1. Technical Application

- The Technical Application must include a written application in English describing in detail the applicant's (a) Technical Approach, (b) implementation timeline, and (c) results framework to implement the Program Description as described in Article 4 of this RFA. The evaluation criteria can be found in Article 3.6. Applicants should use the technical narrative template in Attachment A.

3.5.2. Cost Application – Budget & Budget Narrative

- The Budget should reflect costs associated with the technical activities and deliverables. All applicants must use the budget template provided in Attachment B and submit it in Excel format as part of their application. The Budget should be presented in **NPR**, with applicable taxes/charges clearly identified. Unit costs are required and, in the case of discrepancies between unit costs and total costs, the unit cost will be taken as the reference basis in the evaluation.
- The applicant must agree to keep these costs valid for a minimum of 90 calendar days.
- The Cost Application should include a Budget Narrative that describes each cost element of the Budget (see column H of Attachment B).

3.5.3. A brief outline of the applicant's organization and experience as outlined in Attachment C.

3.5.4. Additional documentation

- A completed pre-award survey as included in Attachment D
- A copy of the organization's most recent final, signed audits/financial statements
- Proof of organization's registration in Nepal
- Any other supporting document that will strengthen the application

3.5. Application Submission

Applicants must send final applications in electronic copy via e-mail, on or **prior to January 8, 2021—by no later than 17:00 Washington DC (EST) time** —to aabdullah@ifes.org and knaz@ifes.org.

3.5. Criteria for Selection

The evaluation of each response to this RFA will be based on its demonstrated competence, compliance, format, and organization. The purpose of this RFA is to identify those organizations that have the interest, capability, and financial strength to implement the project as described in Article 4 of this RFA.

Evaluation Criteria & Grading:

Criteria

- | | |
|--|-------------------------|
| <p>1. Technical Approach, Implementation Timeline, Results Framework</p> <p>Demonstrated understanding of the RFA and of IFES' needs</p> <p>Soundness and feasibility of technical approach</p> | <p>35 points</p> |
|--|-------------------------|

- 2. Competitive Budget with efficient and reasonable cost structure** **25 points**
 Cost realism in response to RFA requirements
 Clear budget presentation of necessary, allocable and reasonable costs
- 3. Past Performance and Organizational Capacity** **40 points**
 Extent to which personnel proposed have relevant qualifications and experience
 Demonstrated capability to organize, manage and implement the full range of activities required to achieve the program's goals and objectives.
 Demonstrated flexibility to adjust implementation to reflect changing environment
 Demonstrated strong past performance in implementing programs of similar scope and complexity

3.5. Selection and Notification

Applicants determined by IFES that possess the capacity to compete for this project will be selected to move into the negotiation phase of this process. Written notification will be sent to these applicants via e-mail. Those applicants not selected for the negotiation phase will also be notified.

4. Scope of Work

Organizations should provide an application that implements IFES' She Leads women's leadership curriculum in Province 2 in Nepal.

- Organize and facilitate **She Leads** trainings in Province 2.
- Recruit and supervise sufficient trainers to provide the planned trainings, who will attend an IFES-led training of trainers (IFES will cover these expenses), facilitate a pilot training and follow-up with participants.
- Recruit locally elected women representatives for the trainings. There should be a minimum of 500 women participating with no more than 25 participants at each training. Each training group will complete four modules of trainings to be held at least 2 months apart.
- Facilitate women's mentorship and networking activities, including with the Inter-Party Women's Alliance and the Inter-Party Dalit Women's Alliance and other women leaders.
- Facilitate mixed discussions sessions with family members and community leaders in between training modules.
- Plan and facilitate workshops with men elected representatives and local government officials on gender equality in political and decision-making processes.
- Work with IFES Nepal to plan and facilitate political party workshops at the local, district, provincial and national-level to sensitize party leaders and advocate for gender equality in political and decision-making processes.
- Work with IFES Nepal to design training curriculum.
- Conduct monitoring and evaluation for the program in coordination with IFES Nepal staff, following IFES guidelines.
- Ensure a **She Leads** social media platform, including regular posts and interactions as well as monthly social media outreach reports, where possible.
- Provide quarterly reports and a final report based on analysis of program outputs and outcomes.
- Provide support and monitoring for **She Leads** participants completing assignments between training modules directly and with mentors, including facilitating relationships

with ***She Leads*** participants and community leaders, sectoral programs and inter-party committees.

- Participate in regular coordination meetings with She Leads Implementers to discuss lessons learned about best practices.
- Establish and maintain contact with other relevant stakeholders.
- Provide a final report based on analysis of program outputs and outcomes.

This scope of work will be conducted in close consultation with IFES at every stage, including consulting with IFES Nepal staff and engaging with consultants.

Deliverables expected as part of work (NOT FOR INCLUSION WITH APPLICATION)

- Implementation timeline.
- Participant lists for each training.
- Pre- and post-test evaluation for each training.
- Translations of training guides, if used.
- Summary report of each training.
- Final report of She Leads program.
- Monitoring and evaluation plan for the program.

All deliverables should be in English, except for translations.

Specific Organizational Requirements:

Preference is for applications from an organization with previous experience conducting activities related to building women's leadership skills at the local level in Nepal and working with local government and political parties, particularly organizations with existing networks in Province 2.

Locally registered implementing chapters of international or regional (network) organisations are eligible if they meet the following minimum criteria:

- ✓ The majority of Board members are based in Nepal
- ✓ The organisation is largely financially independent of its international mother body

4.5. Timeline:

Applicants must submit a detailed timeline in their Application showing the time required to implement the services requested. IFES requires all deliverables to be completed no later than December 2022.

4.5. Monitoring & Evaluation

- As part of its due diligence, IFES conducts pre-award surveys on all potential grantees to assess capacity and inform the appropriate grant mechanism. In addition, applicants expected to expend \$750,000 or more in U.S. funded awards during their fiscal year must have an audit conducted in accordance with 2 CFR Part 200, Subpart F—Audit Requirements. If Applicable, applicants must ensure that funds are included in the grant budget for an audit.
- IFES will issue the appropriate grant mechanism depending on the nature of the work, the capacity of the grantee, the duration of the grant, and the overall value of the grant.
- IFES will provide continuous mentorship, training and oversight to ensure grant management practices are in line with anti-corruption principles as well as to build capacity of local grantees to fully manage and implement their programs in adherence to donor regulations and with a

view towards sustainability.

4.5. Deliverables:

Specific deliverables and reporting will be determined based on the grant activities proposed and negotiated during the negotiation phase.

5. Additional Terms & Conditions

5.5. Non-Disclosure Agreement

IFES reserves the right to require any applicant to enter into a non-disclosure agreement.

5.5. Zero Tolerance for Fraud

IFES has zero tolerance for fraud. Fraud is any act or omission that intentionally misleads, or attempts to mislead, to obtain a benefit or to avoid an obligation. If you have concerns about potential fraud in any way related to IFES projects, contracts, or activities, please contact IFES' Compliance Hotline at compliance@ifes.org or at +1 202-350-6791.

5.5. Intellectual Property

Applicants should not use any intellectual property of IFES including, but not limited to, all logos, registered trademarks, or trade names of IFES, at any time, without the prior written approval of IFES, as appropriate.

5.5. Applications

All accepted applications shall become the property of IFES and will not be returned.

5.5. Governing Law

This RFA and the applicants' applications shall be governed by the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia, USA.

5.5. Partial Awarding

IFES reserves the right to accept all or part of the application when awarding the grant. IFES also reserves the right to issue multiple awards and procure only items or services from selected applicants.

5.5. No Liability

Issuance of this RFA does not constitute a commitment on the part of IFES to make an award nor does it commit IFES to pay for costs incurred in the preparation and submission of any application in response to this RFA. Further, IFES reserves the right to reject any or all applications received or stop solicitation process at any time, without assigning any reason or liability.

IFES shall not be liable to any applicant, person, or entity for any losses, expenses, costs, claims, or damages of any kind:

- Arising out of, by reason of, or attributable to, the applicant responding to this RFA; or
- As a result of the use of any information, error, or omission contained in this RFA document or provided during the RFA process.

5.5. Entire RFA

This RFA, any addenda to it, and any attached schedules, constitute the entire RFA.

5.5. Attachments

Attachment A: Technical Narrative Template

Attachment B: Budget Template

Attachment C: Organizational Capacity and Past Performance Template

End of RFA

Attachment A: Technical Narrative Template

I. General Information

Complete Legal Name of Applicant Organization

Office Address

Legal Mailing Address (if different), including zip code

Office Telephone Number(s), including area code

E-Mail Address(es)

Director of Organization

Project Manager/Contact Person

Project Dates (month/year – month/year)

Project Title

DUNS Number

PAN Number

II. Technical Approach:

Please include the following components in in a maximum of 5 pages

- A. Project Summary:** describe your project in one paragraph, including objectives, issue, target audience, and geographic coverage
- B. Need for the project:** identify the problem your project would help to solve. Why is this project important?
- C. Project’s Goal and Objectives:** what is the specific goal of your effort? Does it comply with the goals and objectives of the competition?
- D. Target Audience and Stakeholders:** what is your main target audience? What groups of stakeholders will the project primarily serve?
- E. Activities:** identify and describe in detail each activity to be undertaken to produce results, justifying the choice of activities.
- F. Expected Deliverables:** identify specific deliverables that you expect to develop within your project (research/analytical reports; specific strategies; public policy recommendations; etc.)

III. Implementation Timeline

Please use the following format to provide an implementation timeline

Project Month	Activity	Expected Result	Involved Stakeholders

IV. Results Framework

Please identify specific results that you expect to realize upon completion of your project and the quantitative and qualitative criteria for the project’s success. How will you determine that the project goals have been accomplished? The framework should include:

- A list of results you expect to accomplish throughout the project
- 1-4 performance indicators for each result including a detailed definition for each
- The source, method, frequency and schedule of data collection,
- Staff responsible for collecting data.
- How the performance data will be collected
- How data will be reviewed, analyzed and reported

Attachment B: Budget Template

Please download the Budget template from below links

[IFES Procurement Notices](#) and [Devex.com](#).

Attachment C: Organizational Capacity and Past Performance Template

I. Summary

Briefly present your organization’s mission, its core activities, and why it is best suited for this project

II. Human Resources

- A. *Please provide full legal name of organization’s Director and / or Chief Executive Officer*
- B. *Please provide CVs for the core technical members of the team (legal experts, election experts, project manager etc.)*
- C. *Please provide hiring plan for full and part-time positions the organization including a list of positions and recruitment plan or cost-share with existing positions*

III. Past Performance

- A. *Briefly describe how your organization’s previous experience prepares it to successfully implement the proposed project; highlight the organization’s relationship and work experience with lawmakers, political parties or government officials if applicable.*
- B. *Please specify previous work in Province 2 (if any)*
- C. *Please list the organization’s major projects from the past five years in the following format:*

<i>Project Name</i>	<i>Project Activities</i>	<i>Donor</i>	<i>Award Amount</i>	<i>Period of Award</i>

IV. References:

If applicable, contact information for three references from donor funded projects similar in scope.