



Funding Opportunity: USAID Releases Newest Development Innovation Ventures APS

Lewis-Burke Associates LLC – April 21, 2014

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) recently released a new Annual Program Statement (APS) for its Development Innovation Ventures (DIV) program. Launched as part of an effort to enhance the efficiency, quality, and cost effectiveness of global development, DIV remains a central tenant of USAID's science and technology portfolio. As such, DIV has been absorbed into the U.S. Global Development Lab (USGDL), a new entity designed to codify science and innovation activities across USAID. While DIV funding is available to universities, USAID emphasizes that the program supports the testing and scaling up of processes and technologies with the potential to impact global development; DIV does not support basic research.

USAID allows applicants broad authority to propose projects in topic areas of interest to USAID so long as the benefits to a USAID target country are evident. While all DIV projects contribute to Administrator Rajiv Shah's overarching goal of reducing global poverty, many projects funded thus far are in priority areas like global health, global food security, combating climate change/expanding renewable energy resources in the developing world, and ensuring clean drinking water in developing countries. As with many USAID solicitations, the DIV APS also states a special interest in projects that promote opportunity for women and girls in USAID target countries. Examples of projects funded through previous rounds of DIV are available on the program website at <http://www.usaid.gov/div/portfolio>. Numerous awards have gone to universities and other non-profit research institutions.

Beyond the open call for proposals, USAID continues to fund projects in four special opportunity areas for which funds have been reserved. This year, USAID is running special competitions for the Haiti Focused Funding Opportunity; the Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) funding opportunity (in collaboration with the Gates Foundation); the Innovation Fund for the Americas; and the Humanitarian Innovation Initiative (in collaboration with the United Kingdom Department for International Development). Complete details of all DIV special funding opportunities are available in the full APS.

Letters of Intent: Letters of Intent are required to begin the proposal process. USAID will invite full proposals from those applicants whose Letters of Intent it believes to be most promising. Letters of Intent should follow the format outlined at www.usaid.gov/LOI.

Due Dates: USAID accepts DIV proposals on a rolling basis. The current APS will remain open until April 15, 2015. Further details are at www.usaid.gov/div/timelines.

Total Funding and Award Size: USAID intends to award a total of \$25 million through this APS. DIV provides funding for projects in three stages with the goal of eventually transitioning projects completely to private support. Stage One funding provides support (\$25,000-\$150,000 for up to two years) for proof of concept and initial testing; Stage Two funding provides support (\$150,000-\$1.5 million for up to three years) for testing and positioning projects for scale; and Stage Three funding provides support (\$1.5 million-\$6 million for up to five years for Category A, \$6 million-\$15 million for up to five years for Category B) for transitioning proven projects to scale. Applicants may seek funding in

more than one stage for a project; i.e. an institution may apply for Stage Two funding for a project that previously received a Stage One award.

Eligibility and Limitations: According to the APS, the program is open to “U.S. and non-U.S. organizations, individuals, non-profit, and for-profit entities, provided their work is in a country where USAID operates.” As noted above, universities and non-profit research institutions have been successful through previous DIV competitions.

Sources and Additional Background:

- The complete APS is available by searching “APS-OAA-14-000002” at www.grants.gov.
- Complete details of the DIV program, including information on previously funded projects, are available at <http://www.usaid.gov/div/>.