

Request for Applications

RFA No.: IDEA-NEW-East-007-2010

RFA Title: English, Computer and Management Training

Issuance Date: June 02, 2010 Closing Date and Time: June 15, 2010

Dear Potential Applicant:

Enclosed is a Request for Applications (RFA) under the USAID-funded Incentives Driving Economic Alternatives for the North, East and West (IDEA-NEW) project for implementation of the English, computer and Management training for women in Jalalabad, Asadabad and Mehterlam.

The selected grantee(s) will be responsible for achieving the expected outcomes described in *Section*1: Program Description. IDEA-NEW reserves the right to fund any or none of the applications submitted. All preparation and submission costs are at the applicant's expense.

This RFA consists of the following sections:

Section 1. Program Description

Section 2. Selection & Eligibility Criteria

Section 3. Application Guidelines & Instructions

Annex A. Grant Application Template

Annex B. Budget Template

Annex C. Summary of Experience

Annex D. Required Certifications

Pre-Application Conference:

A pre-application conference will be held on June 10, 2010 at 10:00 AM in the IDEA-NEW, Jalalabad office.

Registration:

In order to receive modifications of the RFA or responses to questions, interested parties should indicate their interest in this RFA by emailing grants_ideanew@dai.com or call IDEA-NEW at 0707-422-001 or 0777-422-001.

Questions:

Any questions should be submitted by email to grants ideanew@dai.com or you can reach IDEA-NEW staff by phone at 0707-422-001 or 0777-422-001 no later than 12 June, 2010, by 4:30 PM Afghanistan Local Time.

Submission of Applications:

All applications must be in English. One hard copy in a sealed envelope of the grant application documents shall be delivered no later than June 15, 2010 at 4:30 PM Afghanistan Local Time to the IDEA-NEW offices in Jalalabad. For directions, please contact grants ideanew@dai.com or call at 0707-422-001 or 0777-422-001 In addition, one electronic copy should be submitted to grants ideanew@dai.com. Applications received after the deadline will be considered at the discretion of the IDEA-NEW grant evaluation committee.

Best regards,

IDEA-NEW

Section 1. Program Description

INTRODUCTION:

IDEA-NEW is a USAID-funded initiative in Afghanistan that began in March 2009. Activities target instability/insurgency locales and buffer zones to curb narco-trafficking, and at the same time, increase job creation, strengthen Afghan leadership, and promote incomes and economic growth.

IDEA-NEW's primary emphasis is on Job Creation, Agricultural Production, and Capacity Building in rural areas. IDEA-NEW provides support and linkages to overall US government counter-insurgency (COIN) priorities through local-level agricultural and private sector development, and by engaging local government to respond to the needs of its constituencies in these sectors.

Development Alternatives, Inc. (DAI) leads the project team and builds on its previous work in the eastern region. DAI is joined by NGOs Mercy Corps in the northeast and ACDI/VOCA in the northwest and central provinces.

BACKGROUND:

Two decades of war and conventional hostilities, the situation in Afghanistan has been as complicated as they have been tragic. Human rights especially women rights have been further exacerbated after the Taliban's rise to power. Women and girls were systematically discriminated against and marginalized, and their human rights were violated. This resulted in the deteriorating economic and social conditions of women and girls in all areas of the country, in particular in areas under Taliban control. Women and girls continued to be severely restricted in their access to education, facilities and employment. Million of Afghans emigrated to Pakistan or other neighbor countries. During this period only a negligible number of girls received some form of primary education. By the time, the Education level has been increased and girls were able to complete their education in district level.

IDEA NEW initiated its Gender and Micro-Enterprises efforts to increase women's participation in the instruction development in the region. IDEA NEW efforts focus on providing women and youth school girls with English, computer and Management training to improve their job opportunities in the near future.

In order to support women in Eastern Region of Afghanistan, the Gender and Micro Enterprise Development of the IDEA-NEW program proposes to enhance the capacity of 200 women, provincial DoWA staff and school youth girls by providing English, Computer and Management Training in coordination with provincial directorates of women affairs (Nangarhar, Laghman and Kunar) and in private classes (Nangarhar).

PURPOSE:

- Enhance the capacity of 200 women, provincial DoWA staff and school youth girls by providing English, Computer and Management Training
- Human Resource development
- Short term job creation in potential for long term jobs in provincial level

EXPECTED OUTCOMES:

- Building the Capacity of 200 women's in eastern region by providing English, computer and management training
- Create Short term jobs for 200 women.

DURATION:

6 Months

ACTIVITIES:

- Hire the required personnel for this project
- Selection of students with close collaboration of DOWA, DOE and DAI/IDEA-NEW Gender & Micro Enterprise unit and grants evaluation committee members
- Procure and provide all equipment and materials for the training
- Train 200 women in English, computer and management.
- Develop and implement the training curriculum.

	English	Computing	Management*
Nangarhar	50	25	25
Kunar	40	10	
Laghman	40	10	

• Approx. no. of students per course, per province

DELIVERABLES:

- Work Plan
- CVs of key project staff
- Monthly reports
- Signed daily attendance sheets for training activities
- Photos
- Testing for training activities
- Signed acknowledgement letter for completion of the project by the relevant government dept
- Final Report

Section 2. Eligibility and Evaluation Criteria

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

Applicants

- Applicants must be registered with the Afghanistan Investment Support Agency (AISA)
- Applicant must be an Afghan non-governmental entity (non Afghan NGOs and non-Afghan businesses are not eligible)
- Applicant should have invested personal resources in this business or should have a running marble business.
- A 3-5 page business plan is to be completed and included with the grant application submission.

Ineligible Activities

The following may not be included in the applicant's request from support from IDEA-NEW:

- Explosives (not allowable for excavation)
- Contingencies
- Profit/Fee

Restricted Costs

The following require USAID Agreement Officer prior approval if paid for out of IDEA-NEW's project funds and are unlikely to be funded. They can be included in the cost leveraging (non-IDEA-NEW funds) portion of the budget.

- Motor vehicles (including motorcycles)
- Pharmaceuticals (for humans or animals, including vitamins)
- Seeds
- Pesticides
- Fertilizer
- Live animals
- Used equipment

Ineligible Activities

The following cannot be included as activities in the grant application.

- Activities and labor creation outside of the covered geographic areas (Nagarhar or Kunar province)
- Activities fully funded by other donors during the same time period. However, IDEA-NEW
 encourages leveraging funds from other sources (co-funding).
- Activities outside IDEA-NEW's objectives and activities
- Pre-award activities, such as application preparation
- Construction of vertical structures (buildings)

EVALUATION CRITERIA:

All applications received in response to this RFA will undergo both a Technical and Cost Evaluation, which will be taken into account by the Selection Committee.

Technical

The following factors will be taken into consideration:

- Activities, Objectives/Outcomes, Monitoring Plan, and Implementation Strategy
- Capability of Applicant (Number of Relevant Projects, Sustainability/Operations and Maintenance Plan, No Negative Environmental Impact, Coordination with GIRoA/COIN Linkages)
- Application's Completeness
- Activities Timeline
- Training/Capacity Building Plan for Beneficiaries

Cost

The following factors will be taken into consideration:

- Price Reasonableness and Feasibility
- Applicant's Financial Capacity
- Quality of Business Plan
- Applicant's Contribution

Section 3: Application Form and Instructions

INSTRUCTIONS

The applicant must use the application form and budget template provided in this section of the RFA.