IDEA-NEW

New ideas for agriculture

# Request for Applications

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| RFA No.: | IDEA-NEW-East-008-2010 |
| RFA Title: | Carpet Weaving Training |
| Issuance Date: | Sep 19, 2010 |
| Closing Date and Time: | Oct 06, 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 Carpet Weaving training in Asadabad city Kunar Province and Wach Tange village Behusd district of Nangarhar province. IDEA-NEW is committed to support the Carpet weaving training under the overall objective of establishing carpet weaving value chain in the region.

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 at on Sep 26, 2010 at 02:00 PM in the DEA-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.

**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 Sep 30, 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 Oct 06, 2010 at 4:30 PM Afghanistan Local Time to the IDEA-NEW offices in Jalalabad. For directions, please contact grants_ideanew@dai.com. 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:**
The tradition of carpet weaving dates backs to several thousand years in history of Afghanistan and is regarded pioneers in this rug weaving tradition. This sector once employed about 1 million people which constitutes almost 3% of the population is what made the Afghan carpet industry as one of the most prominent & lucrative industries. With a significant growth & export potential few years ago, this sector became a major focus for Afghanistan. Afghan carpet producers till date continue to be among the most innovative, experienced & dependable in the world.

**PURPOSE:**
The purpose of this ward is to help and strengthen the capacities of the local carpet weaving and trading companies to supply to the international markets by having local to learn and then produce quality hand weaved carpets. Through this RFA, two companies will be selected to strengthen carpet production in Kunar (Assadabad) and Nangarhar (Behsud) provinces.

**EXPECTED OUTCOMES:**
Two companies are to be selected through this RFA. These two companies are expected to achieve the following outcomes:

- Forty local Afghans which include 20 male and 20 female will learn the skill of carpet weaving.
- Local jobs created for 20 female and 20 male of vulnerable families in Nangarhar and Kunar.
- Capacity of carpet weavers is strengthened in Nangarhar and Kunar provinces.

**DURATION:**
6 Months

**ACTIVITIES:**

- The two companies selected through this RFA will carry out the following activities:
  ***Company 1***
  - Develop a training plan in coordination with Private Sector Development personnel of IDEA-NEW.
  - Prepare necessary equipment and tools for the delivery of the training, in coordination with Private Sector Development personnel of IDEA-NEW.
  - Select the trainees in coordination with the DDA and local government representatives in Wach Tange Village of Behsud District, Nangarhar Province. The IDEA-NEW GME team will be involved in the selection of female participants.
  - Deliver the training as per the pre-approval plan and ensure they learn the skills and remain with the employees of the respective carpet weaving company.

***Company 2***

- develop a training plan in coordination with Private Sector Development personnel of IDEA-NEW.
- Prepare necessary equipment and tools for the delivery of the training, in coordination with Private Sector Development personnel of IDEA-NEW.
- Select the trainees in coordination with the DDA and local government representatives in Assadabad, Kunar Province. The IDEA-NEW GME team will be involved in the selection of female participants.
- Deliver the training as per the pre-approval plan and ensure they learn the skills and remain with the employees of the respective carpet weaving company.

**DELIVERABLES:**

- ***Each*** company selected is to:
- Successful train 20 people (10 men and 10 women) within 6 months period.
- Establish 2 training centers (2 in Nangarhar or 2 in Kunar). Two will be for female trainees and two for male trainees.
- Provide the successful trainees carpet loom and other necessary tools with materials to weave carpet and remain on the job.

**NOTES:**

If one company would like to apply for a grant to conduct training in both sites, two applications should be submitted to IDEA-NEW, one for each of the sites.

# 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)

**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, Laghman, 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 Contribution
- Applicant's Financial Capacity

# Section 3: Application Form and Instructions

**INSTRUCTIONS**

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