

BAA Issuance Date: May 3, 2018

BAA Open Period: May 3, 2018 to May 2, 2019

BAA Questions Due: May 21, 2018 at 10:00 AM Eastern Time (Washington DC Time)

Current Call for Expressions of Interest Due: June 1, 2018 at 10:00 AM Eastern Time (Washington DC Time)

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

Broad Agency Announcement

For

Nutrition Innovations in Complex Environments

Contents

I. Overview

II. Problem and Challenge Statements

III. The BAA Process

STAGE 1 - SUBMISSION OF EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (EOIs)

STAGE 2 - CO-CREATION AND CO-DEVELOPMENT OF THE CONCEPT PAPER

STAGE 3 - REVIEW BY THE PEER AND SCIENTIFIC REVIEW BOARD

STAGE 4 - AWARD DETERMINATION

IV. Additional Considerations

V. Specific Rights Reserved for the Government under this BAA

VI. Information Protection

VII. Obtaining the BAA and Addenda

VIII. Submission Requirements

I. Overview

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is issuing this Broad Agency Announcement (BAA) to seek participants to co-create, co-design, co-invest, and collaborate on research and development innovations to prevent and treat nutrition vulnerabilities in complex environments. USAID invites organizations and companies to submit an Expression of Interest, as provided below.

As described in section II of this Announcement, USAID, the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID), and the Eleanor Crook Foundation (ECF), share a common interest in supporting the fight to end chronic and acute malnutrition. Each of the organizations may participate in co-creation, as described in Section III of this announcement. USAID and ECF reserve the right to fund, co-fund, or not fund a concept that is generated from the BAA process. DFID does not intend to fund concepts through this process.

BAA No. 7200AA18R00044- Nutrition Innovations in Complex Environments

This BAA and any subsequent Addenda will allow co-creation and co-design to the maximum extent to create high-quality, effective partnerships with great efficiency in time and resources. USAID will invite selected organizations, as detailed below, to co-create research and development (R&D) solutions to the Problem and Challenge Statements, including those organizations that have ideas, expertise, resources, and/or funding to add to potential solutions.

Co-Investing: USAID wants to align goals with partners under this BAA to facilitate shared responsibility, shared risk, and shared resourcing. Shared resourcing requires that cash and other resources, both tangible and intangible, such as in-kind contributions, expertise, intellectual property, brand value, high-value coordination, and access to key people, places, and information, are directed towards reaching the solution to the Problem/Challenge. Co-investing does not require equal shared resources (such as 1:1 leverage), but rather resource contributions that are appropriate to the specific project's objectives, considering the comparative advantages brought by the participation of each party.

A. Federal Agency Name:

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

B. Opportunity Title:

Nutrition Innovations in Complex Environments

C. Announcement Type:

The current call for Expressions of Interest under this BAA must address the Problem and Challenge Statement cited in the BAA.

USAID may issue Addenda to this BAA that focus on specific problems, solutions, scalability opportunities, feasibility studies and other research and development initiatives addressing the problem and challenge statements described. Future addenda may be issued separately with additional requirements for evaluation and administrative information, such as requirements for expressions of interest, concept papers, and response deadlines. The terms of the BAA will apply to each Addendum.

D. Opportunity Number: 7200AA18R00044

E. Authority:

This BAA is issued under Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) 35.016(c). This is not a FAR Part 15 Procurement.

F. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number:

98.001 USAID Foreign Assistance for Programs Overseas

II. Problem and Challenge Statements

PROBLEM: Malnutrition is the number-one driver of the global burden of disease¹ and is associated with almost half of all deaths of children under five years, or about 3.1 million child deaths annually.² In recent years, the global community has acknowledged the importance of improving global nutrition through such milestones as the World Health Assembly's (WHA) Comprehensive Implementation Plan on Maternal, Infant and Young Child Nutrition in 2012; the Rome Declaration and Framework for Action in 2014; goals developed by and committed to by the United Nations (UN) , including, “*End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture*” by 2030; and the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition. Addressing malnutrition will require concerted, coordinated efforts to scale up what works, and to find effective, innovative, and scalable solutions to the most intractable drivers of poor nutrition. Innovation is particularly needed in chronically nutritionally and food-insecure contexts -- in other words, complex environments where there are persistent or recurrent crises, such as drought, conflict or instability. In these environments poor nutrition is likely holding back efforts to build resilience. Improved nutrition can both be a maker and marker of effective inclusive development.

CHALLENGE: As set out at the 2017 Milan Global Nutrition Summit, USAID, DFID and ECF, have a common interest in supporting the fight to end chronic and acute malnutrition. We recognize this is particularly a problem among adolescent girls and mothers and children in the first “1,000 days,” the critical period between pregnancy and a child’s second birthday, and especially those populations living in complex environments.

This collaboration intends to harness USAID and DFID’s commitments to scale up nutrition interventions that prevent and treat undernutrition, alongside ECF’s capacity to pursue innovative and cost-effective approaches to improve nutrition. Furthermore, we are interested in improving the effectiveness of interventions, including treatment of acute malnutrition. This includes sustainable, cost-effective and scalable innovative approaches to prevent and treat nutrition vulnerabilities of adolescent girls and mothers and children in the 1,000 days period. This collaboration focuses in the first instance on East Africa, especially regions of Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia and Rwanda that face chronic, complex environmental and developmental challenges and where chronic and acute malnutrition, and food insecurity remain a substantial challenge.

The sought-after innovations may include improving cost effectiveness, building human capital, enhancing economic and social resilience, and bolstering positive behavior change, among other R&D objectives. Innovations should have the potential for impact on wider learning. Innovations may be across sectors, including health, agro-food systems, and humanitarian assistance. Applicants should clearly articulate a hypothesis and demonstrate a proposed solution that appears to be scalable in real

¹ International Food Policy Research Institute. 2016. *Global Nutrition Report 2016: From Promise to Impact: Ending Malnutrition by 2030*.

² [http://www.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/lancet/PIIS0140-6736\(13\)60937-X.pdf](http://www.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/lancet/PIIS0140-6736(13)60937-X.pdf)

world settings. Areas of interest should all address sustained reductions in chronic and acute malnutrition including, but not limited to:

1. How to bring proven pilots to scale in a sustainable manner.
2. Innovations to maximize impact across sectors, including health, agriculture and humanitarian assistance.
3. New approaches that nudge behaviors, use other behavioral economics approaches, or technologies to catalyze sustained positive change.

III. The BAA Process

The resources made available under this BAA will depend on the concepts received and the availability of funds from USAID and other resource partners. Some award types may not include any funding. The award process under this BAA has the following steps:

STAGE 1 - SUBMISSION OF EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (EOIs)

Organizations must submit an EoI addressing the criteria below, in the format required in Section VII. More than one EoI may be submitted by an organization.

USAID will review EoIs to determine the extent to which each EoI addresses the criteria/eligibility requirements stated below. Not all organizations that submit an EoI will necessarily be invited to proceed to Stage 2. Due to the number of EoIs expected to be received, USAID may be unable to provide details on why an EoI is not selected for further consideration.

Required Content for EoIs:

1. EoIs must indicate the research or development idea that will work towards a solution to the Problem and Challenge Statements, by increasing knowledge and understanding of potential solutions, exploiting scientific discoveries or improvements in technology, materials, processes, methods, devices, or techniques, advancing the state of the art, or using scientific and technical knowledge in the design, development, testing, or evaluation of a potential new product or service (or of an improvement in an existing product or service).

Any awards issued under this solicitation will be for Applied Research or Development, as those terms are defined in FAR 35.001, as follows:

“Applied research” means the effort that:

- (a) normally follows basic research,³ but may not be severable from the related basic research;

³ The primary aim of basic research is a fuller knowledge or understanding of the subject under study, rather than any practical application of that knowledge. (FAR 2.101)

(b) attempts to determine and exploit the potential of scientific discoveries or improvements in technology, materials, processes, methods, devices, or techniques; and

(c) attempts to advance the state of the art. When being used by contractors in cost principle applications, this term does not include efforts whose principal aim is the design, development, or testing of specific items or services to be considered for sale; these efforts are within the definition of “development,” given below.

“Development” means the systematic use of scientific and technical knowledge in the design, development, testing, or evaluation of a potential new product or service (or of an improvement in an existing product or service) to meet specific performance requirements or objectives. It includes the functions of design engineering, prototyping, and engineering testing; it excludes subcontracted technical effort that is for the sole purpose of developing an additional source for an existing product.

2. EoIs must demonstrate the potential to have a significant impact (i.e., breakthroughs, not incremental improvements), that ultimately could achieve that even greater impact at scale.

3. EoIs must indicate the background and expertise of the organization, and the managerial and technical staff or team proposed for engagement in the endeavor.

4. EoIs must indicate what, if any, co-investment resources are available to bear on the solution, including those from the submitting organization and those from other third party businesses, donors, foundations, or other organizations. Such resources may include cash and other resources, both tangible and intangible, such as in-kind contributions, expertise, intellectual property, brand value, high-value coordination, and access to key people, places, and information, any if applicable.

5. USAID will also consider the reputation of an organization and its past experience in assessing the ability of the organization to contribute to the co-creation and respond to the Challenge/Problem Statements.

STAGE 2 - CO-CREATION AND CO-DEVELOPMENT OF THE CONCEPT PAPER

During Stage 2, key stakeholders will co-create potential solutions to the Problem/Challenge by brainstorming and innovating solutions and resources, potentially leading to concept papers that USAID or other resource partners will fund.

Co-Creation

USAID will review the EoIs and select those organizations that USAID determines have addressed the criteria/eligibility requirements stated herein to an extent that the organization will make a significant

contribution to the co-creation. The co-creation will include USAID and other partner organizations, including DFID and ECF.

Co-creation may take the form of a workshop, conference, meeting, or other the method at the discretion of the USAID. The method of co-creation for this BAA will be determined at a later date, and communicated directly to those organizations invited to participate. An invitation to co-create is not a guarantee of funding nor is it a guarantee of moving forward to Stage 3. For more information on co-creation and its design approaches, see <https://usaidlearninglab.org/library/co-creation-discussion-note-ads-201>.

Unless provided otherwise, organizations are responsible for all costs incurred by the organization to participate in the co-creation.

Not all organizations that participate in the co-creation may be invited to co-develop a Concept Paper.

Co-Development of Concept Papers

Working together, USAID and the potential partner(s) will collaborate on Concept Paper(s), taking a holistic approach to addressing the Problem/Challenge based on learnings from the co-creation, and identifying creative approaches to resourcing projects. Such Concept Papers may include additional implementing and co-investment partners to complement the project, including partners that offer reasonable cost sharing, leverage, or other resource arrangements.

The Concept Paper, generally 5-10 pages, will further detail and explain the project.

STAGE 3 - REVIEW BY THE PEER AND SCIENTIFIC REVIEW BOARD

USAID and the organization(s) connected with each Concept Paper will present the Concept Paper to the Peer and Scientific Review Board, comprised of experts from USAID, partners, and/or outside parties. The Peer and Scientific Review Board will review Concept Papers and recommend which applicants should be considered Apparently Successful Partners. Using its technical expertise, the Peer and Scientific Review Board will recommend whether to move forward with the project, including revisions/additions to the project, and potential partners and resources.

Not all organizations that present a Concept Paper to the Peer and Scientific Review Board will necessarily be invited to move to Stage 4.

STAGE 4: AWARD DETERMINATION

USAID will review the Peer and Scientific Review Board's recommendations and consider other relevant information, such as resource availability and Agency priorities, and will make a determination as to whether to move forward with the Concept Paper. For Concept Papers that demonstrate a potentially valid innovation to address the Problem/Challenge Statement, the Contracting/Agreement Officer will

assess the organization's responsibility and identify the anticipated instrument type to facilitate project design.

Request for Additional Information. USAID will work with organizations to co-design the project and assist the organization in providing additional information with respect to the organization's technical approach, capacity, management and organization, past performance, and budget, as well as representations and certifications, as needed.

Final Review and Negotiation. The USAID Contract/Agreement Officer will engage in a final review, negotiation, responsibility determination, price/cost reasonableness determination, and other required reviews, and will co-develop/draft an award instrument with the Apparently Successful Partner. If the Apparently Successful Applicant and USAID cannot arrive at a mutually agreeable arrangement, USAID may cancel the project at no cost to the Government.

Award. Awards under this BAA will be made to the Apparently Successful Partners on the basis of their ability to achieve solutions to the Problems/Challenges, as provided herein. The standard clauses or provisions for USAID-funded awards are generally prescribed by law and regulation and may vary considerably by award type. Information regarding clauses and provisions will be offered to the Apparently Successful Applicant when the award type is identified.

There are several ways awards may be funded under this BAA, including: 1) USAID-only funded awards; 2) ECF-only funded awards; and 3) awards co-funded by USAID and ECF. Any awards funded by USAID only will follow USAID's Acquisition and Assistance (A&A) policies for moving from EoI to award. The awarding organization will be determined after Stage 3 of the BAA process. The process described in this Stage 4 and the award terms may vary if the award will be funded in whole or in part by ECF.

Evaluation Criteria for EoI and Concept Papers:

EOIs and Concept Papers will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. **Idea/Approach:** Novelty, creativity and soundness of the R&D idea/approach and its relevance to the Problem and Challenge Statements. The idea/approach should be realistic, scalable, and reflect sound knowledge of the technical and country landscape.
2. **Partnership Expectations and Value:** Strengths of the organization or consortium as a partner, including ability to make a valuable contribution to the challenge issued.
3. **Impact:** The likelihood of generating substantial, scalable and sustainable impact on the issues discussed in the Problem and Challenge Statements.
4. **Past Experience:** USAID also will consider the organization's past experience in assessing the ability of the organization to contribute to the co-creation.

IV. Additional Considerations

- A. EoIs will not be evaluated against other EoIs, but solely on whether USAID determines that the submitter will be a valuable contributor to the co-creation process. USAID may limit the number of initial submissions selected to move forward based on efficiencies.
- B. Concept Papers will not be evaluated against other Concept Papers, but solely based on USAID's determination that the Concept Paper will successfully address the Problem and Challenges, using the criteria set forth herein. USAID may limit the number of Concept Papers selected to move forward based on efficiencies.
- C. Decisions regarding USAID's pursuit of a particular project, technology, or relationship will be based on all available information, evidence, data, and resulting analysis.
- D. Eligibility Information. Public, private, for-profit, and nonprofit organizations, as well as institutions of higher education, public international organizations, non-governmental organizations, U.S. and non-U.S. governmental organizations, multilateral and international donor organizations are eligible to receive awards under this BAA. All organizations must be determined to be responsive to the BAA and responsible to perform or participate in the final award.
- E. Funding availability and amounts will depend on the ideas generated during the collaboration process as well as the funding capacity of participating organizations, which are not necessarily limited to USAID.

V. Specific Rights Reserved for the Government under this BAA

The Government reserves specific rights, in addition to rights described elsewhere in this document or by law or regulation, including:

- 1. The right to award multiple awards, a single award, or no awards.
- 2. The right to make award without discussions, or to conduct discussions and/or negotiations, whichever is determined to be in the Government's interest.
- 3. The right to accept EoIs/Concepts in their entirety or to select only portions of EoIs/Concepts for award or co-investment.
- 4. The right to select for award an instrument type that is appropriate to the specific development context, partner relationship, and Concept Paper selected for award. Instruments types include, but are not limited to, contracts, grants, cooperative agreements, public-private partnerships, Inter-Agency Agreements, Government to Government Agreements, Donor to Donor Agreements, and Memorandums of

Understanding. In addition, the Government may craft a new instrument type to meet the needs of a specific relationship.

5. The right to co-create projects with one or more organizations under the BAA, when it is in the best interest of the Government.
6. The right to request any additional, necessary documentation upon initial review. Such additional information may include, but is not limited to, a further detailed Concept Paper, budget, and representations and certifications.
7. The right to fund or co-invest in Concept Papers in phases, with options for continued work at the end of one or more of the phases.
9. The right to award instruments under this BAA that do not commit or exchange monetary resources.
10. The right to remove organizations from the BAA process if USAID determines that it is no longer in the best interests of the Government to proceed with the organization.

VI. Information Protection

USAID's goal is to facilitate research and development that will lead to innovative, and potentially commercially-viable, solutions. Understanding the sensitive nature of submitters' information, USAID will work with organizations to protect intellectual property.

EoIs should be free of any intellectual property that the organization wishes to protect, as the EoIs will be shared with USAID partners as part of the selection process. However, once organizations have been invited to advance beyond co-creation, organizations can work with USAID to identify proprietary information that requires protection.

Therefore, organizations making submissions under this BAA grant to USAID a royalty-free, nonexclusive, and irrevocable right to use, disclose, reproduce, and prepare derivative works, and to have or permit others to do so to any information contained in an EoI submitted under the BAA. If USAID further engages with the organization regarding its submission, the parties can negotiate further protection of the organization's intellectual property.

Organizations must ensure that any submissions under this BAA are free of any third party proprietary data rights that would impact the license granted to USAID herein.

VII. Obtaining the BAA and any Addenda

This BAA and any Addenda, if applicable, can be downloaded from <http://www.grants.gov> and <http://www.fbo.gov>. Issuance of this BAA does not constitute an award commitment on the part of USAID, nor does it commit USAID or any of its funding partners to pay for costs incurred in the

preparation and submission of EoIs/Concepts. Further, USAID reserves the right to reject any or all EoIs/Concepts received.

VIII. Submission Requirements

EoIs submitted in response to this BAA must:

- A. Be in English, no more than 2 pages in length total, and no smaller than 12 point font;
 - B. Be submitted electronically to **BAANutrition@usaid.gov**;
 - C. Contain a header with the following information (included in the page count):
 - a. Respondent Name/Group and Contact Information;
 - b. Response Title;
 - c. BAA Addendum Name/Number;
 - d. Optional graphic that fits on an 8.5"x11" or A4 piece of paper (included in the page limit);
 - D. Be in .pdf, .docx, or .odf format
- If a respondent does not follow the instructions set forth herein, the respondent's EoI may be eliminated from further consideration.
 - USAID will not pay for any EoI preparation costs.
 - EoIs submitted in response will be received by electronic submission only. Facsimile or hardcopy submissions will not be accepted.
 - All EoIs submitted in response to this BAA are due no later than the **June 1, 2018 at 10:00 AM ET (Washington DC Time)**. Late EoIs will not be considered.

Questions

Any questions regarding this BAA should be submitted via email to this email address:

BAANutrition@usaid.gov with "Questions" in the subject line along with the BAA/Addendum Reference Number. Questions are due **May 21, 2018 at 10:00 AM ET (Washington DC Time)**. Responses to questions received prior to the deadline along with any applicable amendments to this BAA will be posted on fbo.gov and grants.gov.