

Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) “Small Grants for the implementation of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Prevention and Survivor Support Interventions in the Caribbean”

I.AWARD INFORMATION

Eligibility criteria:

- Be registered as a non-for-profit organization in the proposed country of implementation. Local public Entities and local accredited universities are also eligible. However, priority will be given to local civil society organizations.
- Have experience in the implementation of GBV projects.
- **Country Eligibility:** The following Caribbean countries will be eligible for small grant projects: Dominican Republic, Haiti, The Bahamas, St. Lucia, Barbados, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Type of Applicant: Organizations. Individuals are not eligible to apply.

Number of Applications: One (1) per applicant organization.

Note: Only organizations located in the Dominican Republic may form consortia and submit a combined proposal. However, only one organization may be designated as the lead applicant. The lead applicant must meet the eligibility criteria listed in this NOFO.

Anticipated award date: The successful applicant will receive notification by February 2021. COIN is under no obligation to fund any of the proposals submitted under the funding opportunity.

Project Duration: 10 or 12 months, beginning approximately March 1, 2021. Sub-awards of more than \$25,000 will last for 12 months (The Dominican Republic and Haiti) and grants less than \$25,000 will have a 10-month implementation period (The Bahamas, St. Lucia, Barbados, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines).

Est. Project Start Date: March 2021

Available budget: \$190,000.00 Divided as follows:

- One sub-award of up to \$80,000 for the Dominican Republic to address GBV issues with Dominicans of Haitian descent.
- One small grant for Haiti of \$30,000 to address the root causes of GBV.
- Four small grants for The Bahamas, St. Lucia, Barbados, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines of \$20,000 each to provide training on GBV prevention for civil society and local government officials.

COIN reserves the right to fund any or none of the applications submitted and reserves the right to reduce, revise, or increase proposal budgets in accordance with the needs of the project and the availability of funds.

Timeline

Activity	Deadline
Publication of the NOFO	December 28nd, 2020
Information webinar	Spanish and French: January 11 th , 2020 English: January 12 th , 2020
Submission of questions	January 15th, 2021
Proposal submission deadline	January 31st, 2021
Notification of funding	February, 2021
Project start date	March, 2021

This NOFO consists of the following sections:

- I. Award Information
- II. Funding Opportunity Description
- III. Application Submission
- IV. Application Evaluation
- V. Award Issuance and Administration
- VI. Agency Contacts

Eligible organizations interested in submitting an application are encouraged to review this NOFO thoroughly to understand the type of project sought and the application submission requirements and review process as outlined in this NOFO. Questions can be submitted by email to the project manager Mrs. Ana Martin Ortiz (amartin.coin@gmail.com) and the small grants coordinator Ms. Melissa Jaar (mjaar.coin@gmail.com) Deadline for questions is January 15th.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

El Centro de Orientación e Investigación Integral (COIN) announces a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for a gender-based violence (GBV) small grants program in the Caribbean that will work with local civil society organizations to address the root causes of GBV. The small grants will be part of a broader project awarded to COIN by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs.

Project activities will focus on gender sensitivity training for men and boys, strengthening civil society organization (CSO) networks and victim support, and supporting civil society training for local government agencies and service providers that support GBV survivors. GBV ranges from intimate partner violence to gender-based killing of women and girls, significantly hindering the ability of individuals to participate fully in society and contribute to their families and communities. In this first round of subawards, COIN intends to issue six (6) awards between \$20,000 and \$80,000 each for a project period of 10-12 months. The eligible countries for this round include **only** the following countries: The Bahamas, Barbados, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Saint Lucia. The proposed Caribbean small grantees will implement project activities that improve local capacity in preventing and/or responding to gender-based violence affecting Caribbean communities, while also addressing the root causes of GBV and social-cultural attitudes of young men and boys.

COIN seeks to engage a broad range of civil society actors and foster partnerships between local governments and civil society organizations on GBV prevention by addressing root causes. Small grant activities can provide education and training activities to empower youth and engage men and boys on GBV prevention, and may include communication and outreach strategies to engage local communities and a wider country-level audience through using different media outlets to include op-eds, local radio, and television. Alternatively, small grant projects can advance youth leadership, especially among young women and girls, to engage with civil society and local governments on activities to address GBV prevention. While training for youth is one method of achieving the overall project goal of addressing the root causes of GBV, it is not meant to serve as an end in itself.

II. FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

BACKGROUND

Gender-based violence affects a significant percentage of women and girls in the Caribbean and manifests at every level of society, from interpersonal and familial relationships, through communities and right up throughout society, including via the state. Its pervasiveness is what makes it so difficult to eradicate as it has its roots on widely accepted social norms and structures. Evidence has shown that interventions that address only one level or use only one intervention method have limited results. For this reason, this proposal is based on the ecological model, it combines different interventions at different levels to achieve better results. And it does so by creating alliances between different stakeholders involved in providing GBV-related services.

PROJECT GOAL AND DESCRIPTION

“Addressing the Root Causes of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in the Caribbean through the Caribbean GBV Prevention and Survivor Support Small Grants” is a Caribbean-led project, funded by

the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs and implemented by Centro de Orientación e Investigación Integral (COIN), a Dominican NGO with over 30 years of experience working on gender issues. The project will be implemented through local subrecipients in twelve Caribbean countries: Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Dominican Republic, Dominica, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint Lucia, and Trinidad and Tobago. Out of these, six country grants will be implemented in 2021 and the remaining six country grants will be implemented in 2022. In the first round: Dominican Republic, Haiti, The Bahamas, St. Lucia, Barbados, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines; and in Round 2: Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Grenada, Antigua and Barbuda, St. Kitts and Nevis, and Dominica.

The goal of the project is *to address the root causes of GBV in the Caribbean through a series of community-level small grants*. To achieve this goal, six objectives have been defined:

Objective 1: Foster partnerships between civil society and local municipalities to help address the root causes of GBV and improve services to GBV survivors, through the effective management of the Caribbean GBV small grants program.

Objective 2: Strengthen the capacity of sub-recipients to provide GBV prevention and response services by providing ongoing in-person and virtual training in their own language (i.e. French, Spanish, English, and/or Creole).

Objective 3: Improve available data on individual local community GBV prevention and survivor services and on people’s knowledge, attitudes, and practices in the communities where activities will take place, through the development of simple stakeholder maps or gap analyses and KAP surveys.

Objective 4: Reduce socio-cultural attitudes that lead to GBV by providing intervention activities aimed at youth as part of the small grants’ programs.

Objective 5: Strengthen civil society organizations (CSOs) and local governments’ abilities to improve access to GBV survivor services and networks by working with and providing training to local government agencies that already participate in the GBV prevention sphere.

Objective 6: Address GBV issues that result from COVID-19 and emergency GBV care by adapting project activities as required by the regulations already in place in each country and by including specific activities that respond to the challenges that COVID-19 regulations pose to GBV survivors.

- a) **For the purpose of this round of small grant proposals, only objectives 3 to 6 need to be addressed. ALL proposals need to address project objectives 3 and 6. Proposals of more than \$25,000 need to address also objectives 4 and 5. Proposals of less than \$25,000 may choose to address either objective 4 or 5.**

To tackle specific barriers and support the creation of an enabling environment the project proposes four sets of **interventions**:

- a) **Change social norms:** This includes activities such as a baseline Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (KAP) survey, trainings to men and boys that address socio-cultural attitudes that lead to GBV and social-emotional learning programs.
- b) **Build institutional capacity and alliances:** This includes trainings with CSOs and with government entities, establishment of multi-stakeholder discussion spaces and participation in networks.
- c) **Empower youth:** This includes empowerment and leadership trainings, and direct involvement in local project activities as advocates against GBV.
- d) **Improve availability and access to services:** Which includes mapping of existing services, signature of MOUs among sub-recipients and other service providers, establishment of a referral system and multi-stakeholder case management system.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES BY OBJECTIVE

Objective 3: Each subrecipient will begin approved subawards by creating a GBV service mapping or gap analysis of the existing GBV survivor support services and resources provided at local CSOs, healthcare providers, and municipal governments within their local communities to help set the baseline for GBV prevention small grant project goals and objectives. A consultant will remotely lead the implementation of a KAP survey. Each sub-recipient must include in its proposal the surveying process as an activity and the funds to cover the interviewer and data entry clerks' expenses.

Objective 4: Subrecipient awards can address the root causes of GBV by providing intervention activities aimed at youth and men and boys in local schools, after-school programs, or communities to address socio-cultural attitudes that lead to GBV, and will include sessions on male expressions of constructive emotions as partners in addressing GBV. Subrecipients can also develop gender-sensitive and youth-friendly capacity building training on socio-cultural skills (i.e. educational, leadership, and empowerment training) to protect young women and girls and empower them to break cycles of social exclusion and violence.

AND/OR

Objective 5: The subrecipients can design projects that will strengthen CSO and local governments' abilities to improve access to GBV survivor services and networks by working with and providing training to local government agencies that already participate in the GBV prevention sphere. Applications will not be accepted to provide survivor services directly to centers. COIN is particularly seeking subawards that improve safety networks for historically marginalized populations, including Dominicans of Haitian descent, migrants, and refugees, including in rural areas.

Objective 6: All subrecipients should consider the implications of COVID-19 on project activities and any possible restrictions that could occur in the Caribbean, including for planned locations of subaward activities. The required contingency plan should include reviewing whether project activities can be done virtually for at least the first six months to one year of the award. As appropriate, the COIN will assist subrecipients to develop subaward activities that address GBV issues amplified by the COVID-19 crisis, including technical assistance to help NGOs and municipal

government agencies create help lines, virtual counseling, and/or other GBV survivor support services directly related to GBV issues caused by Caribbean country COVID stay-at-home orders.

BUDGET GUIDANCE

An allowable project must include the following budget items:

- Administrative and personnel costs must be reasonable and reflect the principles of cost-effectiveness. The budget will include the percentage of time allocated to the project for each staff member, as well as the number of months and unit cost. Fringe benefits should be included according to the law applicable in each country.
- Administrative expenses are allowable as long as they are reasonable and proportional to the importance of this project for the organization. An explanation of the allocation of the expenses among projects will be required at the time of reporting.
- All subawards must include the costs of the local implementation of the KAP Survey (interviewers, copies and data entry clerks) and of the stakeholder mapping.
- Direct expenses such as supplies, transportation and activities should include enough level of detail (number, quantity and unit cost), if necessary, further explanations must be included in the comments section of the budget template.
- Small grants can only take place in one country.
- Subaward funding cannot be used to provide direct social services for GBV survivors.
- All subawards must outline a plan to achieve Objective 6.
- Subaward project activities should be appropriate to the audience and location of the community in which activity will take place.

OUTPUTS AND OUTCOMES

Small grant activities will support the following policy outcomes:

- Women and girls around the world have access to aid, and are safe from all forms of gender-based violence (GBV), abuse, and exploitation;
- U.S. personnel and international programs advance women's and girls' equality and empowerment; and,
- Promote an enabling environment that increases women's economic empowerment by reducing barriers and enhancing protections in policies, laws, regulations, and practices (public and private) to facilitate women's participation in the economy.

By the end of each small grant project's period of performance, the following outcomes should have been achieved with the allocated funding:

- Increased civil society capacity to engage with local municipalities to address the root causes of GBV.

- Improved capacity and knowledge on GBV prevention to share best practices for local government agencies to improve GBV survivor services. For this, all subrecipients are required to participate in the monthly virtual training sessions organized by COIN.
- Accurate baseline data on GBV services for the affected local communities, through the use of GBV stakeholder mapping.
- Strengthened ability of healthcare providers and/or municipal governments to provide more robust crisis support (to include virtual support as a result of the COVID-19 crisis), transitional housing, care services, psychological care, medical services, or legal aid for survivors of GBV in urban, rural, and marginalized communities.
- GBV survivors from marginalized and remote communities receive increased assistance from institutions that participated in the project.
- Local CSOs, healthcare providers, and municipal governments, as well as the affected GBV survivors, will be connected to existing networks that address GBV and will have received support and shared best practices.

Accordingly, each small grant will be required to track the following indicators and should conduct baseline measurements of each prior to activities commencing:

Indicator Type	Required Indicator
Output	Number of CSOs, national or municipal-level government agencies, and healthcare providers that sign MOUs or create an official partnership in host Caribbean country as a result of a subaward
Outcome	% of change in attitudes towards GBV in the targeted communities
Output	Number of young men and boys that participate in educational and training activities on the prevention of GBV in local communities.
Output	Number of youths that are trained in leadership roles in GBV prevention and advocacy, disaggregated by age and gender.
Output	Number of sensitization trainings, after school activities, and/or workshops and trainings with local universities, small businesses, or community-based organizations to address socio-cultural attitudes.
Outcome	Number of GBV survivors that receive improved services and assistance from their local government agencies and CSOs.
Output	Number of Caribbean local or government officials receive training on GBV prevention and services from technical experts
Outcome	Beneficiary individuals have a better understanding of the root causes of GBV in home communities and promote non-violent relationships.
Outcome	Awareness of socio-cultural attitudes among young men and boys is improved through engagement in local schools, after-school programs, and community

	engagement, expressed as a percent change in view of GBV as less acceptable after participating in project activities.
Output	Number of people who benefit from support to GBV survivors.

III. APPLICATION SUBMISSION

To receive the application package please email Mrs. Ana Martin (amartin.coin@gmail.com) and Ms. Melissa Jaar (mjaar.coin@gmail.com) expressing your interest in participating in this call for applications and including the contact information of the organization.

The application package includes a **project narrative template and a budget template**. Both need to be submitted before January 31st, 2021 for the application to be considered eligible.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that the application package has been received by COIN in its **entirety**. Incomplete applications will be considered **ineligible**. Applicants are urged to begin the application process well before the submission deadline. No exceptions will be made for organizations that have not completed the necessary steps.

IV. APPLICATION EVALUATION

COIN will issue an award to the applicants whose proposals represents the best value on the basis of technical merit, efficient use of funds, and satisfactory organizational capacity. In addition, the organization must demonstrate adequate financial management capability to be measured by a responsibility determination. Applications should contain the applicants' best terms from both cost and technical standpoints. The selected applicants will be subject to the U.S. Department of State approval. Eligible applications will be evaluated by an independent review panel consisting of subject matter experts.

The following criteria will serve as a standard against which all **eligible** applications will be evaluated. Each eligible application will be evaluated and scored on the review criteria using a 100-point scale. The review panel will apply the following criteria when rating proposals:

1. Quality of Project Idea (Total Possible 15 Points)

- The proposal is responsive to a call for programming designed to address the root causes of GBV in the Caribbean and identifies relevant local and international dynamics and drivers against which programming will be designed;
- The proposal outlines a vision for a “whole of society” approach – meaning the key sectors and actors (e.g. NGOs, local government agencies, women/girls, and youth) who will be the project’s key beneficiaries and protagonists;
- The proposal directly connects proposed activities with the desired outcomes, tying back to the project objectives;

- Exhibits originality, prioritizes innovation, but is feasible.

2. Project Planning/Ability to Achieve Objectives (Total Possible 15 Points)

- The proposal provides a detailed work plan of proposed project activities and includes a clear articulation of the planned activities' contribution to the overall project's goals and objectives;
- Each activity is clearly developed and detailed. Objectives are clear, specific, attainable, measurable, results-focused, and placed in a reasonable time frame;
- The proposal demonstrates a willingness to be flexible and the ability to adapt based on COIN and U.S. Department of State feedback over the course of the project;
- Includes contingency plans for potential difficulties in executing the original work plan, including for COVID-19.

3. Organizational Capability and Record of Performance (Total Possible 20 Points)

- Personnel and institutional resources are adequate and appropriate to achieve the project's objectives;
- The applicant has a strong track record in the proposed country of implementation in the areas of GBV prevention or survivor support and demonstrates capacity for responsible fiscal management or has a fiscal sponsor with a strong management capacity;
- The applicant illustrates success with projects of similar content and size.

4. Gender Analysis, Inclusion, Do No Harm (Total Possible 10 Points)

- Application includes a thoughtful gender analysis and reflects the gender analysis in the project design.
- Application presents an analysis of the needs affecting vulnerable populations, including GBV survivors; integrates these populations, as well as men and boys, in project design and implementation. The proposed project has undertaken, and designed implementation based on a gender analysis and shows concrete outputs and outcomes for project beneficiaries.

5. Cost Effectiveness (Total Possible 10 Points)

- The overhead and administration of the proposal, including salaries and honoraria, are explained and justified for the work involved;
- All budget items are allocable, reasonable and **necessary**, and linked to project objectives and demonstrate efficient use of funds;

6. Performance Monitoring Plan (Total Possible 20 Points)

- A narrative explaining the process for project monitoring and evaluation, and who will be responsible for those activities;
- Results/Logic Framework listing by project objectives the output- and outcome-based performance indicators and quarterly and cumulative targets; data collection tools; data sources; and types of data disaggregation, if applicable;
- Risk assessment listing all potential risks associated with project activities, the likelihood of potential risk, the potential impact of risks, and potential risk mitigation plans/actions. The risk assessment should also include the plan to protect and secure personally identifiable information, project data, and participants/beneficiaries involved in the project.

7. Multiplier Effect/Sustainability of Impact (Total Possible 10 Points)

- Clearly delineates the elements of the project that will have a multiplier effect;
- Clearly delineates whether the impact will be sustainable beyond the life of the grant;

V. AWARD ISSUANCE AND ADMINISTRATION:

Issuance of this NOFO does **not** constitute a commitment on the part of COIN to issue an award nor does it commit COIN to pay for costs incurred in the preparation and submission of an application. All preparation and submission costs are at the applicant's expense.

COIN reserves the right to fund any or none of the proposals submitted and reserves the right to reduce, revise, or increase the budget in accordance with the needs of the project and the availability of funds.

Reporting Requirements:

Selected applicants will be required to submit **Monthly** Progress and Financial Reports. Financial Reports provide a means of monitoring expenditures. More detailed reporting requirements will be outlined in the Award Agreement.

If reports or any other supporting documents are provided in both English and a foreign language, it must be stated in each version that the **English language version is the controlling version. U.S. dollar is the controlling currency.** Financial reports must be submitted in U.S. dollars.

Applicant organizations must demonstrate adherence to equal opportunity employment practices and commitment to non-discrimination with respect to beneficiaries. Non-discrimination includes equal treatment without regard to race, religion, ethnicity, gender, and political affiliation.

Proposals that reflect any type of support for any member, affiliate, or representative or a designate to a terrorist organization or narcotics trafficker, including elected members of government, will NOT be considered. Proposals may not support law enforcement-related purposes, costs, or force members.

VI. CONTACT INFORMATION

Any prospective applicant desiring an explanation or interpretation of this NOFO must request it in writing by the deadline for questions specified on the cover page. Information given to a prospective applicant concerning this NOFO will be furnished promptly to all other prospective applicants as a 'Questions and Answers' attachment to this NOFO. Any questions concerning this NOFO should be submitted in writing, by email, to COIN to amartin.coin@gmail.com and mjaar.coin@gmail.com along with the project's title as outlined in the NOFO; and applicant's legal name and organizational status.