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UNIVERSITETI I EVROPËS JUGLINDORE
УНИВЕРЗИТЕТ НА ЈУГОИСТОЧНА ЕВРОПА
SOUTH EAST EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY

USAID and LCIF Children with Visual Impairments Project

УСАИД и ЛЦИФ проект за децата со оштетен вид

Projekt i USAID dhe LCIF për fëmijët me pengesa në të pamurit

Subject: Request for applications (RFA) 2017-1

Title: USAID and LCIF Children with Visual Impairments Project

RFA Issuance Date: May 30, 2017

Deadline for Questions: June 23, 2017 by 12:00 (noon)

Application Closing Date: June 30, 2017 by 12:00 (noon)

The South East European University, through the USAID and LCIF Children with Visual Impairments Project is seeking Applications from Lions clubs Macedonia to fund activities within the scope of the USAID and LCIF Children with Visual Impairments Project.

All Lions Clubs from Macedonia are eligible to apply for the award.

This funding opportunity is posted on cvip.seeu.edu.mk and may be amended. Potential applicants should regularly check the website to ensure they have the latest information pertaining to this notice of funding opportunity.

The strict deadline for submission of the applications is no later than **12:00 o'clock (noon) Skopje time on June 30, 2017**. The application must be submitted electronically to the Project email address cwvi@seeu.edu.mk.

Any questions concerning the Request for Application should be submitted in writing to the Project's Chief of Party Shpetim Latifi at sh.latifi@seeu.edu.mk.

SECTION I: Program Description

The USAID and LCIF Children with Visual Impairments Project (**CwVIP**) is 6 years project that started in October 2014 and is implemented by the South East European University (SEEU), and funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and Lions

Clubs International Foundation (LCIF). The main focus of the CwVI project is to provide literacy for the CwVI and their access to education.

The **overall goal of CwVIP** is to increase educational opportunities for children with visual impairments and to detect and prevent eye diseases at an early stage. The project has an education, medical and social component.

Project summary

Visually impaired people in Macedonia lack basic opportunities and access to resources and services. This includes mobility, access to education services, health and social care, psychological counseling, accessible materials in Braille and audio content. Due to the lack of institutional support, very often their horizons and choices in their lives are strictly limited, and very often they are discriminated against when seeking employment opportunities.

Lions clubs from Macedonia will engage in achieving the Project's overall goal through some or all of the activities under the four Project's specific objectives listed below (the list below only includes the activities for which Lions clubs may be involved and does not represent all Project's activities).

OBJECTIVE 1: Improved education opportunities for Children with Visual Impairments (CwVI)

Activity 1d: Organize extracurricular activities for CwVI by Lions clubs volunteers.

[E.g. organize creative workshop, field trip, cultural or social event for the children with visual impairments (CVI) from the resource centers (RC) from the cities Skopje (State school for visually impaired "Dimitar Vlahov"), Veles (primary school "Jordan Hadzi Konstantiont Dzinot"), Shtip (primary school "Goce Delcev"), Bitola (primary school "Trifun Panovski") and Tetovo ("Woodrow Wilson"), individually or together with sighted peers.

OBJECTIVE 2: Improve early detection and treatment of visual impairments.

Activity 2b: Organize additional screening campaigns by Lions clubs, such as remote sites and rural villages (under the supervision of ophthalmologists).

[E.g. Organize eye screenings together with ophthalmologists from the project team of ophthalmologists in rural areas, villages, among marginalized population or among the pupils until third grade primary schools.

* For eye screenings in primary schools - in coordination with the project office.

Activity 2c: Presentations for parents of children enrolled at kindergartens and the primary schools to raise awareness for early detection and presentation of LEHP (Lions Eye Health Program) already adapted and translated into Macedonian and Albanian languages.

[E.g. Conducting presentations to raise awareness for the Eye Health in the kindergartens and the primary schools among the parents and staff]

OBJECTIVE 3: Increased awareness for inclusion of students with visual impairments.

Activity 3a: Organize round table discussions with speakers from education authorities, experts, special educators, universities and the Institute for Special Education to further promote inclusive education.

[E.g. Raising awareness events with relevant speakers for promotion and support of inclusive education emphasizing on children with visual impairments;)

OBJECTIVE 4: Established and functional support center for the visually impaired persons.

Activity 4b: Psychological counseling, socializing, information sharing and advice for inclusion; support in interacting with systems of social care and health care will be provided to the Union members on daily basis.

[E.g. organize or support activities within the support center for visually impaired (located at Red Cross of Macedonia run by City Red Cross of Skopje) for the members of the Union of the Blind]

CwVIP will not accept applications from individuals. All applicants must be recognized as registered Lions Clubs within Macedonia by the District 132 Macedonia. Public Organizations and NGOs other than Lions clubs are not eligible to apply for funding under this program.

All of the Lions Clubs that will apply **must be in good standing.**

Cost Sharing is not required under this RFA; however clubs are encouraged to seek other sources of funding or make own donations.

Applicants may only submit one application.

The following activities and programs **will not be considered for funding:**

- Any program containing any construction activities.
- Any program involving the purchase of equipment.
- Any program which involves activities other than those described in the activities and objectives under the Project Summary section.

Content and Format of Application Submission

Applications must be submitted electronically in two separate volumes via email:

(a) technical and (b) cost applications.

Email submissions must include the following in the subject line:

“Technical application under RFA-2017-1, submitted by: [name of Lions Club].”

“Cost application under RFA-2017-1, submitted by: [name of Lions Clubs].”

SECTION II: TECHNICAL APPLICATION FORMAT

The technical application will be the most important factor for consideration in selection for award of the proposed Cooperative Agreement. The technical application should be specific,

complete and presented concisely. The application should demonstrate the Applicant's capabilities and expertise with respect to achieving the goals of this program. The application should take into account the requirements of the program and evaluation criteria found in this RFA.

Technical applications must not exceed 10 single-spaced typed pages, utilizing Times New Roman 12pt font, single spaced, typed on standard A4 sized paper with one-inch margins (both right and left) and each page numbered consecutively.

Applicants are advised that any pages exceeding the limit will not be considered for evaluation.

The technical approach must clearly address the factors outlined in the evaluation criteria found in Section CRITERIA below.

Unless otherwise specified, all application documents must be in **English**.

Application Contents: The Technical Application, at a minimum, must contain the following **all of which count towards the 10 page limit**:

i. Cover Page (not to exceed one page)

A single page with the project title and RFA number, the name of the Lions club applying. In addition, the Cover Page must provide a contact person for the applicant, including this individual's name (both typed and his/her signature), title or position with the Lions club, address, telephone and fax numbers, and email address.

State whether the contact person is the person with authority to contract for the applicant, and if not, that person will also be listed with contact information.

ii. Technical Approach

Applicants must describe in detail the proposed program and its technical approach; how they intend to achieve the program objectives and how the program will significantly contribute towards accomplishing the program's objective. The program description should include targeted groups and areas of focus, and the proposed interventions and activities to be implemented during the life of the award.

The program description must establish a nine month (July 2017 – March 2018) timeline for objectives in sufficient detail that indicate progress towards the activities that need to be performed to achieve objectives.

Draft Activity Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (not to exceed 2 pages).

A draft Activity Monitoring and Evaluation Plan shall be submitted with the application and shall include:

- Specific, quantifiable performance indicators and targets for the objectives included in the original proposal and activities in nine month work plans;
- A description of monitoring systems to measure project progress against overall objectives; and
- A plan for data collection and measurement of overall project outcomes and results, including collection of baseline data, and for the use of data collected by the project to improve program planning and performance.

CRITERIA

CwVIP will evaluate the applications on the following evaluation criteria:

Degree to which the proposed program meets the stated objectives in **Project Summary** and the overall Project's goal.

Extent to which the proposed program includes realistic targets and relevant and meaningful indicators to measure success in meeting the stated objectives in **Project Summary** section.

SECTION III: COST APPLICATION FORMAT

The Cost Application must be submitted under separate cover from the technical application. **NOTE:** The award will not provide for the reimbursement of pre-award application costs. The cost application must include all costs associated with the implementation and completion of Activities.

These amounts are subject to revision depending on availability of funds.

The proposed budget must provide cost estimates for the implementation of the program. All funds will be only available for project activities. Salaries and other payments to Lions clubs members will not be approved.

While there is no page limit for this portion, applicants are encouraged to be as concise as possible, but must still provide the following:

A detailed budget, including costs notes/budget narrative explaining all estimated costs. Please note that the budget narrative must not only express the calculation of the estimate and purpose but also the basis of estimate – the rationale used to determine the cost estimate was fair and reasonable.

The award ceiling per club on annual basis cannot exceed \$1,000.00.