

Notice of Funding Opportunity

Funding Opportunity Title: “SYLEP 2.0” *Open Cooperative Agreement 2022*

Funding Opportunity Number: PAS-RIYADH-FY23-01

Application Deadline: December 18, 2022

CFDA Number:

Total Available Amount: \$50,000 to \$60,000

STATEMENT OF INTEREST INFORMATION

COMPETITION DESCRIPTION

The U.S. Embassy in Riyadh is pleased to announce an open call for organizations to submit a Statement of Interest (SOI) to compete for a Cooperative Agreement award for a new youth leadership program, SYLEP 2.0. Please read this document carefully and follow all instructions. This notice is subject to availability of funding.

The submission of the SOI is the first step in a two-step process. Applicants must first submit a **concise (1-3 pages only) SOI** to RiyadhGrants@state.gov in English by **December 18, 2022**. This document should provide program ideas and objectives as well as information on the organization’s relevant experience. **PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS IS NOT A FULL PROPOSAL**. Please use the following numbered statements below to guide you in writing your SOI.

1. Begin with a history of your organization, its mission, and prior work experience in leadership initiatives.
2. Write a brief description of proposed program activities for SYLEP 2.0. Include goals and objectives and how the activities will provide maximum impact in achieving these results.
3. Describe the “American component” of your proposal – i.e., how you will incorporate American speakers, precepts, examples, etc.
4. Explain how you will know whether you have achieved the desired impact and can demonstrate evidence of success.

Following a merit review, applicants will be selected and invited to expand on their program ideas by submitting a full proposal application (a second-tier submission). Applicants chosen to submit a full proposal will be notified by **December 22** and asked to

submit their full proposal by **January 15, 2023**. Full proposals will go through a second merit review before final funding decisions are made and a Grantee is selected. **PLEASE DO NOT SUBMIT A FULL PROPOSAL UNLESS REQUESTED TO DO SO BY THE U.S. EMBASSY.**

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The new Saudi Young Leaders Exchange Program (“SYLEP 2.0”) will leverage the success of previous iterations of SYLEP under an amended format that emphasizes in-country training for a cohort of emerging Saudi leaders, both before and after their exchange program to the United States. The SYLEP 2.0 cohort will be comprised of 20 emerging Saudi leaders (approximately 24 – 30 years old) who are active in the fields of (i) environmentalism/combating climate change and (ii) social entrepreneurship.

Note that the **U.S. Embassy** will be solely responsible for recruiting SYLEP 2.0 participants and for all aspects of their U.S. exchange program. The **awardee** under this cooperative agreement will be responsible for the program’s in-country component: organizing and implementing a series of in-person and virtual workshops that impart critical skills to the cohort and allow them to leverage their U.S. experience in developing community-based projects.

SYLEP 2.0’s in-country component will consist of a series of virtual and in-person workshops for the cohort that will take place between February and June 2023. These sessions would be designed to build cohort cohesion; strengthen relations between the U.S. Embassy and participants; and impart the critical thinking, leadership, public speaking, project management, innovation, and dialogue skills necessary to become global leaders. It should include a strong American component via the participation of at least one visiting U.S. speaker/trainer and two virtual U.S. trainers.

The SYLEP 2.0 cohorts would participate in an exchange program to the United States (separately organized and separately by the U.S. Embassy). Following their return to Saudi Arabia, the awardee would convene a session on brainstorming and developing capstone projects, and a final in-country workshop in fall 2023 for all participants to present capstone community projects deriving from their training and experiences in the United States in the form of a pitch competition.

The main goals of SYLEP 2.0 are to:

- Develop a strong and cohesive cohort of rising Saudi leaders in the fields of environmentalism/climate change and social entrepreneurship.
- Strengthen their understanding of and connections to like-minded U.S. leaders in these fields.
- Allow them to develop close ties to the U.S. Mission and its alumni network.

- Boost their skills in critical thinking, leadership, public speaking, project management, innovation, and dialogue that will lead to success in both civic projects and their careers.

In-Person Events:

The awardee will organize three in-person events in consultation with the Embassy:

- An initial, kick-off two-day, in-person workshop introducing them to the program and key concepts to be developed that takes place in late February 2023 (one the sidelines of the Embassy's wider alumni conference). It should bring together the 20 SYLEP 2.0 participants, Embassy representatives, select SYLEP alumni leaders/trainers, and an American expert in leadership. The workshop would provide intensive training on key leadership, project management, and communications skills.
- A two-day, in-person workshop in fall 2023 (following the participants' U.S. exchange) for participants to debrief on their U.S. exchange experience and share ideas on their capstone projects.
- A final in-person pitch competition in fall or winter 2023, where winners are provided seed funding and implementation support from the grantee.

On-line training sessions:

The awardee will organize two virtual sessions in consultation with the Embassy:

- A virtual session for the 20-person cohort in late April that provides intensive training on key leadership, project management, and communications skills.
- A second virtual program, in May or June, that allows the cohort to meet in person before their U.S. exchange and provides intensive training on key leadership, project management, and communications skills.

APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

1. Criteria

SOI submissions will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- Quality and feasibility of the proposed program
- Organizational capacity and relevant prior experience
- Monitoring and evaluation plan
- American component

2. Review and Selection Process

An Embassy Grants Review Committee will evaluate all eligible SOIs using the criteria listed above.

3. Following the review, any successful SOI applicants will be contacted and instructed to submit full applications. A full application will include:
 - SF-424 or SF-424i (Application for Federal Assistance)
 - SF 424A (Budget information)
 - SF424B (Assurances) for individual or organization exempted from registering with SAM.gov
 - A budget narrative
 - CVs for key staff
 - Statement of NICRA
 - Letters of support from potential sub-awardees or key partners

Mission Saudi Arabia may not be able to respond to all Statements of Interests that are submitted.

FEDERAL AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

1. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

Terms and Conditions: Before submitting the SOI, applicants should review all the terms and conditions and required certifications which will apply if a full proposal application is requested and awarded, to ensure that they will be able to comply. These include 2 CFR 200, 2 CFR 600, and the Department of State Standard Terms and conditions which are available at <https://www.state.gov/about-us-office-of-the-procurement-executive/>.

FEDERAL AWARDED AGENCY CONTACTS

If you have any questions about the SOI application process, please contact RiyadhGrants@state.gov