



# USAID | MACEDONIA

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

January 25, 2010

Dear Development Partners:

I would like to bring to your attention an interesting opportunity to supplement your ongoing programs through the **Development Grants Program** funded by USAID's Office of Development Partners in Washington. The Development Grants Program encourages local non-government organizations to propose innovative and effective approaches that contribute to the achievement of development objectives of the USAID Missions. Your expertise, experience, knowledge of local communities and innovative approaches enable you to make important contributions to achieving USAID's development objectives. Approximately \$40 million will be distributed in competitively awarded grants of up to \$2 million to eligible organizations around the world. All local NGOs that participate in this program should provide a cost-share match equivalent to, or greater than 10 percent.

USAID Macedonia has selected the following priority areas for the implementation of the Development Grants Program:

1. **Microenterprise** - In this era of globalization, generating economic growth in developing countries while reducing poverty is a fundamental development challenge. To ensure that the contribution of microenterprises to key subsectors and national economies is maximized, and to ensure that the poor are not left out of market development, small and micro enterprises need access to finance, business services, and improved inputs; they also need a conducive enabling environment that facilitates rather than inhibits their participation in markets. Relatively small amounts of timely credit, supported by appropriate services, not only allow microenterprises to succeed, but also serve as a catalyst for increased employment and as a stimulus to local economies.

The recent USAID Macedonia workforce assessment

(<http://macedonia.usaid.gov/Documents/Macedonia%20WFD%20report%20April%202009.pdf>) identified an urgent need for the creation of new jobs to alleviate the very high unemployment rate of 35%, especially among youth. The assessment recommended significant support for entrepreneurship and enterprise creation to respond to the extremely low demand for workers in the formal economy. At least two business incubators and several business support organizations currently operate in Macedonia. USAID Macedonia is looking to support and strengthen these organizations to extend their services to increased numbers of start-up businesses and small enterprises. These services could include the provision of space, infrastructure, joint offices, access to finance (possibly linking to an active DCA initiative -

[http://macedonia.usaid.gov/en/sectors/economic/msme\\_dca.html](http://macedonia.usaid.gov/en/sectors/economic/msme_dca.html)), and ongoing support through training and advisory services.

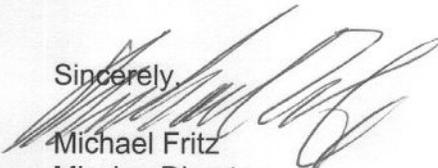
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2. **Climate Change Adaptation** - In developing countries, economies and livelihoods are often concentrated in climate-dependent activities such as rain-fed agriculture, fishing, forestry and tourism. Climate change thus exacerbates existing development challenges in countries where USAID works. Climate change adaptation activities concentrate on developing flexible and resilient societies and economies capable of coping with the impacts of current climate variability and future climate change. Consideration of changing climate conditions in planning and implementation requires assessments of vulnerabilities, access to information, application of user-friendly tools, and testing and dissemination of tools and methods for development practitioners in the field.

USAID Macedonia is already supporting important recycling and Energy Efficiency (EE) efforts to protect the environment and at the same time stimulate economic growth. USAID would like to complement this assistance with a Green Jobs Corps project that would improve the employment opportunities for unskilled youth by providing practical training for pursuing green careers (such as energy conservation and/or participation in the recycling industry), strengthening their work readiness and creating models for integration of the trained youth into the formal economy.

The full Request for Applications is available on [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) at [www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?oppld=50806&mode=VIEW](http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?oppld=50806&mode=VIEW). If your organization is interested to apply, please make sure that you read this document thoroughly and follow closely the instructions for preparing and submitting your proposal. The selection process will be conducted in two phases: first all interested applicants need to submit a concept paper, and then a selected number of them will be invited to submit a full application. The deadline for submission of the concept paper of maximum five pages (plus cover letter and attachments) is **11 am EST (5pm local time) on February 12, 2010** to Tim Donnay at USAID Macedonia and [DGP2@usaid.gov](mailto:DGP2@usaid.gov).

I'm confident that Macedonian non governmental organizations have the capacity to develop solid proposals that meet these requirements and supplement our development program.

Sincerely,  
  
Michael Fritz  
Mission Director