



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Issuance Date: *June 19, 2012*
Deadline for Receipt of Questions: *July 3, 2012*
Closing Date and Time for Submission of Applications: *July 31, 2012*
16:00 Budapest, Hungary local time

Subject: Request for Application No. RFA-165-12-000001
“Teacher Professional and Career Development Project (TPCD)”

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID), through Regional Service Center, Regional Contracting Office in Budapest is seeking applications from eligible Macedonian organizations registered as civil society organization or foundation under the Law on Citizens’ Associations and Foundations of April 2010, for a cooperative agreement to fund a project in Macedonia entitled “Teacher Professional and Career Development Project (TPCD)”. The authority for the RFA is found in the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended.

Subject to the availability of funds, USAID anticipates awarding one cooperative agreement, not to exceed the approximate amount of \$950,000 in total funding, to a Macedonian organization which will carry out the TPCD Project as further detailed in “Section C - Program Description”

The U.S Dollar amount will be funded from USAID appropriated funds, to be allocated over a thirty (30) month period. The anticipated start date for this activity is on or about October, 2012. USAID reserves the right to fund any or none of the applications submitted, and will determine the resulting level of funding for the award.

Pursuant to 22 CFR 226.81, it is USAID policy not to award profit under assistance instruments. However, all reasonable, allocable, and allowable expenses, both direct and indirect, which are related to the agreement program and are in accordance with applicable cost standards (22 CFR 226, OMB Circular A-122 for non-profit organization, OMB Circular A-21 for universities, the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Part 31 for-profit organizations.

The prospective award will be administered in accordance with the Standard Provisions for Non-U.S. Nongovernmental Recipients. The set of mandatory standard provisions and required as applicable standard provisions for Non-U.S. nongovernmental recipients is accessible at the following website: <http://www.usaid.gov/policy/ads/300/303mab.pdf>

Given the size and complexity of the project, USAID encourages organizations to partner together to submit a joint application with local partners. In such a case, the designated prime implementing partner will submit the joint application on behalf of all partners, and this organization will be the direct recipient of the USAID award. The other major implementing partners will be as sub-grantees of the prime recipient. The prime implementing partner will bear the responsibility for program implementation and will have a key role in the success of the program. Macedonian organizations registered as civil society organization or foundation under the Law on Citizens’ Associations and Foundations of April 2010 are eligible to submit applications as Prime implementing partners. Please see further details on eligibility in Section E Annex 3. The application shall demonstrate an organizational arrangement that clearly demonstrates an effective mechanism for managing project resources and working with major implementing partners.

USAID/Macedonia (the Mission) intends to assist the Government of Macedonia (GoM) in strengthening the national education and training system by identifying necessary interventions that would best support

national policy regarding continuous professional and career development of teachers. This activity aims to contribute to creating a transparent and functional teacher career and professional development system in Macedonia by helping to further develop existing structures. USAID expects applicants to have experience in areas such as teacher competencies, education system strengthening and legislation regarding professional development and to be able to propose a staffing/teaming structure which will provide a wide range of strategic and technical assistance.

Applicants under consideration for an award that have never received funding from USAID will be subject to a pre-award audit to determine fiscal responsibility, ensure adequacy of financial controls and establish in indirect cost rate.

Eligible Macedonian local organizations interested in submitting an application are encouraged to read this RFA thoroughly to understand the type of project sought and the application submission requirements and evaluation process.

To be considered for award, the applicant must provide all required information in its application, including the requirements found in any attachments to this Grants.gov opportunity. This RFA consists of this cover letter plus the following Sections:

1. Section A – Instructions for Application Format;
2. Section B – Selection Criteria;
3. Section C – Program Description;
4. Section D – Application for Federal Assistance
5. Section E – Annexes
6. Section F – Attachments/ Background Information/References

This funding opportunity is posted on www.grants.gov, and may be amended. Potential applicants should regularly check the website to ensure they have the latest information pertaining to this RFA. Applicants will need to have available or download Adobe program to their computers in order to view and save the Adobe forms properly. If you have difficulty registering on www.grants.gov or accessing the RFA, please contact the Grants.gov Helpdesk at 1-800-518-4726 or via email at support@grants.gov for technical assistance.

It is the responsibility of the recipient of this RFA document to ensure that it has been received from Grants.gov in its entirety. USAID bears no responsibility for data errors resulting from transmission or conversion processes associated with electronic submissions.

Any questions concerning this RFA should be submitted in writing to Mr. Clement J. Bucher, via email to cbucher@usaid.gov and Ms. Agnes Cserhati, at acserhati@usaid.gov. The deadline for submission of questions on this RFA is July 3, 2012. Responses to questions will be furnished to all potential applicants through an amendment to this RFA.

Issuance of this RFA does not constitute an award commitment on the part of the Government, nor does it commit the Government to pay for costs incurred in the preparation and submission of an application. In addition, final award of any resultant cooperative agreement cannot be made until funds have been fully appropriated, allocated, and committed through internal USAID procedures. While it is anticipated that these procedures will be successfully completed, potential applicants are hereby notified of these requirements and conditions for award. Applications are submitted at the risk of the applicant. All preparation and submission costs are at the applicant's expense.

Sincerely,



Clement J. Bucher
Regional Agreement Officer

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SECTION A – INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLICATION FORMAT

1. PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

The federal grant process is web-enabled, allowing for applications to be submitted on-line. Instructions to submit applications electronically on-line in response to this RFA are found on Grants.gov in the “For Applicants” section – under “Apply for Grants”. Please **also** submit electronic copy of the application via e-mail to Mr. Clement J. Bucher at cbucher@usaid.gov and Ms. Agnes Cserhati, at acserhati@usaid.gov.

Submission of hard copies of the application is not needed.

If your organization decides to submit an application, it must be received by the closing date and time indicated at the top of the cover letter. The applicant must provide all required information in its application, including the requirements found in any attachments to this RFA. Applicants should retain for their records one copy of all enclosures which accompany their applications.

Applications must be in English language.

To be eligible for award, the application should be prepared according to the structural format set forth below in (2) Technical Application Format and (3) Cost/Business Application Format. Applications which are received late or are incomplete run the risk of not being considered in the review process. Late applications will be considered for award only if the Agreement Officer determines it is in the Government’s interest.

USAID will consider only applications conforming to the format prescribed below. All applications received by the closing date and time indicated on the cover letter will be reviewed for responsiveness and programmatic merit in accordance with the specifications outlined in these guidelines and the application format. Section B addresses the selection criteria and procedures for the applications. As part of the application, applicants shall acknowledge receipt of any amendments to this RFA.

Applicants who include data that they do not want disclosed to the public for any purpose or used by the U.S. Government except for evaluation purposes should:

(a) Mark the title page with the following legend: "This application includes data that shall not be disclosed outside the U.S. Government and shall not be duplicated, used, or disclosed -in whole or in part - for any purpose other than to evaluate this application. If, however, a grant is awarded to this applicant as a result of - or in connection with - the submission of this data, the U.S. Government shall have the right to duplicate, use, or disclose the data to the extent provided in the resulting cooperative agreement. This restriction does not limit the U.S. Government's right to use information contained in this data if it is obtained from another source without restriction. The data subject to this restriction are contained in pages TBD"; and

(b) Mark each sheet of data it wishes to restrict with the following legend: "Use or disclosure of data contained on this sheet is subject to the restriction on the title page of this application."

2. TECHNICAL APPLICATION FORMAT

Technical applications must not exceed **20** pages, utilizing Times New Roman 12-font size, single spaced, typed in standard 8 ½"x11" paper size with one-inch margins both right and left, and each page numbered consecutively. Cover letter, dividers, table of contents, annexes (e.g performance monitoring and evaluation plan, personnel resumes, past performance information, certificates, forms, acronym list etc.) will not count toward the page limitation. Any pages that exceed the page limitation will not be furnished to the Evaluation Committee. There is no page limit on attachments or cost application.

The technical application will have more significant importance than cost application in the selection of a successful applicant. It should demonstrate the applicant's capabilities and expertise with respect to achieving the goals of this project. Therefore it should be specific, complete and presented concisely. It should take into account and be arranged in the order of the technical evaluation criteria specified in Section B.

Application Contents: The technical application, at a minimum, shall contain the following:

- A. Cover Page:** A single page with the project title and RFA number, the names of the organizations/institutions involved, and the lead or primary Applicant clearly identified. Any proposed sub grantees (or implementing partners) should be listed separately. In addition, the Cover Page should provide a contact person for the prime Applicant, including this individual's name (both typed and his/her signature), title or position with the organization/institution, address, telephone and fax numbers and e-mail address. State whether the contact person is the person with authority to contract for the Applicant, and if not, that person should also be listed with contact information. If applicable, the **TIN** and **DUNS** numbers of the Applicant shall also be listed on the cover page.
- B. Table of Contents:** Listing all parts of the technical application, with page numbers and attachments.
- C. Executive Summary** (counts toward the page limitation and shall not exceed 2 pages): Briefly describe
 - a) the proposed goals, b) the key activities and anticipated results, and c) managerial resources of the Applicant, and how the overall project will be managed.
- D. Technical Approach:**

In this section, applicants are not to merely repeat what is already described in this RFA. Applicants should focus on describing how they propose to achieve the project objective(s) and how the project will make a significant contribution towards achieving the strategic objectives and areas for action identified in the project description. Applicants shall elaborate in their technical approach the most effective way to develop and realize the objectives of this project including the reasonable course of action and tasks that are relevant to the current needs of Macedonia. Applicants should present a convincing and compelling articulation of their technical approach.

At a minimum, the approach shall address the following:

- Discussion of the concrete expected results and how they will be achieved;
- Explanation of key interventions applicants believe should be prioritized and why;

- Discussion on the coordination with relevant stakeholders. Applicants should provide specific examples on how to capitalize on possible synergies with other partners, and therefore strengthen the impact of TCPD;
- Strategy for the phase-out and sustainability of project activities and impact;
- Substantive attention on how applicants will incorporate gender considerations and other cross-cutting themes under the USAID Mission Strategy into the implementation of the TCPD;
- Implementation timelines schedule; and
- The proposed plan for effective, rapid launch of activities.

As an annex to this section, applicants shall submit a draft Performance Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (PMEP). The PMEP must explain how the applicant proposes to monitor the project performance and measure indicators and impact. The PMEP must include results, indicators, targets, consisting of data sources, frequency of data collection, collection methods, data verification, and responsible parties of data collection, baseline information, and benchmarks. The applicant must discuss the ways in which the collection, analysis and reporting of performance data will be managed under the project. All data collected must be disaggregated. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that all costs, if any, related to the implementation of the PMEP are included in the cost proposal.

E. Key Personnel Qualifications and Experience

Applicants may propose up to four key personnel positions to include a Chief of Party and other key senior professionals.

Chief of Party: The local Chief of Party will be the primary point of contact with USAID/Macedonia with regard to day-to-day activity implementation and management matters relating to the Agreement. The Chief of Party must have overall responsibility for assuring that all assistance provided under the award is technically sound and appropriate for the needs to be addressed and for adequately managing and supervising the work of all staff in country.

Applicants shall identify and clearly describe the professional qualifications, education and relevant experience of its proposed key Chief of Party.

The Chief of Party should possess:

- Relevant experience in managing similar education programs in complex environments.
- Excellent negotiation, conflict prevention and resolution skills and the ability to lead and build consensus, cooperation, and coalitions among individuals with competing interests.
- Technical experience in several of the following areas: education system strengthening, teacher competencies, legislation regarding professional development and organizational capacity building.
- Experience mentoring local staff and organizations and transferring skills and know-how.
- Experience working in civil society in Macedonia or the Balkans preferred.
- Knowledgeable about EU institutions and integration processes is helpful.

Senior Professionals: Applicants should propose sufficient qualified and experienced professional staff to technically support project implementation and local office operations throughout the project. Local professional staff should be fluent in English.

As an annex to this section, applicants shall submit resumes for key personnel. The resumes must be no more than two pages each and should include at least three professional references with current telephone numbers or email addresses for each reference. Each résumé shall be accompanied by a SIGNED letter of commitment from each candidate indicating his/her (a) availability to serve in the stated position on a specific date and for a definitive term of service and (b) agreement to the compensation levels as set forth in the cost proposal. Please note that documentation that reflects an “exclusive” relationship between an individual and an applicant is NOT requested and should NOT be submitted.

F. Management Plan and Organizational Capacity:

- The applicant should have experience in civil society development and be able to propose a staffing/teaming structure which will provide a wide range of strategic and technical assistance to grantees at varying levels of competency in areas such as lobbying, advocacy, constituency building, media relations, and coalition building.
- An organizational arrangement that clearly demonstrates an effective mechanism for managing project resources and working with partners.

This section shall address the following:

- a) Composition and organizational structure of the proposed project team and a description of each long-/short-term key or non-key team member’s role, technical expertise, estimated amount of time to be devoted to the activity for each person,
- b) How the structure will ensure effectiveness and efficiency, in order to achieve maximum benefits and results at minimum cost,
- c) Proposed partners, if any, their expertise, and their roles and responsibilities.
- d) Effective management systems and procedures for personnel, sub-contracts, commodities, training and information technology solutions; and
- e) Capability to mobilize long-/short-term technical assistance in areas that are within and those not included in the illustrative areas of technical assistance.

G. Past Performance and Experience:

This section shall address the following:

- a) Brief description of organizational history and experience.
- b) Examples of accomplishments in developing and implementing similar projects.
- c) Relevant experience with proposed approaches.
- d) Institutional strength as represented by breadth and depth of experienced personnel in project relevant disciplines and areas.

Describe any number of contracts, grants, and cooperative agreements which the organization, both the primary Applicant as well as an substantive sub-grantee, if any, has implemented involving similar or related programs over the past three years. Please include the following information in an annex under past performance information:

- a) Name, address, current telephone number and email address of responsible representative(s) from the organization for which the work was performed;
- b) Contract/grant name and number, if any, annual amount received for each of the last three years and beginning and end dates;

- c) Brief description of the project/assistance activity.

3. COST/BUSINESS APPLICATION FORMAT

The Cost/Business Application is to be submitted under separate cover from the technical application.

The following sections describe the documentation that applicants for an Assistance award must submit to USAID prior to award. While there is no page limit for the cost application, applicants are encouraged to be as concise as possible, but still provide the necessary detail to address the following:

- I. **Budget:** which provides in detail the total estimated amounts for implementation of the project your organization is proposing.
- II. **Budget narrative:** that provides detailed budget explanations and supporting justification of each proposed budget line items. It must clearly identify the basis of cost elements, such as market surveys, price quotations, current salaries, historical experience, etc.

A summary of the budget must be submitted using:

Standard Forms 424, 424A and 424B, those are available to download and for electronic submission at Grants.gov under the “Application” tab for this RFA (preferred submission method) or under section D, ‘REQUIRED FORMS’ of this RFA.

The budget must include:

- 1 The breakdown of all costs associated with the project according to costs of, headquarters, regional and/or country offices, if any;
- 2 The breakdown of all costs proposed by each partner organization, if any, involved in the project;
- 3 Potential contributions of non-USAID or private commercial donors to the expected Cooperative Agreement; if any
- 4 The name (if identified), annual salary, and expected level of effort of each candidate named or TBD and charged to the activity. **Provide annual salary history for at least the three most recent years for all identified and proposed long-/short-term key and non-key personnel;**
- 5 If not included in an indirect cost rate agreement negotiated with the U.S. Government, the applicable fringe benefit rates for each category of employees, and an explanation of the benefits included in the rate;
- 6 Travel, per diem and other transportation expenses detailed to include number of trips, expected itineraries, number of per diem days and per diem rates;
- 7 All equipment proposed to be purchased;
- 8 Details regarding the level of cost share your organization is proposing for this activity. Cost sharing may be proposed from any available and interested local funding sources; and
- 9 Financial plans for all proposed sub-grants and subcontracts, if any, and they must have the

same format and level of detail as those of the applicant.

III. Applicants and subgrantees who do not currently have a Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA) from U.S. Government agency shall submit the following information:

- 1 Copies of the applicant's financial reports for the previous 3-year period, which have been audited by a certified public accountant or other auditor satisfactory to USAID;
- 2 Cash flow and organizational chart; and
- 3 A copy of the organization's accounting manual.

IV. Apparently successful applicants will be required to submit Pre-award Certifications, Assurances and other Statements of the Recipient at <http://www.usaid.gov/policy/ads/300/303.pdf>. These Pre-award Certifications, Assurances and other Statements of the Recipient shall not be submitted as part of the initial application. The Agreement Officer will notify the apparently successful applicant to submit these documents after evaluation of proposals.

V. Applicants should submit any additional evidence of responsibility deemed necessary for the Agreement Officer to make a determination of responsibility. The information submitted should substantiate that the Applicant:

- Has adequate financial, management and personnel resources and systems, or the ability to obtain such resources as required during the performance of the award;
- Has the ability to comply with the award conditions, taking into account all existing and currently prospective commitments of the applicant, nongovernmental and governmental;
- Has a satisfactory record of performance. Past relevant unsatisfactory performance is ordinarily sufficient to justify a finding of non-responsibility, unless there is clear evidence of subsequent satisfactory performance; and
- Has a satisfactory record of integrity and business ethics.

VI. Applicants that have never received a grant, cooperative agreement, or contract from the U.S. Government are required to submit:

- Copies of audited financial statements for the last three years, which a Certified Public Accountant or other auditor satisfactory to USAID has performed;
- Projected budget, cash flow, and organization charts; and
- Copies of applicable policies and procedures (e.g., accounting, purchasing, property management, personnel).

VII. Certificate of Compliance: if available, submit a copy of your Certificate of Compliance if your organization's systems have been certified by the USAID/Washington's Office of Acquisition and Assistance (M/OAA).

The following information should be taken into consideration when developing the budget:

Labor - Direct salaries and wages for each year of the Agreement shall be in accordance with the organization's established personnel policies, the applicable cost principles and the current salary history of proposed LT/ST employees. To be considered adequate, the policies must be in writing, applicable to all employees of the organization, be subject to review and approval at a high enough organizational level

to assure its uniform enforcement, and result in costs which are reasonable and allowable in accordance with applicable cost principles. The narrative should include a level of effort analysis specifying personnel, rate of compensation, and amount of time proposed for key and non-key personnel. Anticipated salary increases during the period of the Agreement should be included.

Additional Requirements for Personnel Compensation

a. Limitations

(1) Salaries and wages must be reflective of the “market value” for each position. Salaries and wages may not exceed the Applicant’s established policy and practice, including the Applicant’s established pay scale for equivalent classifications of employees, which shall be certified by the Applicant. No individual salary or wage may exceed the employee’s current salary or wage, or the highest rate of annual salary or wage received during any full year of the immediately preceding three (3) years without the approval of the Agreement Officer. Salaries for locally employed staff should not exceed the Local Compensation Plan for USAID/Macedonia. See <http://skopje.state.gov/HRO/docs/Skopje%20Pay%20Scale.pdf>

(2) Base pay, or base salary, is defined as the employee’s basic compensation (salary) for services rendered. Taxes which are a responsibility or liability of the employee are inclusive of, and not additive to, the base pay or salary. The base pay excludes benefit and allowances, bonuses, profit sharing arrangements, commission, consultant fees, extra or overtime payments, overseas differential or quarters, cost of living or dependent education allowances, etc.

(3) This USAID-funded project implemented under the anticipated Cooperative Agreement will be for an estimated period of performance of thirty (30) months; also referred to as the Award Period. Unless the Applicant/Recipient demonstrates otherwise to the USAID Agreement Officer’s satisfaction, Cooperating Country Nationals (CCNs) employed by the Applicant/Recipient solely to work under the USAID-funded project under this Agreement are considered by USAID as employed by the Applicant/Recipient for a specified period not to exceed the Agreement Period. This provision shall be interpreted in accordance with applicable cost standards including OMB Circular A-122 (Cost Principles for Non-Profit Organizations) and OMB Circular A-21 (Cost Principles for Educational Institutions), as applicable, including, but not limited to Selected Items of Cost - Compensation for Personal Services, and 22 CFR 226.

b. Annual Salary Increases Annual salary increase and/or promotional increase may be granted in accordance with the Applicant’s established policies but up to the maximum of 5%. Salary increases may be granted after the employee’s completion of each twelve months of satisfactory services under the USAID award.

Fringe Benefits - If accounted for as a separate item of cost, fringe benefits should be based on the Applicant’s audited fringe benefit rate, supported by a Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA) or historical cost data. If the latter is used, the narrative should include a detailed breakdown comprised of all items of fringe benefits (e.g. health and life insurance, etc.) and the costs of each, expressed in dollars and as a percentage of salaries. Fringe Benefits for local staff should be accounted in accordance with Macedonia labor law.

Supplies and Equipment -Differentiate between expendable supplies and nonexpendable equipment (NOTE: Equipment is defined as tangible nonexpendable personal property including exempt property charged directly to the award having a useful life of more than one year and an acquisition cost of \$5,000 or more per unit, unless the Applicant’s established policy establishes nonexpendable equipment anticipated to be required to implement the project, specifying quantities and unit cost.)

Allowances, if any, must be broken down by specific type and by person and must be in accordance with the Applicant's established policies.

Travel and Per Diem - The narrative should indicate the purpose of trip(s), number of trips, domestic and international, and the estimated unit cost of each. Specify the origin and destination for each proposed trip, duration of travel and number of individuals traveling. Proposed per diem rates must be in accordance with the Applicant's established policies and practices that are uniformly applied to federally financed and other activities of the Applicant.

Other Direct Costs (ODC) - could include costs such as communications, office rental, utilities, report preparation costs, passports, visas, medical exams and inoculations, insurance (other than the Applicant's normal coverage), other filed office operation costs, etc. The narrative, or supporting schedule, should provide a complete breakdown and support for each item of other direct costs.

Proposed (Sub) contracts/agreements - Applicants who intend to utilize subcontractors or sub recipients should indicate the extent intended and a complete cost breakdown, as well as all the information required herein for the Applicant. Extensive (sub) contract/agreement financial plans should follow the same cost format as submitted by the Applicant.

An award shall be made only when the Agreement Officer makes a positive determination that the applicant possesses, or has the ability to obtain, the necessary management competence in planning and carrying out assistance programs and that it will practice mutually agreed upon methods of accountability for funds and other assets provided by USAID. For the organizations that are new to USAID, or organizations with outstanding audit findings, it may be necessary to perform a pre-award survey. The cost/business applications of all applicants submitting a technically acceptable application will be evaluated for general reasonableness, cost realism, allowability and allocability.

Cost share: ADS 303.3.10 Cost Share defines cost share as "the resources a recipient contributes to the total cost of an agreement. It is the portion of project or program costs not borne by the Federal Government."

USAID/Macedonia encourages the potential applicants to propose cost sharing since "it is critical that the activity continues after USAID assistance ends." These cost sharing requirements can ensure that the project establishes adequate alternate sources of funding, as well as give the applicant a financial stake in the success of the program. The applicants' proposed cost share may enable additional worthwhile activities to be undertaken which USAID funds could not support. Cost share may secure the programmatic and financial sustainability of the initiatives.

USAID encourages applicants to propose for which activities and in which amount cost sharing will be applied. The exact level of cost share is left to applicants to propose per 303.3.10.1 (<http://www.usaid.gov/policy/ads/300/303.pdf>). Ultimately the Agreement Officer shall determine if the applicant's cost share contributions (e.g. categories or items) meet the standards set in the Standard Provision entitled "Cost Sharing" for non-U.S. organizations (Mandatory References, 22 CFR 226.23; and Standard Provisions for Non-U.S. Nongovernmental Recipients, and ADS 303.3.10 Cost Sharing). Once approved, cost sharing becomes a condition of an award. Cost sharing must be verifiable from the recipient's records, is subject to the requirements of 22 CFR 226.23, and can be audited. If the recipient does not meet its cost sharing requirement, it can result in questioned costs.

4. COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT AWARD

The Government may award a cooperative agreement resulting from this RFA to the responsible

applicant(s) whose application(s) conforming to this RFA offers the greatest value (see Section B of this RFA). The Government may (a) reject any or all applications, (b) accept other than the lowest cost application, (c) accept more than one application, (d) accept alternate applications, and (e) waive informalities and minor irregularities in applications received.

The Government may award a cooperative agreement on the basis of initial applications received, without discussions or negotiations. Therefore, each initial application should contain the applicant's best terms from a cost and technical standpoint. As part of its evaluation process, however, USAID may elect to discuss technical, cost or other pre-award issues with one or more applicants. Alternatively, USAID may proceed with award selection based on its evaluation of initial applications received and/or commence negotiations solely with one applicant.

Awards will be made to responsible applicants whose applications offer the greatest value, technical, cost and other factors considered. Applicants are specifically advised that until an executed document is received and duly signed by an Agreement Officer, no project expenditures will be paid by USAID/Macedonia.

In the event of an inconsistency between the documents comprising this RFA, it shall be resolved by the following descending order of precedence:

- (a) Section B – Selection Criteria;
- (b) Section A – Instructions for Application Format;
- (c) Section C – The Program Description;
- (d) Cover Letter.

A written award mailed or otherwise furnished to the successful applicant(s) within the time for acceptance specified either in the application(s) or in this RFA (whichever is later) shall result in a binding cooperative agreement without further action by either party. Before the application's specified expiration time, if any, the Government may accept an application, whether or not there are negotiations after its receipt, unless a written notice of withdrawal is received before award. Negotiations or discussions conducted after receipt of an application do not constitute a rejection or counteroffer by the Government.

Neither financial data submitted with an application nor representations concerning facilities or financing, will form a part of the resulting cooperative agreement unless explicitly stated otherwise in the agreement.

To be eligible for award of a cooperative agreement, in addition to other conditions of this RFA, organizations must have a politically neutral humanitarian mandate, a commitment to non-discrimination with respect to beneficiaries and adherence to equal opportunity employment practices. Non-discrimination includes equal treatment without regard to race, religion, ethnicity, gender, and political affiliation.

Applicants are reminded that U.S. Executive Orders and U.S. law prohibits transactions with, and the provision of resources and support to, individuals and organizations associated with terrorism. It is the legal responsibility of the recipient to ensure compliance with these Executive Orders and laws. This provision must be included in all subcontracts/sub-awards issued under the cooperative agreement.

Foreign Government Delegations to International Conferences: Funds in the cooperative agreement may not be used to finance the travel, per diem, hotel expenses, meals, conference fees or other conference costs for any member of a foreign government's delegation to an international conference sponsored by a

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public international organization, except as provided in ADS Mandatory Reference "Guidance on Funding Foreign Government Delegations to International Conferences <http://www.usaid.gov/policy/ads/300/350maa.pdf> or as approved by the Agreement Officer.

5. AUTHORITY TO OBLIGATE THE GOVERNMENT

The USAID Agreement Officer is the only individual who may legally commit the Government to the expenditure of public funds. No costs chargeable to the proposed agreement may be incurred before receipt of either a fully executed Agreement or a specific written authorization from the Agreement Officer.

[END OF SECTION A]

SECTION B - SELECTION CRITERIA

The technical applications will be evaluated in accordance with the Technical Evaluation Criteria set forth below. Applicants shall organize the narrative sections of their technical applications in the same order as the selection criteria. Technical evaluation of applications will be based on the extent and appropriateness of proposed approaches and feasibility of achieving the strategic objectives, in accordance with the following criteria.

If award is not made on the initial applications, USAID may request clarification and supplemental materials from applicants whose applications have a reasonable chance of being selected for award. The entry into discussion is to be viewed as part of the evaluation process and shall not be deemed by USAID or the applicants as indicative of a decision or commitment upon the part of USAID to make an award to the applicants with whom discussions are being held.

I. TECHNICAL EVALUATION CRITERIA

The technical applications will be evaluated in accordance with the Technical Evaluation Criteria set forth below. Applicants shall organize the narrative sections of their technical applications in the same order as the selection criteria. Technical evaluation of applications will be based on the extent and appropriateness of proposed approaches and feasibility of achieving the strategic objectives, in accordance with the following criteria.

If the award is not made on the initial applications, USAID may request clarification and supplemental materials from applicants whose applications have a reasonable chance of being selected for award. The entry into discussion is to be viewed as part of the evaluation process and shall not be deemed by USAID or the applicants as indicative of a decision or commitment upon the part of USAID to make an award to the applicants with whom discussions are being held.

A technical evaluation committee, using the criteria shown in this Section, will score technical Applications. The criteria set forth will serve as the basis for evaluating the technical Applications. The various functional elements of the technical criteria are assigned weighted scores, so that the Applicants will know which areas require emphasis in the preparation of Applications. Where technical Applications are considered essentially equal, cost may be determining factor. Applicants should note that these criteria:

- (1) Serve as the standard against which all Applications will be evaluated; and
- (2) Serve to identify the significant matters which Applicants should address in their Applications.

The relative importance of each criterion is indicated by the number of points assigned; a total of 100 points is possible.

Technical Evaluation Criteria	Weight
Technical Approach	35 points
Key Personnel Qualifications and Experience	30 points
Management Plan and Organizational Capacity	20 points
Past Performance	15 points
Total Possible Technical Evaluation Points	100

1. Technical Approach (35 Points Total)

- a) The extent to which the proposed technical approach including description of activities, tangible results and benchmarks is innovative, clear, logical, well-conceived, technically sound, reflects an appreciation for the likely problems to be encountered, and addresses the objectives identified in the Program Description. **(30 Points)**
- b) The extent to which the required Performance Monitoring and Evaluation Plan clearly presents the results to be achieved, and the approach identifies and addresses key issues for participation, including of minorities, and gender considerations. **(5 Points)**

2. Key Personnel Qualifications and Experience (30 Points Total)

- a) Demonstrated capability, field and relevant management experience in similar projects, education and qualifications of proposed Chief of Party. **(15 Points)**
- b) Demonstrated relevant experience in similar projects, appropriate academic backgrounds, and qualifications of proposed other Key Personnel. **(15 Points)**

3. Management Plan and Organizational Capacity (20 Points)

The extent to which composition and the overall staffing plan, including sub-recipient(s), and their roles and expertise is innovative and technically sound, as well as, the extent to which the Applicant's institutional capability and experience demonstrates an ability to promptly launch and effectively implement the proposed activity. In addition to the demonstrated utilization of local expertise and organizations involved in program implementation. **(20 Points)**

4. Past Performance (15 Points Total)

- a) Demonstrated technical and managerial resources and expertise in successful implementation of programs similar in magnitude and how lessons learned will be applied to this program. **(10 points)**
- b) The extent to which the applicant and sub-recipient(s) demonstrate satisfactory Past Performance in similar programs over the past five years. **(5 Points)**

II. COST EVALUATION

Cost has not been assigned a weight but will be evaluated for realism, reasonableness, allowability, allocability, and cost effectiveness. The pre-award evaluation of cost effectiveness will include an examination of the application's budget detail to ensure it is a realistic financial expression of the proposed project and does not contain estimated costs which may be unallocable, unreasonable or unallowable. Applications that have more efficient operational systems that reduce operation costs will be favorably considered.

Applications that maximize direct activity costs, including cost sharing, and that minimize administrative costs will be favorably considered. Other considerations are the completeness of the application adequacy of budget detail and consistency with elements of the technical application. In addition, the organization must demonstrate adequate financial management capability, to be measured by a responsibility determination, which may include a pre-award survey.

Notes on Cost Sharing:

- a) Cost share is defined by USAID as “contributions, both cash and in-kind, which are necessary and reasonable to achieve program objectives and which are verifiable from the recipient’s records.” Please refer to the provision on cost-sharing in 22 CFR 226.23.
- b) Cost sharing is desirable, and recommended, but not required under this RFA. USAID policy is that cost sharing is an important element of the USAID-Recipient relationship.

III. BEST VALUE DECISION

Award will be made to the Applicant whose application offers the best value to the Government. Best value is defined as the expected outcome of a procurement that, in the Government’s estimation, provides the greatest overall benefit in response to the requirement.

For this RFA, technical proposal merits are considered significantly more important than cost relative to deciding which Applicant might perform the work best. Cost realism, effectiveness and reasonableness will be the determining factors in the event that the applications receiving the highest ratings are closely ranked. Therefore, after the final evaluation of the application, the Agreement Officer will make the award to the Applicant whose application offers the best value to the Government considering technical, cost and other factors.

Other areas of review and discussion will vary according to the circumstances pertaining to the application.

IV. BRANDING STRATEGY AND MARKING PLAN

It is a federal statutory and regulatory requirement (see Section 641, Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended and 22 CFR 226.91) that all USAID programs, projects, activities, public communications, and commodities that USAID partially or fully funds under a USAID grant or cooperative agreement or other assistance award or sub-award must be marked appropriately overseas with the USAID identity. In accordance with ADS 320.3.3 Branding and Marking Requirements for Assistance Awards USAID’s policy is that programs, projects, activities, public communications, or commodities implemented or delivered under co-funded instruments – such as grants, cooperative agreements, or other assistance awards that usually require a cost share – generally are “co-branded and co-marked.”

Successful applicant will be required to submit a branding strategy and marking plan. Standard provisions Branding Strategy – Assistance (December 2005), Marking Plan – Assistance (December 2005), and Marking under USAID-Funded Assistance Instruments (December 2005) in Annex 1. to this RFA under Section E contain detailed requirement on the content and submission of the branding strategy and marking plan.

More information on Branding strategy and Marking plan are available at <http://www.usaid.gov/branding/assistance.html>.

The branding strategy and marking plan will become material element of the cooperative agreement. Information on USAID’s branding “assistance” applies to this RFA. ADS Chapter 320 sections ADS concerning “acquisition” do not apply to this RFA. ADS Chapter 320 can be found on USAID website: <http://www.usaid.gov/policy/ads/300/320.pdf>.

[END OF SECTION B]

SECTION C – PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

TEACHER CAREER AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (TCPD) PROJECT

I. PURPOSE

USAID/Macedonia Education Team has designed a project to help establish a teacher professional and career development system in Macedonia. USAID/Macedonia (the Mission) intends to assist the Government of Macedonia (GoM) in strengthening the national education and training system by identifying necessary interventions that would best support national policy regarding continuous professional and career development of teachers. This activity aims to contribute to creating a transparent and functional TCPD system in Macedonia by helping to further develop existing structures. Continued professional development opportunities are crucial to maintain a skilled and motivated teaching cadre in Macedonia.

II. BACKGROUND

The in-service professional development of teachers used to be one of the main responsibilities of the Ministry of Education and Science's arm dedicated to systems strengthening, the Bureau for Development of Education (BDE), responsible also for curricula and syllabi development for pre-school, primary, secondary and postsecondary education, education for children with special needs and adult education. Due to the lack of BDE's internal capacities and funding to carry out a wide range of activities supporting the development of the national education system, BDE underwent a structural reform in 2006. Based on the BDE law of 2006, the BDE identifies the needs, develops criteria and programs for professional development of teachers, and accredits the external training providers. In reality, the BDE has had a very limited role in the professional development of teachers, due to limited authority, staff, knowledge, skills, and funds. The BDE in-service teacher training delivery is limited to the infrequent provision of short seminars on curricula updates. Consequently, the professional opportunities offering teachers a chance to refresh, hone or further develop skills are not organized in a clear, systematic manner. Once teachers enter into the profession, there is no guarantee of continued professional development in their subject area or to further develop teaching technique or leadership skills. Organized development opportunities, such as collaboration with a community of practice, research, publication and presentation, are still scarce. There is frequent fluctuation in the education work force due to political reasons or lack of resources for permanent contracting. While there is an over-supply of qualified teachers, there is a visible lack of continued training to provide this cadre with the tools and techniques they need to succeed in the classroom. The situation is even more confusing when it comes to TPCD of Vocational Education and Training (VET) school staff, as the responsibility is divided between the BDE for general subjects and the VET Center for vocational subjects. The project will therefore need to collaborate with the VET Center as well. Legislation regarding teacher professional and career development is included in the Law on Primary Education (4. Professional development, qualification and promotion, Article 92) and Law on Secondary Education (Articles 79-81), yet the law remains vague and professional support to teachers is

still lacking. There are no defined national standards for teacher qualifications.¹ In policy, a general career ladder has been delineated naming the core progression for teachers as: teacher, teacher-mentor and teacher-advisor. Currently, all teachers receive the same salary with increases based on years of service. Teachers who actively participated in professional development activities often complain that there are no incentives for teachers who work hard to improve their teaching skills, and this affects moral. Career advancement paths and criteria for promotion lack clarity and are not yet funded by the state budget. While teacher-mentors are supposed to receive a percentage of the new teacher's salary, many mentors do not find the time to invest in mentoring and the new teacher misses a chance to receive valuable guidance in their first years. The law fails to provide clarity on eligibility and criteria for career advancement, as well as procedures related to professional development. Developing a certification or licensing process to demonstrate when a teacher has reached this set of standards would be beneficial. Comprehensive evaluation of teacher performance, preparedness, and competencies is needed. The existing Self-evaluation, Integral Evaluation and External Evaluation process must be examined. Evaluation of teachers' work is another area that requires further attention.

Due to the identified need for continuing professional development of teachers, the donor community in Macedonia has been actively working in the area of in-service teacher training for more than 10 years. The BDE has been the main partner, and collaboration with donors has helped to improve the BDE's capacity. Both the BDE and the rest of the education community are in consensus that the professional development of teachers needs to be structured and systematized.

The TCPD project contributes to achieving USAID/Macedonia Development Objective 2 "A Basic Education System that Better Prepares Youth for the Modern Economy and a Stable Democracy" as identified in the 2011-2015 USAID/Macedonia Strategic Plan; IR 2.1 Improved Basic Skills of Students and Sub-IRs 2.1.1 Improved Performance of teachers against defined standards and Sub-IR 2.1.2 Strengthened management and accountability of education systems at all levels.

Given the factors mentioned, USAID/Macedonia proposes a new 30 month, \$950,000 Teacher Career and Professional Development (TCPD) Project. The Mission envisions this endeavor as one which will, in collaboration with the active participation of national authorities, improve the institutional framework for teacher career and professional development in Macedonia.

III. RELATIONSHIP TO THE COUNTRY AND MISSION STRATEGY

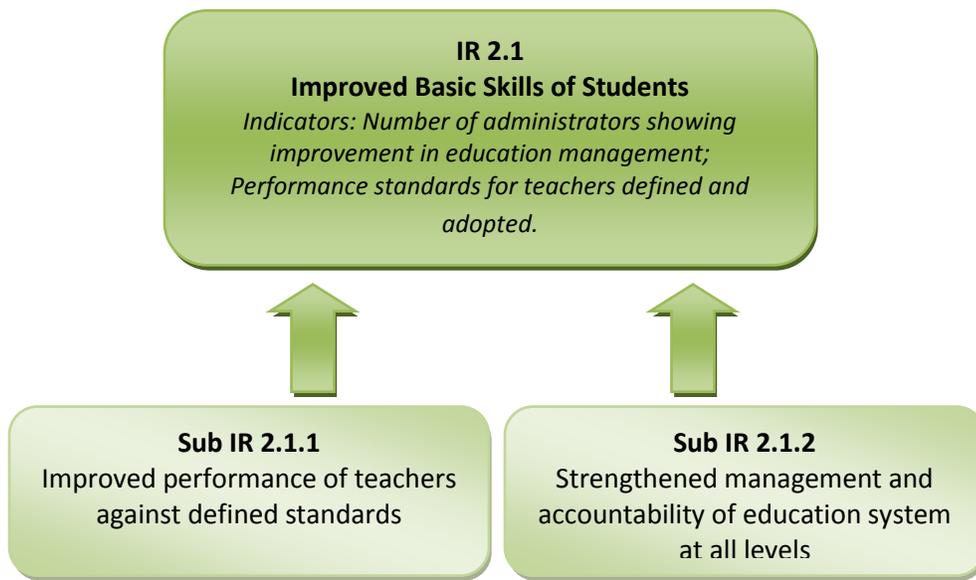
The USAID Macedonia Strategic Plan for 2011 to 2015 (MSP) highlights key reforms of Macedonia's education system, including a new policy on teacher career development that was passed in late 2010, but has not been implemented in a comprehensive manner. While progress is evident in the passing of this policy, implementation of the essential elements of this policy has not materialized to date.

The TCPD project contributes to achieving USAID/Macedonia Development Objective 2 "A Basic Education System that Better Prepares Youth for the Modern Economy and a Stable Democracy" as identified in the 2011-2015 USAID/Macedonia Strategic Plan; 2.1.1 Improved Performance of teachers against defined standards and Sub-IR and 2.1.2 Strengthened management and accountability of

¹ OECD. (2001). The thematic review of national policies for education – FYRoM: Stability pact for South Eastern Europe. Retrieved from <http://www.oecd.org/officialdocuments/displaydocumentpdf/> in "Teacher Quality and Work Conditions in FYR Macedonia." UNICEF (2011).

education systems at all levels.

The TCPD project would directly contribute to achieving these intermediate result and sub-intermediate results. Strengthening management and accountability of the education system would contribute to developing and providing greater teacher support which in turn would promote higher motivation among teachers. Consequently, teachers would deliver content more effectively and use learner-focused methods to increase the basic skills of students.



The Government of Macedonia (GoM), at both the central and local levels, manages the country's education system. The BDE has been tasked with implementing the teacher career and professional development system.

This project will forge cross-cutting linkages with many partners within the GoM, donor community and within different USAID offices. USAID will work in close collaboration with the BDE, a key partner, on this project. BDE active participation has been requested and the Bureau Director intends to fully engage the BDE key staff in all phases of the project. The Budget and Finance Department of the Ministry of Education will need to be involved in later stages when cost implications will be examined. Input for this project will be solicited from a diverse stakeholder group, from academics to donors and relevant NGOs. Partnership will also be forged with the Macedonian academic community, both public and private, in an effort to encourage greater engagement and exchange. Within the donor community, USAID will continue to liaise with UNICEF, OSCE and the World Bank all of which are active in the education sector and open to sharing information.

TEACHER CAREER AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
Objective:
IMPROVE INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR TCPD

End of project results: 2.1.1 Improved Performance of teachers against defined standards and Sub-IR 2.1.2 Strengthened management and accountability of education systems at all levels.

Partners: BDE, MoES, VET Center, OSCE, UNICEF, The World Bank

IR 1: Comprehensive Legal System in place

Illustrative Activities:

- Round tables and debates with stakeholder groups;
- Review Article 92 provisions and by-laws;
- Comparative analysis of regional and international best practices;
- Further define career ladder;
- Clarify rules and regulations.

Illustrative Indicators:

% of improved processes as compared with baseline data; # of new policies introduced

IR 2: Enhanced Financial Schemes

Illustrative Activities:

- Review compensation plan;
- Identification of sustainable models;
- Explore pooled funding.

Illustrative Indicators:

of viable scenarios produced; # of joint partnerships with pooled funding; # new compensation plan policies adopted

IR 3: Standards for Teacher Competencies Developed

Illustrative Activities:

- Develop standards for teachers;
- Identify professional development opportunities;
- Conduct a quality assurance review of training providers;
- Develop evaluation tools for measuring teacher skills and preparedness.

Illustrative Indicators:

teachers engaged in identifying core competencies

IV. ILLUSTRATIVE INTERVENTIONS AND EXPECTED RESULTS

The new project will be comprised of three complementary components and carried out in three phases. Three intermediate results will lead to the successful realization of the development objective: **Improved Institutional Framework for TCPD**. These three core components are: ensuring that a comprehensive legal system is in place, enhancing financial schemes related to TCPD and identifying standards for teacher competencies. The efforts of this project should result in creating and institutionalizing structures and processes that guide and inform TCPD in Macedonia.

IR1: Comprehensive Legal System in place

The objective of IR1 is to enhance the basic regulative frameworks (by-laws) of a system for continuous professional development for teachers, as well as help develop a career advancement system with procedures and criteria for all teachers.

Illustrative Activities for this component include a comprehensive review of existing TCPD legislation. Based on findings, a determination as to where improvement is most needed will be assessed. Stakeholders will be asked to provide input regarding current systems and structures that currently govern TCPD. This will include discussion as to whether a teacher certification or licensing system would be advantageous and how it would be devised. Through public debate and regional/international comparative study, proposed frameworks will be generated.

Expected Results

1. Policy and provisions regarding teacher career and professional development clarified and enhanced.
2. Concrete interventions to improve the teacher career and professional development formulated and presented the BDE.
3. BDE successfully advocates for the incorporation of proposed frameworks to strengthen the teacher career and professional development system.

IR2: Enhanced Financial Schemes

The objective of IR2 is to conduct a comprehensive review of budgeting for TCPD nationally and present the GoM with funding scenarios for ongoing support.

Illustrative activities for this component include a broad review of teacher compensation plans. Teacher promotion incentives will be examined. A cost analysis of potential TCPD continuous education schemes will be evaluated. Viable and sustainable models will be developed and carefully documented for presentation to the GoM. If applicable, pooled funding schemes will be explored with local partners and universities.

Expected Results

1. GoM presented with funding scenarios following a comprehensive review of the current teacher career and professional development system.
2. Advocate for the allocation of budget resources in a transparent and fair manner to promote viable and sustainable teacher career and professional development.

IR3: Standards for Teacher Competencies Developed

The objective of IR3 is to inventory clear standards of expected teacher competencies and professional development opportunities along with the tools for evaluating progress in those areas.

Illustrative activities include concentrated effort to identify and catalogue teacher competencies. The project will survey current guidelines and requirements for in-service teachers. Findings will be compared to regional/international standards. Stakeholders will meet to review a core set of key teacher competencies and

measurement tools for monitoring and evaluating such. The process for reaccreditation and list of approved training providers for teacher professional development will be reviewed and revised. Other professional development opportunities, communities of practice and virtual networks for a for example, will be assessed and catalogued.

Expected Results

1. National standardized teacher core competencies and professional development tracks clarified.
2. BDE managerial capacity enhanced by tools developed to monitor and measure teacher preparedness and evaluation.
3. Wide outreach within in education community to disseminate identified career and professional development opportunities.

During the 30 month implementation period, the following activity timeline will be executed. First, local, regional and international partners will conduct a comprehensive assessment to analyze existing legislation and systems. Second, stakeholder groups will be consulted during the study and throughout Year 1 through a series of roundtable and public debates within the education community in an effort to include diverse input and expertise. As an end product of the study, BDE will be presented with viable scenarios for professional and career development of teachers, accompanied with adequate financial schemes and a draft Action Plan. Finally, a limited number of recommended interventions that have been presented to the GoM, and selected through consensus, may be piloted in Year 2 as funding levels permit. The mechanisms developed under this activity should be considered for incorporation into Macedonian national structures and institutions in order to be sustainable and continue to benefit society at large beyond the duration of the USAID project.

The primary target beneficiaries of the assistance provided through this project will be in-service public school teachers in Macedonia. Advisors from the BDE, the VET Center and education inspectors at the state and regional/local level will also benefit from assistance. Due to the nature of this project, it is very important to work on a local/school level and get all relevant stakeholders involved: teachers, school management, school boards, and parent councils, mayors, municipal councils and students.

Gender

The 2010 Gender Assessment for USAID/Macedonia included the education sector and mention of gender issues as they apply to the teaching field.

The implementing partner should demonstrate knowledge of how TCPD will address gender, and anticipate how such issues may arise in various guises during project implementation. At project inception, the implementer will be asked to conduct an initial gender analysis to provide information on potential gender issues within the education sector, and more largely, within the education management area; develop activities that work to eliminate barriers for equal participation by women and men in non-traditional sectors; work with all relevant stakeholders to counter gender and ethnic stereotypes; identify female managed training facilitators, mentors and training firms; to further encourage exposure to strong female and male model teachers. The implementer will collect and analyze sex-disaggregated data. To the greatest extent possible, the TCPD shall seek to include both men and women in all aspects of this project such as achieving gender balance within project beneficiaries.

Worthy of note are gender imbalances in the field of teaching. The teaching community at the primary and secondary level is predominantly female, and therefore special attention will be paid to achieve gender balance with participants of all training workshops. USAID will also require that all training materials provide a balanced portrayal of gender.

X. Performance Monitoring and Reporting Requirements

Performance Monitoring

Teacher Career and Professional Development (TCPD) Project will contribute toward the indicators measuring the achievement of USAID/Macedonia Development Objective 2 “A Basic Education System that Better Prepares Youth for the Modern Economy and a Stable Democracy” as identified in the 2011-2015 USAID/Macedonia Strategic Plan; 2.1.1 Improved Performance of teachers against defined standards and Sub-IR and 2.1.2 Strengthened management and accountability of education systems at all levels.

The illustrative indicators for each project result are listed above under “Illustrative Interventions and Expected Results” and the “Results Framework.” The Recipient will develop specific indicators, benchmarks and targets, and establish baseline data against which subsequent performance can be measured.

In addition to the illustrative indicators, a list of mandatory Foreign Assistance Framework Standard Indicators will be utilized to monitor performance of the project components. (<http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/101762.pdf>). A final list of indicators will be confirmed in collaboration with USAID after the award.

Reporting requirements

Annual Work plans: Within 30 days from the commencement date of this Agreement, the Recipient shall prepare and submit for approval by USAID AOR annual work plan, which will include all activities to be managed and implemented by the Recipient. The annual work plan will clearly indicate specific tasks and individual responsibilities for task completion. Work plans will serve as a reference point for quarterly progress reports and will permit monitoring of the award performance and costs. The annual work plan will establish the timeline for objectives that indicate progress towards the tasks that need to be performed to achieve objectives. It will specify activities on a critical path and show critical performance benchmarks for the responsible parties. It will also be one of the progress performance monitoring tools for USAID.

As a part of the annual work plan, the Recipient shall update the Performance Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (PMEP) that allows for documenting implementation progress against specified performance indicators and related targets and benchmarks. Performance monitoring is critical to the TCPD program and broader policy and program learning in Macedonia. The Recipient should propose a robust monitoring and evaluation framework that will allow for monitoring of progress in meeting the project goals and objectives. This conceptual framework should integrate inputs, activities, outputs, outcomes, and impact under the TCPD. The Recipient shall establish realistic expectations for what the project can be produced in its various phases of implementation. The Recipient shall establish base line data sets that will be important for project monitoring and final evaluation.

The work plans due 30 days before the beginning of the subsequent project implementation years, will include detailed budgets with a pipeline analysis of costs incurred and projections of costs for the life of award implementation plan for achieving project outputs.

Quarterly Performance Progress Reports: The Recipient shall submit Quarterly Performance Progress Reports within 30 days following the end of the reporting period, and shall briefly present the information contained in 22 CFR 226.51(d),

These reports will include progress toward planned achievement of milestones, the implementation and collaboration plan, PMEP data reporting and success stories (highlighting the people-level and institutional-level impact of project activities, accompanied by photographs of the activities described) as well as provide progress toward standard indicators for Operational Plan (OP), USAID Performance Management Plan (PMP) and other

USAID reporting purposes. This report will also include explanation of problems, delays, or adverse conditions and actions taken or contemplated to resolve the situation, or any assistance needed to resolve the situation. The 4th quarter progress report will be incorporated in the Annual Performance Progress Report.

Final Report: The Recipient is required to submit a Final Report within 90 calendar days after the estimated completion date of the Award. The Recipient shall submit one copy of a Final Report to the USAID AOR and one copy to the Agreement Officer. In addition, one copy shall be submitted to:

USAID Development Experience Clearinghouse (DEC)

Online (preferred): <http://dec.usaid.gov>

Mailing address: Development Experience Clearinghouse
M/CIO/KM
RRB M.01
U.S. Agency for International Development
Washington DC 20523

The Final Report shall contain the following information as described in 22 CFR 226.51(d), covering the full period of the Award: an executive summary of the accomplishments and results achieved; an overall description of the activities and accomplishments; a summary of problems/obstacles encountered during implementation; an assessment of the performance in accomplishing the project's objectives; significance of these activities; findings; comments and recommendations; other pertinent information.

This report should not include politically sensitive or proprietary information. Reports should incorporate as many graphics (maps, photos, charts, etc.) as possible and should include all project and evaluation tools and materials, as appendices.

Financial Reporting

1. The recipient must submit the Federal Financial Form (SF-425) on a quarterly basis via electronic format to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (<http://www.dpm.psc.gov>). The recipient must submit a copy of the FR at the same time to the Agreement Officer's Representative (AOR) and The Agreement Officer (AO).

Electronic copies of the SF-425 can be found at:

http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants/standard_forms/ff_report.pdf and
<http://www.forms.gov/bgfPortal/docDetails.do?dId=15149>.

Line item instructions for completing the SF-425 can be found at:

http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants/standard_forms/ffr_instructions.pdf.

2. The recipient must submit the original and two copies of all final financial reports to USAID/Washington, M/CFO/CMPLOC Unit, the Agreement Officer (AO), and the AOR. The recipient must submit an electronic version of the final Federal Financial Form (SF-425) to U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in accordance with paragraph (1) above.

XI. ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION

1a) The Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, Section 117 requires that the impact of USAID's activities on the environment be considered and that USAID include environmental sustainability as a central consideration in designing and carrying out its development programs. This mandate is codified in Federal Regulations (22 CFR 216) and in USAID's Automated Directives System (ADS) Parts 201.5.10g and 204 (<http://www.usaid.gov/policy/ads/200/>), which, in part, require that the potential environmental impacts of USAID-financed activities are identified prior to a final decision to proceed and that appropriate environmental safeguards are adopted for all activities. Applicant's environmental compliance obligations under these regulations and procedures are specified in the following paragraphs of this RFA.

1b) In addition, the recipient must comply with host country environmental regulations unless otherwise directed in writing by USAID. In case of conflict between host country and USAID regulations, the latter shall govern.

1c) No activity funded under this Cooperative Agreement will be implemented unless an environmental threshold determination, as defined by 22 CFR 216, has been reached for that activity, as documented in a Request for Categorical Exclusion (RCE), Initial Environmental Examination (IEE), or Environmental Assessment (EA) duly signed by the Bureau Environmental Officer (BEO). (Hereinafter, such documents are described as "approved Regulation 216 environmental documentation.")

2) *Reserved.*

3) *Reserved.*

4a) As part of its initial Work Plan, and all Annual Work Plans thereafter, the Recipient, in collaboration with the USAID AOR and Mission Environmental Officer or Bureau Environmental Officer, as appropriate, shall review all ongoing and planned activities under this Cooperative Agreement to determine if they are within the scope of the approved Regulation 216 environmental documentation.

4b) If the *Recipient* plans any new activities outside the scope of the approved Regulation 216 environmental documentation, it shall prepare an amendment to the documentation for USAID review and approval. No such new activities shall be undertaken prior to receiving written USAID approval of environmental documentation amendments.

4c) Any ongoing activities found to be outside the scope of the approved Regulation 216 environmental documentation shall be halted until an amendment to the documentation is submitted and written approval is received from USAID.

XII. SUBSTANTIAL INVOLVEMENT

Understanding that USAID always has some involvement in assistance awards, including monitoring performance, reviewing reports, or providing approvals, in order to effectively support the achievement of the expected results, in addition to the standard prior approvals, this Cooperative Agreement will also require substantial involvement in the following areas:

1. Annual Work Plans

USAID AOR will approve the annual work plans, including a sub-section on collaboration with other USAID programs and other donors. Any significant changes or revisions to the approved work-plans will require additional approval.

2. Key Personnel

USAID will be substantially involved in approving specified key personnel. Pursuant to 22 CFR 226.25(c)(2) and (3), whereby the Agreement Officer must approve changes in key personnel, the Agreement Officer hereby

delegates authority to the AOR to approve the placement or any replacement of key personnel for positions designated in this section.

Key Personnel are those considered to be essential to the work being performed under this Award. In accordance with the "Substantial Involvement," the USAID AOR must approve in writing Key Personnel or their replacement under this Award. The following positions have been designated as key to the successful completion of the objective of this Award.

Illustrative Key Position/Title

TBD – Chief of Party

TBD - Component 1 – TCPD Program Coordinator

TBD - Component 2 – TCPD Communication Specialist

TBD - Component 3 – TCPD Standards for Teacher Competency Lead

3. Performance Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (PMEP)

As part of the Annual Workplan, USAID AOR will approve the Recipient's PMEP developed and aligned with USAID's Program Element Indicators, including any significant changes or revisions thereto.

4. Sub-awards

USAID AOR, will approve the selection criteria and selected sub-recipients (as defined in 22 CFR 226.2) and the substantive provisions of the sub-awards (as defined in 22 CFR 226.2). The AOR's approval of the substantive provisions of the sub-awards is limited to technical and programmatic matters only; such approval shall not extend to "contractual"/administrative/financial provisions, which must be in accordance with the terms and conditions of this Award and ADS 303, unless otherwise approved, in advance and in writing, by the Agreement Officer.

Please note that consistent with existing responsibility as per 22 CFR 226.51, section (f), "Recipients shall immediately notify USAID of developments that have a significant impact on the award-supported activities. Also, notification shall be given in the case of problems, delays, or adverse conditions which materially impair the ability to meet the objectives of the award. This notification shall include a statement of the action taken or contemplated, and any assistance needed to resolve the situation." This provision is applicable to all sub-grants as well as the prime recipient.

[END OF SECTION C]

SECTION D – REQUIRED FORMS

Applicants shall submit the following forms

- Survey on Ensuring Equal Opportunity for Applicants
- SF 424 Application for Federal Assistance
- SF 424A Budget Information - Non-Construction Programs
- SF 424B Assurances – Non-Construction Programs

Electronic submission is preferred using through www.Grants.gov (under ‘Application’ tab of this RFA) or using the forms inserted in this section on the following pages.

In order to access the electronic forms for this RFA at www.Grants.gov, applicants shall go to the ‘Application’ tab of the RFA and click the link “download” in “Instructions and Application” column of the table at the bottom of this page, then on the next page click on “2. Download Application Package”.

In case the next page does not display all the above listed forms in their entirety, applicants shall select each form in the block “Mandatory Documents” and hit the arrow under “Move Form to Complete”. Then the form selected and moved under the block “Mandatory Documents for Submission” will automatically appear in the continuation pages of this document.

The CFDA Number for this funding opportunity is 98.001.

Survey on Ensuring Equal Opportunity for Applicants

OMB No. 1890-0014 Exp. 1/31/2006

Purpose: The Federal government is committed to ensuring that all qualified applicants, small or large, non-religious or faith-based, have an equal opportunity to compete for Federal funding. In order for us to better understand the population of applicants for Federal funds, we are asking nonprofit private organizations (not including private universities) to fill out this survey.

Upon receipt, the survey will be separated from the application. Information on the survey will not be considered in any way in making funding decisions and will not be included in the Federal grants database. While your help in this data collection process is greatly appreciated, completion of this survey is voluntary.

Instructions for Submitting the Survey: If you are applying using a hard copy application, please place the completed survey in an envelope labeled "Applicant Survey." Seal the envelope and include it along with your application package. If you are applying electronically, please submit this survey along with your application.

Applicant's (Organization) Name: _____

Applicant's DUNS Number: _____

Grant Name: _____ **CFDA Number:** _____

1. Does the applicant have 501(c)(3) status?

Yes No

2. How many full-time equivalent employees does the applicant have? (Check only one box).

3 or Fewer 15-50
 4-5 51-100
 6-12 over 100

3. What is the size of the applicant's annual budget? (Check only one box.)

Less than \$150,000
 \$150,000 - \$299,999
 \$300,000 - \$499,999
 \$500,000 - \$999,999
 \$1,000,000 - \$4,999,999
 \$5,000,000 or more

4. Is the applicant a faith-based/religious organization?

Yes No

5. Is the applicant a non-religious community based organization?

Yes No

6. Is the applicant an intermediary that will manage the grant on behalf of other organizations?

Yes No

7. Has the applicant ever received a government grant or contract (Federal, State, or local)?

Yes No

8. Is the applicant a local affiliate of a national organization?

Yes No

Survey Instructions on Ensuring Equal Opportunity for Applicants

Provide the applicant's (organization) name and DUNS number and the grant name and CFDA number.

1. 501(c)(3) status is a legal designation provided on application to the Internal Revenue Service by eligible organizations. Some grant programs may require nonprofit applicants to have 501(c)(3) status. Other grant programs do not.
2. For example, two part-time employees who each work half-time equal one full-time equivalent employee. If the applicant is a local affiliate of a national organization, the responses to survey questions 2 and 3 should reflect the staff and budget size of the local affiliate.
3. Annual budget means the amount of money our organization spends each year on all of its activities.
4. Self-identify.
5. An organization is considered a community-based organization if its headquarters/service location shares the same zip code as the clients you serve.
6. An "intermediary" is an organization that enables a group of small organizations to receive and manage government funds by administering the grant on their behalf.
7. Self-explanatory.
8. Self-explanatory.

Paperwork Burden Statement

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless such collection displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 1890-0014. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average five (5) minutes per response, including the time to review instructions, search existing data resources, gather the data needed, and complete and review the information collection. **If you have any comments concerning the accuracy of the time estimate(s) or suggestions for improving this form, please write to:** U.S. Department of Education, Washington, D.C. 20202-4651.

If you have comments or concerns regarding the status of your individual submission of this form, write directly to: Joyce I. Mays, Application Control Center, U.S. Department of Education, 7th and D Streets, SW, ROB-3, Room 3671, Washington, D.C. 20202-4725.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE SF424

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 45 minutes per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (0348-0043), Washington, DC 20503.

PLEASE DO NOT RETURN YOUR COMPLETED FORM TO THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET, SEND IT TO THE ADDRESS PROVIDED BY THE SPONSORING AGENCY.

This is a standard form used by applicants as a required facesheet for preapplications and applications submitted for Federal assistance. It will be used by Federal agencies to obtain application certification that States which have established a review and comment procedure in response to Executive Order 12372 and have selected the program to be included in their process, have been given an opportunity to review the applicant's submission.

Item:	Entry:	Item:	Entry:																
1.	Select Type of Submission.	11.	Enter a brief descriptive title of the project. If more than one program is involved, you should append an explanation on a separate sheet. If appropriate (e.g., construction or real property projects), attach a map showing project location. For preapplications, use a separate sheet to provide a summary description of this project																
2.	Date application submitted to Federal agency (or State if applicable) and applicant's control number (if applicable).	12.	List only the largest political entities affected (e.g., State, counties, cities).																
3.	State use only (if applicable).	13.	Enter the proposed start date and end date of the project.																
4.	Enter Date Received by Federal Agency Federal identifier number: If this application is a continuation or revision to an existing award, enter the present Federal Identifier number. If for a new project, leave blank.	14.	List the applicant's Congressional District and any District(s) affected by the program or project																
5.	Enter legal name of applicant, name of primary organizational unit (including division, if applicable), which will undertake the assistance activity, enter the organization's DUNS number (received from Dun and Bradstreet), enter the complete address of the applicant (including country), and name, telephone number, e-mail and fax of the person to contact on matters related to this application.	15.	Amount requested or to be contributed during the first funding/budget period by each contributor. Value of in kind contributions should be included on appropriate lines as applicable. If the action will result in a dollar change to an existing award, indicate only the amount of the change. For decreases, enclose the amounts in parentheses. If both basic and supplemental amounts are included, show breakdown on an attached sheet. For multiple program funding, use totals and show breakdown using same categories as item 15.																
6.	Enter Employer Identification Number (EIN) as assigned by the Internal Revenue Service.	16.	Applicants should contact the State Single Point of Contact (SPOC) for Federal Executive Order 12372 to determine whether the application is subject to the State intergovernmental review process.																
7.	Select the appropriate letter in the space provided. <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">A. State</td> <td style="width: 50%;">I. State Controlled</td> </tr> <tr> <td>B. County</td> <td>Institution of Higher Learning</td> </tr> <tr> <td>C. Municipal</td> <td>J. Private University</td> </tr> <tr> <td>D. Township</td> <td>K. Indian Tribe</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E. Interstate</td> <td>L. Individual</td> </tr> <tr> <td>F. Intermunicipal</td> <td>M. Profit Organization</td> </tr> <tr> <td>G. Special District</td> <td>N. Other (Specify)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>H. Independent School District</td> <td>O. Net for Profit Organization</td> </tr> </table>	A. State	I. State Controlled	B. County	Institution of Higher Learning	C. Municipal	J. Private University	D. Township	K. Indian Tribe	E. Interstate	L. Individual	F. Intermunicipal	M. Profit Organization	G. Special District	N. Other (Specify)	H. Independent School District	O. Net for Profit Organization	17.	This question applies to the applicant organization, not the person who signs as the authorized representative. Categories of debt include delinquent audit disallowances, loans and taxes.
A. State	I. State Controlled																		
B. County	Institution of Higher Learning																		
C. Municipal	J. Private University																		
D. Township	K. Indian Tribe																		
E. Interstate	L. Individual																		
F. Intermunicipal	M. Profit Organization																		
G. Special District	N. Other (Specify)																		
H. Independent School District	O. Net for Profit Organization																		
8.	Select the type from the following list: - "New" means a new assistance award. - "Continuation" means an extension for an additional funding/budget period for a project with a projected completion date. - "Revision" means any change in the Federal Government's financial obligation or contingent liability from an existing obligation. If a revision enter the appropriate letter: A. Increase Award B. Decrease Award C. Increase Duration D. Decrease Duration	18.	To be signed by the authorized representative of the applicant A copy of the governing body's authorization for you to sign this application as official representative must be on file in the applicant's office. (Certain Federal agencies may require that this authorization be submitted as part of the application.)																
9.	Name of Federal agency from which assistance is being requested with this application.																		
10.	Use the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance number and title of the program under which assistance is requested.																		

BUDGET INFORMATION - Non-Construction Programs

Grant Program Function or Activity (a)	Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number (b)	Estimated Unobligated Funds		New or Revised Budget		
		Federal (c)	Non-Federal (d)	Federal (e)	Non-Federal (f)	
1.	-					
2.	-					
3.	-					
4.	-					
5. Totals						
		Grant Program Function or Activity				
6. Object Class Categories		(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	
a. Personnel						
b. Fringe Benefits						
c. Travel						
d. Equipment						
e. Supplies						
f. Contractual						
g. Construction						
h. Other						
i. Total Direct Charges (Sum of 6a-6h)						
j. Indirect Charges						
k. TOTALS (Sum of 6i and 6j)						
7. Program Income						

INSTRUCTION FOR THE SF424A

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 180 minutes per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (0348-0044), Washington, DC 20503.

PLEASE DO NOT RETURN YOUR COMPLETED FORM TO THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET, SEND IT TO THE ADDRESS PROVIDED BY THE SPONSORING AGENCY.

General Instructions

This form is designed so that application can be made for funds from one or more grant programs. In preparing the budget, adhere to any existing Federal grantor agency guidelines which prescribe how and whether budgeted amounts should be separately shown for different functions or activities within the program. For some programs, grantor agencies may require a breakdown by function or activity. Sections A, B, C, and D should include budget estimates for the whole project except when applying for assistance which requires Federal authorization in annual or other funding period increments. In the latter case, Sections A, B, C, and D should provide the budget for the first budget period (usually a year) and Section E should present the need for Federal assistance in the subsequent budget periods. All applications should contain a breakdown by the object class categories shown in Lines a - k of Section B.

Section A, Budget Summary Lines 1-4 Columns (a) and (b)

For applications pertaining to a single Federal grant program (Federal activity breakdown, enter on Line 1 under Column (a) the catalog program title and the catalog number in Column (b).

For applications pertaining to a single program requiring budget amounts by multiple functions or activities, enter the name of each activity or function on each line in Column (a), and enter the catalog number in Column (b). For applications pertaining to multiple programs where none of the programs require a breakdown by function or activity, enter the catalog program title on each line in Column (a) and the respective catalog number on each line in Column (b).

For applications pertaining to multiple programs where one or more programs require a breakdown by function or activity, prepare a separate sheet for each program requiring the breakdown. Additional sheets should be used when one form does not provide adequate space for all breakdown of data required. However, when more than one sheet is used, the first page should always provide the summary totals by programs.

Lines 1-4 Columns (c) through (g)

For new applications, leave Columns (c) and (d) blank. For each line entry in Columns (a) and (b), enter in Columns (e), (f), and (g) the appropriate amounts of funds needed to support the project for the first funding period (usually a year).

For continuing grant program applications, submit these forms before the end of each funding period as required by the grantor agency. Enter in Columns (c) and (d) the estimated amounts of funds which will remain unobligated at the end of the grant funding period only if the Federal grantor agency instructions provide for this. Otherwise, leave these columns blank. Enter in Columns (e) and (f) the amounts of funds needed for the upcoming period. The amount(s) in Column (g) should be the sum of amounts in Columns (c) and (f).

For supplemental grants and changes to existing grants, do not use Columns (c) and (d). Enter in Column (e) the amount of the increase or decrease of Federal funds and enter in Column (f) the amount of the increase or decrease of non-Federal funds. In Column (g) enter the new total budgeted amount (Federal and non-Federal) which includes the total previous authorized budgeted amounts plus or minus, as appropriate, the amounts shown in Columns (c) and (f). The amount(s) in Column (g) should not equal the sum of amounts in Columns (c) and (f).

Line 5 - Show the totals for all columns used

Section B Budget Categories

In the column headings (1) through (4), enter the titles of the same programs, functions, and activities shown on Lines 1-4. Column (a), Section A. When additional sheets are prepared for Section A, provide similar column headings on each sheet. For each program, function or activity, fill in the total requirements for funds (both Federal and non-Federal) by object class categories.

Lines 6a - i Show the totals of Lines 6a to 6h in each column.

Line 6j Show the amount of indirect cost.

Line 6k - Enter the total of amounts on Lines 6i and 6j. For all applications for new grants and continuation grants the total amount

in Column (5), Line 6k, should be the same as the total amount shown in Section A, Column (g), Line 5. For supplemental grants and changes to grants, the total amount of the increase or decrease as shown in Column (1) - (4), Line 6k should be the same as the sum of the amounts in Section A, Columns (e) and (f) on Line 5.

Line 7 - Enter the estimated amount of income, if any, expected to be generated from this project. Do not add or subtract this amount from the total project amount. Show under the program narrative statement the nature and source of income. The estimated amount of program income may be considered by the Federal grantor agency in determining the total amount of the grant.

Section C. Non-Federal Resources

Lines 8-11 Enter amounts of non-Federal resources that will be used on the grant. If in-kind contributions are included, provide a brief explanation on a separate sheet.

Column (a) - Enter the program titles identical to Column (a), Section A. A breakdown by function or activity is not necessary.

Column (b) - Enter the amount of the State's cash and in-kind contribution if the applicant is not a State or State agency.

Column (c) - Enter the amount of the State's cash and in-kind contribution if the applicant is not a State or State agency. Applicants which are a State or State agencies should leave this column blank.

Column (d) - Enter the amount of cash and in-kind contributions to be made from all other sources

Column (e) Enter total of columns (b), (c) and (d).

Line 12 - Enter the total for each of Columns (b)-(e). The amount in Column (c) should be equal to the amount on Line 5, Column (f), Section A.

Section D. Forecasted Cash Needs

Line 13 - Enter the amount of cash needed by quarter from the grantor agency during the first year.

Line 14 - Enter the amount of cash from all other sources needed by quarter during the first year.

Line 15 - Enter the totals of amounts on Lines 13 and 14.

Section E. Budget Estimates of Federal Funds Needed for Balance of the Project.

Lines 16-19 - Enter in Column (a) the same grant program titles shown in Column (a), Section A. A breakdown by function or activity is not necessary. For new applications and continuation grant applications, enter in the proper columns amounts of Federal funds which will be needed to complete the program or project over the succeeding funding periods (usually in years). This section need not be completed for revisions (amendments, changes, or supplements) to funds for the current year of existing grants.

If more than four lines are needed to list the program titles, submit additional schedules as necessary

Line 20 - Enter the total for each of the Columns (b)-(e). When schedules are prepared for this Section, annotate accordingly and show the overall totals on this line.

Section F. Other Budget Information

Line 21 - Use this space to explain amounts for individual direct object-class cost categories that may appear to be out of the ordinary or to explain the details as required by the Federal grantor agency.

Line 22 - Enter the type of indirect rate (provisional, predetermined, final or fixed) that will be in effect during the funding period, the estimated amount of the base to which the rate is applied, and the total indirect expense.

Line 23 - Provide any other explanations or comments deemed necessary.

ASSURANCES - NON-CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMS

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 15 minutes per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (0348-0040), Washington, DC 20503.

PLEASE DO NOT RETURN YOUR COMPLETED FORM TO THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET, SEND IT TO THE ADDRESS PROVIDED BY THE SPONSORING AGENCY.

NOTE: Certain of these assurances may not be applicable to your project or program. If you have questions, please contact the awarding agency. Further, certain Federal awarding agencies may require applicants to certify to additional assurances. If such is the case, you will be notified.

As the duly authorized representative of the applicant I certify that the applicant:

1. Has the legal authority to apply for Federal assistance and the institutional, managerial and financial capability (including funds sufficient to pay the non-Federal share of project cost) to ensure proper planning, management and completion of the project described in this application.
2. Will give the awarding agency, the Comptroller General of United States, and if appropriate, the State, through any authorized representative, access to and the right to examine all records, books, papers, or documents related to the award; and will establish a proper accounting system in accordance with generally accepted accounting standards or agency directives.
3. Will establish safeguards to prohibit employees from using their positions for a purpose that constitutes or presents the appearance of personal or organizational conflict of interest, or personal gain.
4. Will initiate and complete the work within the applicable time frame after receipt of approval of the awarding agency.
5. Will comply with the Intergovernmental Personnel Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. 14728-4763) relating to prescribed standards for merit systems for programs funded under one of the nineteen statutes or regulations specified in Appendix A of OPM's Standards for a Merit System of Personnel Administration (5 C.F.R. 900, Subpart F).
6. Will comply with all Federal statutes relating to nondiscrimination. These include but are not limited by (a) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (P.L. 88-352) which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin; (b) Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended (20 U.S.C. 1681-1683, and 1685-1686), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex; (c) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. 794), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of handicaps; (d) the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended (42 U.S.C. 6101-6107), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of age; (e) the Drug Abuse Office and Treatment Act of 1972 (P.L. 92-255), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of drug abuse; (f) the Comprehensive Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-616), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of alcohol abuse or alcoholism; (g) 523 and 527 of the Public Health Service Act of 1912 (42 U.S.C. 290 dd-3 and 290 cc-3), as amended, relating to confidentiality of alcohol and drug abuse patient records; (h) Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3601 et seq.), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination in the sale, rental or financing of housing; (i) any other nondiscrimination provisions in the specific statute(s) under which application for Federal assistance is being made; and (j) the requirements of any other nondiscrimination statute(s) which may apply to the application.
7. Will comply, or has already complied, with the requirements of Titles II and III of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-646) which provide for fair and equitable treatment of persons displaced or whose property is acquired as a result of Federal or federally assisted programs. These requirements apply to all interests in real property acquired for project purposes regardless of Federal participation in purchases.
8. Will comply, as applicable, with provisions of the Hatch Act (5 U.S.C. 1501-1508 and 7324-7328) which limit the political activities of employees whose principal employment activities are funded in whole or in part with Federal funds.
9. Will comply as applicable, with the provisions of the Davis-Bacon Act (40 U.S.C. 276a to 276z - 276a-7), the Copeland Act (40 U.S.C. 276c and 18 U.S.C. 874), and the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act (40 U.S.C. 327-333), regarding labor standards for federally assisted construction subagreements.
10. Will comply if applicable, with flood insurance purchase requirements of Section 102(a) of the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 (P.L. 93-234) which requires recipients in a special flood hazard area to participate in the program and to purchase flood insurance if the total cost of insurable construction and acquisition is \$10,000 or more.

ASSURANCES - NON-CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMS (cont'd)

11. Will comply with environmental standards which may be prescribed pursuant to the following: (a) institution of environmental quality control measures under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (P.L. 91-190) and Executive Order (E.O.) 11514; (b) notification of violating facilities pursuant to EO 11738; (c) protection of wetlands pursuant to EO 11990; (d) evaluation of flood hazards in floodplains in accordance with EO 11988; (e) assurance of project consistency with the approved State management program developed under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1451 et seq.); (f) conformity of Federal actions to State (Clean Air) Implementation Plans under Section 176(c) of the Clean Air Act of 1955, as amended (42 U.S.C. 17401 et seq.); (g) protection of underground sources of drinking water under the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, as amended, (P.L. 93-523); and (h) protection of endangered species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, (P.L. 93-205).
12. Will comply with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 (16 U.S.C. 1271 et seq.) related to protecting components or potential components of the national wild and scenic rivers system.
13. Will assist the awarding agency in assuring compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470), EO 11593 (identification and protection of historic properties), and the Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 469a-1 et seq.).
14. Will comply with P.L. 93-348 regarding the protection of human subjects involved in research, development, and related activities supported by this award of assistance.
15. Will comply with the Laboratory Animal Welfare Act of 1966 (P.L. 89-544, as amended, 7 U.S.C. 2131 et seq.) pertaining to the care, handling, and treatment of warm blooded animals held for research, teaching, or other activities supported by this award of assistance.
16. Will comply with the Lead-Based Paint Poisoning Prevention Act (42 U.S.C. 4801 et seq.) which prohibits the use of lead based paint in construction or rehabilitation of residence structures.
17. Will ensure to be performed the required financial and compliance audits in accordance with the Single Audit Act of 1984 or OMB Circular No. A-133, Audits of Institutions or Higher Learning and other Non-profit Institutions.
18. Will comply with all applicable requirements of all other Federal laws, executive orders, regulations and policies governing this program.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED CERTIFYING OFFICIAL	TITLE
APPLICANT ORGANIZATION	DATE SUBMITTED

[END OF SECTION D]

SECTION E - ANNEXES

ANNEX 1 – BRANDING STRATEGY AND MARKING PLAN

1. BRANDING STRATEGY – ASSISTANCE (December 2005)

(a) Definitions

Branding Strategy means a strategy that is submitted at the specific request of a USAID Agreement Officer by an Apparently Successful Applicant after evaluation of an application for USAID funding, describing how the program, project, or activity is named and positioned, and how it is promoted and communicated to beneficiaries and host country citizens. It identifies all donors and explains how they will be acknowledged.

Apparently Successful Applicant(s) means the applicant(s) for USAID funding recommended for an award after evaluation, but who has not yet been awarded a grant, cooperative agreement or other assistance award by the Agreement Officer. The Agreement Officer will request that the Apparently Successful Applicants submit a Branding Strategy and Marking Plan. Apparently Successful Applicant status confers no right and constitutes no USAID commitment to an award.

USAID Identity (Identity) means the official marking for the Agency, comprised of the USAID logo and new landmark, which clearly communicates that our assistance is from the American people. The USAID Identity is available on the USAID website and is provided without royalty, license, or other fee to recipients of USAID-funded grants or cooperative agreements or other assistance awards or subawards.

(b) **Submission.** The Apparently Successful Applicant, upon request of the Agreement Officer, will submit and negotiate a Branding Strategy. The Branding Strategy will be included in and made a part of the resulting grant or cooperative agreement. The Branding Strategy will be negotiated within the time that the Agreement Officer specifies. Failure to submit and negotiate a Branding Strategy will make the applicant ineligible for award of a grant or cooperative agreement. The Apparently Successful Applicant must include all estimated costs associated with branding and marking USAID programs, such as plaques, stickers, banners, press events and materials, and the like.

(c) **Submission Requirements** At a minimum, the Apparently Successful Applicant's Branding Strategy will address the following:

(1) Positioning

What is the intended name of this program, project, or activity?

Guidelines: USAID prefers to have the USAID Identity included as part of the program or project name, such as a "title sponsor," if possible and appropriate. It is acceptable to "co-brand" the title with USAID's and the Apparently Successful Applicant's identities. For example: "The USAID and [Apparently Successful Applicant] Health Center."

If it would be inappropriate or is not possible to "brand" the project this way, such as when rehabilitating a structure that already exists or if there are multiple donors, please explain and indicate how you intend to showcase USAID's involvement in publicizing the program or project. *For example: School #123, rehabilitated by USAID and [Apparently Successful Applicant]/ [other donors].*

Note: the Agency prefers "made possible by (or with) the generous support of the American People" next to the USAID Identity in acknowledging our contribution, instead of the phrase "funded by." USAID prefers local language translations.

Will a program logo be developed and used consistently to identify this program? If yes, please attach a copy of the proposed program logo.

Note: USAID prefers to fund projects that do NOT have a separate logo or identity that competes with the USAID Identity.

(2) Program Communications and Publicity

Who are the primary and secondary audiences for this project or program? Guidelines: Please include direct beneficiaries and any special target segments or influencers. For Example: Primary audience: schoolgirls age 8-12, Secondary audience: teachers and parents – specifically mothers.

What communications or program materials will be used to explain or market the program to beneficiaries?

Guidelines: These include training materials, posters, pamphlets, Public Service Announcements, billboards, websites, and so forth.

What is the main program message(s)? Guidelines: For example: "Be tested for HIV-AIDS" or "Have your child inoculated." Please indicate if you also plan to incorporate USAID's primary message – this aid is "from the American people" – into the narrative of program materials. This is optional; however, marking with the USAID Identity is required.

Will the recipient announce and promote publicly this program or project to host country citizens? If yes, what press and promotional activities are planned?

Guidelines: These may include media releases, press conferences, public events, and so forth. Note: incorporating the message, "USAID from the American People", and the USAID Identity is required.

Please provide any additional ideas about how to increase awareness that the American people support this project or program.

Guidelines: One of our goals is to ensure that both beneficiaries and host-country citizens know that the aid the Agency is providing is "from the American people." Please provide any initial ideas on how to further this goal.

(3) Acknowledgements

Will there be any direct involvement from a host-country government ministry? If yes, please indicate which one or ones. Will the recipient acknowledge the ministry as an additional co-sponsor? Note: it is perfectly acceptable and often encouraged for USAID to "co-brand" programs with government ministries.

Please indicate if there are any other groups whose logo or identity the recipient will use on program materials and related communications.

Guidelines: Please indicate if they are also a donor or why they will be visibly acknowledged, and if they will receive the same prominence as USAID.

(d) Award Criteria. The Agreement Officer will review the Branding Strategy for adequacy, ensuring that it contains the required information on naming and positioning the USAID-funded program, project, or activity, and promoting and communicating it to cooperating country beneficiaries and citizens. The Agreement Officer also will evaluate this information to ensure that it is consistent with the stated objectives of the award; with the Apparently Successful Applicant's cost data submissions; with the Apparently Successful Applicant's project, activity, or program performance plan; and with the regulatory requirements set out in 22 CFR 226.91. The Agreement Officer may obtain advice and recommendations from technical experts while performing the evaluation.

2. MARKING PLAN – ASSISTANCE (December 2005)

(a) Definitions

Marking Plan means a plan that the Apparently Successful Applicant submits at the specific request of a USAID Agreement Officer after evaluation of an application for USAID funding, detailing the public communications, commodities, and program materials and other items that will visibly bear the USAID Identity. Recipients may request approval of Presumptive Exceptions to marking requirements in the Marking Plan.

Apparently Successful Applicant(s) means the applicant(s) for USAID funding recommended for an award after evaluation, but who has not yet been awarded a grant, cooperative agreement or other assistance award by the Agreement Officer. The Agreement Officer will request that Apparently Successful Applicants submit a Branding Strategy and Marking Plan. Apparently Successful Applicant status confers no right and constitutes no USAID commitment to an award, which the Agreement Officer must still obligate.

USAID Identity (Identity) means the official marking for the Agency, comprised of the USAID logo and new landmark, which clearly communicates that our assistance is from the American people. The USAID Identity is available on the USAID website and USAID provides it without royalty, license, or other fee to recipients of USAID funded grants, cooperative agreements, or other assistance awards or sub-awards.

A **Presumptive Exception** exempts the applicant from the general marking requirements for a *particular* USAID-funded public communication, commodity, program material or other deliverable, or a *category* of USAID-funded public communications, commodities, program materials or other deliverables that would otherwise be required to visibly bear the USAID Identity. The Presumptive Exceptions are:

Presumptive Exception (i). USAID marking requirements may not apply if they would compromise the intrinsic independence or neutrality of a program or materials where independence or neutrality is an inherent aspect of the program and materials, such as election monitoring or ballots, and voter information literature; political party support or public policy advocacy or reform; independent media, such as television and radio broadcasts, newspaper articles and editorials; and public service announcements or public opinion polls and surveys (22 C.F.R. 226.91(h)(1)).

Presumptive Exception (ii). USAID marking requirements may not apply if they would diminish the credibility of audits, reports, analyses, studies, or policy recommendations whose data or findings must be seen as independent (22 C.F.R. 226.91(h)(2)).

Presumptive Exception (iii). USAID marking requirements may not apply if they would undercut host-country government “ownership” of constitutions, laws, regulations, policies, studies, assessments, reports, publications, surveys or audits, public service announcements, or other communications better positioned as “by” or “from” a cooperating country ministry or government official (22 C.F.R. 226.91(h)(3)).

Presumptive Exception (iv). USAID marking requirements may not apply if they would impair the functionality of an item, such as sterilized equipment or spare parts (22 C.F.R. 226.91(h)(4)).

Presumptive Exception (v). USAID marking requirements may not apply if they would incur substantial costs or be impractical, such as items too small or otherwise unsuited for individual marking, such as food in bulk (22 C.F.R. 226.91(h)(5)).

Presumptive Exception (vi). USAID marking requirements may not apply if they would offend local cultural or social norms, or be considered inappropriate on such items as condoms, toilets, bed pans, or similar

commodities (22 C.F.R. 226.91(h)(6)).

Presumptive Exception (vii). USAID marking requirements may not apply if they would conflict with international law (22 C.F.R. 226.91(h)(7)).

(b) **Submission.** The Apparently Successful Applicant, upon the request of the Agreement Officer, will submit and negotiate a Marking Plan that addresses the details of the public communications, commodities, program materials that will visibly bear the USAID Identity. The marking plan will be customized for the particular program, project, or activity under the resultant grant or cooperative agreement. The plan will be included in and made a part of the resulting grant or cooperative agreement. USAID and the Apparently Successful Applicant will negotiate the Marking Plan within the time specified by the Agreement Officer. Failure to submit and negotiate a Marking Plan will make the applicant ineligible for award of a grant or cooperative agreement. The applicant must include an estimate of all costs associated with branding and marking USAID programs, such as plaques, labels, banners, press events, promotional materials, and so forth in the budget portion of its application. These costs are subject to revision and negotiation with the Agreement Officer upon submission of the Marking Plan and will be incorporated into the Total Estimated Amount of the grant, cooperative agreement or other assistance instrument.

(c) **Submission Requirements.** The Marking Plan will include the following:

(1) A description of the public communications, commodities, and program materials that the recipient will be produced as a part of the grant or cooperative agreement and which will visibly bear the USAID Identity. These include:

(i) program, project, or activity sites funded by USAID, including visible infrastructure projects or other programs, projects, or activities that are physical in nature;

(ii) technical assistance, studies, reports, papers, publications, audio-visual productions, public service announcements, Web sites/Internet activities and other promotional, informational, media, or communications products funded by USAID;

(iii) events financed by USAID, such as training courses, conferences, seminars, exhibitions, fairs, workshops, press conferences, and other public activities; and

(iv) all commodities financed by USAID, including commodities or equipment provided under humanitarian assistance or disaster relief programs, and all other equipment, supplies and other materials funded by USAID, and their export packaging.

(2) A table specifying:

(i) the program deliverables that the recipient will mark with the USAID Identity,

(ii) the type of marking and what materials the applicant will be used to mark the program deliverables with the USAID Identity, and

(iii) when in the performance period the applicant will mark the program deliverables, and where the applicant will place the marking.

(3) A table specifying:

(i) what program deliverables will not be marked with the USAID Identity, and

(ii) the rationale for not marking these program deliverables.

(d) Presumptive Exceptions.

(1) The Apparently Successful Applicant may request a Presumptive Exception as part of the overall Marking Plan submission. To request a Presumptive Exception, the Apparently Successful Applicant must identify which Presumptive Exception applies, and state why, in light of the Apparently Successful Applicant's technical proposal and in the context of the program description or program statement in the USAID Request For Application or Annual Program Statement, marking requirements should not be required.

(2) Specific guidelines for addressing each Presumptive Exception are:

(i) For Presumptive Exception (i), identify the USAID Strategic Objective, Interim Result, or program goal furthered by an appearance of neutrality, or state why the program, project, activity, commodity, or communication is 'intrinsically neutral.' Identify, by category or deliverable item, examples of program materials funded under the award for which you are seeking exception 1.

(ii) For Presumptive Exception (ii), state what data, studies, or other deliverables will be produced under the USAID funded award, and explain why the data, studies, or deliverables must be seen as credible.

(iii) For Presumptive Exception (iii), identify the item or media product produced under the USAID funded award, and explain why each item or product, or category of item and product, is better positioned as an item or product produced by the cooperating country government.

(iv) For Presumptive Exception (iv), identify the item or commodity to be marked, or categories of items or commodities, and explain how marking would impair the item's or commodity's functionality.

(v) For Presumptive Exception (v), explain why marking would not be cost-beneficial or practical.

(vi) For Presumptive Exception (vi), identify the relevant cultural or social norm, and explain why marking would violate that norm or otherwise be inappropriate.

(vii) For Presumptive Exception (vii), identify the applicable international law violated by marking.

(3) The Agreement Officer will review the request for adequacy and reasonableness. In consultation with the Cognizant Technical Officer and other agency personnel as necessary, the Agreement Officer will approve or disapprove the requested Presumptive Exception. Approved exceptions will be made part of the approved Marking Plan, and will apply for the term of the award, unless provided otherwise.

(e) **Award Criteria:** The Agreement Officer will review the Marking Plan for adequacy and reasonableness, ensuring that it contains sufficient detail and information concerning public communications, commodities, and program materials that will visibly bear the USAID Identity. The Agreement Officer will evaluate the plan to ensure that it is consistent with the stated objectives of the award; with the applicant's cost data submissions; with the applicant's actual project, activity, or program performance plan; and with the regulatory requirements of 22 C.F.R.226.91. The Agreement Officer will approve or disapprove any requested Presumptive Exceptions (see paragraph (d)) on the basis of adequacy and reasonableness. The Agreement Officer may obtain advice and recommendations from technical experts while performing the evaluation.

3. MARKING UNDER USAID-FUNDED ASSISTANCE INSTRUMENTS (December 2005)

(a) Definitions

Commodities mean any material, article, supply, goods or equipment, excluding recipient offices, vehicles, and non-deliverable items for recipient's internal use, in administration of the USAID funded grant, cooperative agreement, or other agreement or subagreement.

Principal Officer means the most senior officer in a USAID Operating Unit in the field, e.g., USAID Mission Director or USAID Representative. For global programs managed from Washington but executed across many countries, such as disaster relief and assistance to internally displaced persons, humanitarian emergencies or immediate post conflict and political crisis response, the cognizant Principal Officer may be an Office Director, for example, the Directors of USAID/W/Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance and Office of Transition Initiatives. For non-presence countries, the cognizant Principal Officer is the Senior USAID officer in a regional USAID Operating Unit responsible for the nonpresence country, or in the absence of such a responsible operating unit, the Principal U.S Diplomatic Officer in the nonpresence country exercising delegated authority from USAID.

Programs mean an organized set of activities and allocation of resources directed toward a common purpose, objective, or goal undertaken or proposed by an organization to carry out the responsibilities assigned to it.

Projects include all the marginal costs of inputs (including the proposed investment) technically required to produce a discrete marketable output or a desired result (for example, services from a fully functional water/sewage treatment facility).

Public communications are documents and messages intended for distribution to audiences external to the recipient's organization. They include, but are not limited to, correspondence, publications, studies, reports, audio visual productions, and other informational products; applications, forms, press and promotional materials used in connection with USAID funded programs, projects or activities, including signage and plaques; Web sites/Internet activities; and events such as training courses, conferences, seminars, press conferences and so forth.

Sub-recipient means any person or government (including cooperating country government) department, agency, establishment, or for profit or nonprofit organization that receives a USAID sub-award, as defined in 22 C.F.R. 226.2.

Technical Assistance means the provision of funds, goods, services, or other foreign assistance, such as loan guarantees or food for work, to developing countries and other USAID recipients, and through such recipients to sub-recipients, in direct support of a development objective – as opposed to the internal management of the foreign assistance program.

USAID Identity (Identity) means the official marking for the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), comprised of the USAID logo or seal and new landmark, with the tagline that clearly communicates that our assistance is “from the American people.” The USAID Identity is available on the USAID website at www.usaid.gov/branding and USAID provides it without royalty, license, or other fee to recipients of USAID-funded grants, or cooperative agreements, or other assistance awards.

(b) Marking of Program Deliverables

(1) All Recipients must mark appropriately all overseas programs, projects, activities, public communications, and commodities partially or fully funded by a USAID grant or cooperative agreement or

other assistance award or subaward with the USAID Identity, of a size and prominence equivalent to or greater than the recipient's, other donor's, or any other third party's identity or logo.

(2) The Recipient will mark all program, project, or activity sites funded by USAID, including visible infrastructure projects (for example, roads, bridges, buildings) or other programs, projects, or activities that are physical in nature (for example, agriculture, forestry, water management) with the USAID Identity. The Recipient should erect temporary signs or plaques early in the construction or implementation phase. When construction or implementation is complete, the Recipient must install a permanent, durable sign, plaque or other marking.

(3) The Recipient will mark technical assistance, studies, reports, papers, publications, audio-visual productions, public service announcements, Web sites/Internet activities and other promotional, informational, media, or communications products funded by USAID with the USAID Identity.

(4) The Recipient will appropriately mark events financed by USAID, such as training courses, conferences, seminars, exhibitions, fairs, workshops, press conferences and other public activities, with the USAID Identity. Unless directly prohibited and as appropriate to the surroundings, recipients should display additional materials, such as signs and banners, with the USAID Identity. In circumstances in which the USAID Identity cannot be displayed visually, the recipient is encouraged otherwise to acknowledge USAID and the American people's support.

(5) The Recipient will mark all commodities financed by USAID, including commodities or equipment provided under humanitarian assistance or disaster relief programs, and all other equipment, supplies, and other materials funded by USAID, and their export packaging with the USAID Identity.

(6) The Agreement Officer may require the USAID Identity to be larger and more prominent if it is the majority donor, or to require that a cooperating country government's identity be larger and more prominent if circumstances warrant, and as appropriate depending on the audience, program goals, and materials produced.

(7) The Agreement Officer may require marking with the USAID Identity in the event that the recipient does not choose to mark with its own identity or logo.

(8) The Agreement Officer may require a pre-production review of USAID-funded public communications and program materials for compliance with the approved Marking Plan.

(9) Sub-recipients. To ensure that the marking requirements "flow down" to sub-recipients of sub-awards, recipients of USAID funded grants and cooperative agreements or other assistance awards will include the USAID-approved marking provision in any USAID funded sub-award, as follows:

"As a condition of receipt of this sub-award, marking with the USAID Identity of size and prominence equivalent to or greater than the recipient's, sub-recipient's, other donor's or third party's is required. In the event the recipient chooses not to require marking with its own identity or logo by the sub-recipient, USAID may, at its discretion, require marking by the sub-recipient with the USAID Identity."

(10) Any 'public communications', as defined in 22 C.F.R. 226.2, funded by USAID, in which the content has not been approved by USAID, must contain the following disclaimer:

"This study/report/audio/visual/other information/media product (specify) is made possible by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The contents are the responsibility of [insert recipient name] and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government."

(11) The recipient will provide the Cognizant Technical Officer (CTO) or other USAID personnel designated in the grant or cooperative agreement with two copies of all program and communications materials

produced under the award. In addition, the recipient will submit one electronic or one hard copy of all final documents to USAID's Development Experience Clearinghouse.

(c) Implementation of marking requirements.

(1) When the grant or cooperative agreement contains an approved Marking Plan, the recipient will implement the requirements of this provision following the approved Marking Plan.

(2) When the grant or cooperative agreement does not contain an approved Marking Plan, the recipient will propose and submit a plan for implementing the requirements of this provision within [*one week*] days after the effective date of this provision. The plan will include:

(i) A description of the program deliverables specified in paragraph (b) of this provision that the recipient will produce as a part of the grant or cooperative agreement and which will visibly bear the USAID Identity.

(ii) The type of marking and what materials the applicant uses to mark the program deliverables with the USAID Identity,

(iii) When in the performance period the applicant will mark the program deliverables, and where the applicant will place the marking,

(3) The recipient may request program deliverables not be marked with the USAID Identity by identifying the program deliverables and providing a rationale for not marking these program deliverables. Program deliverables may be exempted from USAID marking requirements when:

(i) USAID marking requirements would compromise the intrinsic independence or neutrality of a program or materials where independence or neutrality is an inherent aspect of the program and materials;

(ii) USAID marking requirements would diminish the credibility of audits, reports, analyses, studies, or policy recommendations whose data or findings must be seen as independent;

(iii) USAID marking requirements would undercut host-country government "ownership" of constitutions, laws, regulations, policies, studies, assessments, reports, publications, surveys or audits, public service announcements, or other communications better positioned as "by" or "from" a cooperating country ministry or government official;

(iv) USAID marking requirements would impair the functionality of an item;

(v) USAID marking requirements would incur substantial costs or be impractical;

(vi) USAID marking requirements would offend local cultural or social norms, or be considered inappropriate;

(vii) USAID marking requirements would conflict with international law.

(4) The proposed plan for implementing the requirements of this provision, including any proposed exemptions, will be negotiated within the time specified by the Agreement Officer after receipt of the proposed plan. Failure to negotiate an approved plan with the time specified by the Agreement Officer may be considered as noncompliance with the requirements of this provision.

(d) Waivers.

(1) The recipient may request a waiver of the Marking Plan or of the marking requirements of this provision, in whole or in part, for each program, project, activity, public communication or commodity, or, in exceptional circumstances, for a region or country, when USAID required marking would pose compelling political, safety, or security concerns, or when marking would have an adverse impact in the cooperating country. The recipient will submit the request through the Cognizant Technical Officer. The Principal Officer is responsible for approvals or disapprovals of waiver requests.

(2) The request will describe the compelling political, safety, security concerns, or adverse impact that require a waiver, detail the circumstances and rationale for the waiver, detail the specific requirements to be waived, the specific portion of the Marking Plan to be waived, or specific marking to be waived, and include a description of how program materials will be marked (if at all) if the USAID Identity is removed. The request should also provide a rationale for any use of recipient's own identity/logo or that of a third party on materials that will be subject to the waiver.

(3) Approved waivers are not limited in duration but are subject to Principal Officer review at any time, due to changed circumstances.

(4) Approved waivers "flow down" to recipients of sub-awards unless specified otherwise. The waiver may also include the removal of USAID markings already affixed, if circumstances warrant.

(5) Determinations regarding waiver requests are subject to appeal to the Principal Officer's cognizant Assistant Administrator. The recipient may appeal by submitting a written request to reconsider the Principal Officer's waiver determination to the cognizant Assistant Administrator.

(e) Non-retroactivity. The requirements of this provision do apply to any materials, events, or commodities produced prior to January 2, 2006. The requirements of this provision do not apply to program, project, or activity sites funded by USAID, including visible infrastructure projects (for example, roads, bridges, buildings) or other programs, projects, or activities that are physical in nature (for example, agriculture, forestry, water management) where the construction and implementation of these are complete prior to January 2, 2006 and the period of the grant does not extend past January 2, 2006.

ANNEX 2– MANDATORY AWARD REQUIREMENTS

1. The [Standard Provisions for Non-U.S. Non-governmental Recipients](#) will apply to this award. The provisions are accessible at: <http://www.usaid.gov/policy/ads/300/303mab.pdf>

2. HOMELAND SECURITY PRESIDENTIAL DIRECTIVE-12 (HSPD-12) (SEP 2006) - ASSISTANCE

In response to the general threat of unauthorized access to federal facilities and information systems, the President issued Homeland Security Presidential Directive-12. HSPD-12 requires all Federal agencies to use a common Personal Identity Verification (PIV) standard when identifying and issuing access rights to users of Federally-controlled facilities and/or Federal Information Systems. USAID is applying the requirements of HSPD-12 to applicable assistance awards. USAID will begin issuing HSPD-12 “smart card” IDs to applicable recipients (and recipient employee), using a phased approach. Effective October 27, 2006, USAID will begin issuing new “smart card” IDs to new recipients (and recipient employees) requiring routine access to USAID controlled facilities and/or access to USAID’s information systems. USAID will begin issuance of the new smart card IDs to existing recipients (and existing recipient employees) on October 27, 2007. (Exceptions would include those situations where an existing recipient (or recipient employees) loses or damages his/her existing ID and would need a replacement ID prior to October 27, 2007. In those situations, the existing recipient (or recipient employee) would need to follow the PIV process described below and be issued one of the new smart cards.) Accordingly, before a recipient (including a recipient employee) may obtain a USAID ID (new or replacement) authorizing him/her routine access to USAID facilities, or logical access to USAID’s information systems, the individual must provide two forms of identity source documents in original form and a passport size photo. One identity source document must be a valid Federal or state government-issued picture ID. (Overseas foreign nationals must comply with the requirements of the Regional Security Office.) USAID/W recipients (and recipient employee) must contact the USAID Security Office to obtain the list of acceptable forms of documentation, and recipients working in overseas Missions must obtain the acceptable documentation list from the Regional Security Officer. Submission of these documents, and related background checks, are mandatory in order for the recipient (or employee) to receive a building access ID, and before access will be granted to any of USAID’s information systems. All recipients (or employees) must physically present these two source documents for identity proofing at their USAID/W or Mission Security Briefing. The recipient (or employee) must return any issued building access ID and remote authentication token to USAID custody upon termination of the individual’s employment with the recipient or completion of the award, whichever occurs first. The recipient must comply with all applicable HSPD-12 and PIV procedures, as described above, as well as any subsequent USAID or government-wide HSPD-12 and PIV procedures/policies, including any subsequent applicable USAID General Notice, Office of Security Directives and/or Automated Directives System (ADS) policy directives and required procedures. This includes HSPD-12 procedures established in USAID/Washington and those procedures established by the overseas Regional Security Office. In the event of inconsistencies between this clause and later issued Agency or government-wide HSPD-12 guidance, the most recent issued guidance should take precedence, unless otherwise instructed by the Agreement Officer. The recipient is required to include this clause in any subawards (including subcontracts) that require the subawardee or subawardee’s employee to have routine physical access to USAID space or logical access to USAID’s Information Systems. .

3. CENTRAL CONTRACTOR REGISTRATION AND UNIVERSAL IDENTIFIER (OCTOBER 2010)

a. **Requirement for Central Contractor Registration (CCR).** Unless you are exempted from this

requirement under 2 CFR 25.110, you as the recipient must maintain the currency of your information in the CCR until you submit the final financial report required under this award or receive the final payment, whichever is later. This requires that you review and update the information at least annually after the initial registration, and more frequently if required by changes in your information or another award term.

b. Requirement for Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) numbers. If you are authorized to make subawards under this award, you:

- (1) Must notify potential subrecipients that no entity (see definition in paragraph C of this award term) may receive a subaward from you unless the entity has provided its DUNS number to you.
- (2) May not make a subaward to an entity unless the entity has provided its DUNS number to you.

c. Definitions. For purposes of this award term:

- (1) Central Contractor Registration (CCR) means the Federal repository into which an entity must provide information required for the conduct of business as a recipient. Additional information about registration procedures may be found at the CCR Internet site (currently at <http://www.ccr.gov>).
- (2) Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number means the nine-digit number established and assigned by Dun and Bradstreet, Inc. (D&B) to uniquely identify business entities. A DUNS number may be obtained from D&B by telephone (currently 866-705-5711) or the Internet (currently at <http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform>).
- (3) Entity, as it is used in this award term, means all of the following, as defined at 2 CFR part 25, subpart
 - (i) A Governmental organization, which is a State, local government, or Indian tribe;
 - (ii) A foreign public entity;
 - (iii) A domestic or foreign nonprofit organization;
 - (iv) A domestic or foreign for-profit organization; and entity
 - (v) A Federal agency, but only as a subrecipient under an award or subaward to a non-Federal
- (4) Subaward:
 - (i) This term means a legal instrument to provide support for the performance of any portion of the substantive project or program for which you received this award and that you as the recipient award to an eligible subrecipient.
 - (ii) The term does not include your procurement of property and services needed to carry out the project or program (for further explanation, see Sec. --.210 of the attachment to OMB Circular A-133, "Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations").
 - (iii) A subaward may be provided through any legal agreement, including an agreement that you consider a contract.
- (5) Subrecipient means an entity that:
 - (i) Receives a subaward from you under this award; and
 - (ii) Is accountable to you for the use of the Federal funds provided by the subaward.

4. REPORTING SUBAWARDS AND EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION (OCTOBER 2010)

a. Reporting of first-tier subawards.

- (1) Applicability. Unless you are exempt as provided in paragraph d. of this award term, you must report each action that obligates \$25,000 or more in Federal funds that does not include Recovery funds (as defined in section 1512(a)(2) of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Pub. L. 111-5) for a subaward to an entity (see definitions in paragraph e of this award term).
- (2) Where and when to report.
 - (i) You must report each obligating action described in paragraph a.1. of this award term to www.fsrs.gov.
 - (iii) For subaward information, report no later than the end of the month following the month in which the obligation was made. (For example, if the obligation was made on November 7, 2010, the obligation must be reported by no later than December 31, 2010.)
- (3) What to report. You must report the information about each obligating action that the submission instructions posted at www.fsrs.gov specify.

b. Reporting Total Compensation of Recipient Executives.

- (1) Applicability and what to report. You must report total compensation for each of your five most highly compensated executives for the preceding completed fiscal year, if –
 - (i) the total Federal funding authorized to date under this award is \$25,000 or more;
 - (ii) in the preceding fiscal year, you received—
 - (A) 80 percent or more of your annual gross revenues from Federal procurement contracts (and subcontracts) and Federal financial assistance subject to the Transparency Act, as defined at 2 CFR 170.320 (and subawards); and
 - (B) \$25,000,000 or more in annual gross revenues from Federal procurement contracts (and subcontracts) and Federal financial assistance subject to the Transparency Act, as defined at 2 CFR 170.320 (and subawards); and
 - (iii) The public does not have access to information about the compensation of the executives through periodic reports filed under section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78m(a), 78o(d)) or section 6104 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. (To determine if the public has access to the compensation information, see the U.S. Security and Exchange Commission total compensation filings at <http://www.sec.gov/answers/execomp.htm>.)

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- (2) Where and when to report. You must report executive total compensation described in paragraph b.(1) of this award term:
 - (i) As part of your registration profile at www.ccr.gov.
 - (ii) By the end of the month following the month in which this award is made, and annually thereafter.

c. Reporting of Total Compensation of Subrecipient Executives.

- (1) Applicability and what to report. Unless you are exempt as provided in paragraph d. of this award term, for each first-tier subrecipient under this award, you shall report the names and total compensation of each of the subrecipient's five most highly compensated executives for the subrecipient's preceding completed fiscal year, if

- (i) in the subrecipient's preceding fiscal year, the subrecipient received—
 - (A) 80 percent or more of its annual gross revenues from Federal procurement contracts (and subcontracts) and Federal financial assistance subject to the Transparency Act, as defined at 2 CFR 170.320 (and subawards); and
 - (B) \$25,000,000 or more in annual gross revenues from Federal procurement contracts (and subcontracts), and Federal financial assistance subject to the Transparency Act (and subawards); and ii. The public does not have access to information about the compensation of the executives through periodic reports filed under section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78m(a), 78o(d)) or section 6104 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. (To determine if the public has access to the compensation information, see the U.S. Security and Exchange Commission total compensation filings at <http://www.sec.gov/answers/execomp.htm>.)
- (2) Where and when to report. You must report subrecipient executive total compensation described in paragraph c.(1) of this award term:
 - (i) To the recipient.
 - (ii) By the end of the month following the month during which you make the subaward. For example, if a subaward is obligated on any date during the month of October of a given year (i.e., between October 1 and 31), you must report any required compensation information of the subrecipient by November 30 of that year.

d. Exemptions

If, in the previous tax year, you had gross income, from all sources, under \$300,000, you are exempt from the requirements to report:

- (1) Subawards, and
- (2) The total compensation of the five most highly compensated executives of any subrecipient.

e. Definitions. For purposes of this award term:

- (1) Entity means all of the following, as defined in 2 CFR part 25:
 - (i) A Governmental organization, which is a State, local government, or Indian tribe;
 - (ii) A foreign public entity;
 - (iii) A domestic or foreign nonprofit organization;
 - (iv) A domestic or foreign for-profit organization;
 - (v) A Federal agency, but only as a subrecipient under an award or subaward to a non-Federal entity.
- (2) Executive means officers, managing partners, or any other employees in management positions.
- (3) Subaward:
 - (i) This term means a legal instrument to provide support for the performance of any portion of the substantive project or program for which you received this award and that you as the recipient award to an eligible subrecipient.
 - (ii) The term does not include your procurement of property and services needed to carry out the project or program

- (iii) (for further explanation, see Sec. --.210 of the attachment to OMB Circular A- 133, —Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non- Profit Organizations||).
 - (iv) A subaward may be provided through any legal agreement, including an agreement that you or a subrecipient considers a contract.
- (4) Subrecipient means an entity that:
- (i) Receives a subaward from you (the recipient) under this award; and
 - (ii) Is accountable to you for the use of the Federal funds provided by the subaward.
- (5) Total compensation means the cash and noncash dollar value earned by the executive during the recipient's or subrecipient's preceding fiscal year and includes the following (for more information see 17 CFR 229.402(c)(2)):
- (i) Salary and bonus.
 - (ii) Awards of stock, stock options, and stock appreciation rights. Use the dollar amount recognized for financial statement reporting purposes with respect to the fiscal year in accordance with the Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 123 (Revised 2004) (FAS 123R), Shared Based Payments.
 - (iii) Earnings for services under nonequity incentive plans. This does not include group life, health, hospitalization or medical reimbursement plans that do not discriminate in favor of executives, and are available generally to all salaried employees.
 - (iv) Change in pension value. This is the change in present value of defined benefit and actuarial pension plans.
 - (v) Above-market earnings on deferred compensation which is not tax-qualified.
 - (vi) Other compensation, if the aggregate value of all such other compensation (e.g. severance, termination payments, value of life insurance paid on behalf of the employee, perquisites or property) for the executive exceeds \$10,000.

5. Authorized Geographic Code

The authorized Geographic Code for procurement of goods and services under this Award is 937 (the United States, the cooperating/recipient country, and developing countries other than advanced developing countries).

ANNEX 3 - TEACHER CAREER AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (TCPD) PROJECT SCOPE FOR ELIGIBLE LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

The award will be competed locally and a Macedonian NGO will be identified to lead the implementation of this initiative, in keeping with USAID Forward Procurement Reform which encourages greater participation by local implementing partners. The NGO sector in Macedonia has been instrumental in advocating for continued education reform nationally and possesses a great deal of expertise in assessment and evaluation. A local organization, or consortium or local entities, as implementer is envisioned for this activity to achieve the project objectives (non-governmental organization, non-profit organization, university research institution, etc.).

The implementing partner will require significant knowledge of the teacher professional development system in the context of Macedonia and the region and will operate from its main office in Skopje. Project activities/events will include sites throughout the country, depending on the institutions and whether they have dispersed regional units. A local staff, led by a local Chief of Party (CoP), will implement the project during the 30 month period of performance.

The Prime implementing partner may decide to partner together to submit a joint proposal that would include all the necessary package of skills to successfully implement such a project. In such a case, one organization would act as the Prime organization and the others as sub-grantees of the Prime. The Prime organization would submit the joint proposal on behalf of the partner organization/s. The purpose of the mention of a partnership/consortium is intended for more than one *local* organization to pool resources if one local organization did not have enough capacity to fulfill the objectives of the award. It is preferred that only local organizations make up the partnership/consortium.

Local Organizations

To be eligible, a local organization must be registered according to the new Law on Citizens' Associations and Foundations of April 2010 and registered in the National Central Registry. If a local Macedonian organization is receiving support from a "sister" organization, its affiliation with this organization should be made clear in its application—and any influence that the organization can or may have on its operations. Organizations established or controlled by foreign governments are not eligible to apply.

Regarding local non-governmental organizations (LNGOs), LNGOs are entities that meet the definition of "local organization" set forth below which are not government-controlled or government-owned (i.e. a majority of the members of the governing body are government employees/appointees or the recipient government owns a majority interest).

To be eligible for the award, a LNGO may be either a non-profit or for-profit organization. In either case, profit may not be included under TCPD or any other USAID assistance award (grant or cooperative agreement).

USAID/Macedonia defines a local organization as one which:

- Is organized under the laws of the recipient country;
- Has its principal place of business in the recipient country;
- Is majority owned by individuals who are citizens or lawful permanent residents of the recipient country or be managed by a governing body, the majority of whom are citizens or lawful permanent residents of a recipient country; and
- Is not controlled by a foreign entity or by an individual or individuals who are not citizens or permanent residents of the recipient country.

The term “controlled by” means a majority ownership or beneficiary interest as defined above , or the power, either directly or indirectly, whether exercised or exercisable, to control the election, appointment, or tenure of the organization’s managers or a majority of the organization’s governing body by any means, e.g., ownership, contract, or operation of law. “Foreign entity” means an organization that fails to meet any part of the “local organization” definition.

[END OF SECTION E]

SECTION F – ATTACHMENTS/BACKGROUND INFORMATION/REFERENCES

1) Initial Environmental Examination (IEE)



DCN: 2012-MAC-010

United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

USAID/MACEDONIA

Request for Categorical Exclusion (RCE)

Program/Project/Activity Data:

Project/Activity Name:	USAID Macedonia Teacher Career and Professional Development (TCPD) Project	
Assistance Objective:	A Basic Education System that Better Prepares Youth for the Modern Economy and a Stable Democracy	
Program Area:	Education	
Country:	Republic of Macedonia	
Originating Office:	Education Office	Date: 04/04/2012
RCE/IEE Amendment: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DCN of Original RCE/IEE:	N/A
	DCN of Amendment(s):	N/A
Related IEE DCN:	2010-MAC-029 (SOAG – partially clears deferral)	
Implementation Start/End:	o/a 9/12 – o/a 3/15	LOP: FY12 - FY15
Funding Amount:	\$950,000	LOP Amount: \$950,000
Contract/Award # if Known:		
Recommended Determination: Categorical Exclusion		

1. Project and Activity Description

The USAID Macedonia Teacher Career and Professional Development Project’s primary objective is to improve the institutional framework for teacher career and professional development in Macedonia.

The new project will be comprised of three complementary components and carried out in three phases. Three intermediate results will lead to the successful realization of the development objective: **Improved Institutional Framework for TCPD**. The efforts of this project should result in creating and institutionalizing structures and processes that guide and inform TCPD in Macedonia.

Defined or illustrative activities under IR1: Comprehensive Legal System in place
Illustrative Activities for this component include a comprehensive review of existing TCPD legislation. Based on findings, a determination as to where improvement is most needed will be assessed. Stakeholders will be asked to provide input regarding current systems and structures that currently govern TCPD. This will include discussion as to whether a teacher certification or licensing system would be advantageous and how it would be devised. Through public debate and regional/international comparative study, proposed frameworks will be generated.

Defined or illustrative activities under IR2: Enhanced Financial Schemes
The objective of IR2 is to conduct a comprehensive review of budgeting for TCPD nationally and present the GoM with funding scenarios for ongoing support.

Defined or illustrative activities under IR3: Standards for Teacher Competencies Developed

The <u>objective</u> of IR3 is to inventory and further develop clear standards of expected competencies and professional development opportunities for in-service teachers along with the tools for evaluating progress in those areas

2. Justification for Categorical Exclusion Determination

The activities under the TCPD project will not have an effect on the natural or physical environment and are among the classes of activities listed in 22 CFR 216.2(c)(2). Therefore, pursuant to 22 CFR 216.2(c)(1), neither an IEE nor an EA will be required for these activities. Instead, a categorical exclusion threshold determination is recommended for:

- All activities pursuant to 22 CFR 216.2(c)(2)(i) Education, technical assistance, or training programs except to the extent such programs include activities directly affecting the environment (such as construction of facilities, etc.).

3. Limitations of the Categorical Exclusion Determination:

This Categorical Exclusion does not cover classes of actions normally having a significant effect on the environment pursuant to 22 CFR 216.2(d):

- (i) Programs of river basin development;
- (ii) Irrigation and water management;
- (iii) Agricultural land leveling;
- (iv) Drainage projects;
- (v) Large scale agricultural mechanization;
- (vi) Resettlement projects;
- (vii) New land development;
- (viii) Penetration road building and road improvement;
- (ix) Powerplants;
- (x) Industrial plants; and
- (xi) Potable water and sewerage projects

This Categorical Exclusion also does not cover:

- Activities affecting endangered species or introducing exotic species;
- Support to extractive industries (e.g. mining and quarrying);
- Support for activities that promote timber harvesting;
- Construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, or renovation work;
- Activities involving support to agro-processing, industrial enterprises, and regulatory permitting;
- Activities involving support to industrial enterprises, and regulatory permitting;
- Support for privatization of industrial facilities or infrastructure with heavily polluted property;
- Project preparation, project feasibility studies, and infrastructure investments for projects, in addition to those listed in 22 CFR 216.2(d), that may have a potentially significant impact on the environment;
- Assistance for the procurement (including payment in kind, donations, guarantees of credit) or use (including handling, transport, fuel for transport, storage, mixing, loading, application, clean-up of spray equipment, and disposal) of pesticides or activities involving procurement, transport, use, storage,

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or disposal of toxic materials. Pesticides cover all insecticides, fungicides, rodenticides, etc. covered under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act;

- Procurement or use of genetically modified organisms; and
- Development Credit Authority or Global Development Alliance programs.

Any of these actions would require a Europe and Eurasia Bureau Environmental Officer (BEO) approved amendment to the Categorical Exclusion.

4. Mandatory Inclusion of Environmental Compliance Requirements in Solicitations, Awards, Budgets and Work Plans

- Appropriate environmental compliance language shall be included in solicitations and awards (this includes the limitations defined in Section 3) for Categorical Exclusions.
- The implementing partner shall ensure annual work plans do not prescribe activities that are defined as “limitations” in Section 3.

5. Revisions

Pursuant to 22 CFR 216.3(a)(9), if new information becomes available that indicates that activities covered by the Categorical Exclusion might be considered “major” and their effect “significant,” or if additional activities are proposed that might be considered “major” and their effect “significant,” this Categorical Exclusion determination will be reviewed and, if necessary, revised by the Mission Environmental Officer (MEO) with concurrence by the BEO. It is the responsibility of the USAID Contract Officer’s Representative (COR)/Assistance Officer’s Representative (AOR) to keep the MEO and BEO informed of any new information or changes in the activity that might require revision of this RCE determination.

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Recommended Determination For Categorical Exclusion:

Approval :	<u><i>Robert Lewis</i></u> Mission Director (required)	<u>5/7/2012</u> Date
Approval:	<u><i>Harvace</i></u> Mission Environmental Officer (required)	<u>05/02/2012</u> Date
Approval :	<u><i>Denis Bl. Geischer</i></u> AOR/COR (required)	<u>05/02/2012</u> Date
Approval:	<u><i>Denis Bl. Geischer</i></u> Originator/Preparer (required)	<u>05/02/2012</u> Date
Concurrence:	<u><i>William Gibson</i></u> William Gibson E&E Bureau Environmental Officer (acting)	<u>May 8, 2012</u> Date

Distribution:

IEE File
MEO (to also provide a copy to AOR/COR)

[END OF SECTION F]

[END OF RFA]