USAID Diversity & Inclusion Scholarship Program

Introduction to Grants Under Contract Webinar Q&A

Table of Contents

Eligibility

1. **How about FBOs (faith-based organizations)?**

   Fath-based organizations are eligible to apply. Please see further information on this point in the FAQs section on our website.

2. **Can the commercial sector be eligible to apply?**

   In the context of providing educational services, yes, commercial enterprises such as private higher education institutions are eligible to apply.

   However, please note that profit is not allowed in grants under contract.

3. **Is the registered private high school eligible to apply?**

   Yes, private high schools are eligible to apply to support basic education initiatives.

4. **For Higher Education: helping Myanmar youth who are in Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore with better English language skills which will open better opportunities for work and Education. This proposal is to be applied with our Company which is registered in Bangkok, Thailand.**

   Yes, this opportunity is open to companies registered in Thailand and all countries included in USAID's geocode 935. Code 935 means free world and includes all countries except prohibited sources countries.

5. **For Higher Education: helping the youth in Myanmar for English skill to achieve IELTS Band 6.5 and above so that they can continue for higher education abroad. For this proposal, we'll apply with our Education Company which is with a different name company registration in Myanmar. For Basic Education: helping the children to learn the English language from a young age with our English language learning App: Kindergarten to Grade 4 students in Myanmar. This app is under a different name Company Registration in Myanmar.**

   In your organization has different entities, please apply with the name of the parent entity. If you are applying for more than one grant within one application cycle for different activities, you must indicate in your application which application is the priority.

6. **Regarding grant application, I've gathered that this opportunity aims to support both basic and higher education initiatives that cater to the evolving educational needs and prospects in Burma. I'm curious if the USAID DISP would consider incorporating health education (HE) sessions related to anti-human trafficking for communities, focusing on ensuring their safe migration. This could be integrated as a preventive measure alongside workforce development within the basic education activities. If this is a feasible consideration, we can encourage our partnered CSO groups to apply for this grant opportunity. They actively engage in community-based local survival networks and community watch groups and are experienced in leading similar initiatives.**

Safe migration and anti-trafficking activities do not meet the parameters for higher education and basic education activities.

7. **Is it eligible for starting up the new school in Yangon for the young people from conflicted effected areas where the schools were closed.**

    Yes, DISP funds can be used in part to support the establishment of a school in Yangon or elsewhere supporting Burmese students. However, DISP funds cannot be used for construction purposes.

8. **Are offices operating under universities (in Thailand) eligible to apply?**

    Offices that support higher education and/or basic education programming for Burmese young people would be eligible to apply for DISP funding, but the application would need to be under the name of the university. There is a section in the online application where you can specify the department or office supporting the activity.

9. **Can our organization can apply together with US base organization for issue?**

    Yes.

10. **May I ask to whom are the Higher Education grants addressed? Is it higher education institutions in the US, ASEAN or Myanmar?**

    Higher education institutions and partnership consortiums are not only limited to the U.S., ASEAN, and Burma. This funding opportunity is addressed to the wider international higher education community supporting the education of Burmese individuals in Burma and its surrounding countries.

11. **Is there any geographical preference for this? How about the budget ceiling an organisation can apply per grant?**

    USAID's geocode for this opportunity is 935 and there is no specific geographic preference other than directly supporting Burmese individuals in and surrounding Burma.

    Per ADS 302.3.4.13 the limit for grants under contracts for U.S. non-governmental organizations is currently USD $250,000 (simplified acquisition threshold). For non-U.S. organizations, while there is no ceiling at this time, please mindful that the total amount allocated for all grants under DISP is $8 million and proposed budgets must be in line with project activities and be cost reasonable.

12. **If it is not possible to receive undergraduate or graduate students from Myanmar, any advice on how a HEI in Indonesia can partake in this grant?**

    The scholarship component of DISP is separate from the grants under contract component. If your HEI is interested in hosting Burmese students, please see our website usaiddisp.com.

Alternatively, if you are interested in supporting basic education or higher education activities within the scope of the APS, we encourage you to form a partnership consortium with a Burmese organization.

13. **Will the activity related to organizational development within the applicant organization be eligible to include in the activities?**

    Yes, technical assistance and organizational capacity building is allowable, but it cannot be the primary scope of the activities. Rather, it should be included to support the primary activities of the grant. USAID DISP will also provide organizational capacity support in grant management to DISP grant recipients.

14. **As English is the official language of aviation and all aviation related workers in Myanmar are required to pass English examines routinely, we were wondering if an initiative (under the Grants under Contract for Workforce Development) for English as Second Language Training School Specific to Aviation Community would qualify for possible application. (follow up email - I was emailing to ask if our plan to start an English Training School specifically focusing on Aviation would meet the standards of what the DISP is looking to achieve. In Aviation, English is the mandatory international language. That said all engineers, air traffic controllers, pilots, crew, etc.. need to pass regular English competency exams. This is often a limiting factor for aviation employees. It is also challenging to get properly licensed with ICAO the International Governing Board for Aviation. We are familiar with the desires of the aviation community in Myanmar to have a better school tailored towards aviation English. Our organization is familiar with working with USAID on other projects and we have two running aviation English schools in Afghanistan and Laos we can reference as an example of the benefits to the nation. Our organization's schools are accepted by ICAO as an approved certifier for English proficiency. We understand that we would need to fill out an appropriate Application using the templates provided on SLATE, but we wanted to verify that this is an activity that could see a realistic chance of approval as long as proposal is properly written. I believe that it fits into the GUC Fixed Amount Award under workforce development category, but just wanted to verify prior to applying.)**

    Yes, as it is a form of workforce development, this is an allowable activity for a technical proposal.

15. **For ineligible applicants (orgs and individuals): How is political affiliation defined? Many ethnic basic ed systems and HEIs could be construed as affiliated with ethnic "political parties".**

    Applicants are ineligible if they are **affiliated with**, directly working for, coordinating with, and/or receiving funding or other forms of support from a sanctioned political party or entity.

    Additionally, prospective applicants are ineligible if they are actively involved in or affiliated with a party participating in armed conflict.

16. **Whether Ethnic Education Department or Ethnic Education Institutions from Ethnic Federal Units and Ethnic Resistance Organizations are eligible to apply?**

     Please see the answer to question #15 above.

17. **UK no longer part of EU- does technically UK based HEIs or organizations are not eligible to apply?**

     UK-based organizations are eligible to apply.

18. **We are a UK based organisation and we have been running a partnership HE programme with Local CBO organization. Is there any possible consideration that enable us to apply for this grant? I am just concerned that UK is no longer part of EU.**

     UK-based organizations are eligible to apply.

19. **I would like to do research, I would like to provide computer training for CDM students and provide certificate for them, and would like to do for improvement for Myanmar languages skill at federal school, are those eligible to apply?**

     Research and computer trainings are both eligible activities.

20. **If it is eligible for unregistered organizations**

     Yes, unregistered organization are eligible to apply.

21. **Is it eligible for the schools for orphans and children from Internally Displaced People (IDP) opened by the church?**

     Please see the response to answer # 1. Faith-based organizations providing basic education are eligible to apply.

22. **Could the funds be used to support basic and higher education programs by CDM educators in MaeSod and online?**

     As long as organizations and individuals are providing higher education and basic education to the community, yes, this would be an eligible activity.

23. **Do you support groups of ethnic and migrant teachers to apply for online teachers training course?**

     Teaching training is allowable as a core DISP grant activity, provided that it is not just a scholarship stipend to attend online courses. We encourage you to form a partnership with a U.S/EU/UK/Australia HEI or regional HEI to provide teacher trainings.

24. **Could the funds be used to support Interim Councils of Myanmar Universities?**

Yes, provided the funds are used to support higher education and basic education needs in the community.

25. **Can the organization in applying consortium also apply on its own as well?**

Yes, but not within the same application period as the consortium's application. Additionally, the focus of the proposal should be distinctly different.

26. **What kind of difficulties might there be if a university teacher is located in the border areas?**

You would be eligible to apply, provided that your proposed activities are in line with the criteria in the Annual Program Statement.

27. **In terms of "academic transcripts" I saw that it needs to provide at least a first-year transcript to apply- Is it eligible for those who had passed only matriculation exam (didn't attend any university since military coup)?**

This would be a component of a scholarship application, not a grant under contract. If you are interested in scholarship opportunities, please visit the scholarship section of our website at www.usaiddisp.org.

28. **Our partnership extends to church communities, some of which conduct activities supporting children from conflict areas. While they don't directly provide educational services, they offer essential support such as space, meals, and education fees for children accessing primary and secondary education. I'm curious if there might be an opportunity for them to apply for this grant as well.**

DISP will only provide funds to individuals or organizations supporting direct basic education/ higher education activities.

Project Duration & Budget

29.   **What is the floor and ceiling for the GUCs for non-US based organizations?**

Please see the response above to question #11.

30.   **If the grant is limited to 250K for US org, will the consortium with US Org also be limited to 250K?**

If the U.S.-based organization serves as the prime applicant and grant recipient for the consortium, the total value of the grant would be limited to $250,000. If the lead is not a U.S.-based organization, that limit does not apply. However, the portion the U.S. partner could receive is limited to $250,000.

31.   **Will that any incentives be available for teachers.**

Technical capacity building can be provided through a DISP grant.

32.   **In Myanmar, can we provide community college under this HE programs and can we provide Teacher's Incentive for Community teachers or Lecturers?**

Support for community colleges would fall under higher education programming. For incentives, please see the answer to question #31 above.

33.   **In basic education, we are supporting learning materials and teaching tools to many students and children but very limited capacity strengthening to teachers and volunteers and providing stipend to teachers in local areas and so can we request for stipend for teachers?**

Yes, limited stipends are allowable, but it cannot be the primary scope of the activities. Rather, it would be included to support the primary activities of the grant.

34.   **In our country, many youths are thirsty for in normal education like 3-6 months English courses and can we involve budget for this kind of scholarship?**

If your organization is developing and providing an English course (or similar trainings), then yes, this is an allowable activity.

If your organization is instead proposing to send students to an English course on scholarship, please see the DISP Scholarship component on usaiddisp.com.

35.   **Has an indirect rate been established?**

If you have a Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA), you may use it in your budget, provided that you can provide documentation of the agreed institutional rate. If you don't have NICRA, an Indirect Cost budget line can be included to cover core costs. Organizations may

use a flat De Minimis rate of 10% which can be applied to the Modified Total Direct Cost base. Alternatively, core costs may be budgeted as direct costs.

36. **I understand that there is a budget limit of 250,000 for U.S NGO- is that correct?**

    Yes.

37. **Are Australian, EU and UK universities and NGO s also limited to the $250,000 cap on grants? The APS states that US institutions may not receive more than $250,000 for a grant. There is no reference to institutions from the UK, EU and Australia being limited to the same maximum funding. Are non-US NGOs and Universities eligible for larger grants?**

    No. The Simplified Acquisition Threshold only applies to U.S non-governmental organizations.

38. **Regarding for $250,000 threshold for US based organizations - whether the grant threshold is for the whole project period (5-years) or if it is within a one-year project cycle. If it is only within one-year, I presume the cumulative grant amount within the 5-year project period can be above the threshold.**

    All activities, regardless of grant length, must fall under $250,000, including grant extensions. For more information, please see question #11 above.

39. **There are several units at our university (LAW, Public Administration, Education) that may be submitting proposals for GUC funding. Is the total eligible amount for one campus $250,000 or is that the limit for any one activity that is substantially different from other proposals that may by submitted by units of the same university?**

    If you are a U.S.-based organization applying for multiple DISP grants, the threshold applies to each individual grant. If you are not a U.S.-based organization, this threshold does not apply.

40. **While it seems fairly clear that the Scholarship portion of the DISP will not include support for online tuition costs at US institutions, there is no reference to this in the APS for the GUC. Would tuition costs—e.g., for a three-course online certificate in teacher education at a US institution—be an allowable expense as part of a GUC proposal? At a regional HEI?**

    Teaching training through multiple modalities is allowable as a DISP grant activity; however, the entirety of the grant cannot solely be providing scholarship stipends to attend online courses. Instead, it should be provided as part of a broader capacity building initiative with Burmese or regional organizations.

41. **What is the min-max timeline of the project to use the received grant.**

    The period of performance (timeline) to be specified in the application is one year. The scope can be proposed as a pilot project/proof of concept, or a full-cycle, one-year project.

For Fixed Amount Awards, the one-year grant period can only be extended up to three years, while Cost Reimbursable Awards do not face the same restrictions.

42.   Could you please tell us the deadlines?

The deadlines will be posted in the Annual Program Statement on January 15, 2024, which will be available on our website www.usaiddisp.org.

43.   Are grants assumed to be completed within one year or may then be longer?

Please see the response above to question #41.

Project Design & Activities

44.   Is it also possible to apply the grant for the agricultural education training specifically on the climate smart agriculture topic for the farmers? If yes, what is the min-max amount of grant that one local CSO can apply?

Agricultural education training is eligible as a form of vocational training and workforce development. Regarding the budget, please see the response to question #11 above.

45.   Does teacher training/certification/pre-service education count for either basic or higher ed activities in regard to funding? If primary school teachers are taking courses in an HEI, for example, would that be basic education funding or higher education funding?

The activities proposed would be basic education activities.

46.   The APS neatly divides funding between "Higher Education" and "Basic Education." Many of our prospective participants are teachers from post-secondary institutions in Burma that are NGO and Privately funded institutions. However, many of these same institutions also have an elementary, a secondary and/or a preparatory education program for entry into higher education. Some teachers, depending on their subjects, may be teaching at all three levels. Thus, staffing, content, and qualifications, are not as clearly defined and distinct as they might be elsewhere. Where would we slot a teacher education proposal for these teachers? Higher Education, or Basic Education?

You can combine Basic Education and Higher Education activities.

47.   Can the application be a combination of HEI and basic education, or do we have to choose which one we want to apply for?

Please see the response above to question #46.

48.   **We are putting our proposal together for the subgrant. Our project involves 10 ethnic Myanmar HEIs (and counting) with connections to ethnic basic education programs. In short we are working in both sectors: basic ed and higher ed. When it comes to our single proposal, is it ok for us to clearly identify what is basic education (and basic education funding) and what is higher education (and higher education funding) OR do we need to submit separate applications: 1 basic education application and 1 higher education application? We would prefer to submit one if possible. Also, we have one organization that will be managing the funding for the basic and higher ed funds. IF we must submit two separate proposals (one basic ed and one higher ed) is it possible for our one organization to submit both subgrant proposals?**

In this case, only one application would need to be submitted.

Compliance

49.   Does the organization need to have a registration status?

No. Both registered and Unregistered organizations can apply.

50.   Is it possible to apply it without legal registration of the organization?

Please see the answer to question #49 above.

51.   Another question we have is the determination of a US based organization - if it is dependent upon the organization's registration status or its base of operations. Many Myanmar based organizations are now registered outside of Myanmar due to restricted working conditions within Myanmar, and we are wondering if there is a specific criterion for determination.

This is determined by the location of registration status. If you are applying as a non-governmental organization registered in the U.S. and all documentation is associated with that registration in the U.S., then you would be considered a U.S. applicant.

52.   Are there restrictions on unregistered organizations? can they still apply?

Please see the answer to question #49 above.

53.   Is SAM registration required for Myanmar-based organizations?

Yes, all organizational applicants require SAM.gov registration in order to receive a grant. It is not, however, required at the time of applying.

54.   Does individual application require UEI no. as well?

No, only organizations.

55.   We worked for Ethnic education and federal education programs last year with USAID. we do not have a separate bank account with the organization name. so we work with a purchasing agency. I would like to know here it would be convenient to connect with a certain intermediary group too if we submit a proposal for an education program.

As part of the application process, you would need to show commitment/authorization letter(s) of the business relationship.

56. **Can you please clarify what efforts DISP will be making to accommodate grantees in Myanmar? The criteria are very restrictive, particularly the lack of flexibility around grant types and bank requirements. This will privilege organizations that have existing bank accounts in Thailand and other third-countries, as well as those organizations with the capabilities to navigate SAM registration. Many youth-led organizations will be categorically ineligible to apply for funding with these criteria. Thank you so much for your understanding.**

    We understand the concerns and are making every effort to be flexible where possible. Certain conditions, such as SAM.gov registration, are a requirement of the US government. USAID will consider UEI waivers on a case-by-case basis for the most sensitive activities under DISP based on the criteria listed in 2 CFR Part 25.

    If an applicant organization doesn't have a bank account in its name, the bank account where it will receive payments from DISP will be stipulated in the grant agreement. Additionally, we strongly recommend consortium applications so the prime applicant can meet these requirements while supporting local organizations in and around Myanmar.

57. **If an organization is not registered, and can't have an account in their name, what should they do?**

    Please see the response to question #56 above.

58. **Though it is eligible for unregistered organizations, why do you ask for the organization bank account. I don't understand for this point. Can we use the bank account of one of our organization members? Can we use Thai Bank account instead of Myanmar bank account?**

    Please see the response to question #56 above.

Other

59. **Could you please tell me more about any previous obligations by USAID to the beneficiaries.**

'Previous obligations' means any previous or existing awards funded directly or indirectly by USAID.

60. **Where to get the application template?**

The annual program statement and application is provided on our website, usaiddisp.com.

61. **What does 'endowments' mean, is it the same as 'scholarships', or any other payment to students to support them to study?**

An endowment is a financial structure that generates revenue for an organization. Further explanation can be found here: Endowment - Overview, Types, Purpose, and Taxation (corporatefinanceinstitute.com)

An endowment is not the same as scholarships.

62. **Have there been any labor market assessments conducted by USAID to help align workforce development and education programs with macroeconomic factors in Myanmar?**

This specific USAID project has not conducted such an assessment.

63. **Will the grant evaluation committee have any scholars of Burma/Myanmar on it? If yes, how will they be solicited?**

No. The Grant Evaluation Committee is comprised of senior leadership from the USAID DISP project, which includes Burmese individuals.

64. **As for local NGOs/CSOs, it is not easy to work with third countries education institutes and university but working in reality in the ground with INGOs or some bigger agencies consortia leading approaches and direct funding approaches. In case, we want to work with third country university, can the USAID grant management team can find us or help us to link those universities?**

Yes, USAID DISP can play a role in helping to connect organizations.

Scholarships

65. **When saying quality education, is it possible to give scholarship to youths who want to join class on IELTS and other university in land and to join international school in Yangon and Mandalay etc?**

No, as scholarships are not a component of the USAID DISP grants under contract. If you are interested in scholarship opportunities, please visit the scholarship section of our website at www.usaiddisp.org.

66. **Can an organization apply for a grant to provide Master Scholarship Program for each individual?**

No, as scholarships are not a component of the USAID DISP grants under contract. If you are interested in scholarship opportunities, please visit the scholarship section of our website at www.usaiddisp.org.

67. **For the Bachelor Program, can students who accomplished NUG's Basic Education Exam (BECA Exam) be able to apply (eligible) online or on-site programs?**

Scholarships are not a component of the USAID DISP grants under contract. If you are interested in scholarship opportunities, please visit the scholarship section of our website at www.usaiddisp.org.

68. **Is a private HEI located in Indonesia allowed to apply to receive students from Myanmar? We were informed about this possibility since a year ago by USAID.**

Scholarships are not a component of the USAID DISP grants under contract. If you are interested in scholarship opportunities, please visit the scholarship section of our website at www.usaiddisp.org.

69. **Somebody got already seat for post graduate studies for coming August, he/she can apply the grant for his or her need?**

Scholarships are not a component of the USAID DISP grants under contract. If you are interested in scholarship opportunities, please visit the scholarship section of our website at www.usaiddisp.org.

70. **Are students from Myanmar living in Thailand able to apply for doctoral studies in the US under this grant?**

Scholarships are not a component of the USAID DISP grants under contract. If you are interested in scholarship opportunities, please visit the scholarship section of our website at www.usaiddisp.org.

71. **Can Uni students who get partial scholarship apply for it?**

Scholarships are not a component of the USAID DISP grants under contract. If you are interested in scholarship opportunities, please visit the scholarship section of our website at www.usaiddisp.org.

72. **Is it eligible to apply for an undergraduate program individually in Thailand?**

Scholarships are not a component of the USAID DISP grants under contract. If you are interested in scholarship opportunities, please visit the scholarship section of our website at www.usaiddisp.org.

73. **Can MA students who have already taken some courses apply for the rest of their studies?**

Scholarships are not a component of the USAID DISP grants under contract. If you are interested in scholarship opportunities, please visit the scholarship section of our website at www.usaiddisp.org.

74. **Do you have the maximum financial capacity that you can provide for a scholarship recipient I.e., how much can you pay for a student per semester/year?**

Scholarships are not a component of the USAID DISP grants under contract. If you are interested in scholarship opportunities, please visit the scholarship section of our website at www.usaiddisp.org.

75. **Is the support to study in existing higher education programs only for individuals? Or can university apply as well?**
Scholarships are not a component of the USAID DISP grants under contract. If you are interested in scholarship opportunities, please visit the scholarship section of our website at www.usaiddisp.org.

76. **I have about 7 years' experience in INGO. I studied BBA degree in India, but the transcript came from US. So, am I eligible to apply any scholarship program in USAID? Your short reply would be much appreciated. Thank you.**

Scholarships are not a component of the USAID DISP grants under contract. If you are interested in scholarship opportunities, please visit the scholarship section of our website at www.usaiddisp.org.

77. **May I know the requirements for PhD program?**

Scholarships are not a component of the USAID DISP grants under contract. If you are interested in scholarship opportunities, please visit the scholarship section of our website at www.usaiddisp.org.