

Feed the Future Global Food Security BAA Solicitation

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Expressions of Interest Due: 12:00 PM ET (Washington DC Time) April 23, 2018

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The USAID Broad Agency Announcement for Global Food Security

I. Overview

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is issuing this Broad Agency Announcement (BAA) to invite participants to **co-create, co-design, co-invest, and collaborate** on innovative research and development (R&D) interventions to address challenges to global food security, as outlined in this BAA.

The intent of the BAA is to create high-quality, effective partnerships to conduct cutting-edge R&D to find new and innovative ways of combating food insecurity and malnutrition. As detailed below, USAID will invite selected organizations to co-create R&D solutions to the Problem and Challenge Statements, including resource providers that have ideas, expertise, and/or funding to add to potential solutions.

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Under this BAA, USAID seeks partners that are committed to shared responsibility, shared risk, and shared resourcing, or co-investment. Shared resourcing requires that cash and other resources, are directed towards reaching the solution to the Problem/Challenge. Co-investing does not require equal shared resources (such as 1:1 leverage), rather it seeks resource contributions that are appropriate to the specific project's objectives, considering the comparative advantages brought by the participation of each party.

Addenda: Although it is not anticipated, USAID may issue periodic Addenda to this BAA that will present specific challenges that will focus on identified problems, solutions, scalability opportunities, feasibility studies, and other research and development initiatives addressing the problem and challenge statements described above. The terms of the BAA apply to the Addenda. Individual addenda may have specific evaluation criteria and administrative information such as requirements for Expressions of Interest, Concept Papers, and response deadlines.

A. Federal Agency Name:

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and administered by the Bureau for Food Security (BFS)

B. Authority:

This BAA is issued under Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) 35.016(c). This is not a FAR Part 15 Procurement.

C. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number:

98.001 USAID Foreign Assistance Programs for Overseas

D. Open Period:

The open period for this BAA is 12 months from the date of issuance.

E. BAA Opportunity Title:

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II. Problem and Challenge Statements

PROBLEM:

Because of Feed the Future, the U.S. Government's global food security initiative, nine million more people are living free from poverty, 1.7 million households are living free from hunger, and

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1.8 million more children are living free from the devastating effects of stunting in areas where we work. Despite these successes, the changing global landscape requires us to do more with fewer resources.

According to the UN Food and Agricultural Organization, for the first time in over a decade, global hunger levels have risen—to 815 million people—due to a significant increase in violent conflict and economic, social, environmental and health shocks and stresses. Rural communities, where 75 percent of the world’s poor live, have been hit the hardest; added, these communities rely directly on agriculture for their livelihoods, not just for their food. It is therefore not surprising that the World Bank projects 702 million people still live in extreme poverty.

By 2050, the global population is projected to approach 10 billion people. Global food production will need to rise by at least 60 percent to meet growing demand, a problem that will be compounded by a significant increase in water scarcity and a marginal increase in arable land. In the same timeframe, the World Bank estimates the global demand for water will increase by 30 to 50 percent and FAO projects that arable land will expand by less than 5 percent.

To surmount current and future challenges, Feed the Future is seeking new partners with which to co-create, co-design and, in most instances, co-invest in scalable solutions.

CHALLENGE:

The planet’s food systems are capable of producing enough nutritious food to meet the needs of a burgeoning global population in the developing world, but unlocking that potential will require a renewed push to invest in and transform food systems and other enabling systems. The challenge is to develop and test innovative, inclusive, market-led, and sustainable approaches and solutions that will accelerate progress towards eliminating global hunger, malnutrition, and poverty, while increasing demand and accessibility of nutritious foods.

Innovation in many areas will be critical to addressing this challenge and achieving the goals of the Global Food Security Strategy (GFSS), as required by Feed the Future’s authorizing legislation, the Global Food Security Act of 2016. USAID’s Bureau for Food Security (BFS) is seeking R&D to develop new and innovative approaches to enhance agricultural systems and rural development through well-integrated interventions that empower youth and foster improved gender dynamics, particularly in the areas of:

- 1) Inclusive and sustainable agriculture-led economic growth;
- 2) Strengthened resilience among people and systems, especially to new and recurrent shocks and stresses; and
- 3) A well-nourished population, especially women and children.

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Please visit <https://feedthefuture.gov/approach> for additional information, including target countries and the U.S. Government Global Food Security Strategy.

III. The BAA Process

The amount of resources made available under this BAA will depend on the concepts received and the availability of funds from USAID and other resource partners. Some award types may not include any funding. The award process under this BAA has the following steps:

STAGE 1 - SUBMISSION OF EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (EOIs)

Please submit an organization addressing the criteria below, in the format required in Section VII. More than one EOI can be submitted by a single organization.

USAID will review the EOIs and will select those organizations that USAID determines to have addressed the evaluation criteria/eligibility stated below to an extent that the organization will make a significant contribution to the co-creation. Not all organizations that submit an EOI will necessarily be invited to proceed to Stage 2. Due to the number of EOIs expected to be received, USAID may be unable to provide details on why EOIs were not selected.

Required Content for Expressions of Interest:

1. EOIs must indicate the research or development idea(s) that will work toward potential solutions to the Problem and Challenge Statements. Ideas must be presented in a way that demonstrates a connection between the Problem/Challenge and prospective partners' efforts to increase knowledge and understanding of potential solutions; exploit scientific discoveries or improvements in technology, materials, processes, methods, devices, or techniques; advance the state of the art; or use scientific and technical knowledge in the design, development, testing, or evaluation of a potential new product or service (or of an improvement in an existing product or service).

Awards issued under this solicitation must be for Applied Research or Development, as those terms are defined in FAR 35.001. Those definitions are reproduced below:

“Applied research” means the effort that:

- (a) normally follows basic research, but may not be severable from the related basic research;

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(b) attempts to determine and exploit the potential of scientific discoveries or improvements in technology, materials, processes, methods, devices, or techniques; and

(c) attempts to advance the state of the art. When being used by contractors in cost principle applications, this term does not include efforts whose principal aim is the design, development, or testing of specific items or services to be considered for sale; these efforts are within the definition of “development,” given below.

“Development” means the systematic use of scientific and technical knowledge in the design, development, testing, or evaluation of a potential new product or service (or of an improvement in an existing product or service) to meet specific performance requirements or objectives. It includes the functions of design engineering, prototyping, and engineering testing; it excludes subcontracted technical effort that is for the sole purpose of developing an additional source for an existing product.

2. Expressions of Interest must demonstrate the potential to have a significant impact that ultimately could achieve even greater impact at scale.

3. EOIs must indicate the background and expertise of the organization and the managerial and technical staff or team engaged in the endeavor.

4. EOIs must describe any co-investment resources that will be contributed to the solution, including those from the submitting organization and those from other third-party businesses, donors, foundations, or other organizations. Such resources may include cash and other resources, both tangible and intangible, such as in-kind contributions, expertise, intellectual property, brand value, high-value coordination, and access to key people, places, and information.

STAGE 2 - CO-CREATION AND CO-DEVELOPMENT OF THE CONCEPT PAPER

During Stage 2, selected organizations will co-create potential solutions to the Problem and Challenge Statements by brainstorming and innovating solutions and resources, potentially leading to concept papers that USAID or other resource partners will consider for funding.

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Co-Creation

- In addition to the selected organizations continuing from Stage 1, the co-creation phase will include USAID and other co-investment organizations that may be able to contribute resources. Co-Creation may take the form of a workshop, conference, meeting, or other methods, including the possibility of oral presentations of concepts, at the discretion of USAID. The method of co-creation for this BAA will be determined at a later date, and communicated directly to those organizations invited to participate. An invitation to co-create is not a guarantee of funding nor is it a guarantee of moving forward to Stage 3. For more information on co-creation and its design approaches, see <https://usaidlearninglab.org/library/co-creation-discussion-note-ads-201>.
- Unless provided otherwise, organizations are responsible for all costs incurred by the organization to prepare its EOI and participate in the co-creation.
- Not all organizations that participate in the co-creation will necessarily be invited to co-design and co-develop a Concept Paper.

Co-Development of Concept Papers

- Working together, USAID and the potential partner(s) will collaborate on Concept Paper(s), taking a holistic approach to addressing the Problem/Challenge based on learnings from the co-creation, and identifying creative approaches to resourcing projects. Such Concept Papers will consider and include additional implementing and co-investment partners to complement the project, including reasonable cost sharing, leverage, or other exchange of resource arrangements.
- The Concept Paper, generally 5-10 pages, provides further details and explanation of the project.

STAGE 3 - REVIEW BY THE PEER AND SCIENTIFIC REVIEW BOARD

- Organizations will be invited to present their Concept Paper(s) to the Peer and Scientific Review Board, which will be comprised of experts from USAID, partners, and/or outside parties. The Peer and Scientific Review Board will use its technical expertise to review Concept Papers and recommend whether to move forward with the project, as well as any revisions/additions to the project.
- Not all organizations that present a Concept Paper to the Peer and Scientific Review Board will necessarily be invited to move to Stage 4.

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STAGE 4 - AWARD DETERMINATION

USAID will review the Peer and Scientific Review Board's recommendations and consider other information, such as resource availability and Agency priorities, and will decide whether to move forward with the Concept Paper based on the above-stated evaluation criteria. For Concept Papers that demonstrate a valid innovation to address the Problem and Challenge Statements, the Contracting/Agreement Officer will assess the organization's responsibility and identify the anticipated instrument type.

Request for Additional Information. USAID may request additional information concerning the organization's technical approach, capacity, management and organization, past experience, and budget, as well as representations and certifications, as needed.

Final Review and Negotiation. The USAID Contract/Agreement Officer will engage in final review and negotiation of an award instrument with an apparently successful partner. If the organization and USAID cannot arrive at a mutually agreeable arrangement, USAID reserves the right to not move forward with an award at no cost to the Government.

Award. Awards under this BAA will be made to the Apparently Successful Partners on the basis of their ability to achieve solutions to the Problem and Challenge Statements, based on the evaluation criteria as provided herein. The standard clauses or provisions for awards are generally prescribed by law and regulation and may vary by award type. Information regarding clauses and provisions will be offered to the Apparently Successful Applicant when the award type is identified.

Evaluation Criteria:

EOIs and Concept Papers will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. **Idea/Approach:** Novelty, creativity and soundness of the R&D idea/approach and its relevance to the Problem and Challenge Statements.
2. **Partnership Expectations and Value:** Strengths of the organization or consortium as a partner, including ability to make a unique contribution to the challenge issued.
3. **Impact:** The likelihood of generating substantial, scalable and sustainable impact on the issues discussed in the Problem and Challenge Statements.

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4. Past Experience: USAID also will consider the organization's past experience in assessing the ability of the organization to contribute to the co-creation.

IV. Additional Considerations

A. EOIs will not be evaluated against other EOIs, but solely based upon whether USAID believes that the organization will be a valuable contributor to the co-creation process. USAID may limit the number of initial submissions selected to move forward based on efficiencies.

B. Concept Papers are not evaluated against other Concept Papers, but solely based on USAID's determination as to whether the Concept Paper will successfully address the Problem and Challenges set forth herein. USAID may limit the number of Concept Papers selected to move forward based on efficiencies.

C. Decisions regarding USAID's pursuit of a particular project, technology or relationship will be based on all available information, evidence, data, and resulting analysis.

D. Eligibility Information. Public, private, for-profit, and nonprofit organizations, as well as institutions of higher education, public international organizations, non-governmental organizations, U.S. and non-U.S. governmental organizations, multilateral and international donor organizations are eligible under this BAA. All organizations must be determined to be responsive to the BAA and sufficiently responsible to perform or participate in the final award type. However, if a **contract** results from any phase of this process, the contractor must be eligible in accordance with 22 CFR 228 and ADS 310. The default authorized geographic code for all US-funded contracts is 937 (See ADS 310).

E. Funding availability and amounts will depend on the ideas generated during the collaboration process as well as the funding capacity of participating organizations, which are not necessarily limited to USAID.

V. Specific Rights Reserved for the Government under this BAA

The Government reserves specific rights, in addition to rights described elsewhere in this document or by law or regulation, including:

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1. The right to make multiple awards, a single award, or no awards.
2. The right to accept Concept Papers in their entirety or to select only portions of Concept Papers for award or co-investment.
3. The right to select an instrument type that is appropriate for the specific Concept Paper selected for award. Instrument types include, but are not limited to, contracts, grants, cooperative agreements, public-private partnerships, and memorandums of understanding. In addition, USAID may craft a new instrument type to meet the needs of a specific relationship.
4. The right to co-create projects with one or more organizations under the BAA, when it is in the best interest of USAID.
5. The right to request any additional, necessary documentation after initial review. Such additional information may include, but is not limited to, a further detailed Concept Paper, budget, and representations and certifications.
6. The right to fund or co-invest in Concept Papers in phases, with options for continued work at the end of one or more of the phases.
7. The right to award instruments under this BAA that do not commit monetary resources.
8. The right to remove organizations from the BAA process if USAID determines it is no longer in the best interests of the Government to proceed with the organization.

VI. Information Protection

USAID's goal is to facilitate research and development that will lead to innovative, and potentially commercially viable, solutions. Understanding the sensitive nature of organizations' information, USAID will work with organizations to protect intellectual property.

EOIs should be free of any intellectual property that the organization wishes to protect from disclosure, as the EOIs will be shared with USAID partners as part of the selection process. However, once organizations have been invited to advance beyond co-creation, organizations can work with USAID to identify proprietary information that requires protection.

Therefore, organizations making submissions under this BAA grant to USAID a royalty-free, nonexclusive, and irrevocable right to use, disclose, reproduce, and prepare derivative works, and to have or permit others to do so to any information contained in the EOIs submitted under the BAA. If USAID further engages with the organization regarding its submission, the parties can negotiate further intellectual property protection for the organization's intellectual property.

Organizations must ensure that any submissions under this BAA are free of any third party proprietary data rights that would impact the license granted to USAID herein.

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VII. Submission Requirements

Questions

Any questions regarding this BAA should be submitted via email to FTFBAA@usaid.gov with “Questions” in the subject line along with the Opportunity Number. Responses to questions received prior to the deadline along with any applicable amendments to this BAA will be posted on fbo.gov and grants.gov.

Expression of Interest (EOI) submissions must:

- A. Be in English, no more than 2 pages in length including cover letters, and no smaller than 12 point font;
- B. Be submitted electronically to FTFBAA@usaid.gov;
- C. Contain a header with the following information (included in the page count):
 - 1) Organization Name/Group and Contact Information;
 - 2) Response Title;
 - 3) BAA or Addendum, if applicable Name/Number;
 - 4) Optional graphic that fits on an 8.5”x11” or A4 piece of paper (included in the page limit);
- D. Be in .pdf, .docx, or .odf format

VIII. Obtaining the BAA and Addenda

This BAA and any Addenda, if applicable can be downloaded from <http://www.grants.gov> and <http://www.fbo.gov>. Issuance of this BAA does not constitute an award commitment on the part of USAID, nor does it commit USAID or any of its funding Partners to pay for costs incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals. Further, USAID reserves the right to reject any or all proposals received.