Call for Applications

## Background

The International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL), through its USAID-supported Enhanced Enabling Environment (E3) Program, is pleased to invite proposals for a grant to support activities designed to improve the image of civil society organizations (CSOs) and promote civil society’s contribution to resolving social and economic problems in Kyrgyzstan. The expected duration of the activity funded by the grant will be ten months. ICNL plans to issue one grant. ICNL reserves the right to fund any or none of the applications submitted.

ICNL works with governments, CSOs, and the international community in more than 100 countries to improve the legal environment for civic space around the world. We believe that when people have the space to come together, positive, lasting change can be made. To achieve this vision, individuals must be able to join together, speak out, and take action to make the world a better place. For over twenty-five years, ICNL has worked hand-in-hand with our partners at all levels to promote and protect an enabling legal environment for civil society. In Kyrgyzstan, ICNL operates through an affiliate office of ICNL, LLC. Learn more about our work and browse our research at [www.icnl.org](http://www.icnl.org).

ICNL is inviting written expressions of interest from noncommercial organizations, registered as legal entities in Kyrgyzstan, that would like to improve the image of CSOs and build a broader public understanding of the role of CSOs. If selected, grantees will advance the capacity of local CSOs so that they are fully equipped with knowledge and skills to promote their positive contributions in resolving social problems. The prospective applicant will have the flexibility to propose a broad range of activities designed to achieve the subgrant’s objective, including, but not limited to:

* Collecting CSOs’ stories about their public benefit activities to identify the most meaningful illustrative examples of the role of CSOs.
* Consulting, mentoring, and teaching local CSOs on how to increase their public outreach skills (e.g., storytelling, photography, producing video clips, PR, social media marketing, public speaking, how to develop compelling graphic reports to highlight their successes, how to communicate with media, etc.).
* Organizing informational events to demonstrate the tangible results delivered by CSOs implementing state social contracts.
* Conducting brainstorming sessions with CSOs to discuss ideas to improve the public image of CSOs and developing action plans for improving perceptions of CSOs in the long term.
* Building a broader public understanding of the role and value of CSOs for the prosperity of the country.
* *This list is merely illustrative, and ICNL strongly encourages applicants with innovative ideas and approaches not described above to apply.*

## Application Instructions

To apply for a grant, applicants must submit the following items **in English**:

* Application coversheet (see below).
* Proposal (see below).
* Resumes/CVs of staff to be engaged in the project.
* Background information about the applicant organization (e.g., website links or informational materials).
* Copy of notarized registration certificate confirming the status of a legal entity of the applicant.
* Organization’s DUNS number and confirmation that the organization is registered with sam.gov.

## Content of Proposal

In *two pages or less*, please describe your proposal to improve the image of CSOs in Kyrgyzstan. The proposal should address the following topics:

* What are the issues with the image of CSOs that hinder their activities and what can be done to address them?
* Applicant’s experience implementing similar activities proposed in this call.
* Other CSOs, government bodies, and other stakeholders that will be engaged in the activities outlined in the application.
* Existing efforts to improve the image of CSOs in Kyrgyzstan (or in the CA region) and plans for collaboration.
* A proposed activity plan with specific goals and a timeline, recognizing that grant activities must be completed no later than July 31, 2021.

Please also attach a line-item budget (which does not count toward the 2-page limit for the proposal).

## Eligibility Requirements

Open to any noncommercial organization registered in Kyrgyzstan.

## Selection Criteria

Applications will be evaluated based on the following factors:

* Compliance with eligibility requirements and application procedures.
* Demonstrated commitment of the applicant to improving the image of CSOs in Kyrgyzstan.
* Quality of proposed project, including the innovativeness of the proposal, the proposed methodology/design, feasibility of the project (e.g., activities are targeted to achieve stated results, and anticipated results are realistic and attainable).
* Likelihood that the proposed project will achieve its stated goals and objectives.
* Sustainability of the proposed project beyond the grant period.
* Proposed budget and apparent value for money.
* Inclusion of reasonable indicators to measure project success.

## How to Apply

Interested applicants can apply by completing the application coversheet and submitting it, along with all required documents, by email (see instructions below).

## Terms of Reference

The grant recipient will be required to submit progress reports during the grant period and a final report on the use of funds, activities conducted, and outcomes of their projects prior to receiving their final grant disbursements. All project activities must be completed no later than July 31, 2021.

## Deadline

Applicants should submit their applications no later than **October 12, 2020.** Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

## Application Coversheet

Please complete the coversheet and submit it, along with your proposal and other application documents, to Aida Rustemova at Arustemova@icnlalliance.kg. Please ensure that the subject of your email is “Kyrgyzstan Grant Application 2020.”

Full Name:

Position:

Organization:

Mailing Address Line 1:

Mailing Address Line 2:

Mailing Address Line 3:

Country:

Email Address:

Telephone Number:

Fax Number:

*Click on the boxes below to indicate that you have properly completed the application.*

☐ I have attached a proposal that is no more than two pages in length.

☐ I have attached the CVs of staff to be engaged in the project.

☐ I have attached a line-item budget.

☐ I have attached the registration certificate for my noncommercial organization.

☐ I have a DUNS number for my organization and have confirmed I am registered with sam.gov.