

Public Notice

Request for Applications (RFA) for Northern Education Initiative Plus

Issuance Date: March 29th 2016

Closing Date: April 26, 2016

(I) Summary:

The Northern Education Initiative Plus (The Initiative) is a five-year program funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and implemented by Creative Associates International (Creative) in collaboration with three U.S.-based international organizations-Education Development Center (EDC), Florida State University (FSU), Overseas Strategic Consulting (OSC) and four local partners. The project seeks to strengthen state and local Government Education Authorities (LGEAs) capacity to plan, budget and deliver access to quality and safe education especially for girls, orphans and children.

The Objectives of NEI Plus are to have:

Government systems strengthened to increase the number of students enrolled in appropriate, relevant and approved educational options, especially for girls and underserved children in target locations.

Government systems strengthened to improve reading outcomes for primary grade learners in target locations.

(II) Purpose:

This RFA is seeking applicants to propose effective approaches to the development of partnership with community groups and associations, community coalitions, local Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and public sector institutions. **These include:**

- Establish Non Formal Learning Centers (NFLCs), Parent Teacher Associations (PTAs), School Based Management Committees (SBMCs) and Community Coalitions (CCs) add increase access and quality educational services;
- Train PTAs and SBMCs/CBMCs;
- Promote and support integration of core curriculum in NFLCs;
- Promote and support Hausa and English Early Grade Reading (EGR) programs; and
- Facilitate conflict resolution; foster inclusiveness coordinating with government authorities, and participating in training, mentoring, and coaching that builds capacity for monitoring quality and safety, tracking costs, and boosting accountability.

i(III) Location of Activities;

The activities mentioned above will be conducted in 10 LGEAs each in Bauchi and Sokoto States. The grantees must have presence in the LGEAs chosen in each state for the intervention.

(IV) Program Objectives/Milestones:

(a) Setting up Non-Formal Learning Centers (NFLCs) for Communities

The grantees will be responsible for reinforcing existing or establishing new NFLCs. The grantees will work with the State Agency for Mass Education (SAME) and the State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB) to provide benchmark of expected activities in establishing NFLCs in the community. The grantees will be responsible for managing ongoing teaching and learning of literacy, numeracy and reading in the centers. The grantees will establish 10 NFLCs each.

(b) Setting up Adolescents Girls Learning Centers (AGLCs)

The grantees will establish AGLCs aimed at providing literacy, numeracy and other life skills. The grantees will establish 5 AGLCs each.

(c) Setting up Youth Learning Centers (YLCs)

The grantees will establish YLCs aimed at providing literacy, numeracy and other life skills. The grantees will establish 5 YLCs each.

(d) Identification and Selection of Learning Facilitators

The grantees will identify learning facilitators that will manage the centers in collaboration with the communities following a set of criteria developed by The Initiative and its local government counterparts. The grantees will support the training and monitoring of the learning facilitators.

(e) Establishing Community Coalitions (CCs)

The project will work with the grantees to establish/strengthen CCs that bring together representatives from a cross-section of stakeholder groups. These comprise: Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) Faith-based Organizations (FBOs), traditional and religious institutions and local advocacy organizations. Both the grantees and CCs will play a leadership role in advancing the concept of NFLCs and mitigating conflict in the communities in which they operate. The grants will provide funds for CC activities, support visits to NFLCs and other approved LGEA level activities. The grantees will set-up at least one CC in each community of intervention.

(f) Conducting Outreach Activities

The grantees will conduct outreach activities in the communities, where the above centers will be established in view of creating awareness on the importance of access to education for the out-of-school strata of the society. They will galvanize support of the community stakeholders (i.e. LGEAs, community /religious leaders, parents, grandparents etc.) on the need to enrol youths that are out of

school into the centers. They will mobilize resources needed by the centres for their smooth running. The grantees will also promote the culture of reading in their respective communities.

(g) Formation of Community Based Management Centers (CBMCs)

The grantees will be responsible for the formation/strengthening of CBMCs in the communities.

(V) Applicants Eligibility Criteria:

(a) Applicant must be officially registered as a legal entity and working in compliance with all applicable local laws and statutes. (If an applicant is not legally registered, the applicant can show proof of effort to secure registration, exemption from registration, or show cause why such registration is not necessary);

(b) Contribute to at least one of the project's objectives and principles;

(c) Contain expected outcomes and results consistent with and linked to the projects objectives; and

(d) Applicant must not be debarred from receiving USG grants and listed on the U.S.G Excluded Parties List System and the Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons List.

(VI) Cost share Requirements: NA

(VII) Award Information

Subject to the availability of funds, Northern Education Initiative Plus expects to award grants, ranging from \$10,000 to \$15,000. The expected duration of Northern Education Initiative Plus support or the period of performance is **July 1st 2016 to March 31st 2017**.

Northern Education Initiative Plus reserves the right to fund any or none of the applications submitted. Further, Northern Education Initiative Plus reserves the right to make no awards as a result of this RFA.

(VIII) Contact Information:

Please contact the following to receive the Request for Application and the application package:

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