U.S. Department of State
Notice of Funding Opportunity

Program Office: Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, International Programs Section
Opportunity Title: Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 International Programs to Combat Trafficking in Persons
Announcement Type: Request for Statements of Interest (SOI)
Funding Opportunity: AT-ATC-17-001
Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number(s): 19.019
Deadline for Applications: Friday, November 7, 2016, 11:59 pm EDT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Department of State Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (TIP Office) announces an open competition for FY 2017 projects to combat trafficking in persons outside of the United States. The first stage of competition begins with this Request for Statements of Interest (SOI) that summarize concepts for projects addressing the country and region-specific requirements identified in this solicitation. In the second stage of the competition, which is expected to begin in November 2016, the TIP Office will invite selected applicants to submit full proposals that expand upon the concepts described in the three-page SOI.

Organizations eligible to apply include U.S.-based and foreign non-profits, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), for-profit organizations, institutions of higher education, and public international organizations (PIOs). For-profit organizations are not permitted to generate profits from grant-funded activities. U.S. government agencies are also eligible to apply. Foreign governments are not eligible to apply.

A typical TIP Office grant award for bilateral and regional projects has been around $750,000 for project periods of up to 36 months. The TIP Office encourages applicants to submit strong proposals for larger and longer projects that align with U.S. government priorities, address human trafficking challenges on a significant scale, and offer the potential to have a systemic impact, among other factors.
All SOIs must be submitted via www.grantsolutions.gov or www.grants.gov by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time (EDT) on Friday, November 7, 2016, to be eligible for consideration. **To be competitive under this solicitation, applicants must be fully responsive to all directions in this document.** Applicants are encouraged to watch our instructional video on submitting SOIs to the TIP Office. See the *Grant Application 101* section below for more details.

**BACKGROUND**

The Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (Div. A, P.L. 106-386), as amended (TVPA), established the TIP Office in the U.S. Department of State. The TIP Office leads the United States’ global engagement on the fight against human trafficking and seeks **partnerships** with foreign governments, civil society, and multilateral organizations to combat modern slavery through the “3P” paradigm: **prosecuting** traffickers, **preventing** trafficking in persons, and **protecting** trafficking victims.

The TVPA requires that the Department of State submit an annual assessment of efforts by governments to address trafficking in persons. The annual *Trafficking in Persons Report (TIP Report)* is an important instrument for the Department’s engagement with other governments and is the primary source for the programming objectives in this SOI. The 2016 *TIP Report* includes tier rankings and recommendations for 188 countries and territories and is available at: [http://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/2016/](http://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/2016/).

Since 2000, when the United Nations adopted the Palermo Protocol and the United States enacted the TVPA, 169 countries have become party to the Protocol. In addition, more than 120 countries have passed anti-trafficking laws, and many countries have established specialized law enforcement units, set up trafficking victim assistance mechanisms, and launched public awareness campaigns. Nonetheless, the number of victims identified and assisted and the number of traffickers investigated, prosecuted, and convicted remain low relative to the size of the problem; and governments face continued challenges in effectively implementing new anti-trafficking legal and policy frameworks.

The TIP Office works to address these challenges through its foreign assistance programs. TIP Office programs combat human trafficking, a
crime involving the exploitation of someone for the purposes of compelled labor or a commercial sex act through the use of force, fraud, or coercion. Forms of human trafficking include sex trafficking, child sex trafficking, forced labor, bonded labor (also called debt bondage), domestic servitude, forced child labor, and the unlawful recruitment and use of child soldiers. Information on U.S. government anti-trafficking in persons efforts is available at: http://www.state.gov/j/tip/response/index.htm and a summary of international programs currently funded by the TIP Office is available at: http://www.state.gov/j/tip/intprog/index.htm.

2017 GRANT COMPETITION OVERVIEW

This solicitation announces the first stage of the FY 2017 grant competition and the beginning of an open, two-stage competitive process. Applicants must submit a SOI, which is a three-page summary of each proposed project. Applicants must submit separate SOI applications for each country or regional project identified in this solicitation if pursuing multiple grants. Following a technical review and a formal review of each SOI that passes the technical review, selected applicants will be invited to submit full proposals, which will be formally reviewed by the TIP Office and by an interagency selection panel for potential funding.

Second-stage applicants will be subject to a TIP Office risk assessment process that may include a pre-award site visit. The assessment may consider a variety of risk factors, including (1) Financial stability of the applicant; (2) Quality of management systems and ability to meet prescribed management standards; (3) Past performance in managing previous federal awards, if applicable, including compliance with reporting requirements, conformance to the award’s terms and conditions, and the extent to which previously awarded amounts will be expended prior to future awards; (4) Reports and findings from available audits; and (5) Applicant ability to effectively implement statutory, regulatory, or other requirements applicable to non-Federal entities.

FY 2017 PROGRAMMING OBJECTIVES

The global trends and country-specific recommendations found in the 2016 TIP Report narratives guide TIP Office programming for FY 2017. The TIP
Office generally prioritizes foreign assistance in those countries assessed below Tier 1, and where governments demonstrate political will but lack the economic resources or anti-trafficking expertise to effectively address the problem. The FY 2017 programming priorities below are listed by geographic region and outline specific TIP Office project objectives by country or sub-region. Priorities were developed by reviewing recent *TIP Report* tier rankings and trends; consulting with interagency and interdepartmental policy and programming stakeholders; and considering current and planned programming from this office, other U.S. government agencies, and other donors.

**PROGRAMMING OBJECTIVES for AFRICA**

1. Rwanda – Tier 2 WL
   - **Systematize victim-centered investigations and prosecutions of TIP cases by governments**
     - Review existing guidelines, support their revision if appropriate, and train officials on victim identification and referral procedures (including among refugee populations), investigation, and prosecution of TIP crimes.
     - Develop specialized investigative and prosecutorial skills and provide ongoing case consultation/operational support for TIP investigations.

2. Cote d’Ivoire – Tier 2 WL
   - **Develop and strengthen effective anti-TIP legal and policy frameworks**
     - Support the enactment and implementation of amended TIP legislation that includes strengthening the capacity of the legal system to prosecute adult trafficking.
   - **Systematize victim-centered investigations and prosecutions of TIP cases by governments**
     - Develop specialized investigative and prosecutorial skills and provide ongoing case consultation/operational support for TIP investigations.
     - Elevate identification of adult trafficking cases and increase investigations and prosecutions of these cases.
3. Zimbabwe- Tier 3

- **Improve comprehensive services for victims of trafficking**
  - Identify and assess potential shelter service providers for victims of trafficking, including their capacity to provide services
  - Upgrade identified shelter(s)

- **Increase awareness of TIP issues and risk factors among target populations**
  - Develop public awareness and outreach activities, including radio broadcasts, that focus on preventing human trafficking as well as victim identification (to include internal trafficking) and how to report potential trafficking cases and seek protection and assistance.

- **Institutionalize National TIP Referral Mechanisms between state actors and civil society**
  - Formalize procedures for identifying victims and referring them for care and train officials on victim identification and referral procedures

4. SADC Regional (Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe)

- **Develop and strengthen effective anti-TIP legal and policy frameworks**
  - Assist countries to draft anti-trafficking legislation and legislative amendments as necessary, in line with their commitments under the Palermo Protocol.
  - Support the development of implementing regulations to strengthen provisions of anti-TIP laws, particularly protection provisions.
  - Review National Plans of Action on TIP that will have expired by the end of 2017; assess progress since 2013; compile promising practices in implementing TIP interventions; and
help member states revise their National Plans of Action as necessary.

- Support the Africa Prosecutors Association (APA) to convene a periodic SADC regional peer review platform on the conformity of their national legislation with the Palermo Protocol.

5. Niger – Tier 2 WL

- **Improve comprehensive services for victims of trafficking**
  - Identify and assess potential shelter service providers for victims of trafficking, including their capacity to provide services
  - Upgrade identified shelter(s)

- **Build effective TIP data collection and reporting mechanisms**
  - Increase the government’s capacity to collect information on victim identification and referral to protective services, investigations, prosecutions, and convictions throughout the country.
  - Create or refine a data collection system, and train users to implement it effectively.
  - Raise awareness on support services available for victims of human trafficking.

6. Djibouti – Tier 3

- **Improve comprehensive services for victims of trafficking**
  - Identify and assess potential shelter service providers for victims of trafficking, including assessing their capacity to provide services.
  - Upgrade shelter(s) identified through national consultation, to include the construction of appropriate family units.
  - Train shelter staff to identify trafficking victims through the use of available tools, such as screening and assistance interview forms.
  - Train shelter staff and social workers/health care providers, including government staff, to provide trauma informed mental health counseling to victims of trafficking, and support reintegration efforts.

- **Systematize victim-centered investigations and prosecutions of TIP cases by governments**
- Support establishment of a transnational organized crime unit or TIP unit, develop specialized investigative and prosecutorial skills, and provide ongoing case consultation/operational support for TIP investigations.

- **Increase awareness of TIP issues and risk factors among target populations.**
  - Develop public awareness and outreach activities, including radio broadcasts, that focus on the prevention of human trafficking as well as victim identification (to include internal trafficking) and how to report potential trafficking cases and seek protection and assistance.

7. **Zambia- Tier 2**
   - **Improve comprehensive services for victims of trafficking**
     - Identify and assess potential shelter service providers for victims of trafficking, including their capacity to provide services
     - Upgrade identified shelter(s) with an emphasis on services for male victims
   - **Increase awareness of TIP issues and risk factors among target populations**
     - Develop radio broadcasts and other tools that focus on the prevention of human trafficking as well as victim identification (to include internal trafficking) and how to report potential trafficking cases and seek protection and assistance.

8. **Lesotho- Tier 2**
   - **Improve comprehensive services for victims of trafficking**
     - Identify and assess potential shelter service providers for victims of trafficking, including their capacity to provide services
     - Upgrade identified shelter(s) with an emphasis on services for male victims
     - Develop and implement guidelines for proactive victim identification and standard procedures for referring victims to care
PROGRAMMING OBJECTIVES for EAST ASIA and the PACIFIC

1. Regional Project: Malaysia (Tier 2 Watch List) & Indonesia (Tier 2)
   - Build effective TIP data collection and reporting mechanisms
     - Conduct a thorough survey of the palm oil industry in the region (with emphasis on Malaysia and Indonesia)—documenting all major producers and purchasers of palm oil, and determining ownership and other financial ties.
     - Collect and regularize existing data on human trafficking in the palm oil industry.
     - Expand upon existing data to identify significant trafficking hot spots and high-risk sources within the palm oil sector. Develop data on estimated numbers of persons trafficked in each of these locations.
     - Trace the supply chains with potential human trafficking downstream, from sources to end locations, e.g. from major plantations to processing plants to product manufacturers to large retailers.
     - Trace the human trafficking labor supply upstream from plantations and processing plants to points of origin and recruitment.
     - Publish a publicly accessible report, summarizing the findings and with recommendations for addressing human trafficking.
     - Share detailed datasets with relevant government and civil society partners to encourage the investigation and prosecution of TIP cases.

2. Papua New Guinea (Tier 3)
   - Systematize victim-centered investigations and prosecutions of TIP cases by governments
     - Establish and/or reinforce internal government programs, training, and other mechanisms that implement the National Action Plan and Standard Operating Procedures currently being used across all agencies with a stake in counter-trafficking work in PNG.
o Expand the training of frontline officials on victim identification, prosecution and SOP implementation to provinces beyond the capital, particularly key ports and hot spots for maritime trafficking, provinces with large extractive and logging industries, and border regions.
o Institutionalize TIP training for law enforcement and criminal justice agencies, such as the police, immigration department, and the Department of Justice and Attorney General (DJAG), for both new cadets and senior officers, promoting a training-of-trainers model.
o Build capacity for police, investigators, immigration authorities, and judges to build TIP cases using victim-centered investigations.
o Engage village and district court magistrates and judges in TIP training.

• Improve comprehensive services for victims of trafficking
  o Conduct training for civil society on direct assistance needs of victims of trafficking.
o Train civil society and NGOs on best practices for community reintegration.
o Build networks for local civil society groups and NGOs to share information and best practices for countering TIP in the region.

PROGRAMMING OBJECTIVES for EUROPE and EURASIA

1. Balkans – Regional (Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania, Montenegro, Kosovo, Serbia)
  • Improve comprehensive services for victims of trafficking
    o Address the need for comprehensive services for all victims of trafficking, including both internal and migrant and refugee populations
    o Develop a network of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and government victim protection services with improved coordination and communication to address protection and prevention gaps
o Build coordinating mechanisms between and among civil society and government stakeholders to enhance victim identification and victim services
o Proactively identify TIP victims among migrants, asylum-seekers, child beggars, unaccompanied children, and victims identified in internal populations
o Strengthen coordinated reporting mechanism for identified victims of trafficking and services provided
- **Increase awareness among vulnerable populations of TIP risk factors**
  o Conduct advocacy and public awareness campaigns with populations vulnerable to TIP and the communities where they live

2. **Serbia (Tier 2 WL)**
   - **Improve comprehensive services for victims of trafficking**
     o Increase proactive victim-centered identification and protection and legal services for women and men
     o Build capacity of local institutions to provide specialized assistance to child victims
     o Create and disseminate standard operating procedures for first responders for proactive victim identification and referral to protection services

3. **Bulgaria (Tier 2 WL)**
   - **Systematize victim-centered investigations and prosecutions of TIP cases by governments**
     o Build government capacity to conduct victim-centered investigations and prosecutions, particularly for labor trafficking
     o Provide sensitivity training to prosecutors and judges working with sex trafficking victims.
   - **Improve comprehensive services for victims of trafficking**
Increase capacity of specialized assistance available to women, men, and children victims, including reintegration assistance and legal services.

PROGRAMMING OBJECTIVES for NEAR EAST

1. Tunisia (Tier 2 Watch List)
   - Develop and strengthen anti-TIP legal and policy frameworks.
     o Develop efforts to assist in implementing Tunisia's 2016 anti-TIP law.
   - Systematize victim-centered investigations and prosecutions of TIP cases.
     o Train judges, prosecutors, and law enforcement on Tunisia’s new anti-TIP law and methods to implement it.
     o Develop methods to identify victims of trafficking and victim-centered interviewing techniques.
   - Improve comprehensive services for victims of trafficking.
     o Strengthen civil society actors working with vulnerable populations to better identify and provide support for TIP victims and target populations of TIP.

2. Lebanon (Tier 2)
   - Increase awareness of TIP issues and risk factors among target populations.
     o Support public awareness campaigns for Syrian refugees and the communities where they live about the risks and signs of trafficking.
   - Improve comprehensive services for victims of trafficking.
     o Support efforts to increase identification of TIP victims among Syrian refugees and provide basic assistance to victims.
     o Foster government and NGO partnerships to improve victim services.

3. Egypt (Tier 2)
   - Increase awareness of TIP issues among target populations.
o Support public awareness campaigns and services focusing on vulnerable groups, including individuals arrested for prostitution; street children in Alexandria, Cairo, and Luxor vulnerable and subject to commercial sexual exploitation; Syrian refugees; and foreign migrants from South and Southeast Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa.

4. Morocco (Tier 2)
   • Systematize victim-centered investigations and prosecutions of TIP cases by the government.
     o Train and build the capacity of judges, prosecutors, and law enforcement on Morocco's 2016 anti-TIP law.

PROGRAMMING OBJECTIVES for SOUTH and CENTRAL ASIA

1. Sri Lanka (Tier 2 Watch List):
   • Systematize victim-centered investigations and prosecutions of TIP cases by the government
     o Develop a training curriculum and tools that address core elements of a victim-centered criminal justice response to combat human trafficking that is structured around national laws. Include trainings on existing victim identification and referral procedures as well as on the handling of cases in which victims have committed unlawful acts as a direct result of having been subjected to trafficking.
     o Train law enforcement, prosecutors and magistrates/judges to identify, investigate, prosecute and adjudicate human trafficking cases.
     o Ensure training models address sustainability by incorporating a training-of-trainers component and identifies participants for the training-of-trainers course and by institutionalizing training manuals and tools in police academies and or/institutional government structures such as specialized Task Forces.

   • Create local, national, and regional networks empowered to combat TIP
     o Support efforts to institutionalize information-sharing and coordination across TIP stakeholders in law enforcement,
judiciary, government, and social service sectors to advance victim identification, referral, and protection, as well as investigation and prosecution of offenders.

- **Build effective TIP data collection and reporting mechanisms**
  - Conduct an assessment of existing TIP data collection and reporting mechanisms used by Sri Lankan law enforcement.
  - Support the development of a new TIP data collection and reporting system or integrate within an existing system.
  - Train appropriate actors on usage of the data collection and reporting mechanism.

2. **Uzbekistan (Tier 3)**

- **Increase awareness of TIP issues and risk factors among target populations.**
  - Support NGOs, journalists, human rights defenders and independent observers to inform targeted populations about human trafficking, labor rights, and safe labor migration processes as well as how to report potential trafficking cases and seek protection and assistance.

- **Create local, national, and regional networks empowered to combat TIP**
  - Increase the capacity of anti-TIP NGOs working domestically to better provide legal, psychosocial, medical and reintegration support for victims of trafficking.
  - Create effective information exchanges between NGOs in Uzbekistan and in destination countries, such as Russia and Kazakhstan, to better facilitate repatriation of victims of trafficking.
  - Establish and institute effective TIP data collection and reporting mechanisms.

- **Improve comprehensive services for victims of trafficking**
  - Ensure that both male and female victims have access to shelter/protection services.
  - Raise awareness on support services available for victims of human trafficking.
3. Maldives (Tier 2 Watch List)

- **Improve comprehensive services for victims of trafficking**
  o Build and strengthen existing victim protection measures.

- **Develop and strengthen anti-TIP legal and policy frameworks**
  o Conduct a legal review and analysis of existing domestic TIP legal frameworks and the existing national action plan on human trafficking and identify gaps and weaknesses. Strengthen existing legal frameworks and/or the national action plan through technical assistance and capacity building of appropriate government actors.
  o Build advocacy efforts around government adoption of strengthened legal frameworks and formal adoption of its national action plan.

- **Institutionalize National TIP Referral Mechanisms between state actors and civil society**
  o Support the government to adopt formal standard operating procedures for identification of trafficking victims and referral to protection services.
  o Operationalize victim identification and referral procedures by training stakeholders on their use.
  o Train law enforcement, prosecutors and magistrates/judges to identify, investigate, prosecute and adjudicate human trafficking cases.
  o Ensure training models address sustainability by incorporating a training-of-trainers component and by institutionalizing training manuals and tools in police academies and or/institutional government structures such as specialized Task Forces.
  o Support efforts to institutionalize information-sharing and coordination across TIP stakeholders in law enforcement, judiciary, government, and social service sectors to advance victim identification, referral, and protection, as well as investigation and prosecution of offenders.
PROGRAMMING OBJECTIVES for WESTERN HEMISPHERE

1. Southern Mexico and Northern Triangle (Tier 2)
   - Develop and strengthen effective anti-TIP legal and policy frameworks
     o Develop sustainable national and regional mechanisms for enhanced investigations and prosecutions.
   - Institutionalize victim-centered investigations and prosecutions of TIP cases by governments
     o Develop and implement procedures to guide front-line officials to pro-actively identify and protect victims of trafficking, including those who are subjected to forced criminal activity.
   - Create local, national, and regional networks empowered to combat TIP
     o Develop a regional NGO network to more effectively identify and respond to potential trafficking cases across borders
   - Improve comprehensive services for victims of trafficking
     o Develop guidelines to help service providers identify and respond to potential trafficking cases; assist victims of trafficking and those at risk of trafficking, including unaccompanied minors; and provide effective shelter care and other recovery services such as medical care, psycho-social support, and legal counseling
     o Train officials and civil society to identify and refer victims of trafficking to care.
     o Increase awareness of multiple TIP hotlines, and assist in the coordination of these efforts.

2. Brazil (Tier 2)
   - Develop and strengthen effective anti-TIP legal and policy frameworks
     o Align national anti-TIP law with the Palermo Protocol.
   - Institutionalize victim-centered investigations and prosecutions of TIP cases
Strengthen efforts to investigate and prosecute trafficking offenses, including cases of sex trafficking not involving movement, the exploitation of children in prostitution and child sex tourism, and any form of trafficking involving complicit officials.

Improve judicial processes, including by improving coordination and collaboration between the judiciary and the Federal Prosecutor’s Office and by improving data collection, to hold traffickers accountable and impose sentences consistent with Brazilian anti-trafficking statutes.

Increase collaboration between government entities involved in combating different forms of trafficking.

- **Improve comprehensive services for victims of trafficking**
  - In partnership with government and donors, increase funding for specialized services and shelter for victims of sex trafficking and forced labor.
  - Strengthen efforts to identify and refer trafficking victims to comprehensive protection services, and train staff in providing these services.

3. **Suriname (Tier 3)**

- **Institutionalize victim-centered investigations and prosecutions of TIP cases**
  - Strengthen, including through training, efforts to investigate and prosecute trafficking offenses, including forced labor, and those involving officials complicit in human trafficking

- **Improve comprehensive services for victims of trafficking**
  - Assist government in its efforts to open a proposed government shelter for female and child trafficking victims
  - Assist stakeholders in developing shelter and other services for victims of trafficking, including male victims. Services should include witness support and psychological counseling.
  - Train officials and civil society in providing victim protection services
  - Increase efforts to identify and refer trafficking victims to care, including forced labor victims in the interior and in informal sectors
4. Dominican Republic (Tier 2)

- Institutionalize victim-centered investigations and prosecutions of TIP cases
  - Increase efforts to investigate and prosecute trafficking offenses, especially those involving complicit government officials.

- Improve comprehensive services for victims of trafficking.
  - Develop guidelines to identify and assist trafficking victims, including sex trafficking victims, labor trafficking victims in the agriculture and construction sectors, and vulnerable populations—including migrants and Dominicans of Haitian descent, and refer them to available services.
  - In partnership with government, provide comprehensive victim services and shelter.
  - Conduct strategic, targeted forced labor and sex trafficking awareness campaigns in Spanish and Creole

APPLICANT/ORGANIZATION CRITERIA

Organizations eligible to apply include U.S.-based and foreign non-profits, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), for-profit organizations, institutions of higher education, and public international organizations (PIOs). For-profit organizations are not permitted to generate profits from grant-funded activities. U.S. government agencies are also eligible to apply. While foreign governments are not eligible to apply, governments may be beneficiaries of programs provided that funding does not pay salaries of government agency personnel and that such assistance is not restricted by U.S. law or policy.

Organizations currently receiving funds from the TIP Office may apply for additional funding under this solicitation. The eligibility requirements for applying to this solicitation do not restrict applicants from receiving other sources of funding from the United States government, including funding from other bureaus within the Department of State. However, related U.S. Government programming must be identified by the applicant. Applicants should demonstrate experience administering successful projects—preferably in human trafficking or related areas and in the identified country or sub-region.
TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR SOI SUBMISSIONS

All SOIs will be screened to determine whether they meet the technical requirements listed below. SOIs not meeting these technical requirements will not be considered for funding.

Technical Requirements: SOIs MUST include these two parts. Do not submit additional documents. No additional documents will be reviewed.

1. The SF-424 and SF-424B forms
2. A three-page document written in English in Times New Roman or Arial 12-point font with the funding amount requested in U.S. dollars. 

**Note:** The font-size requirement is designed to ensure that all applicants have an equal opportunity to present their ideas in the SOI. Thus, the entire SOI, including charts, must be in a 12-point font. Organization logos, headers, and other wording in small fonts that do not meet the 12 point font requirement should not be included. **Please double check your submission to ensure the font size is correct.**

Instructions for completing the SF-424 and SF-424B forms
Complete the SF-424 and SF-424B forms as described in the instructions provided through [www.grantsolutions.gov](http://www.grantsolutions.gov) or [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov).

The following guidance may be helpful when completing the SF-424:

1. Type of Submission: Application
2. Type of Application: New
3. Date Received: Leave blank. This will be assigned automatically.
4. Applicant Identifier: Leave blank
5a. Federal Entity Identifier: Leave blank
5b. Federal Award Identifier: Leave blank
6. Date Received by State: Leave blank. This will be assigned automatically.
7. State Application Identified: Leave blank. This will be assigned automatically.
8a. Enter the legal name of the applicant organization. Do **NOT** list abbreviations or acronyms unless they are part of the organization’s legal name.
8b. Employer/Taxpayer ID Number: Non-U.S. organizations enter 44-444444
8c. Enter organizational Unique Entity Identifier number (UEI). Organizations can request a UEI number at: http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform. If the organization does not have a UEI number yet, enter “0000000000.”
8d. Enter the headquarters address of the applicant
8e. Enter the name of the primary organizational unit (and department or division, if applicable) that will undertake the assistance activity, if applicable
8f. Enter the name, title, and all contact information of the person to be contacted on matters involving this application
9. Select an applicant type (type of organization)
10. Enter: Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons
11. Select: 19.019
12. Enter the Funding Opportunity Number and title. This number will already be entered on electronic applications.
13. Enter the Competition Identification Number and title. This number will already be entered on electronic applications.
14. Areas Affected by Project: List the country or countries where project activities will take place in alphabetical order.
15. Enter the title of your proposed project (if necessary, delete pre-printed wording).
16(a). Congressional districts of Applicant: If based in the U.S., applicant should enter congressional district; if unknown or a foreign applicant please enter “90.” In box 16(b) for congressional district of program/project please enter “90.”
17. Enter the start date of October 1, 2017 and your projected end date.
18. (18a) Enter the amount requested for the project described in the SOI under “Federal”; (18b) enter any cost-share under “Applicant.” Otherwise, use zeros.
19. Select “c. Program is not covered by E.O 12372.”
20. Select the appropriate box. If you answer “yes” to this question you will be required to provide an explanation.
21. Enter the name, title, and all contact information of the individual authorized to sign for the application on behalf of the applicant organization.

**SOI Content:**
The three-page SOI should include the following information:
1. Brief description of the applicant organization and partner(s), previous work in the country or region where project would be performed, and previous work to combat human trafficking and other similar crimes. The SOI should clearly demonstrate the organization’s record and capacity, including previous grant management experience. A general organizational history is not required.
2. Description of how the project meets at least one of the TIP Office’s country / region specific programming objectives described in this announcement.
3. Project description, including goals and objectives, intended beneficiaries, and duration.
5. Include a brief overview of applicant’s current and prospective funding for related projects in country or region, if applicable.
6. Amount of funding requested in U.S. dollars. Cost sharing is highly encouraged. Include the cost share amount in U.S. dollars. No other budget figures are requested or required.

THE REVIEW PROCESS

An organization can submit multiple SOIs, but each SOI must only address one country or sub-regional programming priority in a single application. All SOIs will be screened to determine whether they meet the technical requirements stated in this announcement. SOIs that do not meet the technical review requirements listed above will not be further considered for funding or invited to submit a full proposal.

Additionally, the TIP Office will only consider SOIs for the specific programming objectives listed in the “FY 2017 Programming Objectives” section above. SOIs must also respond to at least one of the specific programming objectives listed under each country or sub-region. SOIs will be rejected during the technical review process and will not be considered for funding if they (1) include projects in countries or sub-regions not identified in this solicitation; (2) do not address at least one specified project programming objective; (3) or include more than one country or sub-region programming objective in a single application.
The TIP Office views the intended beneficiaries of our work as trafficked persons or persons at risk of being trafficked as well as governments and civil society organizations that fight trafficking, help victims, and hold traffickers accountable. The TIP Office encourages applicants to practice inclusivity in developing SOIs that assist vulnerable and underserved populations. Please review the Additional Information section at the end of the solicitation for further details about the Department of State’s guidelines concerning vulnerable populations.

The TIP Office will use the following criteria when evaluating SOIs:

-- Organizational Capability and Past Performance

Applicants should demonstrate strong knowledge of human trafficking issues and the trafficking context in the country or sub-region where the project would take place. Applicants should establish their ability to implement anti-trafficking programs in the specific country or sub-region. The TIP Office will consider the past performance of prior recipients of both TIP Office and other U.S. government funding as well as the potential of new applicants to successfully implement a grant project.

-- Sustainability

SOIs will be evaluated on the extent to which activities promote sustainable intervention practices and build the capacity of local communities, including both local government institutions and civil society, to address their own human trafficking challenges in the future. SOIs will also be evaluated on how well they promote, strengthen, and build the capacity of local institutions and on the extent to which activities are supported by sustainable local organizations that can effectively combat trafficking beyond the life of the award.

-- Local Partnerships

(This criterion applies only to public international organization applicants and to applicants not based in the specified country or sub-region.) Applicants not based in the specified country or sub-region should describe and identify existing or proposed partnerships with thematic or in-country partners and stakeholders. SOIs must demonstrate a clear understanding of the role that local organizations and institutions are playing or can play in
combating human trafficking and describe how they will engage with local partners to increase sustainability and to ensure programming is context appropriate. In cases where an applicant is not able to partner with a local organization or institution, does not consider it feasible to do so, or does not consider it in the project’s best interest, the SOI must clearly explain why.

-- Coordination with Other Donors and Programs

The SOI shall identify related projects or activities that the applicant may already be implementing or planning. Information shall include a brief description of the programming, information on its funder, and a description of how the proposed project would complement and avoid duplicating current or planned activities. The SOI should also identify any proposed cost share or joint funding by other public and/or private donors, if applicable. The TIP Office encourages coordination among donors and implementers and will evaluate more favorably those proposals that would support broader anti-trafficking strategies and those that feature a cost share with other funders. Proposals or concepts we are unable to fund may be forwarded to other potential U.S. government donors.

FULL PROPOSALS (BY INVITATION ONLY)

Following a review, the TIP Office will invite selected applicants to submit full proposals under a limited competitive announcement. Selected applicants will have 30 days to develop and submit a full proposal, which must include a monitoring and evaluation plan with an explicit theory of change. Full proposals will be reviewed by members of the TIP Office and by an interagency review panel. Panel recommendations will be presented to the TIP Office Director, the Ambassador-at-Large for Monitoring and Combating Trafficking in Persons, for funding consideration. Proposals recommended to the Ambassador will remain eligible for funding consideration for one year after submission.

DEADLINE AND SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

All SOIs must be submitted via www.grantsolutions.gov OR www.grants.gov by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time (EDT) on Thursday, November 7, 2016. The TIP Office will NOT accept proposals
submitted by any other method, including via email, fax, the postal system, delivery companies, couriers, or U.S. embassies. Applicants may submit more than one application; however, each application should be submitted only once.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to initiate electronic applications early in the application development process, and to submit before the due date or early on the due date. This will aid in addressing any problems with submissions prior to the application deadline. No exceptions will be made for organizations that have not completed the necessary steps to submit applications on www.grantsolutions.gov or www.grants.gov.

Applications Submitted Through www.grantsolutions.gov

Applicants are highly encouraged to submit applications via www.grantsolutions.gov.

Organizations using www.grantsolutions.gov for the first time must register on the www.grantsolutions.gov site to create a New Applicant account and should do this as soon as possible. This application step must be completed before an application can be submitted.

To register with www.grantsolutions.gov, follow the “First Time Applicants” link and complete the “GrantSolutions.gov New Applicant Sign Up” application form. Organizations that have previously used www.grantsolutions.gov do not need to register again. If an organization that has previously used grantsolutions.gov is not able to access the system, please contact Customer Support for help: help@grantsolutions.gov or call 1-866-577-0771.

A valid Unique Entity Identifier [formerly the Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS)] is not required for submission of an application on www.grantsolutions.gov; however, a valid UEI number is required should your application be selected for award. Organizations should verify that they have a UEI number or take the steps needed to obtain one as soon as possible. Instructions for obtaining a UEI number can be found at http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform.

Please register with the System for Award Management (SAM) at the time you submit your Statement of Interest. Applicants who are selected for
foreign assistance funding will be required to have an active registration in SAM.gov. Although registration is not required prior to submitting an application via www.grantsolutions.gov, we ask all interested applicants to register their organization at SAM.gov as soon as possible to avoid future delays. Organizations that have used SAM.gov previously should note that in order to maintain an active registration, users must log into their SAM.gov account at least once every 13 months (395 days). If your account has become inactive, please reactivate your account at the time of your SOI application.

Electronic applications submitted via www.grantsolutions.gov must contain the SF-424 online forms (completed) and the SOI document (Project Narrative) specified in the application kit. No additional documents should be uploaded. The preferred document formats for the uploaded SOI are .doc or .docx. When uploading an application to www.grantsolutions.gov, applicants should wait until the upload shows the status as “Successful” before moving to the next part of the application kit.

Upon completion of a successful electronic application submission, the Grant Solutions system will provide the applicant with a confirmation page indicating the date and time (Eastern Daylight Time) of the electronic application submission as well as an official Application Number. This confirmation page will also provide a listing of all items that constitute the final application submission. Please print this page for your records.

For assistance with www.grantsolutions.gov please contact Customer Support at help@grantsolutions.gov or call 1-866-577-0771 (toll charges for international callers) or 1-202-401-5282. Customer Support is available 8 AM – 6 PM EDT, Monday – Friday, except federal holidays. Please note that October 10, 2016 is a federal holiday and the help desk will be closed.

Applications Submitted Through www.grants.gov

Application submission via www.grantsolutions.gov is highly encouraged. If applicants experience difficulty submitting an application via www.grants.gov, they should try www.grantsolutions.gov.

Both a valid UEI number and a SAM registration are required prior to submitting an application via www.grants.gov.
Organizations should verify that they have a UEI number or take the steps needed to obtain one as soon as possible. Instructions for obtaining a UEI number can be found at http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform.

Please register with SAM as soon as possible. Applicants who are selected for foreign assistance funding will be required to have an active registration in sam.gov. Applicants are responsible to ensure their SAM accounts are active. Inactive accounts may be activated using steps stated above. Instructions on how to register with SAM are also available at: http://www.grants.gov/applicants/org_step2.jsp.

Electronic applications submitted via the www.grants.gov must contain the online SF-424 forms and the SOI (Project Narrative). Upon completion of a successful electronic application submission on www.grants.gov, the applicant will receive an email confirmation that the application has been successfully submitted and is in the process of verification. The applicant will then receive another email confirming that the application has been verified. Both emails are provided by www.grants.gov to verify that an application was received. **Please save and print this email page for your records.**

For assistance with www.grants.gov, please call the Contact Center at 1-800-518-4726 or email support@grants.gov. The Contact Center is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, except federal holidays. **Please note that October 10, 2016 is a federal holiday and the help desk will be closed.**

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**


**Anticipated Time of Award:** We anticipate awarding grant funds to successful applicants no later than September 30, 2017.

**Reporting and Monitoring Requirements:** Applicants selected for an award must meet the following reporting and policy requirements:
1. Reporting Requirements: Grantees are required to submit quarterly program progress and financial reports at pre-determined intervals throughout the project period and final reports 90 days after the end of the project period. Access to funds may be suspended if reports are late or incomplete.

2. Grant Monitoring and Evaluation: The TIP Office monitors all funded projects. Grantees should expect to have their programs visited and reviewed by a Grants and/or Program Officer at least once during the project’s performance period. On-site reviews include assessment of program and administrative effectiveness. In addition to planned program monitoring, some programs may be selected for independent evaluation. Projects testing new or innovative programming approaches are TIP Office evaluation priorities, but any project may be selected for evaluation.

**Standard Terms and Conditions:** Applicants selected for an award must follow Department of State Standard Terms and Conditions for Federal Assistance Awards. The standard award terms and conditions applicable to recipients are available at:

https://www.statebuy.state.gov/fa/Pages/TermsandConditions.aspx.

**Anti-Prostitution Policy and Requirements:** Grantees are required to agree to the following conditions prior to a grant being awarded:

1. None of the funds made available herein may be used to promote, support, or advocate the legalization or practice of prostitution. Nothing in the preceding sentence shall be construed to preclude assistance designed to combat trafficking in persons, including programs for prevention, protection of victims, and prosecution of traffickers and others who profit from trafficking in persons, by ameliorating the suffering of, or health risks to, victims while they are being trafficked or after they are out of the situation that resulted from such victims being trafficked.

2. The recipient shall insert this provision in all sub-agreements under this award.
Training Certification: All organizations receiving funds must agree to the following:

- "This organization hereby certifies that, to the extent practicable, persons or entities providing legal services, social services, health services, or other assistance have completed, or will complete, training in connection with trafficking in persons." The recipient shall insert this provision in all sub-agreements under this award. TVPA sec. 107A(b)(1)(22 U.S.C. 7105A(b)(1)).

Special Provision for Performance in a Designated Combat Area: Each federal assistance award within areas of combat operations or future contingency operation, as designated by the Secretary of Defense, over $150,000 or providing for performance over 30 days must be registered in the Department of Defense maintained Synchronized Pre-deployment and Operational Tracker (SPOT) system. Each federal assistance award shall be registered in SPOT before personnel deployment. Requirements are fully outlined in the award agreements for recipients.

Leahy Vetting Requirement: This important requirement applies to training or other assistance to be furnished to any unit or individual member of the security forces of a foreign country. Leahy vetting is required when training or assistance is provided to foreign security forces, including when such assistance is provided under a grant or cooperative agreement. Department guidance provides the following information on the type of personnel who are considered security forces and thus must be vetted under Leahy:

- “The Leahy amendment refers to the ‘security forces of a foreign country.’ It makes no distinction between military and civilian. The key is whether the individual is a member of a security force unit. In broad terms, any division or entity (to include an individual) authorized by a State or political subdivision (city, county, etc.) to use force (including by not limited to the power to search, detain, and arrest) to accomplish its mission would be considered a security force. ‘Security forces’ thus could be units of law enforcement or the military. Prison guards, customs police, border police, tax police, and the coast guard would be examples of the types of units included in the category of ‘security forces.’ Members of these types of units should be considered as subject to the Leahy Amendment and be
vetted either as individuals or as part of the unit being trained. Examples of persons who are not considered ‘security forces’ include: government bureaucrats, prosecutors, judges, civilian members of NGOs, international organizations or task forces and forensic lab workers.”

Leahy Vetting requirements will be fully outlined in the award agreements for recipients. The vetting process may take considerable time, and applicants should plan training activities with sufficient time for vetting to be fully completed. All successful applicants will be required to complete a new TIP Office training module prior to the award of new projects, regardless of whether or not they are prior grantees.

**Executive Order Strengthening Protections Against Trafficking in Persons in Federal Contracts:** Any applicant’s hiring process must be consistent with the U.S. government’s position on preventing human trafficking among federal contractors, specifically:

- *The Executive Order expressly prohibits federal contractors, subcontractors, and their employees from engaging in certain trafficking-related practices, such as misleading or fraudulent recruitment practices; charging employees’ recruitment fees; and destroying or confiscating an employee’s identity documents, such as a passport or a driver’s license.*

**U.S. National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security:** Applicants are encouraged to review the goals of the U.S. National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security for their relevance to applications. In particular, Outcome 3.3 of the Plan provides guidance on efforts to combat trafficking:

- “Engage with international and/or civil society organizations to ensure that standard operational procedures are in place to prevent human trafficking, especially among refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs), including appropriate assistance and procedures for unaccompanied minors, to identify potential trafficked persons, and to refer survivors to appropriate service providers. As appropriate, provide support to international and civil society organizations to set up emergency care services for trafficking survivors.”
And:

- “Promote establishment of local coalitions or taskforces comprised of relevant government authorities and civil society organizations to combat human trafficking as part of the justice reform measures in post-conflict areas.”

**U.S. Department of State Policy on Disabilities:** The United States Government has made a commitment to protect and advance human rights and fundamental freedoms for all people, including persons with disabilities. To that end, President Obama signed the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) on July 30, 2009, to ensure that every person living with a disability can benefit from the same access and protections, in the United States and abroad.

**U.S. Department of State Policy on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgendered Individuals:** In preparing applications, applicants are reminded that the Department’s priorities for advancing LGBT equality abroad are to eliminate violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression. Advancing the human rights of LGBT people, as with our support for other marginalized or vulnerable people, complements and reinforces other U.S. foreign policy priorities, including strengthening civil society, promoting the rule of law, supporting gender equality and advancing the status of women and girls, protecting refugees and asylum seekers, and furthering anti-trafficking efforts, among others. Due to these intersections, violations or abuses of the human rights of LGBT people often also have negative implications for other U.S. foreign policy priorities.

**GRANT APPLICATIONS 101**

Organizations are encouraged to watch our instructional video on submitting applications to the TIP Office. It includes recommendations for successful proposals, common pitfalls, and detailed information on the application process. Find the video at: [http://www.state.gov/j/tip/](http://www.state.gov/j/tip/).

This video is a supplementary tool to help applicants improve the quality of their proposals. Please note that the video tool is for informational purposes only. This solicitation is the official request for proposals and is considered final guidance. In the case of any discrepancy between supplementary
material (such as the video) and this solicitation, the language in the solicitation takes primacy.

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SOLICITATION

Organizations may submit questions at any time to JTIPGrants@state.gov. The questions and answers will be published and updated frequently on the TIP Office’s website (www.state.gov/j/tip).

CONTACT INFORMATION

A. Please direct questions about the requirements of this Request for SOIs to Melissa Verlaque or Connor Gary at JTIPGrants@state.gov.
B. For assistance with www.grantsolutions.gov please contact Customer Support at help@grantsolutions.gov or call 1-866-577-0771 (toll charges for international callers) or 1-202-401-5282. Customer Support is available 8 AM – 6 PM EDT, Monday – Friday, except federal holidays. Please note that October 10, 2016 is a federal holiday and the help desk will be closed.

For assistance with Grants.gov, please call the Contact Center at 1-800-518-4726 or 1-606-545-5035 for international callers or email support@grants.gov. The Contact Center is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, except federal holidays. Please note that October 10, 2016