



**REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS (RFA)
for JUSTICE & ANTI-CORRUPTION REFORM ACTIVITY (JARA)
GRANTS PROGRAM**

Issuance Date: 12/21/2023
Closing Date: 02/20/2024
Closing Time: Midnight
Subject: Request for Applications (RFA) Number 2006-RFA-001
Justice and Anti-Corruption Reform Activity (JARA)
Reference: Issued Under a Dexis Justice and Anti-Corruption Reform Activity
(JARA) Task Order Number # 72011723F00001

This Request for Applications (RFA) outlines the information required by the applicant for the development and submission of a proposal for consideration. The potential applicant is expected to review, understand, and conform with specifications contained in this RFA. Failure to do so will be at the applicant's own risk.

All reasonable, allocable, and allowable expenses, both direct and indirect, which are related to the grant program and are in accordance with applicable cost standards (2 CFR 200 Subpart E Cost Principles or the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Part 31 for-profit organizations), may be charged under the grant.

For non-US organizations, the Standard Provisions for Non-US Nongovernmental Recipients will apply.

This RFA is being issued and consists of this cover letter, Schedule A, and Annexes.

Issuance of this RFA does not constitute an award commitment on the part of Justice and Anti-Corruption Reform Activity (JARA) Program nor does it commit the Justice and Anti-Corruption Reform Activity (JARA) to pay for costs incurred in the preparation and submission of an application. The application is submitted at the risk of the applicant. All preparation and submission costs are at the applicant's expense.

Thank you for your interest in the Justice and Anti-Corruption Reform Activity (JARA) Program activities.

Sincerely,

Anne M. Trice
Chief of Party

JUSTICE & ANTI-CORRUPTION REFORM ACTIVITY (JARA) PROGRAM SCHEDULE A

SECTION I: FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

In the framework of USAID-funded Effective Justice (EJ) Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity contract Dexis is implementing “The Justice and Anti-Corruption Reform Activity (JARA)” Program. JARA is a three-year program funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and implemented by Dexis. JARA is a three-year development and assistance program that follows the TO1 – Model Court Initiative (MCI), complementing the activities undertaken within MCI’s bottom-up approach to “building” user-friendly model courts and TO2 – Support to the Pre-Vetting Secretariat (SPVS) which focuses on supporting the pre-vetting process of candidates to self-administration bodies of judges and prosecutors.

JARA is designed to support the Moldovan Government’s efforts to implement justice sector wide reform and promote its anti-corruption commitments, and is built upon the following core objectives:

- Support the Ministry of Justice in monitoring the implementation of the 2022-2025 Justice Strategy and its corresponding Action Plan.
- Capacity building of Moldovan judiciary representatives in specialized topics.
- Legislative and analytical expertise to the main anti-corruption institutions - the National Anti-Corruption Center (NAC) and the Anti-Corruption Prosecutor’s Office.
- Raising awareness and strengthening visibility of anti-corruption efforts among the general public through civil society.

Background of the Grants Program

A collective, whole-of-society culture based on zero-tolerance to corruption is a strong expression of a country’s commitment to preserve the rule of law and promote high anti-corruption and integrity standards in public life. Fostering these values is an essential complement to more immediate actions on prevention, awareness-raising, detection, and prosecution. Creating such a culture requires undertaking robust action in many areas: from building ethics and integrity into the expectations of communities at-large to facilitating exchanges between governmental and non-governmental actors, including media to strengthen understanding of the challenges of corruption and make them more determined to act.

In this context, civil society has a key role to play, not only as watchdogs to identify potential risks or cases of corruption, but also as catalysts for fostering and maintaining an anti-corruption culture, through awareness-raising, educational and advocacy work. In Moldova, civil society has been recognized for rendering a tremendous contribution to the anti-corruption efforts, by courageously exposing the staggering scope of corruption to citizens and media investigations helped mobilize public support for the fight against corruption and against corrupt interest groups¹.

¹ Address by President of Moldova Maia Sandu at the International Anti-Corruption Conference 2022.
[Address by President Maia Sandu at the International Anti-Corruption Conference 2022 — Presidency of the Republic of Moldova \(presedinte.md\)](https://presedinte.md)

Overall objective of the Grants Program

Recognizing that successful systemic and cultural changes in the areas of justice reform and anti-corruption require a well-informed public and a strong engagement on behalf of civil society, JARA is launching a grants program to support the Moldovan civil society in bolstering GOM's efforts to implement justice and anti-corruption reforms via prevention, education, awareness raising and monitoring activities.

Intervention areas

Applications shall include, but not be limited to activities in the following intervention areas:

- Communication and outreach activities about the effectiveness of justice and anti-corruption reforms (e.g., vetting of judges and prosecutors, high-profile cases on corruption and associated crimes, activities of specialized anti-corruption and integrity agencies, criminal assets recovery).
- Assessment and communication of situations or cases related to electoral corruption, political party financing and conflicts of interest by and/or within central and local public authorities and their officials.
- Advocacy or support in promoting justice and anti-corruption reforms (strengthening of the anti-corruption framework, whistleblowing, integrity) within the Moldovan public institutions and civil society.
- Design and implementation of educational campaigns and initiatives to promote anti-corruption and integrity awareness, involving youth, university students, and representatives from other vulnerable groups.

Eligible activities

The following are examples of activities that may be supported by grant funds, but not limited to:

- Drafting and presentation of anti-corruption/integrity analyses and policy-paper proposals.
- Advocacy and visibility campaigns for specific policy reforms.
- Monitoring case trials, case management, and outcomes.
- Training and capacity support.
- Increasing interactions between courts and local civil society regarding access to justice for people with disabilities and other vulnerable groups.
- Representation of interest of the poor and disadvantaged groups who come before the court, including women victims and minorities.
- Advancing citizens' access to courts and legal information.
- Local outreach and legal literacy events.
- Raising public awareness and strengthening visibility of anti-corruption efforts among civil society.
- Conferences, media products, surveys.
- Accountability of anti-corruption institutions.



Note: For this request for applications, vulnerable groups include women, girls, ethnic minorities, LGBTIQ+ persons, juveniles in contact with the law, people with disabilities, youth, and the elderly.

US Government (USG) Regulation:

For non-US organizations, the Standard Provisions for Non-US Nongovernmental Recipients will apply.

SECTION II: AWARD INFORMATION

Subject to the availability of funds, in the framework of the JARA Grants Program, Dexis expects to award up to 5 grants, up to \$50,000 each for a maximum of 18 months from the date of award. The final amount will be dependent upon specific grant activities and final negotiation. Under specific circumstances and based on the proposed creative ideas and innovative approaches, grants may be awarded at a higher funding ceiling. Applicants may only submit one application under this RFA. The expected duration of Dexis' support or the period of performance is April 2024 – November 2025. Dexis reserves the right to fund any or none of the applications submitted.

SECTION III: ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

The applicant/application must meet the following requirements:

- Be officially registered in the Republic of Moldova and working in compliance with all applicable civil and fiscal laws regulations.
- Must display sound management in the form of financial, administrative, and technical policies and procedures and present a system of internal controls that safeguard assets; protect against fraud, waste, and abuse; and support the achievement of program goals and objectives. Dexis will assess this capability prior to awarding a grant.
- Must be registered in the System for Awards Management (SAM), see www.sam.gov and annexes.
- Meet the project's objectives and principles.
- Contain expected outcomes and results consistent with and linked to the project's objectives, including an approach to gender integration before and during implementation.
- The applicant is not a debarred organization.

Types of Grantees Eligible:

- Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO)
- Legal clinics
- Journalistic, media associations and outlets
- Partnerships or consortia between entities mentioned above.



Dexis encourages grants proposals that will bring forth innovative and creative approaches and solutions aimed at promoting the Grants Program's intervention areas outlined hereinabove. The grants can be implemented at the national, regional and/or local levels. Grant activities with a national scope may be prioritized under this RFA. Dexis encourages proposals submitted in partnerships or consortia between national civil society organizations, mass-media organizations, universities legal clinics, justice, and anti-corruption professional associations.

Applicants are allowed to budget up to **10%** from total costs for organizational development. This includes training sessions, development of policies and procedures, coaching and mentoring in areas identified as needing improvement. Furthermore, additional institutional capacity development activities for successful applicants will be supported by the Institute for European Policies and Reforms (IPRE) at the incipient stage of grants' implementation cycle.

Allocation of organizational development shall be made as follows:

- Based on the Applicant needs described by the organization in the application form.
- Based on the needs and priorities identified in the pre-award risk-assessment stage conducted by Dexis.

Under the purpose of this call, the following activities are ineligible:

- Expenses for activities other than those integral to the achievement of the objectives and results specified in the proposed grant.
- The creation of endowments.
- Activities that conflict with or duplicate the activities of other U.S. Government-supported programs.
- Expenses for parties or celebrations.
- Activities for construction, renovation, or purchase of construction equipment.
- Activities which are inconsistent with international standards of human rights or with democratic goals of racial and ethnic tolerance and harmony, or
- Activities not approved by USAID.

SECTION IV: APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Any questions concerning this RFA should be submitted in writing not later than **14 days** prior to the closing date shown above to Veaceslav Luca, Grants Specialist, email: jaragrants@dexisonline.com. Responses to questions will be made available the same way the RFA was communicated. Applicants should retain for their records one copy of all enclosures which accompany their application.

The application must be submitted in electronic form via email at jaragrants@dexisonline.com no later than the closing date listed on the front page of this RFA. Pre-award costs are not allowable and will not be reimbursed.

The complete application packet must be submitted in the required format with the required attachments.

- Application:
 - a. Proof of legal registration
 - b. Unique Entity ID SAM (please note this is not required for 100% in-kind grants and grants below \$25,000.)
 - c. Organizational background
 - d. Program description [5 pages]
 - e. Beneficiaries, outcomes and expected impact
 - f. Communication Plan
 - g. Monitoring
 - h. Budget
 - i. Work-plan
 - j. Other material
- Grantee Self-Assessment
- Required Certification as per ADS 303.3.8

Restrictions:

- Grant funds provided under the terms of this RFA shall not be used to finance any of the following commodities as per ADS 312 Eligibility of Commodities:
 - **Ineligible Commodities:** Military equipment, surveillance equipment, commodities and services for support of police and other law enforcement activities, abortion equipment and services, luxury goods, gambling equipment, and weather modification equipment.
 - **Restricted commodities include:** Agricultural commodities, motor vehicles, pharmaceuticals, contraceptives and condoms, pesticides, used equipment, U.S. Government-owned excess property, and fertilizer.
 - **Others:** Purchases of goods or services restricted or prohibited under the prevailing USAID source and nationality and other regulations found under ADS 310 or from countries and suppliers as may be identified by USAID's consolidated list of debarred, suspended, or ineligible subcontractors at <http://www.epls.gov/>.
- In addition, grant funds provided under the terms of this RFA shall not be used to finance any of the following costs:
 - Any purchases or activities deemed unnecessary to successfully complete the activity, including any grantee headquarters expenses that are not directly linked to the implementation of the proposed project.
 - Previous obligations and/or bad debts.
 - Fines and/or penalties.



- Other costs unallowable under USAID and/or federal regulations such as referenced 2 CFR 200 Subpart E Cost Principles and FAR 31.2 Cost Principles for Commercial Organizations.

Late Application

Late applications are marked as “late” and are ineligible for review or award; however, Dexis reserves the right to accept and include late applications in the review and award process when it is considered within the best interest of Dexis to do so and if applications that were received on time have not been opened and reviewed. Applications that are submitted late or incomplete run the risk of **not** being considered for review.

SECTION V: APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

Within 14 working days of the deadline for submitting applications, a technical review committee will convene. Throughout the evaluation process, the JARA Program shall take steps to ensure that members of the committee do not have any conflicts of interest or the appearance of such with regard to the organizations whose applicants are under review. An individual shall be considered to have the appearance of a conflict of interest “if that person, or that person’s spouse, partner, child, close friend or relative works for or is negotiating to work for or has a financial interest (including being an unpaid member of a Board of Directors) in any organization that submitted an application currently under the panel’s review.” Members of the committee shall neither solicit nor accept gratuities, favors, or anything of monetary value from parties to the awards.

Note: Under unusual circumstances the technical review committee may be delayed.

Verification of the application submission requirements will be conducted by the field grants manager. Awards will be made within 60 working days after the technical evaluation committee completes its review.

The application will be evaluated according to the evaluation criteria set below. To the extent necessary (if an award is not made based on initial applications), negotiations may be conducted with each applicant whose application, after discussion and negotiation, has a reasonable chance of being selected for award.

Evaluation Criteria:

- 1. Technical merit 35 points**
 - a. Relevance to program goals
 - b. Sustainability of project results
 - c. Anticipated impact on the beneficiaries
- 2. Past Performance / Organizational Capacity 25 points**
 - a. Past performance in similar projects
 - b. Relevant staff skills to the proposed project
 - c. Experience in geographical region
 - d. Written accounting and procurement procedures

- e. Capacity to adhere to USAID financial guidelines.
- 3. Gender Mainstreaming/inclusivity 10 points**
 - a. Gender considerations are thoroughly integrated throughout the proposal.
 - b. The organization staff is comprised of both genders.
- 4. Management Capacity and Personnel 20 points**
 - a. Management and staffing approach aligned to activities.
 - b. Convincing demonstration of achieving described objectives and results
 - c. Proposed personnel possess the required skills.
- 5. Feasibility and Cost Effectiveness 10 points**
 - a. Are costs reasonable, allowable, and allocable.
 - b. Is the proposal realistic and cost effective?

Total points: 100

SECTION VI: AWARD AND ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

The recommendation or selection of an application in accordance with established procedures does not guarantee an award. All applicants must demonstrate that they possess or have the ability to obtain the necessary management competence to practice mutually agreed upon methods of accountability for funds and other assets provided.

A successful applicant can expect to receive an Award Letter. The award letter will be addressed to the organization's point of contact as stated in the application. Applicants that were not successful can expect a letter explaining the reason for their unsuccessful application.

Following the Award Letter, final negotiations will take place before the signing of a grant agreement.

Reporting Procedures:

A description of reporting requirements will be included in the grant agreement. The types of reporting required, along with the schedule of reporting, will depend on the grant type and project duration. Reporting forms will be provided to grant recipients. Types of reporting will include the following:

- Progress report to be submitted during project implementation according to a schedule described in the grant agreement. This report will include a description of progress made during the period, problems in project implementation; actions taken to overcome them; and activities planned for the next period.
- Reports on activities carried out during implementation period (output reports).
- The final program report will describe how the project objectives and goals were reached, results of the project, and problems and solutions during implementation.

Issuance of the final installment of grant funds is contingent upon JARA receipt and acceptance of Final Program Reports.



SECTION VII: OTHER INFORMATION

Issuance of this RFA does not constitute an award or commitment on the part of Dexis, nor does it commit the JARA to pay for costs incurred in the preparation and submission of an application.

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



Annex 1: Mandatory Standard Provisions

Standard Provisions for Fixed Amounts Award for Nongovernmental organizations

<https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/2022-12/303saj.pdf>