



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Small Grants Program  
Call for Concept Notes

CARE-GBV



# Q & A Webinar

**February 24, 2021**

# Agenda

- USAID Welcome and Background
- Small Grants Program Overview
- Responses to Questions
- Resources



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Small Grants Program  
Call for Concept Notes

CARE-GBV



# USAID Welcome & Background

***Amy Dalrymple***

*Presidential Management Fellow, USAID*

*Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Hub*

*Bureau for Development, Democracy, and Innovation*

# U.S. Agency for International Development, Gender Equality & Women's Empowerment

- USAID created in 1961 to lead the U.S. government's international development and humanitarian efforts
- Gender equality and women's empowerment are fundamental for the realization of human rights and key to effective and sustainable development outcomes
- USAID's Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GenDev) Hub works to improve lives by addressing the distinct and intersectional needs of women, girls, men, and boys, in all their diversity, in our work, as well as the norms and systems that hinder optimal outcomes

# USAID GBV Definition

*Any harmful threat or act directed at an individual or group based on actual or perceived biological sex, gender identity and/or expression, sexual orientation, and/or lack of adherence to varying socially constructed norms around masculinity and femininity.*

- United States Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gender-Based Violence

# Collective Action to Reduce Gender-Based Violence (CARE-GBV)

- Two-year USAID-funded activity implemented by Development Professionals Inc.- Making Cents International LLC, in partnership with FHI 360.
- GOAL: To strengthen USAID's collective response and prevention, or "collective action," in gender-based violence development programming globally.
- GBV affects individuals, families, communities, and countries – fostering imbalances of power that affect health, education, and economic security across sectors.
- USAID is committed to preventing GBV by addressing the root causes of violence and changing norms; to improving health and economic outcomes of those affected by GBV; and to improving responses to GBV through legal frameworks and other structural interventions.

# CARE-GBV Objectives

1. Develop and disseminate foundational elements for integrated and standalone GBV programming in development contexts.
2. Strengthen programming for the prevention of and response to harmful GBV practices – specifically practices such as child, early, and forced marriage (CEFM) and female genital mutilation or cutting (FGM/C).
3. Create knowledge products to support evidence-based GBV programming.
4. Strengthen the USAID GBV community of practice and donor coordination in GBV programming.
5. Promote research to practice of existing GBV activities through small grants to new, local, and underutilized partners.



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Small Grants Program  
**Call for Concept Notes**

**CARE-GBV**



# Overview of the Call

***Diane Gardsbane***

*CARE-GBV Chief of Party, Making Cents International*

# Highlights of Purpose Statement

- USAID's CARE-GBV activity seeks *innovative concept note applications*.
- Grants can be used to **build the capacity** of organizations to generate solutions **that elevate the role of staff wellness and resiliency to:**
  - promote high-quality, sustainable, and survivor-centered gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response programming;
  - fill global data gaps related to GBV;
  - and promote learning.

# Grants Focus Areas

## FOCUS AREAS:

### Wellness and Resilience:

- Promoting learning about self-care, wellness, and resiliency and embedding these principles in organizational culture
- Generating evidence and learning about staff wellness programming

### Capacity Building:

- Building **organizational knowledge and capacity** for effective survivor-centered GBV prevention and response programming and sustainability through a mentoring partnership
- Building organizational culture and creating safeguarding policies
- Building internal capacity to implement survivor-centered GBV-prevention and response programming
- Leveraging funds to build organizational sustainability beyond the grant period
- Partnering to promote capacity building and exchange knowledge

## OPTIONAL FOCUS AREAS:

### COVID-19:

- Identifying and learning from the COVID-19 pandemic to improve the delivery of survivor-responsive GBV services in post- or prolonged COVID-19 contexts
- Building on learning from research and programming during COVID-19

### Research Utilization and Scaling Up Effective Interventions:

- Using secondary research (research using existing data) to generate learning that can be disseminated and inform scale-up
- Identifying gaps in GBV research and programming, and exploring these gaps
- Taking research to practice during implementation

# Guiding Principles



**Do no harm-** The safety of GBV survivors, their dependents, and service providers is the top priority. Concept notes must ensure that there is no harm in the proposed initiative.



**Partnerships:** Collaboration and mentorship relationships to promote capacity building are encouraged.



**Survivor-centered:** A survivor-centered approach to GBV response that prioritizes survivors' rights, needs, and agency should be integral to organizational practice. This means ensuring that survivors (including staff, who may be GBV survivors) have access to appropriate, accessible, and good quality services.



**Participatory and Community-based:** Engagement of staff, proposed participants, and the community where activities will take place, and participation of diverse voices are considered essential.



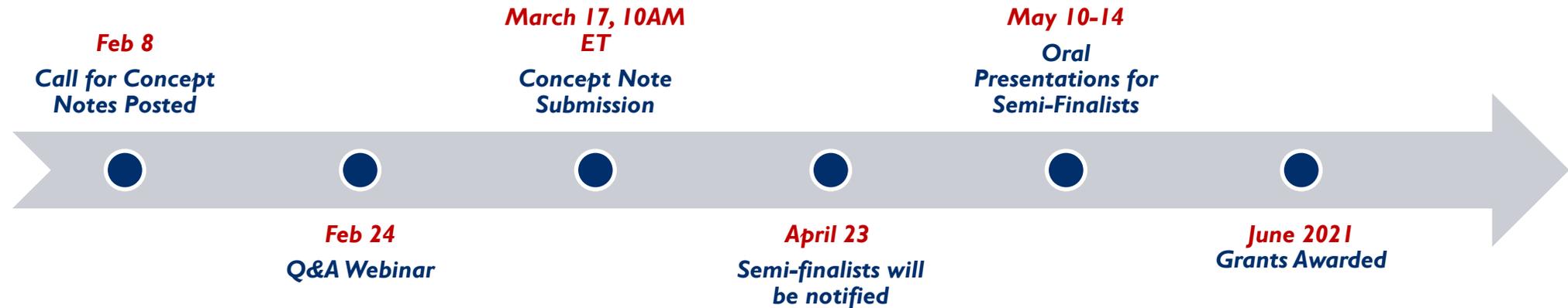
**Continuous Learning Approach:** Approaches must generate and promote learning.

# Evaluation Criteria:

Section	Evaluation Questions
<b>Applicant information and organizational capacity (20%)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Does the organization have a purpose and/or objectives that are in line with proposed activities?</li> <li>Does the organization have previous experience in prevention and/or response to GBV?</li> <li>Does the organization demonstrate an understanding of its technical and organizational capacity for evidence-informed work on GBV response?</li> <li>What safeguarding and survivor-responsive policies does the organization have in place, or plan to develop as part of the proposed initiative (e.g., do no harm, prevention of sexual abuse and exploitation, sexual harassment, others)? If policies are in place, please provide as an attachment to the grant application.</li> <li>Do proposed activities highlight needs of marginalized women or girls? Is the organization feminist, women-, LGBTI-, or survivor-led? While not required, these will be considered favorable factors in scoring applications.</li> </ul>
<b>Overall conceptual approach (20%)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Does the concept clearly align with this grant program's purpose statement and focus areas?</li> <li>Is the concept evidence-based and/or practice-based?</li> <li>Is the proposed concept feasible within the funding timeframe?</li> <li>Does the concept demonstrate engagement of women in the design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of the proposed project?</li> <li>Does the concept promise to provide important new insights for the organization and potentially for the global GBV prevention and response field?</li> </ul>
<b>Staffing and/or partnership plan (20%)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do staff have experience and expertise in GBV prevention and/or response?</li> <li>Does the staffing and partnership plan generate confidence in success?</li> <li>If a partnership is being proposed, does the concept note explain how power dynamics between partners will be addressed to ensure equity?</li> </ul>
<b>Locally led and survivor-centered (20%)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How does the proposed concept demonstrate an understanding of the local context, and the needs of GBV survivors, some of whom may be among the staff/participants in the proposed concept?</li> <li>What measures are in place to protect any sensitive data or information, the sources of that information, and the providers of that information as it is collected through the implementation process?</li> <li>How does the proposed concept use a survivor-centered or survivor-responsive approach?</li> </ul>
<b>Learning plan (20%)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How will results be documented and used to promote internal and external learning about self-care, wellness, and resiliency for staff of GBV-prevention and response organizations?</li> <li>How will results be used for embedding these principles into organizational culture?</li> </ul>

# CARE-GBV Small Grants Award Process

## TENTATIVE TIMELINE:





**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

## Small Grants Program Call for Concept Notes

**CARE-GBV**



# Questions & Answers

*Rafael Serrano, Grants Manager, Making Cents International*  
*Paula Majumdar, GBV Specialist, Development Professionals, Inc.*

# Frequently Asked Questions

**Over 100 questions received on topics ranging from:**

- How to Submit Applications
- Eligibility
- Language
- Logistical/Operational
- Application Form
- Technical Scope and Focus

Reponses to ALL questions can be found on our small grants program landing page under **Documents:** <https://www.makingcents.com/care-gbv-small-grants-program>

# Frequently Asked Questions

## How do I submit my concept note?

There is an online application form which is linked on our small grants program landing page.

## When do I have to submit by?

Submit by March 17, 2021 10AM ET. Late applications will not be accepted.

## Why should I participate?

The CARE-GBV grants program is a great opportunity to build partnerships and capacity for your organization. The selected grant participants will have the opportunity to engage with each other and learn from each other during Cohort Participant Workshops.

# Eligible Organizations

- U.S. nongovernmental organizations
- Non-U.S. nongovernmental organizations
- Community based organizations (e.g., youth groups, women groups, etc.)
- Civil society organizations
- Professional associations
- Universities
- For-profit organizations, so long as no fee is proposed as part of any grant activity

**Specifically, new, local, or underutilized USAID partners**

# Eligible Organizations

- **New Partner:**
  - An organization that has not received any funding from USAID as a prime partner in the last five years.
- **Local Entity:**
  - Legally organized/registered in the country where activities will take place.
  - Majority-owned by individuals who are citizens /permanent residents of that country.
  - Is managed by a governing body, the majority of whom are citizens or lawful permanent residents.
  - of the country receiving assistance from USAID.
- **Underutilized Partner:**
  - An organization that has received less than \$25 million in direct or indirect awards from USAID over the past five years.

**These terms apply to the entire organization including the organization's main office and any local branches globally.**

# Eligible Countries

- CARE-GBV would like to fund all concept notes from anywhere in the globe. However, US government procurement processes are time bound, and may require certain notifications. Therefore, based on the timeframe of the grant award, CARE-GBV made the tough decision to limit the concept notes from countries that do not need additional approvals.
- We updated the list with the most up-to-date eligible countries on February 22, 2021.

# Language

- The application must be completed in English.
- The Call for concept Notes and reference materials are only in English.
- Translation services for oral presentations will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

# Partnerships



Partnerships are encouraged as long as the organization leading the activities meets the criteria for new, local, or underutilized USAID partners. Lead applicants must demonstrate they will retain management of the activities and are using a larger partner organization only in a supporting and/or advisory role.

# Are You Registered?

To be eligible to apply for U.S. federal awards (grants), organizations need to obtain three registrations:

1. **DUNS:** [Dun and Bradstreet nine-digit identification number.](#)
2. **CAGE or NCAGE:**
  - Commercial and Governmental Entity (CAGE) five-digit code (US entities).
  - [NATO Commercial and Governmental Entity \(NCAGE\)](#) five-character code for non-U.S. entities.
3. **SAM:** [System for Award Management.](#) The U.S. Government's portal to manage the processes for contracts, grants, and cooperative agreements.
  - [Quick Start Guide for International Registrants](#)

# Application Form and Deadline

**Can we get access to the complete application apart from the online submission?**

- Yes, a copy of the full online application has been posted on the CARE-GBV Small Grants Landing Page for your reference only. All applications must be submitted electronically by completing the application [here](#).

**When is the deadline for the USAID Collective Action to REduce Gender-Based Violence Grants Program: Concept Note Application Form?**

- 10:00 AM EDT on March 17, 2021.

# Technical: Self-Care, Wellness and Resiliency

Several questions were submitted about the small grant program's focus on self-care, wellness and resiliency for staff of GBV prevention and response organizations and embedding these principles in organizational culture. For example:

You mention to "build capacity to generate solutions that elevate the role of staff wellness and resiliency." **Is this grant for staff mental health needs or for programming?**

- We are looking for innovative concept notes that explore this area.
- Ideally, GBV organizations will focus on incorporating wellness and resiliency into its organizational culture in a way that promotes individual staff self-care, wellness and resiliency and strengthens its ability to prevent or respond to GBV.

# Resources on Organizational Wellness and Resiliency

- [Raising Voices' Guidance Note 3: How can we amplify self and collective care? Series on Preventing Violence against Women During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
- [Women's International Peace Centre's Healing Through Rituals A Guide for Sustaining Wellbeing and Activism](#)
- ["The Only Way We'll Be Successful": Organizational Factors That Influence Psychosocial Well-Being and Self-Care Among Advocates Working to Address Gender-Based Violence](#)

# Technical: Awareness Raising and Prevention

We are interested in doing programming around prevention that also includes counseling, but we understand that discussing prevention could be seen as raising awareness and "awareness raising" is something you do not fund. **Would you consider education and prevention programming as awareness raising?**

- Awareness raising may be part of prevention programming, however it is not something that we will fund. This is because awareness raising by itself is not sufficient to prevent GBV. In addition, while offering counseling may be part of a wellness program, merely offering counseling is not enough to build organizational culture that prioritizes staff wellness and resiliency.

**Could you clarify your definition of “primary focus on GBV awareness-raising” (which is outlined as a non-acceptable focus)? Does this have to do with communication campaigns?**

- We are not funding GBV interventions, and this includes any type of awareness-raising including mass communication campaigns. Our focus is on building the capacity of GBV organizations to support their interventions.

# Technical: Organizational Leadership

**If an Organization is not led by a Woman and is not feminist but has an intentional plan of building the capacity of its female staff to be promoted to senior positions of leadership, would it be eligible?**

- Yes, though preference will be given to applications from organizations that are feminist, women-, LGBTI- or survivor-led.

**I wonder if an application for capacity building in the area of movement building would be eligible for consideration.**

- If the movement building includes promoting learning about self-care, wellness and resiliency for staff of GBV member organizations and embedding these principles in the culture of the movement – this might be a concept we would consider.

# Technical: Allowable Costs and Research

**Would funding for this grant be able to also support translation on a larger scale of a staff/self-care workbook (the grant would otherwise focus on implementation of a program focused around staff/self-care within one country office)? And could costs from the grant cover 5% of the time allocated by an HQ staff?**

- Yes, any activities that support staff wellness are part of allowable costs. The 5% of time for a HQ staff person would be allowable if the organization fits the definition of a local, new, or underutilized USAID partner.

**Can organizations undertake primary research along with the resiliency and wellness development related intervention under this grant?**

- We believe it is unlikely a group could propose a primary research project that is well-designed and conforms with all ethical and safety guidelines for research that would be able to fit into the one year timeline for these grants. You are welcome to submit a concept note on this if you think you can but advised that it must be very convincing.

# Resources and Links

- [Call for Concept Notes](#)
- [CARE-GBV Small Grants Program landing page](#)
- [CARE-GBV landing page](#)
- [Grants 101](#)

# Application Form and Deadline

A copy of the [full online application](#) has been posted on the CARE-GBV Small Grants Program Landing Page for your reference only.

All applications must be submitted electronically by completing the application [here](#).

**Deadline: 10:00 AM EDT on March 17, 2021.**

# THANK YOU!

**Contact information:**

Rafael Serrano, Grants Manager  
grants@makingcents.com