



Collective Action to Reduce Gender-Based Violence Call for Concept Note Applications for Small Grants

PURPOSE STATEMENT

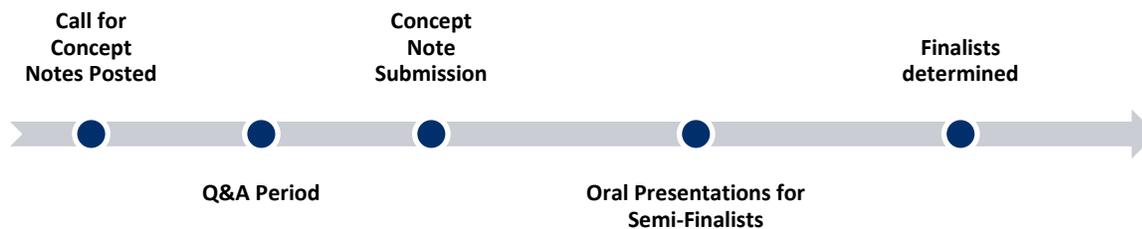
USAID's Collective Action to Reduce Gender-Based Violence (CARE-GBV) activity seeks innovative concept note applications for small grants from qualified U.S. and non-U.S. organizations. Grants can be used to build the capacity to generate solutions that elevate the role of staff wellness and resiliency in promoting 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 should focus on one or more of the following learning questions:

CARE-GBV Grant Program Learning Questions

- I. What are promising practices for addressing staff resiliency and wellness in GBV-serving organizations?
- II. What are promising practices for adapting GBV standalone and integrated programs that incorporate lessons learned during the COVID-19 pandemic?
- III. How can the evidence base on GBV prevention and social norms support improving the response to GBV for survivors, their families, and communities?

For more information on **CARE-GBV** please click [here](#).

CARE-GBV GRANTS AWARDING PROCESS



This call for concept notes was made possible by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). It was prepared by Development Professionals, Inc.–Making Cents International, LLC for the Collective Action to Reduce Gender-Based Violence (CARE-GBV) Task Order. This material does not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.

FOCUS AREAS:

Wellness and Resilience:



- Promoting learning about self-care, wellness, and resiliency for staff of GBV prevention and response organizations and embedding these principles in organizational culture
- Generating evidence and learning about staff wellness programming as part of GBV prevention and/or response 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 relevant safeguarding policies such as do no harm, prevention of sexual abuse and exploitation, sexual harassment, and others
- Building internal capacity to implement survivor-centered GBV-prevention and response programming, including holistic approaches to staff wellness
- Leveraging funds to build organizational sustainability beyond the grant period
- Partnering with organizations to promote capacity building and exchange knowledge

OPTIONAL FOR ADDITIONAL FOCUS:

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

AVAILABLE FUNDS

Subject to the availability of funds, CARE-GBV will provide funds for individual grants between \$50,000 to \$125,000. Grants must be 12 months or less in duration. Partnerships among organizations are encouraged, particularly where one partner can provide capacity building and mentoring to the other.

Concept note submission is voluntary. CARE-GBV will not reimburse for expenses incurred by any organization in developing concept notes in response to this call.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Organizations should articulate these principles in submitted concept notes:



Do no harm: The safety of GBV survivors, their dependents, and service providers is the top priority. Concept notes should highlight efforts to ensure that the proposed initiative does not increase the risks of participants and/or organizations.



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



Survivor-centered care: 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. See [Annex A](#) for a detailed description of how a survivor-centered approach is being defined.



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.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Proposed activities must clearly align with this grant program's purpose statement and focus areas. Proposed activities that highlight the needs of marginalized women and girls, including those with disabilities, indigenous peoples, ethnic or religious minorities, or members of the lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer, or intersex (LBTQI+) community, are encouraged. All applicants must be legally recognized organizational entities under applicable law working in countries with a USAID presence (see [Annex B](#) for country list). Applicants must also meet criteria outlined in [Annex A](#) for new, local, or underutilized USAID partners.

Awards to U.S. organizations will be administered in accordance with (1) 22 C.F.R. 226, (2) OMB Circulars, and (3) the USAID Standard Provisions for U.S. Nongovernmental Recipients. Awards to non-U.S.

organizations will be administered in accordance with USAID Standard Provisions for Non-U.S. Nongovernmental Recipients. The total value of a grant to a U.S. nongovernmental organization cannot be more than \$100,000. However, this does not apply to grant awards to non-U.S. nongovernmental organization.

Eligible organizations include:

- 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

Organizations must be officially registered as a legal entity and working in compliance with all applicable local laws and statutes. If an organization is not legally registered, the organization can show proof of effort to secure registration, exemption from registration, or show cause and justify why such registration would be harmful, with supporting documentation, as applicable.

The following will be considered favorably for funding:

- Concept notes that present innovative ideas to provide solutions responsive to this grant program's purpose, learning objectives, and focus areas
- Concept notes that are based on proven and effective solutions
- Concept notes that highlight the needs of marginalized women and girls, including those with disabilities, indigenous peoples, ethnic or religious minorities, or members of the LGBTQI+ community.
- Applications from organizations that are feminist, women-, LGBTQI+- or survivor-led
- Concept notes that propose generating learning that can serve the global community working to improve GBV prevention and response
- Concept notes that propose partnerships promoting mentoring and model diversity, inclusion, and equity

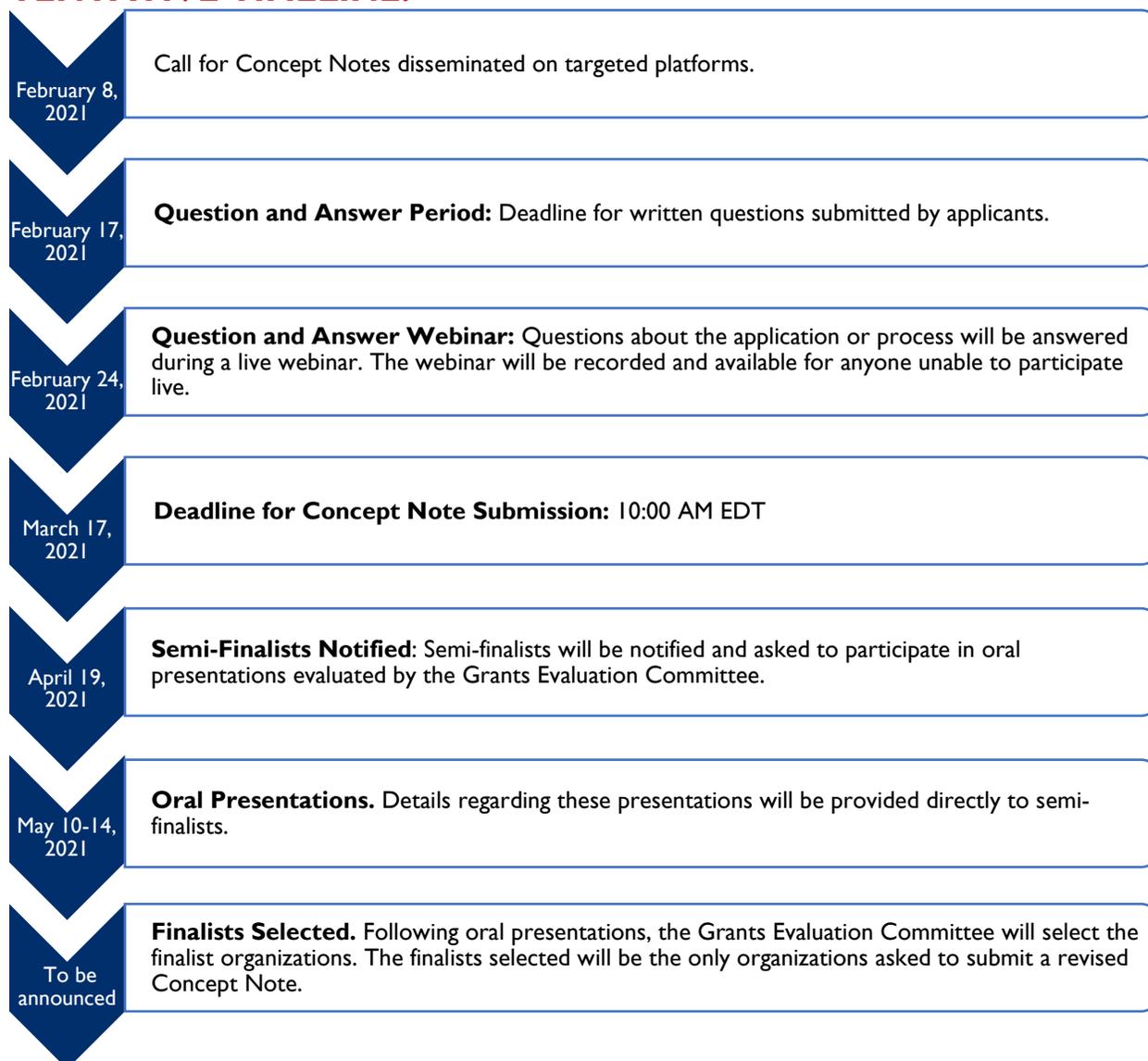
Concept notes from the following will NOT be considered for funding:

- Individuals
- Public International Organizations
- Organizations that appear on the List of Parties Excluded from Federal Procurement and Non-procurement Programs, the U.N. 1267 list, or have an active restriction or exclusion on the System for Award Management (www.sam.gov)
- Organizations that advocate, promote, or engage in illegal activities or anti-democratic activities
- Any entity affiliated with USAID, Development Professionals Inc., Making Cents International, or FHI 360, including their officers, directors, employees, or their family members
- Any governmental organization, political party, or political group

Concept notes proposing any the following will NOT be considered for funding:

- Concept notes proposing scaling existing interventions that do not address the purpose of the grants program
- Concept notes proposing work on femicide and trafficking in persons
- Concept notes with any infrastructure or construction activities
- Concept notes with a primary focus on GBV awareness raising
- Concept notes that primarily serve to promote the visibility of an organization
- Concept notes that do not consider COVID-19 in their response

TENTATIVE TIMELINE:



CONCEPT NOTE SUBMISSION

Applicants must submit a Concept Note outlining their organization's proposed approach using the online form. The online form will request information for each section listed below. Each section must be completed in English and is limited to no more than a 500-word response in English.

- 1. Applicant Information and Organizational Capacity** – Provide a brief description of the organization (including whether it is a new, local, or underutilized USAID partner; if it highlights the needs of marginalized women and girls and whether it is feminist, women-, LBTQI+-, or survivor-led); organizational purpose and objectives; and relevant policies the organization has or plans to develop as part of the proposed initiative (for example, do no harm, prevention of sexual abuse and exploitation, sexual harassment, etc.). This section should address both technical capacity relating to an understanding of evidence-informed programming for GBV prevention and response, and organizational capacity (administrative, financial, and management systems) to implement the proposed initiative.

Applicants are advised that while some organizational capacity is required for eligibility, grantees will receive support from CARE-GBV to build their organizational capacity in the areas of administrative, financial, and management systems to improve their ability to comply with grant reporting requirements and to obtain larger grants in the future. Technical capacity building anticipated through staffing/partnerships can be addressed in Section 3 of the application.

- 2. Conceptual Approach** – Provide a brief summary of the proposed project, the intended participants, how the approach aligns with CARE-GBV's purpose and focus areas, how it is informed by evidence or practice-based knowledge, and how it will generate new insights for the organization, and potentially the larger GBV response field. Using the template provided, share your plans for each quarter for achieving your objectives over the one-year grant period.
- 3. Staffing/Partnership Plan** – Explain how plans for staffing and partnerships support achieving the objectives of the proposed project. This plan should include an explanation of roles and responsibilities for proposed staff and partners; and the experience and expertise of staff and partners in GBV prevention and/or response, and in proposed activities. Applicants should discuss how power dynamics between partners, if proposed, will be addressed to ensure equity.
- 4. Locally-led and survivor-centered** – Discuss how the proposed concept demonstrates an understanding of, and is responsive to, needs within the local context, as well as needs of GBV survivors in the proposed concept. Discuss how local expertise and/or formal or informal partners will support the sustainability of the project. Explain what measures are in place to protect any sensitive data or information (or the sources of that information) collected through the implementation process.
- 5. Learning Plan** – Describe a plan to learn from the grant activity. Include how the results will be documented and used to promote internal and external learning about self-care, wellness, and resiliency for staff of GBV response organizations and for embedding these principles into organizational culture.
- 6. Estimated Budget (in USD)** – Provide an estimate of the total amount of funding required to implement the proposed grant activity, using budget lines provided in the application form. The estimate must relate directly to the proposed technical approach and offer efficiency in costs. Full cost proposals from semi-finalists will be evaluated at a later stage in the application process. At the time of submission, the grantee's authorized representative must certify the concept note as being current, complete, and accurate.



All concept notes must be received by CARE-GBV by **10:00AM Eastern Daylight Time (EDT) on March 17, 2021**. Only applications submitted via the online form by the stated closing date and time will be considered. CARE-GBV will not be held responsible for delays in internet connectivity or problems experienced with technical difficulties. Questions concerning this Call for Concept Notes must be submitted via email to **Grants@makingcents.com** by **February 17, 2021 at 10:00 AM EDT**.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

The Grants Evaluation Committee will select grant applicants based on the criteria below. Evaluation questions are provided to guide grantee responses. Applicants should ensure that they answer each question in their concept notes. Note the budget will be reviewed for cost reasonableness but will not be weighed in the evaluation criteria.

Section	Evaluation Questions
1. Applicant information and organizational capacity (20%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Does the organization have a purpose and/or objectives that are in line with proposed activities?• Does the organization have previous experience in prevention and/or response to GBV?• Does the organization demonstrate an understanding of its technical and organizational capacity for evidence-informed work on GBV response?• 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.• Do proposed activities highlight needs of marginalized women or girls? Is the organization feminist, women-, LBTQI+-, or survivor-led? While not required, these will be considered favorable factors in scoring applications.
2. Overall conceptual approach (20%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Does the concept clearly align with this grant program's purpose statement and focus areas?• Is the concept evidence-based and/or practice-based?• Is the proposed concept feasible within the funding timeframe?• Does the concept demonstrate engagement of women in the design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of the proposed project?• Does the concept promise to provide important new insights for the organization and potentially for the global GBV prevention and response field?

Section	Evaluation Questions
3. Staffing and/or partnership plan (20%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Do staff have experience and expertise in GBV prevention and/or response? ● Does the staffing and partnership plan generate confidence in success? ● If a partnership is being proposed, does the concept note explain how power dynamics between partners will be addressed to ensure equity?
4. Locally led and survivor-centered (20%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 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? ● 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? ● How does the proposed concept use a survivor-centered or survivor-responsive approach?
5. Learning plan (20%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 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? ● How will results be used for embedding these principles into organizational culture?

ANNEX A: DEFINITIONS OF TERMS USED IN CARE-GBV CALL FOR CONCEPT NOTES

LOCAL ENTITY

An organization that meets all the following criteria:

1. Is legally organized under the laws of a country that is receiving assistance from USAID;
2. Has its principal place of business or operations in a country receiving assistance from USAID;
3. Is majority-owned by individuals who are citizens or lawful permanent residents of a country receiving assistance from USAID; and
4. Is managed by a governing body, the majority of whom are citizens or lawful permanent residents of the country receiving assistance from USAID.

[\(USAID Key NPI Definitions\)](#)

NEW PARTNER

An organization that has not received any funding from USAID as a prime partner in the last five years.

[\(USAID Key New Partnerships Initiative \(NPI\) Definitions\)](#)

SEXUAL ABUSE

Any actual or threatened physical intrusion of a sexual nature whether by force or under unequal or coercive conditions. [\(USAID PSEA Policy\)](#)

SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

Any actual or attempted abuse by aid workers of a position of vulnerability, differential power or trust, for sexual purposes, including profiting monetarily, socially or politically from the sexual exploitation of another. [\(USAID PSEA Policy\)](#)

SURVIVOR-CENTERED APPROACH

A survivor-centered approach aims to create a supportive environment in which a survivor's rights are respected and in which they are treated with dignity and respect. The approach helps to promote a survivor's recovery and their ability to identify and express needs and wishes, as well as to reinforce their capacity to make decisions about possible interventions. Survivor-centered programming is based on the following guiding principles: Safety, Confidentiality, Respect, and Non-discrimination.

[\(Global Protection Cluster, Guidelines for Integrating Gender-based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Action, Module 4\)](#)

UNDERUTILIZED PARTNER

An organization that has received less than \$25 million in direct or indirect awards from USAID over the past five years. [\(USAID Key NPI Definitions\)](#)

ANNEX B: LIST OF ELIGIBLE COUNTRIES

As of January 2021, CARE-GBV can only accept concept notes applications to be implemented on the list of countries below with USAID presence. This list may change based as USAID policy shifts and will be updated with any new information by February 24, 2021:

Albania	Djibouti	Kiribati	Nigeria	Suriname
Angola	Dominica	Kosovo	North Macedonia	Tajikistan
Antigua and Barbuda,	Dominican Republic	Kyrgyz Republic	Palau	Tanzania
Azerbaijan	Ecuador	Laos	Panama	Thailand
Bangladesh	Eswatini	Lesotho	Papua New Guinea	The Gambia
Barbados,	Federated States of Micronesia	Liberia	Paraguay	Timor-Leste
Belarus	Fiji	Madagascar	Peru	Tonga
Benin	Georgia	Malawi	Republic of the Congo	Trinidad and Tobago
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Ghana	Maldives	Republic of the Marshall	Tunisia
Botswana	Grenada	Mali	Rwanda	Turkmenistan
Brazil	Guinea	Mauritania	Saint Lucia,	Tuvalu
Burkina Faso	Guyana	Moldova	Samoa	Uganda
Burundi	Guyana	Mongolia	Senegal	Ukraine
Cameroon	India	Montenegro	Serbia	Vanuatu.
Central African Republic	Indonesia	Morocco	Seychelles	Vietnam
Chad	Islands	Mozambique	Sierra Leone	West Bank and Gaza
China	Jamaica	Namibia	Solomon Islands	Zambia
Cote d'Ivoire	Jordan	Nauru	South Africa	
Cyprus	Kazakhstan	Nepal	St. Kitts and Nevis,	
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Kenya	Niger	St. Vincent and the Grenadines	

Unlisted countries require U.S. Congressional approval for the funding of grants and will not be considered eligible under CARE-GBV until further notice.