



Latin America and Caribbean Learning and Rapid Response Task Order (LACLEARN)

Call for Concept Notes for Evidence Review of Effective Violence Prevention Strategies for Children

Under the Existing Annual Program Statement (APS) No. LAC-APS-2022-02-CVP

PLEASE NOTE: This is an announcement to Year Two of the APS. All interested organizations should carefully review both this announcement and the full APS, which can be accessed here: <https://makingcents.com/latin-america-and-caribbean-learning-and-rapid-response-laclearn-aps/>.

Introduction to the LACLEARN Grants Program

The LACLEARN Grants Under Contract (GUC) Program is intended to support LACLEARN's objectives with complementary work in the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region. The grants funded through this program will contribute to the achievement of LACLEARN's programmatic objectives:

1. Providing support for rapid response to crisis situations, including short-term democracy, human rights, and governance (DRG) programming through local organizations to promote inclusion, participation, citizen-responsive approaches, and transparency/accountability during the transition phase.
2. Piloting innovative DRG technical approaches, implementing research, disseminating DRG learnings, supporting democracy, human rights, and good governance, or other learning and analysis objectives.

Additional information regarding LACLEARN can be accessed here:

<https://makingcents.com/project/latin-america-and-caribbean-learning-and-rapid-response-laclearn/>

Any proposed intervention or activity must have an explicit and direct link to the achievement of LACLEARN's programmatic objectives as defined herein.

Background and Objective

There is very little evidence, research, and field experience in crime and violence prevention specifically about young children aged eight to 12. While there is a number of well-documented violence prevention interventions in primary, secondary, and tertiary risk categories for youth aged 14 and older, interventions directed at young children are almost entirely from a primary prevention perspective. There is also a dearth of information for the LAC region on adverse childhood experiences from a young child's perspective compared to other regions of the world. For example, only four of the over 24 countries that have conducted the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Violence Against Children surveys are specifically from the LAC region (Colombia, El Salvador, Honduras, and Haiti; Jamaica is currently conducting its country study, which is expected to be finalized in 2022). Even less information is available from an institutional perspective; given that youth children aged eight to 12 are below the legal punitive age, there are no interventions from a juvenile justice standpoint.



High risk of violence in young children aged eight to 12 has been documented to some extent. For example, in Honduras, where crime and violence run deep and affect all ages, USAID conducted a national study of risk of violence for youth aged eight to 17. Using a risk diagnostic tool that had been previously assessed through an impact evaluation by Arizona State University, the study looked at respondents whose ages were between eight and 14 years old (82 percent of the national sample) and determined that 57.4 percent of respondents were at a primary level of risk, 41.1 percent were at a secondary level of risk, and 1.4 percent were at a tertiary level of risk. While this data is from Honduras, it reflects the ailments of the region at large where much of the crime and violence is concentrated, thus highlighting the need to start addressing risk at very young ages. A deeper understanding of the higher risks (particularly secondary and tertiary risk) in children aged eight to 12 is critical to effectively prevent violence from ingraining itself in their lives, affecting their cognitive development, and developing positively.

The primary goal of LACLEARN’s evidence review on effective interventions aimed at children aged eight to 12 at high risk of forms of youth violence (gang or other anti-social behavior) is to document best practices on crime and violence interventions for secondary and tertiary risk categories. The evidence review will highlight existing data on effective interventions in different sectors, their proven effectiveness in reducing risk, and the potential for replicability in different settings. More specifically, the study will:

1. Expand USAID’s awareness of existing evidence on violence prevention directed at children aged eight to 12 in the higher risk categories (secondary and tertiary);
2. Enhance understanding on the extent of high-risk forms of youth violence in children aged eight to 12;
3. Provide a case study for, at a minimum, one Latin American and one Caribbean country; and
4. Categorize existing intervention types based on their effectiveness and assess their potential for replication.

The proposed period of performance for this activity is six months. Priority will be given to concept notes putting forward the most promising approaches to the objectives described above.

Unless otherwise stated herein, all terms and conditions of the LACLEARN APS apply (https://makingcents.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/LACLEARN-APS-2022-Approved-Final_EC.pdf).

Available Funds

Subject to the availability of funds, the total estimated level of funding available for awards under this request for concept notes is up to USD200,000 for two (2) grants with up to six months in duration.

Concept note submission is voluntary and applicants will not be reimbursed for expenses incurred during concept note development.

Evaluation Criteria

Applications will be evaluated based on the general criteria set forth in the APS.

Application Instructions and Review Process

Applicants are required to follow the instructions set forth in the LACLEARN APS and submit concept notes using the Concept Note Template which is available at <https://makingcents.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/LACLEARN-Concept-Note-Template.docx>.

For inquiries and consultations with LACLEARN, please indicate “LACLEARN APS-LAC-2022-02-CVP” in the email subject line. The completed concept note (including the required supporting information) must be submitted to Mr. Idrees Haider, Grants Manager–LACLEARN at grants@makingcents.com.



Tentative Timeline

6/2/2022	Announcement posted.
6/16/2022	Deadline for written questions from applicants.
6/22/2022	Responses to questions about the application or process will be posted on the LACLEARN APS landing page.
6/27/2022	Phase 1: Deadline for concept note submission. Concept notes are due on June 27, 2022 at 11:59 PM EST. For concept note submission, please indicate “LAC-APS-2022-02-CVP - Concept Note Submission” in the e-mail subject line.
7/18/2022	Phase 2: Semi-finalists will be notified and asked to participate in co-creation.
8/8/2022	Phase 3: Following co-creation workshop, the Grants Evaluation Committee will select the finalist organizations. The finalists selected will be the only organizations asked to submit a full application.
8/29/2022	Grant awarded.

Selected organizations will be asked to complete a pre-award risk assessment including a financial capability questionnaire.

While LACLEARN will review concept notes on a rolling basis, applicants under the LACLEARN APS may not receive an initial response from LACLEARN until 45 days after the due date. LACLEARN may respond to some concept notes prior to this date; however, applicants are asked to wait until 45 days after the due date before inquiring about the status of their concept notes.

Questions and Further Assistance

Questions regarding the substance and objectives of this announcement or the LACLEARN APS should be directed to Mr. Idrees Haider at grants@makingcents.com with copy to Mr. Javier Calvo at javier@developmentpi.com.

For additional information regarding concept note submission guidelines and procedures, please refer to the LACLEARN APS, which can be accessed here : https://makingcents.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/LACLEARN-APS-2022-Approved-Final_EC.pdf.