



April 11, 2013

Dear Friends,

We hope you enjoy this week's edition of the Newsflash!

Sincerely,
The Firelight Team

(Call for Proposals) Request for Expressions of Interest - Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF)
(Call for Proposals) MacArthur Foundation's Call for Proposals for Strengthening Education
(Resource) FIND Partners- A hub for resource mobilization, fundraising, and organizational development
(Resource) Survival Strategies for Community Based Organizations (CBOs)

(Call for Proposals) Request for Expressions of Interest - Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF)

Proposals/Letters of Inquiry (LOIs) are invited for Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) program. The purpose of this opportunity is to enhance civil society efforts to develop and implement local government and community-level planning processes to mainstream biodiversity conservation, and leverage donor and project funding for livelihood activities that explicitly address causes of environmental degradation in and around priority KBAs in priority corridors. This call for proposals is open for both large grants (of more than USD 20,000) and small grants (of USD 20,000 or less). For large grants, the expected average size of grants will be USD 100,000 – USD 150,000 for 1-4 year projects.

ELIGIBILITY

Non-governmental organisations, community groups, private enterprises, universities and other civil society applicants may apply for funding. Applications from organizations that propose to build capacity of local civil society and community groups are particularly encouraged. Projects must be located within the sites and countries identified above and in the Ecosystem Profile. Organizations must have their

own bank account and be authorized under relevant national laws to receive charitable contributions.

For small grants:

Applicants must submit a Letter of Inquiry (LOI) in English, French, Portuguese or Arabic using the forms available at <http://bit.ly/CEPF-EAM-SGP>.

LOIs must be submitted electronically to BirdLife International at CEPF-EAM-SGP@birdlife.org by 19 April 2013. BirdLife International will not accept hardcopy LOIs. You will receive an email acknowledgement acknowledging receipt of your application.

REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

All potential applicants should refer to the Ecosystem Profile, the LOI Form, and the following references available on the CEPF website:

- How to apply: www.cepf.net/grants/apply/Pages/default.aspx
- Frequently asked questions: www.cepf.net/about_cepf/faq/Pages/default.aspx
- Eligibility criteria for applicants: www.cepf.net/grants/Pages/eligibility.aspx
- CEPF projects database:
www.cepf.net/grants/project_database/Pages/default.aspx
- CEPF safeguard policies: www.cepf.net/grants/Pages/safeguard_policies.aspx
- Proposed activities must observe all World Bank safeguard policies

Deadline for Letter of Inquiry submission: 19 April, 2013.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.cepf.net/grants>

(Call for Proposals) MacArthur Foundation's Call for Proposals for Strengthening Education

MacArthur Foundation has announced a call for proposals for the Partnership to Strengthen Innovation and Practice in Secondary Education (PSIPSE). The aim of the program is to accelerate innovation in secondary education programming, research, and development in selected countries. It is led by a group of private donors and donor advisors, including ELMA Philanthropies Services, Human Dignity Foundation, MacArthur Foundation, MasterCard Foundation, and Wellspring Advisors, who have come together to encourage a new wave of innovation and learning in secondary education.

The PSIPSE's focus is both upper and lower secondary education. Where schooling at the upper level is further divided between traditional general secondary education and vocational education, PSIPSE is focused on increasing the relevance of general

secondary education learning. PSIPSE supports programs and projects targeted to the formal education system and informal programs that help students transition to or re-enter the formal system. PSIPSE is interested in four thematic areas: demand, improving teacher effectiveness, promoting employment-relevant skills, and alternative educational models for learning (see ‘Thematic Areas of Interest’ section below).

Proposals submitted may be for pilots, for research, or for scale-up (see ‘Types of Projects’ section below). Regardless of their nature, the PSIPSE encourages projects with replication and scale-up potential. Across the four themes, the PSIPSE looks for projects that (i) target marginalized populations, such as girls; (ii) use technology in innovative, cross-cutting ways**; or (iii) do both. The PSIPSE is also concerned with the delivery of secondary education to conflict-affected populations in Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo and in Uganda.

Applicants are encouraged to submit proposals for projects that benefit the following marginalized populations:

- Learners living in low-resource or poverty-affected areas
 - Girls and young women
 - Learners with physical, intellectual and /or developmental disabilities
- Geography

Applicants may propose work in the following geographic areas:

- East Africa
- Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo
- Ethiopia
- Kenya
- Rwanda
- Tanzania
- Uganda

*: Note, projects targeting conflict-affected populations are welcomed only in the Eastern DRC (North Kivu, South Kivu, Province Orientale, Maniema) and in Uganda (Northern Uganda, West Nile Sub-region, and Western Uganda). Funding in Uganda is not restricted, however, to conflict-affected populations, nor to any particular parts of the country

- Nigeria (particularly the states of Kano, Sokoto, Jigawa, Lagos, Rivers, and Cross Rivers)
- India (particularly the states of Rajasthan, Gujarat, and Andhra Pradesh and the cities of Chennai, Delhi, and Mumbai)

These regions and countries have been selected based on secondary education needs, as well as strategic and geographic priorities of donor and donor advisor partners. Projects that take a regional focus may also apply

Deadline for Letter of Inquiry submission: May 15, 2013 at 12:00pm CST.

For more information, visit: <http://www.macfdn.org/press/article/call-proposals-partnership-strengthen-innovation-and-practice-secondary/>

(Resource) FIND Partners- A hub for resource mobilization, fundraising, and organizational development

In the last 4 years, FIND Partners has, specifically in East Africa, established itself as a hub for donor, fundraising and Project Management training and support. With over 3,000 partner CBOs, NGOs and individual project managers and countless funding and donor networks, FIND Partners is taking lead in supporting development partners gain capacity in resource mobilization and fundraising, both at local and international level and also promote organizational development to enable agencies with structures and systems to attract and as well utilize resources effectively.

FIND Partners is guided by a development interlink that looks at the process of development and resource mobilization as not only complimentary but holistic.

FIND Partners frequently posts funding opportunities for CBOs and NGOs in East Africa. To learn more, please visit: <http://www.findpartnersinternational.org/index>

(Resource) Survival Strategies for Community Based Organizations (CBOs)

From the Leading Edge Consultancy Blog: <http://cchikoore.wordpress.com/>

My passion for community development has brought me into contact with visionary CBO founders who are facing the challenges of survival and growth. As many of them have found, passion alone does not guarantee their survival. With intimate understanding of assets, concerns, values and activities of their communities, their role in the distribution of services and resources at community level plays a critical role in generating social capital required to address systemic community problems. Yet they find themselves at the bottom of the food chain in the distribution of resources to their constituents in competition with large national and international organizations. Without the funds to attract skilled staff or consultants who can support their programs, CBOs have to find ways to circumvent the cliché “you have to spend money to make money”. Here are a few survival strategies that CBOs can employ on bare-bones budget:

1. Recruit skilled and committed board members

The greatest resource for CBOs is the board. Skilled and committed board members

can make all the difference in the world. CBO founders have to go beyond friends and neighbours to attract individuals skilled in strategic planning, public relations to advance the organization's image, establishing networks and most significant ability to fundraise. It's important to define the core strategic intent of your organization and match that with the right skills and qualities suitable for a start up. Qualities like continued passion, commitment to volunteer time and money, leverage networks, thinking outside the box, ability to anticipate problems and plan for them are essential in CBO board members.

2. Leverage young volunteers

The culture of volunteerism is entrenched in the north, mandatory in countries like Canada for high school students to offer community service before graduation. Studies have shown that young people who volunteer are likely to be involved in civic activities as adults. In the south community service is voluntary, promoted by churches and schools. Tapping into this valuable and free resource by enrolling young university students into community development programs can make a world of difference for CBOs. The benefits are insurmountable including the infusion of energy and creativity, promoting altruism within the community and young people acquiring new skills. CBOs should identify the resources they need and approach colleges and universities for partnerships.

3. Connect and collaborate

Large organizations often operate as monolithic entities delivering narrowly defined services in communities in line with their mandates. CBOs can differentiate themselves by establishing connections and networks with potential collaborators with similar interest. An example is provided of 7 CBOs in rural West Africa who collaborated on a gender inequality initiative. Working together, the CBOs were able to identify the community problems and develop common messaging, established referral systems offering connected and complementary services ranging from rights education, legal services, counselling and treatment. The collaborative initiative enabled them to share resources including office space for meetings, expertise and vehicles for joint project visits. CBOs should identify community organizations with similar interest and establish relationships with their representatives and explore degree of collaboration.

4. Show-case your work

How tragic that some of the transformative community development initiatives go undocumented. Contrary to what some CBOs believe, piloting an innovative project can be done with little resources. A rural based CBO in West Africa with an initial investment of \$200 conducted Knowledge, Attitude, Practice and Behaviour (KAPB) survey among a specific community. Based on the findings they purchased good old fashioned tape recorders, paid a translator and recorded an audio of the new gender legislation in the local language. Each village received a tape recorder and the

responsibility of organizing listening sessions was left with one person trained to facilitate discussion within the community. The results were phenomenal, creating one of the most important conversations that led to challenging old belief systems, revision of the chief's jurisdiction in adjudicating domestic violence and property rights disputes. The ultimate result was referral of cases to the police and social welfare where appropriate action could be taken. With a well documented pilot study, the CBO was able to show-case their work and attract substantial funding that enabled them to expand the program to other communities. Documenting your initiatives, the processes, success and failures, how they were addressed and the result is important to attract funding from the larger national and international organizations.

As part of the Firelight Foundation's Capacity Building Program, Firelight provides "Newsflashes" to share relevant resources and information with our active grantee-partners via weekly emails and via post on a monthly basis. We hope that by facilitating access to information for grassroots, community-focused organizations, programming for children and families, as well as organizational development, is enhanced. Past editions of the Firelight Newsflash can be found on our website: <http://www.firelightfoundation.org/newsflash.php>. We welcome your comments, feedback and ideas for upcoming Newsflashes at newsletter@firelightfoundation.org.

For more information contact:

Firelight Foundation
740 Front Street, Suite 380
Santa Cruz, CA 95060 USA
www.firelightfoundation.org
+1 831-429- 8750