



May 31, 2012

Dear Friends,

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

Sincerely,

The Firelight Team

(Call for Proposals) Results for Development and Rockefeller Foundation Call for Education Proposals

(Call for Proposals) USAID Call for Proposals for local organizations in Malawi

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(Call for Proposals) Results for Development and Rockefeller Foundation Call for Education Proposals

High quality, relevant secondary education is vital for youth to obtain the skills, knowledge and competencies needed for employment. Results for Development (R4D), with support from the Rockefeller Foundation, has launched the Innovative Secondary Education for Skills Enhancement (ISESE) project to explore the skills needed for employment in Africa and Asia, and to identify innovative ways of effectively delivering these skills at the secondary school level.

As part of this project, we are holding a competition to identify innovative models of skills delivery at the secondary school level, currently accepting entries until June 8, 2012. We seek entries that enhance the learning of secondary school students in both the public and the non-state sectors, and will give particular attention to in-school innovations that have the potential to be scaled up and applied across different countries and contexts. Winners will be announced on July 18th, and the two best entries will each receive a prize of \$1,000, with the top 10 entries will be featured on the Results for Development website.

We are excited to announce that Angelique Kidjo, West African singer and UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador, has recently joined the ISESE competition jury panel! For more information on entry guidelines, jury panel, and selection criteria, please visit the ISESE Competition website (<http://www.changemakers.com/isese>).

As a valued R4D partner, we would greatly appreciate your help in passing this message to your colleagues and networks that may be interested in entering the competition!

Please don't hesitate to contact Michelle Engmann, R4D Senior Program Associate, with any questions you might have at mengmann@resultsfordevelopment.org.

Deadline for Submission: June 8, 2012

For more go to: <http://www.changemakers.com/isese>

(Call for Proposals) USAID Call for Proposals for local organizations in Malawi

Many local nonprofit organizations receive indirect funding from USAID through large umbrella grants or under contracts given to U.S. based non-government organizations (NGOs). In response, USAID has embarked on an ambitious reform effort called "USAID FORWARD" to change the way we do business, by forming and strengthening new partnerships that emphasize direct awards to local entities - organizations/NGOs.

USAID/Malawi is implementing a local capacity initiative that provides opportunities for local entities that have limited or no experience managing direct USAID grants. This APS is designed to expand the number of direct partnerships USAID has with local entities and to build the capacity of these organizations to better meet the needs of their constituents.

This APS may provide funding opportunities in the following four (4) program areas:

1. Sustainable Economic Growth – Malawi Agriculture Policy Strengthening (MAPS) Program
2. Education - Strengthening Early Grade Reading for Malawi Children Program
3. Health, Nutrition and Population – Further details will be provided via an amendment to this APS.
4. Mainstreaming Activities involving the Disabled. – Further details will be provided via an amendment to this APS.

The total funding available will be \$2 million per year for 3 years. The minimum award is \$250,000 and maximum is \$2 million per year over 3 years. USAID may issue more than one award under this Program Area. Funds awarded under the APS may come in the form of Cooperative Agreements as well as Fixed Obligation Grants

(FOGs).

See the attachment for full proposal information.

Deadline for Submission: July 14, 2012

(Call for Proposals) School Enterprise Challenge from Teach A Man to Fish

NGOs that have set up schools for children can look at the opportunity provided by the School Enterprise Challenge Fund, which offers a chance to win a top prize of \$5,000.

The School Enterprise Challenge is a global competition for schools to establish new school-based enterprises, or to develop existing ones further. This is a fantastic opportunity to generate additional income for your school and develop partnerships with schools overseas – and by entering you stand a chance of winning a top prize of \$5,000.

Schools don't have to start on a large scale to stand a good chance of winning – schools need to start enterprises with whatever resources they can get their hands on.

The Challenge is being organized by Teach A Man to Fish which helps children from poor families across Africa, Asia and Latin America get the quality education they deserve. It works to create new sources of income so that the poorest children can attend for free.

Deadline for Submission: July 31, 2012.

For more go to: <http://www.schoolenterprisechallenge.org/>

(Resource) **How to Find Travel Grants for NGOs**

This guide will help give direction by summarizing options you can explore to get the travel support you need. Donor travel grants are not widely available and difficult to identify. There are some tips, tricks, and resources that can help. Very few donors will advertise travel grants outright because it would attract a deluge of applications that they don't have the time or inclination to review. So what can an NGO do?

A range of options

1. Current Donors

Most donors prefer to fund travel of NGOs they are already supporting – so consider your existing donors first. When applying for funding it is always a smart idea to include travel to conferences, for training, or international meetings into your budget. Add a budget line called “conference participation”, “study travel”, or “network meetings” that covers travel costs. Explain in the proposal what this budget line is for: e.g. to attend a specific conference or more generically to strengthen networking. Most donors are flexible how the travel budget is used, as long as it is in support of the programs they support. It is also worth asking whether you can reallocate some of your budget for specific unforeseen travel.

Don’t forget to ask current donors (and their office in the country where you work – e.g. an embassy) if you require support for a one-off event. As long as it supports your program and is cost effective there is no shame in asking. Many donors have budget available for this – e.g. a small grants program or president’s fund that can be used flexibly.

2. New Donors

Asking new donors with whom you have no prior relationship is less likely to succeed. Still, a well targeted email might do the trick. Look for donors that are not approached very often – the Gates and Ford foundations get thousands of solicitations so your chances are often better if you focus on less well-known donors that are interested in your subject matter.

3. Conference/Training Organizers

Ask the organizers of the meeting or training you’d like to attend if travel support is available. Many times organizers have partial or full support available- especially for those participants that bring something extra such as speakers.

Some conference venues offer free rooms and other perks to organizers, which is sometimes passed on to participants. Organizers such as the UN or Rockefeller Foundation own venues that can be made available free or at a subsidized rate.

4. Travel Vendors

Ask travel providers (airlines, hotels) for support, as they often sponsor NGO travelers. Check the corporate social responsibility page or sponsoring pages on their website – or call the local booking office. Some large travel agencies (and even smaller ones) provide reduced rates for NGOs or offer unpublished discounts. Examples of vendors that offer subsidized travel to NGOs include:

Airlines

KLM: <http://www5.klm.com/corporate/en/topics/sponsoring.html>

British Airways: http://www.britishairways.com/travel/csr-applying-support/public/en_gb

Qantas: <http://www.qantas.com.au/infodetail/about/sponsorships/SponsorshipApplication.pdf>

Lufthansa: <http://verantwortung.lufthansa.com/en/service/contact.html>

Hotels

Starwood: http://www.starwoodhotels.com/corporate/company_values_comm.html

Marriott: <https://marriott.sponsorwise.com/Login.aspx?ReturnUrl=/MemberArea/Default.aspx>

Travel Agents

Humanitarian Travel based in the US delivers discounted International travel to NGOs. (<http://www.humanitariantravel.net/travel-services/humanitarian-airfare.html>)

5. Foundations

Though the list is short and many restrictions may apply, some donors do provide travel support to NGOs. Examples of these include:

Art Moves Africa (AMA) Travel Grants – AMA supports mobility within the African continent by providing the costs of travel, visa and travel insurance for the duration of stay. AMA doesn't support fees, accommodations, or per-diem. (<http://www.artmovesafrica.org/index.php?id=9>)

Commonwealth Foundation Civil society responsive grants – These grants are designed to promote international or intercultural exchange, co-operation and sharing of skills, knowledge and ideas between people from developing Commonwealth countries. They support activities such as short training courses, workshops, conferences, festivals, study visits or voter education activities. (<http://www.commonwealthfoundation.com/Howwedeliver/Grants/Civilsocietyresponsivegrants>)

The Schwarzkopf Foundation offers travel grants to enable young Europeans to undertake field trips investigating political and cultural developments in neighboring European countries. (<http://www.schwarzkopf-stiftung.de/>)

Finland Ministry of Foreign Affairs – Have an officer that administers NGO support transactions, travel support related to project preparation, travel support related to conferences for NGOs already receiving Finnish support (Note: The support must be requested by a Finnish NGO).

Norway Government Travel support scheme for NGOs / social partners – Some Norwegian Embassies offer travel grants for seminar attendance or project related activities. (<http://www.mfa.no>)

6. Web Search

Lastly, search for travel grants on the web. Good search terms include “NGO travel grants”, “NGO travel support”, or “non-profit travel grants”, combined with the region, country, conference, or theme that your NGO is interested in. You’d be surprised at how much information is available.

For more go to: <http://www.fundsforngos.org/travel-grants/travel-grants-ngos-sources-potential-funding/>

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.

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