

1 November, 2011

Dear friends,

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

Sincerely,

The Firelight Team

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(Call for applications) Earth Journalism Network seeks Applications under the Small Grants Program aimed at Media Coverage of Environmental Issues  
(Call for applications) ABILIS Foundation seeks application for projects initiated by organizations supporting activities to empower disabled persons  
(Call for applications) USADF seeks applications for grants between \$50,000 and \$250,000 for Rwanda, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Uganda, Kenya, and Tanzania

(Fact Sheets) 7 Billion Actions

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(Call for applications) Earth Journalism Network seeks Applications under the Small Grants Program aimed at Media Coverage of Environmental Issues

Under Creative Commons License: AttributionThe Earth Journalism Network is currently seeking applications for the small grants fund from eligible projects all over the world (preferably from the developing world) aimed at building network and media capacity to cover environmental issues. A total of US\$50,000 is available for funding in the coming year, which will be divided among at least 5 projects.

Internews is an international media development organization based in California. Through its programs, Internews improves the reach, quality, and sustainability of local media, enabling them to better serve the information needs of their communities.

The small grants fund with flexible spending guidelines will invest in strategic opportunities for media development, build the capacities of local environmental journalism networks and their members, and respond to their communities' needs.

Who can apply

Grants offered are primarily focused on the developing world but are open to proposals from anywhere. Projects aimed at building networks of environmental journalists (whether these are existing networks or prospective

networks) are especially encouraged to apply. Projects that use innovative methods to build networks or distribute environmental news will also be favorably viewed.

Earth Journalism Grants Fund will be focused on capacity building, but if special opportunities arise the fund will be open to supporting fellowships and travel grants that support specific story ideas or coverage of key events.

Last date for submission: November 7, 2011

For more go

to: <http://www.internews.org/global/earth/EarthJournalismGrantsFund2011-10.shtm>

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(Call for applications) ABILIS Foundation seeks application for projects initiated by people who are disabled and supporting activities to empower disabled persons in the Global South

ABILIS Foundation is a development fund, founded by people with disabilities in Finland in 1998. Its mandate is to support the activities leading to the empowerment of disabled persons in the Global South (developing countries).

ABILIS Foundation supports activities that contribute toward equal opportunities for disabled people in society through human rights, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency. Special priority is given to projects on advocating for human rights of disabled people and to activities developed and implemented by disabled women.

ABILIS Foundation gives small grants ranging from 500 to 10.000 Euros to projects initiated by disabled persons.

If you live in one of the following countries: India, Bangladesh, Uganda, Kazakstan. Tanzania, Ethiopia, Kambodz ha, Mosambik, Tadzjikistan, Kyrgyzstan please contact our partner organisations for an application form.

If you live in a country not mentioned above, please contact our office.

Who can apply for a grant by Abilis?

We support organizations that include persons with disabilities in their leadership. We support organisations of people with mobility, visual, hearing or any other type of disability. We can also support organisations that are run by parents of children with disabilities.

You can apply for a grant from Abilis if the following is true for you:

- You live in a country which the United Nations and the OECD have

defined as qualifying for Official Development Assistance. See list of countries.

- Your organisation has a certificate of registration. (If your group is not registered, please contact our office as sometimes we are able to make exceptions to this rule.)

How can we apply for a grant by Abilis?

ABILIS Foundation judges the applications according to the involvement of persons with disabilities, including their role in developing the project and in committing their own resources to the project (including time). The project must be realistic in its scope and expected results. The application must show how the project will continue to benefit the community once the project's funding term has been completed.

A minimum of 10 % of the project budget should be a contribution of time, money or other resources from the applicant group.

For every project, two reference persons are required to provide an independent evaluation of the project's feasibility. The reference persons should have thorough knowledge of the applicant organisation, of the project plan and of the general conditions existing in the project area. However, they should not personally directly benefit from the project. In other words, they should not be members or employees of the applicant organisation. There is a special form to be completed by reference persons.

If you wish to apply for funding, call a meeting of your friends and colleagues. Then think carefully about your current priorities and take time to make a good plan. We encourage you to use the Abilis manual designed to assist you in this process.

Contact us and we can send you the Abilis application form and guidelines for letters of recommendation. Please read them through carefully before applying. Please note that we can start analysing your application only after we receive all the following documents:

- application form with signatures
- work plan
- budget
- two reference forms
- a copy of your certificate of registration (or an explanation why one is not available)

For more go

to: [http://www.abilis.fi/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=20&Itemid=4&lang=en](http://www.abilis.fi/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=20&Itemid=4&lang=en)

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(Call for applications) USADF seeks applications for grants between \$50,000 and \$250,000 for Rwanda, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Uganda, Kenya, and Tanzania

USADF was created by the United States Congress with a unique mission to provide funds that promote community-based, self-help economic and development activities in Africa. USADF support focuses on community groups and small businesses that actively involve and benefit the marginalized and other under served populations.

Are you eligible for USADF funding?

USADF provides funding for the following types of groups:

**AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES and SMALL-SCALE PRODUCER GROUPS** : An organization formed by a group of small-scale farmers, artisans, or producers to achieve some or all of the advantages of large-scale marketing and production.

**COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS (CBOs)**: An organization made up of a group of people who come together to accomplish a common goal or a set of goals tailored to meet the development needs of their community.

**AFRICAN INTERMEDIARY ORGANIZATIONS (AIOs)**: An organization that works directly with very low-income people and marginalized groups.

**SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES (SMEs)**: A registered enterprise that employs up to 100 workers, has annual sales revenues up to \$500,000, and has a business plan that impacts communities either directly within their enterprise or indirectly through supply-chain linkages.

The majority of USADF's funding agreements range between \$50,000 and \$250,000. USADF does not provide funding to government agencies, political parties, or organizations that are not based in Africa. Please note, USADF does not provide funding or scholarships to individuals

**NOTE: APPLYING FOR AN USADF GRANT IS FREE, THERE IS NO FEE ASSOCIATED WITH A GRANT APPLICATION. (Une demande de subvention USADF EST GRATUIT. Il n'y a aucun frais associé à une application d'USADF.)**

#### Selection Guidelines and Priorities

USADF has two major priorities when considering a request for funding a project:

- Does the application comes from an African community group or organization that represents its own development priorities and includes the participation of the poor in setting project objectives?
- Does the application represent a project that could provide maximum benefit to an underserved and marginalized population group?

Project applications are evaluated on the basis of potential benefits to the community, potential for job creation, workers income improvements, long term profitability, and managerial strengths and capabilities. Other application selection criteria follow:

#### Organization Requirements

1. The organization must be 100 percent African-owned and managed.
2. The organization must be a legally recognized African entity (or in the process of becoming legally registered. Registration must be completed before any funding may be provided)
3. The organization must demonstrate that it has successfully worked together and has the potential to productively utilize development funds.
4. The ownership and management must be in agreement on the problem to be addressed and have a commitment to benefit their community.
5. The organization must have basic functional management and controls to use and account for USADF funds.

#### Benefit Requirements

1. The proposed project should represent both the applicant's and targeted beneficiaries identified needs.
2. The outcome of the project must provide real (measurable) benefits to the community. Benefits include job creation, increased incomes levels, improved market access, and quality of life improvements.

#### Other Considerations

1. The project is consistent with USADF's host country strategies and partnerships.
2. The goals of the project can be implemented realistically with USADF funds.
3. There are sufficient management, technical and financial resources available for project success.
4. The organization can demonstrate long-term viability after USADF funding ends.
5. The organization can meet all licensing/regulatory and environmental requirements.
6. The project has potential for broader replication.
7. The level of funding from self and other sources (local, foreign, donors) committed to or available to the organization.

For more go to: <http://www.adf.gov/funding.html>

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(Fact Sheets) 7 Billion Actions

*“Population is about people. It is about embracing the dignity and human rights of every individual. We need to create conditions for*

*each one of us to live on a healthy planet, so we can all reach our full potential. In a world of 7 billion people, we need to count on each other.”*

— Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin, UNFPA Executive Director

According to the United Nations Population Fund, the world's population will top **SEVEN BILLION** people in October 2011. This unique moment in human history represents both an achievement and a challenge. Although the precise moment or individual who will bring the human population count to seven billion is not known, analysis shows that the size of our planet's population has an impact on every single person on the planet. A world of seven billion has implications for sustainability, urbanization, access to health services and youth empowerment.

As the global population hits the It also offers a rare call-to-action opportunity to renew global commitment for a healthy and sustainable world.

The UNFPA is leading campaign to raise awareness about the issues related to the global population, including:

The issues are:

- **Poverty and inequality:** While we are seeing a reduction in poverty in some parts of the world, wide gaps remain. A life of poverty is marked by poor health, nutrition, and little hope. A collective effort is still need to reduce poverty and inequality across the globe.
- **Women and girls empowerment:** We still live in a world of unequal rights for women and girls. As their rights are fulfilled, they can reach their full potential. That alone, will improve the lives of at least half the world's population.
- **Reproductive health and rights:** In many countries women do not have access to family planning and do not have a say to when and how many children they will give birth to. As we improve women's reproductive rights we see an improvement in their health and the health of their children. More often than not, leading to smaller families.
- **Young people:** In many countries in AFrica, people under the age of 25 make up half the population. The choices and opportunities they are given will shape the lives of future generations. We have an opportunity to make it positive, but only with the right to health, education, and an opportunity for employment.
- **Aging population:** In some regions of the globe, there is a smaller percentage of people in their prime working years, as compared to the elderly. This poses new challenge for social and economic programs. The impact of

this population balance has significant implications on work, family and social policies.

- **Environment:** As the population grows, the impact on the environment increasing. How to meet our needs without endangering the environment is one of our greatest challenges. It is often the world's poor who are most affected by environmental degradation. Actions taken by all 7 billion people on the planet will make a collective difference in the health of the planet, especially for future generations.
- **Urbanization:** Today, about half of the world' population live in urban centers. Yet many often live in difficult conditions without proper housing, sanitation, electricity or waste collection. Careful planning of the anticipated urban growth will improve life for conditions for many of the world's poor.

The United Nations Population Fund has developed a series of fact sheets that provide key facts related to each of the issue areas listed above. The fact sheets give information on the current conditions of the world's population on each topic. The challenge, for each of us is to think about how we are making a difference to solve these problems. Because 7 billion actions CAN change the world.

<http://7billionactions.org/about>

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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](mailto:newsletter@firelightfoundation.org).