



## **Civil Society Support Program in Central Asia Innovative Solutions Grants Notice of Funding Opportunity**

### **1. BACKGROUND**

Eurasia Foundation (EF) announces a call for applications for Innovative Solutions Grants, an open, competitive competition for grant funding under the Civil Society Support Program in Central Asia (CSSP). CSSP is a five-year program funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and implemented by EF. The goal of the program is to cultivate a vibrant and responsive civil society in Central Asia.

In order to expand civic engagement and cross-sectoral partnerships in addressing social challenges, CSSP will provide funding to civil society representatives from Kazakhstan to implement projects based in new ideas, strategies and/or technologies that contribute to the solution of socially significant problems through Innovative Solutions Grants (ISG). ISGs will be awarded on a quarterly basis. The schedule of solicitations follows below.

### **2. OVERVIEW**

Innovative Solutions Grants are designed for civil society representatives proposing new solutions to social problems and civic initiatives that can lead to demonstrable positive change.

#### **Priority Areas**

ISGs are flexible and will support project ideas in the following areas:

- New approaches for creating dialogue and results through cross-sectoral partnerships
- Leveraging new technologies to solve pressing social or community problems
- Creative or experimental approaches to fundraising in the social sphere
- Creating mechanisms for citizen engagement in solving community problems

Illustrative examples of projects for ISG funding include:

- Campaigns using electronic petitions, social media and mobile apps to raise awareness of pressing social problems and propose solutions to address the needs and interests of the public;
- Collaboration with government agencies to address the issue of personal data protection;
- Public campaigns that unite civic activists, businesses and CSO experts to protect a shared public asset such as green spaces and playgrounds;
- Negotiated deals with local businesses to provide discounts to vulnerable groups, volunteer working time and offer material support during pandemic lockdowns;
- Crowdfunding campaigns to raise financial support for charitable causes.

### 3. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

**Registered CSOs and initiative groups from Kazakhstan** are eligible to apply.

Award activities may last for any period of time **up to 12 months**. Funding amounts for Innovative Solutions Grants will range **from 2,000 to 10,000 USD**. Applicants must specify the duration and amount requested in their applications (see below). **Applicants may only submit one application per cycle.**

### 4. USE OF FUNDS

Funding *may not* be used for expenses such as construction, the purchase of real estate, the purchase of alcoholic beverages, entertainment costs, business or first-class travel, or the repayment of debts. Salary and office expenses (rent, public utilities, etc.) not directly linked to the project implementation will not be covered.

Project budgets must be submitted in dollars (USD), but project costs will be paid to the grant recipient according to the agreed payment schedule in Kazakhstani tenge (KZT), at the official exchange rate on the date of signing the grant agreement.

### 5. APPLICATION PROCESS

All interested applicants must submit an application through [EF's Grant Management Platform](#). Applications will be accepted in Kazakh or Russian.

Applications from CSOs must include the following information:

- Key demographic and contact information
- Description and justification of the project proposal (MS Word, Maximum 5 pages)
- Resumes of key implementers
- Description of applicant experience (MS Word, template downloaded from EF's Grant Management Platform, maximum 1 page)
- (Optional) Video summary of project (Maximum duration 2 min.)
- Timeline of project activities or Gantt chart (MS Excel, template downloaded from EF's Grant Management Platform)
- Detailed budget (MS Excel, template downloaded from EF's Grant Management Platform)

CSO applicants will need to upload a scanned copy of the organization's legal entity certificate of registration.

If selected, organizations will need to provide the following additional documentation:

- Scanned copy of the Charter (only for organizations in .pdf or .jpeg or .png)
- Scanned copy of Certification of Absence of Tax Debt
- Proof of a bank account
- Copy of the passport or ID of the key implementors of the project

**Note:** The above requirements are not applicable for initiative groups. However, EF reserves the right to request additional documentation from such groups.

Instructions on how to apply through the EF Grant Management Platform can be found in [Russian](#) and [Kazakh](#).

If additional information or clarification on applications is needed, the applicant(s) will be notified in writing and will be asked to submit additional information and/or documentation.

## **6. APPLICATION EVALUATION CRITERIA**

Applications will be evaluated on a quarterly basis.

The selection process is open and competitive, and applications will be scored using the following criteria:

1. Alignment with the priorities of the competition
2. Demonstrated use of innovative approaches for solving issues of public concern
3. Clarity of proposed cross-sectoral partnership(s)
4. Timeliness of the proposed project theme
5. Clarity of project design, with a justification of its feasibility
6. Likelihood of achieving concrete and measurable results within the project timeline
7. Reasonableness of proposed budget estimate

Each evaluation criterion will be scored on the following 5-point scale:

- 5 points – application fully corresponds to the criterion
- 4 points – application largely corresponds to the criterion
- 3 points – application somewhat corresponds to the criterion
- 2 points – application slightly corresponds to the criterion
- 1 point – application doesn't correspond to the criterion

All applicants will be informed of the selection decision in writing.

Any questions concerning Innovative Solutions Grants should be submitted in writing to [KZgrants@eurasia.org](mailto:KZgrants@eurasia.org).

## **7. APPLICATION DEADLINES**

Interested applicants must submit their applications through the [EF's Grant Management Platform](#) according to the deadlines outlined below for each cycle.

Access Code: **ISG**

The Innovative Solutions Grants committees will meet to review applications on a quarterly basis. Grants will be reviewed in the order they were received and according to the following schedule:

### **Application Submission Cycles:**

- 13 November – 31 December 2020
- 1 January – 28 February 2021
- 1 March – 31 May 2021
- 1 June – 31 August 2021
- 1 September – 31 November 2021