

**„Addressing Hate-Based Crimes in Moldova Project” (AHC)**

**GRANTS PROGRAM**

**“Defending vulnerable people against hate crimes and discrimination in Moldova”**

**Request for Applications (RFA)**

Dear Applicant,

**Addressing Hate-Based Crimes in Moldova Project (AHC)** is a Federal Award, funded by the U.S. Department of State through the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, Award Number: SAQMIP23GR0171*,* implemented by Millennium Partners (MP). The Project is seeking Applications for implementing the Grants Program “Defending vulnerable people against hate crimes and discrimination in Moldova.”

The grants will be awarded and implemented in accordance with US Government regulations governing grants and MP internal grant management policies.

AHC/MP employees may not ask for, and applicants are prohibited from offering, any money, fee, commission, credit, gift, gratuity, thing of value, or compensation to obtain or reward improper favorable treatment regarding this solicitation. Any improper request from a project employee should be reported to the AHC Chief of Party.

Annexes included with this Request for Application:

**Annex A** – Application Form

**Annex B** – Budget

# SECTION I: PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

1. **Project Background**

Addressing Hate-Based Crimes in Moldova Project (AHC) is a 21-months project being implemented in Moldova from October 1, 2023 until June 30, 2025. Its purpose is to raise national awareness of hate crimes and discrimination, strengthen accountability for perpetrators through stronger legal frameworks, advocacy, and hate crimes data, and empower affected groups and individuals to seek human rights protections and legal remedies.

The AHC’s components include:

* **Objective 1:** Enable civil society to protect and advocate for human rights. The Project will build strong communities that work together to identify, document, monitor, and report cases of discrimination and hate-based crimes.
* **Objective 2:** Build legal skills and institutions to address hate-based crimes and hold perpetrators accountable. To this end, AHC will engage the Equality Council and the central and regional offices of the Ombudsman to collaboratively engage authorities in addressing hate crimes and also build the capacity of legal professionals to detect, document, and punish hate crimes.

**B. Grants Program objectives**

AHC/MP invites qualified CSOs representing and defending **people with disabilities**, CSOs representing and defending the rights of the **Jewish minority** and/or actively fighting against the propagation of antisemitism, and CSOs representing and defending people facing **multiple type discrimination** and hate crimes (e.g. Roma refugee women, disabled refugees, Roma/Jewish disabled etc.) to propose their unique methodologies and solutions to the following objectives:

***Objective 1.******Promote, protect and advocate to effectively address discrimination and hate-based crimes***

The applicants are invited to consider appropriate activities aimed to achieve the following key priorities:

1. Raising the level of legal culture and awareness of Moldovans, especially about discrimination and hate crimes and discrimination.
2. Increasing the protection of rights and freedoms of people with disabilities, people facing multiple types of discrimination and hate crimes and the Jewish minority through building strong and sustainable connections (networks) of civil society organizations (CSOs), community leaders and legal professionals to leverage resources and develop innovative approaches for addressing discrimination and hate crimes and fighting against the perpetuation of antisemitism.
3. Promoting and advocating for new and needed developments and legislative amendments to address discrimination and hate crimes/offenses.
4. Supporting holistically victims of hate-based crimes and discrimination, particularly people with disabilities, the Jewish minority and people facing multiple type discrimination and hate crimes: offering them legal assistance, referring the victims to relevant psychological support, supporting and offering assistance to the victims for defending rights in the judicial system.

**Objective 2.** **Support institutions and legal professionals to effectively address hate crimes/offenses and hold perpetrators accountable.**

Illustrative support includes, but is not limited to:

* establish connections with both law enforcement bodies, local CSOs and vulnerable groups to facilitate regular meetings, active dialogues, and information exchange;
* strengthen the ability of institutions and legal professionals, particularly those involved in judicial area (judges, prosecutors, lawyers) from North, Centre, and South Moldova to effectively address hate crimes/offenses.
* collaborate with the Ombudsperson’s office and the Equality Council for strengthening the capacity of these institutions at regional level (North, Centre, South).
* collaborate with the Ministry of Education and Research, Republican Center for Psycho-pedagogical Assistance, District psycho-pedagogical assistance services, as well as other relevant Local Public Authorities in the field of education, to strengthen the capacity of these institutions to effectively address discrimination, hate crimes and offenses in educational system.

1. **Eligibility and qualification requirements**

In order to be eligible for a grant, the Applicant must be a non-governmental organization legally registered in Moldova.

In addition, Applicants:

1. May only submit one application per prime organization under this RFA.
2. Must include in their applications expected outcomes and results consistent with and linked to AHC’s objectives
3. Applicants must have established outreach capabilities with linkages to the vulnerable group(s). This should be reflected by the incorporation of the beneficiary perspective in the application;
4. Applicants must display sound management in the form of standard operation procedures: financial, administrative, and technical policies and procedures and present a system of internal controls that safeguard assets; protect against fraud, waste, and abuse; and support the achievement of program goals and objectives. AHC/MP will assess this capability prior to awarding a grant.
5. AHC/MP encourages applications from human rights organizations defending rights of people with disabilities, rights of the Jewish minority and/or of other vulnerable/marginalized groups facing multiple type discrimination.

This Grants Program places special emphasis on proposals with innovative elements, strategic partnerships, and functional coalitions focused on improving human rights and freedoms.

**Ineligible organizations:**

* Organizations that are not legally registered;
* Government entities;
* Any state-owned institutions;
* Any public international organizations (PIOs);
* Political parties, groupings, or institutions or their subsidiaries and affiliates;
* Organizations that advocate, promote, or espouse anti-democratic policies or illegal activities;
* Faith-based organizations whose objectives are for discriminatory and religious purposes, and whose main objective for the grant is of a religious nature;
* Any entity whose name appears on the List of Parties Excluded from Federal Procurement and Non-procurement Programs (<http://www.sam.gov>);
* Any entity with a member that appears on the U.S. Department of Treasury Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) Specially Designated Nationals (SDN) and Blocked Persons list.
* An organization that refuses to sign the required certifications.

# SECTION II: APPLICATION SUBMISSION INFORMATION

1. **Type of grant and amount**

This Grants Program is conceptualized as a Fixed Amount Award (FAA) to be implemented and administered in accordance with the applicable donor regulations (2 CFR §200, 2 CFR §600/DOSAR, FAR).

AHC/MP funding for any individual grant will not exceed **$20,000** per year. All costs funded by the grant must be allowable, allocable and reasonable. Grant applications must be supported by a detailed and realistic budget as described in Annex 2.

It is expected to issue several FAAs for a period of performance of maximum 10 months. AHC will not accept Applications that include activities for which the due date will go beyond April 30, 2025.

1. **Application and submission information**

The applicant will submit an Application **(Annex 1)** and a Budget **(Annex 2)**. The applicant will submit the following documents:

* 1. Extract from the State Register/ Certificate of Registration
  2. The last financial report
  3. The last activity report
  4. CV of the key personnel

Applications will be evaluated against the merit review criteria listed below. If the applicant successfully meets or exceeds the merit review criteria, they will be invited to negotiate the budget. Only those applicants, who meet or exceed the merit review criteria at the first stage, will be invited to negotiate budgets and sign Grant Agreement.

Application should be submitted in English via email [moldovaprogram@gmail.com](mailto:moldovaprogram@gmail.com). Applications must be submitted no later than 23:59 pm local time, on **April 14, 2024**. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

Please submit all questions concerning this RFA to the e-mail: [moldovaprogram@gmail.com](mailto:moldovaprogram@gmail.com). AHC/MP will answers questions and assist applicants in understanding the application process at the request of applicants, until April 2, 2024.

***The issuance of this Request for Application does not commit AHC/MP to make an award to any prospective grantee responding to this solicitation. Prospective grantees will not be reimbursed for costs incurred in the preparation and submission of an application. AHC/MP reserves the right to reject any and all applications, or to make an award without further discussion or negotiations.***

1. **Merit review criteria**

An internal review panel comprised of the AHC technical implementation staff will review all applications and clarify all issues. A Selection Commission will further evaluate all applications against the criteria below.

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| **Strategic Approach (30 points total)** |
| 1. Relevance to AHC project objectives (10 points) |
| 2. Sustainability of activities (10 points) |
| 3. Anticipated impact on beneficiaries/public (10 points) |
| **Technical Approach (30 points total)** |
| 1. Goals clearly identified (10 points) |
| 2. Innovative approach (10 points) |
| 3. Knowledge of issues to be addressed (10 points) |
| **Organizational Capacity (20 points total)** |
| 1. Past performance in similar projects (5 points) |
| 2. Staff/expert skills (5 points) |
| 3. Financial capacity/systems (5 points) |
| 4. Experience in geographic region (5 points) |
| **SCORE TOTAL (80 points total)** |

# SECTION III: REPORTING AND MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

1. **Reporting requirements**

The FAA type of grant is based on milestones that mark the completion of a product, task, or deliverable that can be easily verified. Thus, depending on the project, the grantee will develop appropriate milestones and deliverables, to be reported according to the schedule.

The milestone table (*please see the Annex 1: Project Milestones and Deliverables, Section III b*) should include, as a first milestone, the development of an action plan and the development of a Final Narrative Report as a last Project Milestone. However, depending on the project complexity, the grantee will include an Intermediate Narrative Report.

*Note: An individual milestone payment will not necessarily reflect the costs incurred by the grantee for that milestone, but the combined total of the milestone payments must reflect the total costs expected to be incurred for performance of the grant. In other words, the total cost of the grant must be reasonable; however, such amount may not be exactly allocated to milestones as milestone amounts must be determined to provide liquidity throughout the life of implementation. Allocation of payments based on milestones should enable the grantee to move forward with the activity and help obtain assets needed for the next milestone.*

1. **Monitoring and Evaluation**

The Grantee should set indicators to be collected for each activity and report on them when submitting Narrative reports.

1. **Certifications required of prospective grantees**

All sub-awardees will sigh the Certification regarding Lobbying when signing the Grant contract.