

**GRANT PROGRAM**

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

**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 Consulting (MPC). The Project is seeking Applications for implementing the Grants Program “Addressing Hate-Based Crimes in Moldova”.

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

AHC/MPC 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 Chief of Party.

Annexes included with this Request for Application:

**Annex A** – Application Form

**Annex B** – Budget

# SECTION I: PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

1. **Background and the Scope of Addressing Hate-Based Crimes in Moldova Project**

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. To counter this, AHC will develop its Cluster groups of CSOs, paralegals, community leaders, and legal professionals, who will collaborate to address hate crimes effectively. The project will also support regional CSOs for selected grassroots activities. The Project will thus 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 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. A key activity under this objective is developing an Assessment on Hate-Based Crime Data that will map out current practices and gaps in data collection and sharing related to hate crimes and proposing improved mechanisms and systems, including automated data collection, reporting, and exchange among various stakeholders and authorities.
1. **Grants Program objectives**

AHC/MPC invites qualified organizations 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-based crimes.
2. Increasing the protection of rights and freedoms of the most vulnerable groups 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 in the targeted region.
3. Promoting and advocating for new and needed developments and legislative amendments to address discrimination and hate crimes.
4. Supporting holistically victims of hate-based crimes and discrimination: offering them legal assistance, referring the victim to relevant psychological support, supporting and offering assistance to the victim for defending rights in the judicial system.

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

Illustrative support includes, but is not limited to:

* establish connections with both law enforcement bodies, local NGOs and vulnerable groups to facilitate regular meetings, active dialogues, and information exchange;
* strengthen the ability of institutions and legal professionals from target regions of Moldova (North, Centre, South) to effectively address hate-based crimes.
* collaborate with the Ombudsperson’s office and the Equality Council for strengthening the capacity of these institutions at regional level (North, Centre, South).
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 be able to demonstrate successful past performance in implementation of similar programs;
4. 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;
5. 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/MPC will assess this capability prior to awarding a grant.

AHC/MPC encourages applications from organizations that meet the eligibility criteria as follows:

* Network organizations that have resources at local level in remote localities
* Ethnic-linguistic minorities
* LGBT organizations
* Women rights organizations
* People with disabilities’ organizations
* Child protection organizations
* Human rights organizations of other vulnerable/marginalized groups (HIV/AIDS+ individuals, drug users, sex workers, etc.)

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/MPC funding for any individual grant will not exceed **$20,000** per year. It is envisaged that AHC will primarily make small grants between $5,000 and $15,000 for discrete short-term activities that directly support the objectives of the AHC. 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 4-6 FAAs (one of them – for media organizations) for a maximum of one year period of performance. AHC will not accept Applications the due date of which exceeds 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. Certificate of Registration
	2. Extract from the State Register
	3. The last financial report
	4. The last activity report

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 language via email moldovaprogram@gmail.com. Applications must be submitted no later than 23:59 pm local time, on **January 20, 2024**. Late or unresponsive applications will not be considered.

Please submit all questions concerning this RFA to the e-mail: moldovaprogram@gmail.com. AHC/MPC will assist applicants in understanding the application process at the request of applicants, until December 30, 2023.

***The issuance of this Request for Application does not commit AHC/MPC 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/MPC 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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| **Grant Proposal Scoring** |
| **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**

FAA type of grant does not require a monitoring and evaluation plan. It is required though that the grantee will 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.**