

**U.S. Department of State  
U.S. Consulate General Ho Chi Minh City  
Notice of Funding Opportunity**

**Program Office:** Public Affairs Section  
**Funding Opportunity Title:** 2020 Alumni Small Grants Competition  
**Funding Instrument Type:** Grant or Cooperative Agreement  
**Funding Opportunity Number:** SVM700-20-PAS-008  
**Deadline for Applications:** April 1, 2020 (11:59 p.m.)  
**CFDA Number:** 19.040 - Public Diplomacy Programs

**A. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

The U.S. Consulate General Ho Chi Minh City invites Vietnamese alumni of U.S. Government-funded (USG) exchange programs to submit proposals for the 2020 Alumni Small Grants Competition. These grants aim to create opportunities for alumni to work together on a shared vision of a brighter future for Vietnam and the U.S.-Vietnam relationship by addressing shared concerns. Alumni can submit proposals as individuals or under the auspices of a non-profit organization in which alumni are working. Project budgets cannot exceed **\$10,000**. Activities will only be funded in the provinces south of and including Thua Thien Hue. Proposals must be in English and with the required forms. The deadline for submitting an application is **11:59 p.m., April 1, 2020**. LATE PROPOSALS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.

**B. ELIGIBILITY**

Eligible teams **must include at least three alumni members** who have participated in one of the following U.S. Government-sponsored programs, including (but not limited to):

- Fulbright Program (including Fulbright Economics Teaching Program - FETP)
- Hubert Humphrey Fellowship Program
- International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP)
- International Visitor Program on Demand (former Voluntary Visitor Program)
- Programs under the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), e.g.: ASEAN Youth Volunteer Program (AYVP); the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), e.g.: Borlaug
- Eisenhower Fellowship Program
- Global Undergraduate Exchange Program (UGRAD)
- Studies of the U.S. Institute (SUSI)
- English Language Programs (English Access Micro-scholarships, AE-Teachers, Brunei-U.S. Partnership, Access Teacher Exchange Program)
- Teacher Excellence Awards (TEA)
- Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI) programs (Professional and Academic Fellows, regional exchanges, YSEALI Summer School)
- Southeast Asia Youth Leadership Program (SEAYLP)

## **C. PRIORITY PROGRAM OBJECTIVES AND TARGET AUDIENCE**

### **Priority Objectives:**

Proposals must explicitly address one or more of the priority objectives listed below:

- **Economic Prosperity:** improved opportunities for U.S. businesses, labor standards, developing soft skills to work with U.S. businesses, reducing the bilateral trade deficit, intellectual property rights, promotion of U.S. products, or U.S. business values.
- **Security:** rule of law, combating transnational crime, combating trafficking in persons, improving relations with the Vietnamese diaspora community.
- **Education:** English teaching, improving teaching methods, curriculum development, modernizing education systems, Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM).
- **Inclusiveness:** women's rights and empowerment, access and legal reform for disabled persons, LGBT rights, ethnic/religious minorities' rights, civil society development.
- **Fundamental Freedoms:** freedom of expression, press, association, religion.
- **Sustainable Development:** Lower Mekong Initiative, environmental standards, climate mitigation and adaptation.

### **Target Audience:**

The target audience for successful projects is 15-40 years old.

### **Length of performance period:**

Projects generally must be completed in one year but can be longer in certain circumstances. The Public Affairs Section will entertain applications for continuation grants funded under these awards on a non-competitive basis, subject to availability of funds, satisfactory progress of the program, and a determination that continued funding would be in the best interest of the U.S. Department of State.

### **Priority Region:**

Activities will only be funded in the provinces south of and including Thua Thien Hue. Priority given to projects in Ho Chi Minh City, Central Coastal Vietnam, and the Mekong Delta.

## **D. SELECTION CRITERIA AND REVIEW PROCESS**

A Grants Review Panel from the U.S. Consulate will review and select finalists.

### **Priority will be given to projects that have:**

- Relevance to the themes noted above
- Number of alumni from different programs or an alumni thematic group (alumni working in a common field)
- The greatest geographic and/or demographic reach
- Demonstrated impact and monitoring plan
- Relevant expertise
- Level of cost-sharing (any cost shared by alumni instead of being requested from the Consulate, e.g.: venue rental, voluntary contribution of time, travel, accommodation, coordination, etc.)
- Implementation in underserved locations

### **Grant funds can be used to:**

- Initiate activities for an alumni-run group

- Initiate a public or community service program
- Launch a pilot program at a non-governmental organization or academic institution
- Organize training programs or workshops for professional colleagues and/or other alumni
- Develop and publish curricula, textbooks, or related reference or educational materials
- Conduct alumni networking events
- Conduct community development projects judged by the grants selection committee to be in the interest of the above program goals
- Award only a reasonable amount of honorarium to trainers

**Grant funds *CANNOT* be used to:**

- Cover excessive costs related to meals, drinks (no alcohol is allowed), gifts, etc.
- Support individual research projects of alumni
- Support for-profit entities
- Fund projects WITHOUT a public outreach component

**E. HOW TO APPLY**

**Please follow all instructions below carefully.**

**Proposals that do not meet the requirements of this announcement or fail to comply with the stated requirements will be deemed ineligible and will not be reviewed.**

Please ensure:

1. The proposal clearly addresses the goals and objectives of this funding opportunity;
2. All documents are in English;
3. All budgets are in U.S. dollars All pages are numbered;
4. All documents are formatted to 8 ½ x 11 paper;
5. All Microsoft Word documents are single-spaced, 12 point Times New Roman font, with a minimum of 1-inch margins.

**Step 1: Mandatory forms:**

- SF424 (Application for Federal Assistance - Organizations) at <https://vn.usembassy.gov/sf424> OR SF424I (Application for Federal Assistance - Individuals) at <https://vn.usembassy.gov/sf424i>
- SF424A (Budget Information for Non-Construction programs) at <https://vn.usembassy.gov/sf424a>

**Step 2: Proposal**

Our suggested proposal form can be found on our website: <https://vn.usembassy.gov/proposal>. You may use your own proposal format, but it must include all the items below.

- **Summary page:** include the applicant name and organization, project title, project period proposed start and end date, and brief purpose of the project.
- **Introduction to Organizational or Individual and the Capacity:** a description that shows ability to carry out the project, including information on all previous grants from the U.S. Consulate and/or U.S. government agencies.
- **Project Justification/Needs Statement:** Clear, concise and well-supported statement of the problem to be addressed and why the proposed project is needed
- **Project Goals, Objectives:** The “goals” describe what the project is intended to achieve. The “objectives” refer to the intermediate accomplishments on the way to the goals, as

well as the sustainability and impact of the project. These should be achievable and measurable.

- **Project Activities:** Describe the project activities and how they will help achieve the objectives, including a clear public outreach component.
- **Implementation Timeline:** The proposed timeline for the project activities. Include the dates, times, and locations of planned activities and events.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation Plan:** This is an important part of successful grants. Throughout the time-frame of the grant, how will the activities be monitored to ensure they are happening in a timely manner, and how will the program be evaluated to make sure it is meeting the goals of the grant? What is the impact of a successful project?
- **Future Funding or Sustainability:** Applicant's plan for continuing the program beyond the grant period, or the availability of other resources, if applicable
- **Key Personnel:** Names, titles, roles and experience/qualifications of key personnel involved in the project. What proportion of their time will be used in support of this project?
- **Project Partners:** List the names and type of involvement of key partner organizations and sub-awardees.

### **Step 3: Budget Justification and Narrative**

After filling out the SF-424A Budget (above), use a separate sheet to describe each of the budget expenses in detail at [https://vn.usembassy.gov/budget\\_narrative](https://vn.usembassy.gov/budget_narrative)

### **Step 4: Required Registrations**

All organizations applying for grants (except individuals) must obtain these registrations. All are free of charge:

Apply for a DUNS number<sup>1</sup>

Organizations must have a Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number from Dun & Bradstreet. If your organization does not have one already, you may obtain one by calling 1-866-705-5711 or visiting <http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform>

**Step 5:** Submit your complete package to [HCMCGrants@state.gov](mailto:HCMCGrants@state.gov) with subject: "ALUMNI GRANT – SVM70020PAS008".

*Leaders of winning grant proposals will be contacted no later than **June 30, 2020**. Once a decision is made to fund your proposal, and all documentation is complete we will begin the process of funding.*

## **F. FEDERAL AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION**

### **1. Federal Award Notices**

The successful applicant will be notified via email that its proposal has been selected to move forward in the review process; this email IS NOT an authorization to begin performance. The

---

<sup>1</sup> For DUNS support: <http://support.dnb.com/>

notice of Federal award signed by the Grants Officer (or equivalent) is the authorizing document. It shall be written, signed, awarded, and administered by the Grants Officer. The Grants Officer is the Government Official delegated the authority by the U.S. Department of State Procurement Executive to write, award, and administer grants and cooperative agreements. The assistance award agreement is the authorizing document and it will be provided to the Recipient through email transmission. The recipient may only incur obligations against the award beginning on the start date outlined in the DS-1909/DS-1909i award document that has been signed by the Grants Officer. Organizations whose applications will not be funded will also be notified via email, usually within 60 days, but may take longer. Decisions on funding are non-reviewable, nor subject to appeal.

## 2. Policy requirements

Before submitting an application, applicants should review all the terms and conditions and required certifications which will apply to this award, to ensure that they will be able to comply. These include:

- **Department of State Standard Terms and Conditions**, available at <https://vn.edit.usembassy.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/40/U.S.-Department-of-State-Standard-Terms-and-Conditions-10-01-2019508.pdf>
- All applicants must adhere to the regulations found in [\*\*2 CFR 200, 2 CFR 600 Uniform Administrative Requirements, Costs Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards\*\*](#).
- **Branding Requirements:** As a condition of receipt of a grant award, all materials produced pursuant to the award, including training materials, materials for recipients or materials to communicate or promote with foreign audiences a program, event, project, or some other activity under an agreement, including but not limited to invitations to events, press materials, and backdrops, podium signs, etc. must be marked appropriately with the standard, rectangular U.S. flag and American Center logo in a size and prominence equal to (or greater than) any other logo or identity.

## 3. Reporting Requirements

Recipients are required to submit quarterly (calendar year) program progress and financial reports electronically throughout the project period. Final certified programmatic and financial reports are due 60 days after the close of the project period.

First Quarter (January 1 – March 31): Report due by March 31

Second Quarter (April 1 – June 30): Report due by June 30

Third Quarter (July 1 – September 30): Report due by September 30

Fourth Quarter (October 1 – December 31): Report due by December 31

Awardees that are deemed to be high risk may be required to submit more extensive and frequent reports until their high-risk designation has been removed.

The Awardee must also provide the Consulate on an annual basis an inventory of all the U.S. government provided equipment using the SF428 form.

**Failure to comply with the reporting requirement may result in a loss of funds and will adversely affect your ability to successfully apply for future grants.**

## **G. OTHER INFORMATION**

### 1. Guidelines for Budget Justification

**Personnel and Fringe Benefits:** Describe the wages, salaries, and benefits of temporary or permanent staff who will be working directly for the applicant on the project, and the percentage of their time that will be spent on the project.

**Travel:** Estimate the costs of travel and per diem for this project, for both program staff, consultants or speakers, and participants/beneficiaries. If the project involves international travel, include a brief statement of justification for that travel.

**Equipment:** Describe any machinery, furniture, or other personal property that is required for the project, which has a useful life of more than one year (or a life longer than the duration of the project), and costs at least \$5,000 per unit.

**Supplies:** List and describe all the items and materials, including any computer devices, that are needed for the project. If an item costs more than \$5,000 per unit, then put it in the budget under Equipment.

**Contractual:** Describe goods and services that the applicant plans to acquire through a contract with a vendor. Also describe any sub-awards to non-profit partners that will help carry out the project activities.

**Other Direct Costs:** Describe other costs directly associated with the project, which do not fit in the other categories. For example, shipping costs for materials and equipment or applicable taxes. All “Other” or “Miscellaneous” expenses must be itemized and explained.

**Indirect Costs:** These are costs that cannot be linked directly to the project activities, such as overhead costs needed to help keep the organization operating. If your organization has a Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate (NICRA) and includes NICRA charges in the budget, attach a copy of your latest NICRA. Organizations that have never had a NICRA may request indirect costs of 10% of the modified total direct costs as defined in 2 CFR 200.68.

“**Cost Sharing**” refers to contributions from the organization or other entities other than the U.S. Embassy. It also includes in-kind contributions such as volunteers’ time and donated venues.

**Alcoholic Beverages:** Please note that award funds cannot be used for alcoholic beverages.

### 2. Disclaimers

The Federal government is not obligated to make any Federal award as a result of the

announcement. Issuance of this NOFO does not constitute an award commitment on the part of the U.S. government, nor does it commit the U.S. government to pay for costs incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals. Further, the U.S. government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals received. The U.S. government also reserves the right to make an award in excess of the award ceiling.

If a proposal is funded, the Department of State has no obligation to provide any additional future funding in connection with the award. Renewal of an award to increase funding or extend the period of performance is at the total discretion of the Department of State.

This NOFO is subject to funds availability. Awards may be granted only if appropriated funds are allocated to the United States Consulate General by Department of State central budget authorities.

### 3. Copyrights and Proprietary Information

If any of the information contained in your application is proprietary, please note in the footer of the appropriate pages that the information is Confidential – Proprietary. Applicants should also note what parts of the application, program, concept, etc. are covered by copyright(s), trademark(s), or any other intellectual property rights and provide copies of the relevant documentation to support these copyrights.