

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS (RFA)

THE RASANA PROGRAM

I. Summary:

Description: Women in Media Grant Fund for RASANA

Date, Publication: 26 July 2017.

Submission Deadline: 5PM, 15 August 2017 (Kabul time, GMT +4.5)

Internews invites Afghan women-run or women-owned media entities to submit applications for the Women in Media Grants Fund of the USAID supported Rasana program. Subgrants issued under the Women and Media Grant Fund RFA will fund **women-focused content and initiatives to support women journalists and women-run/-owned media entities.**

This RFA is open to Afghan **women-run or women-owned media entities – this includes media outlets (print, radio, TV and web-based) and women journalist associations or support groups.** Organizations must be registered and able to meet the financial/administrative obligations of a small grant.

Internews invites applications submitted via email to rasanaproposals@internews.org with copy to Internews Grants Manager Abdul Jalal Babakhil ababakhil@internews.org and with Women in Media subgrants indicated in the subject line.

All questions regarding this RFA should be directed via email to rasanaproposals@internews.org with copy to ababakhil@internews.org and with Women in Media subgrants mentioned in the subject line.

Interested organizations are invited to attend an information session on Aug 03, 2017, 2PM at the Internews office in Kabul. Participation is also possible via Skype at the same date and time. Please confirm your participation via email to hahmadi@internews.org with copy to ababakhil@internews.org, and indicate if you wish to participate in person or via Skype.

II. Instructions to Respondents:

Applications must be submitted by email. Individual messages may not exceed 2.5MB. The subject line must include the words "Response to RFA Women in Media subgrants". The documents constituting the application must be included as attachments. The email must list and describe the documents to be included as parts of the application. If more than one message is required to transmit the application, each message must be identified as part of a multi-part submission (e.g. "message 1 of 3").

Any portion of the application containing confidential or proprietary information should be clearly marked within the application itself either by highlighting or italics. The email must describe specifically how these sections are identified.

All applications submitted will be acknowledged within three (3) working days and will note the documents submitted. The respondent is responsible for ensuring and confirming that the emails comprising the application are received by the Internews representatives indicated in the Summary above.

III. Project Goal:

Internews is implementing the Rasana program, awarded by USAID under a cooperative agreement (Award No: AID-306-A-17-00001), in March 2017. The goal of Rasana is to support the Afghan media sector to provide reliable and balanced information to citizens across the country. The program aims to achieve this goal through four program areas:

- 1) support and training for women journalists

- 2) investigative journalism initiatives
- 3) advocacy and training for the protection of journalists
- 4) expanding the outreach of media through small grants for content production in underserved areas

Rasana provides particular support to women journalists and women-run or managed media entities, including support to media outlets and organizations that specifically advance the voices and role of women in the media, and for the development of innovative and creative ideas to strengthen women's role in the media sector. The sub grants provided by the openly competed small grant pool – the Women in Media Grant Fund – established under Rasana, will support applications that demonstrate how they seek to support the advancement of women journalists. Priorities for funding include:

- a) **Content** produced by women media outlets on issues of national/local importance that emphasizes a gender-sensitive approach to reporting. This could include, for example, TV shows on women's civil society activities; radio programs on gendered perceptions of the peace process; documentaries on women business leaders or parliamentarians.
- b) **Initiatives to support women journalists** to increase their confidence and capacity to participate in the media sector. This could include, for example, support for local journalists to participate in provincial level networking meetings, mentoring programs between older and younger women journalists, exchange trips or advocacy/training initiatives for gendered policies and practices that reduce the workplace harassment faced by women journalists.

IV. Scope of Work:

Internews invites Afghan women-run or women-owned media entities to submit applications for the Women in Media subgrants for the Rasana program. Subgrants issued under the Women and Media Grant Fund RFA will fund **women-focused content, initiatives to support women journalists and women-run/-owned media entities.**

The following is a list of illustrative Women in Media Grant initiatives that are envisaged, but not limited to, under this award:

- Support to women-led media to produce content beyond gendered stereotypes.
- Provincial level networking and learning seminars to raise the confidence of women journalists and create better support networks for women in media.
- Outreach communication programs in the community and with religious leaders that highlight the importance of women journalists and combat culturally negative stereotypes
- Work with media outlets to develop and advocate for better working practices, policies and environments for women journalists, and particularly measures to address harassment.
- Providing legal/professional support to women journalists affected by harassment.
- Profiling women journalists in radio/TV content to raise awareness of the importance of their role in media
- Mentoring programs between senior and junior women journalists.
- Surveys to shed light on the current position of women within the media sector that will form the basis for advocacy efforts.

Construction activities will not be considered for award.

V. Award Amount:

Under this RFA, Internews anticipates awarding four to six grants of \$10,000-\$22,500 each, for a grant period of 6 - 9-months

Total funding pool available: USD \$90,000

Maximum funds available per award: USD \$22,500

Organizations may submit only one application.

VI. Timeline:

Internews anticipates awarding subgrants to the selected respondents on or before 30th September 2017, for a performance of up to 6 months, ending April 2018.

VII. Eligibility:

Applicants must meet the following criteria in order to be considered eligible for the award resulting from this RFA:

- A local, independent and registered media organization or entity
- All applicants must be in good standing in terms of **performance and reporting under previous subgrants** from Internews or any other organization, if applicable;
- All applicants should be committed to meet all **reporting requirements and deadlines**;

VIII. Application Submittal Requirements:

Application(s) must meet the following requirements:

- Include a signature page which bears the signature, title and full contact information of the authorized representative of the respondent, including email address and phone number (included as the cover page of Annex 2 hereto).
- Include a completed Subgrant Application, using the **Women and Media Grant Fund Application Template**, Annex 2 hereto.
- Include a Detailed Budget (with budget narrative explanation and description of all costs presented), using the **Women and Media Grant Fund Detailed Budget Template**, Annex 1 hereto.
- Include a copy of the applicant **organization's valid registration certification**.

All Applications(s) must be submitted in English. However, additional explanatory notes, with reference to relevant sections of the proposal, may be submitted in Dari/Pashto.

IX. Evaluation Criteria:

Applications will be reviewed and evaluated on the following criteria, starting with the criterion of the most relative importance (1) and decreasing further down the list (through 3):

- 1) Quality of project idea, clear presentation of the proposed activities and outcomes;
- 2) Institution's record and capacity as a media outlet or entity with experience in working on women in media issues
- 3) Cost effectiveness, clear explanation and description of all costs presented

Awards shall be made to the respondent whose application is responsive to the RFA and is most advantageous to the project, all factors considered.

X. Award Notification and Responses

Successful respondent(s) will be notified of selection within thirty (30) working days following the deadline for submission of applications.

The successful respondent(s) must confirm the application and acceptance of the selection within two (2) working days of selection notification or the selection will be withdrawn due to non-responsive respondent and offered to the next most qualified respondent.

Once selection is finalized, unsuccessful applicants will be notified that an award has been made.

Notice of selection of the application is not to be construed as a contract or subgrant award. Once the selection is confirmed, a final subgrant agreement will be negotiated and signed with the successful respondent.

Annexes:

1. *Women and Media Grant Fund* Detailed Budget Template (Annex 1)
2. *Women and Media Grant Fund* Application Template (Annex 2)

[End of RFA]