

**REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS (RFA)****THE RASANA PROGRAM****I. Summary:**

**Description:** Small Grants Fund for Rasana

**Date, Publication:** 24 September 2019.

**Submission Deadline:** 5PM, 20 October 2019 (Kabul time, GMT +4.5)

Internews invites Afghan media outlets in the provinces (**excluding Kabul, Balkh, Herat,**) to submit applications for the Small Grants Fund of the USAID supported Rasana program. Sub grants issued under the Small Grant Fund RFA will fund the **production of content on local public interest topics from radio and TV** in unstable and underserved areas of Afghanistan.

This RFA is open to **Afghan owned media outlets (Radio and TV) in unstable and underserved areas of Afghanistan**. 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](mailto:rasanaproposals@internews.org) with copy to Internews Sr. Grants Officer Fazel Ahmad Ahamdi [FAHMADI@INTERNEWS.ORG](mailto:FAHMADI@INTERNEWS.ORG) and with *Small Grants Fund* indicated in the subject line. **All Applications must be submitted in English.**

All questions regarding this RFA should be directed via email to [rasanaproposals@internews.org](mailto:rasanaproposals@internews.org) with copy to [FAHMADI@INTERNEWS.ORG](mailto:FAHMADI@INTERNEWS.ORG) and with *Small Grants Fund* mentioned in the subject line.

Interested organizations are invited to attend an information session on October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019, 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](mailto:HAHMADI@INTERNEWS.ORG) with copy to [FAHMADI@INTERNEWS.ORG](mailto:FAHMADI@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 Small Grants Fund". 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 area:

- 1) Support and training for women journalists
- 2) Support for 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

Under Objective Four of the program - expanding the outreach of media through small grants for content production in underserved areas - Rasana provides particular support to TV and radio stations in the provinces of the country, especially those working in unstable areas, to produce public interest media content, news/feature stories, that address stories and issues from a local perspective that inform women about their rights. This could include, for example, stories that link audiences to the activities of local women's CSOs, interviews and stories about local women leaders, discussions with community and religious leaders on the importance of women's rights, information on government-led programs.

The sub grants provided by the openly competed grant pool – the Small Grants Fund – established under Rasana, will support applications that demonstrate how their proposed stories are relevant and important in the local context; how the content will engage and inform local audiences; and how they will prevent content from jeopardizing the safety of their staff.

#### **IV. Scope of Work:**

Internews invites Afghan media outlets to submit applications for the Small Grants Fund for the Rasana program. Sub grants issued under the Small Grants Fund RFA will fund media outlets to produce public interest media content – news or features stories - that addresses issues from a local perspective and inform women about their rights.

**Applications from the following provinces are not eligible for Rasana Small Grants Fund awards: Kabul, Balkh and Herat**

Construction activities will not be considered for award.

#### **V. Award Amount:**

Under this RFA, Internews anticipates awarding 10 grants of up to of \$ 8,000 each, for a grant period of 2 - 3 months

Total funding pool available: USD \$80,000

Maximum funds available per award: USD \$8,000

Organizations may submit only one application.

#### **VI. Timeline:**

Internews anticipates awarding sub grants to the selected respondents in November 2019, for a performance of up to 2– 3 months, ending January/February 2020.

#### **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 holding below licenses;
- **Ministry of Information and Culture,**
- **Ministry of Communication and Information Technology (ATRA)**
- **AISA or Ministry of Commerce**
- In case of non-profit media outlet, a license from **Ministry of Economics or Ministry of Justice**

- All applicants must be in good standing in terms of **performance and reporting under previous sub grants** 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 ***Small Grants Fund Application Template***, Annex 2 hereto.
- Include a Detailed Budget (with budget narrative explanation and description of all costs presented), using the ***Small Grants Fund Detailed Budget Template***, Annex 1 hereto.
- Include a copy of the applicant **organization's valid registration certification** (as stated in **VII. Eligibility** section).

**All Application (s) must be submitted in English.**

### 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 4):

- 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) Media outlet operating in underserved or/and unsecured areas.
- 4) 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. ***Small Grants Fund SGF\_Detailed Budget Template*** (Annex 1)
2. ***Small Grants Fund SGF\_Application Template*** (Annex 2)

[End of RFA]