

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
U.S. EMBASSY Niamey
Notice of Funding Opportunity

Funding Opportunity Title: Julia Taft for refugees FY2022
Funding Opportunity Number: Niger-Taft-Grant-2022

Deadline for Applications: February 2nd, 2022
CFDA Number: 19.517 - Overseas Refugee Assistance Programs for Africa
Total Amount Available: \$25,000

A. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

As a result of continuous deterioration of security in its borders, Niger has been accumulating situations of forced displacement (out and in) since 2012, including the latest waves from Burkina Faso, Mali and northwestern Nigeria. Based on its mandate, UNHCR, in coordination with the Governments of the region as well as key humanitarian and development actors, are working to provide protection and seek solutions for the benefit of refugees, IDPs, returnees, persons at risk of statelessness and host communities. In the October 2021 Factsheet, the UNHCR recorded an increase in the number of refugees throughout the country: 129,835 Nigerian refugees in Diffa, 57,122 refugees in Maradi, 61,139 Malian refugees, 11,605 refugees from Burkina Faso in the Tillaberi region. From the USD 110.7 million necessary for the UNHCR operation in Niger in 2021, only 70.5 million (64%) was financed by donors; thereby a gap of 40.2 M (36%). Challenges are considerable, and refugees needs could not be entirely met in some areas.

Have you identified a gap in humanitarian assistance in an area in Niger? The Julia Taft Fund is here to support local or national NGOs fill those gaps, and thereby build their own capacity in refugees assistance. The U.S. Embassy Niamey announces an open competition for local organizations to submit applications to carry out projects that seek to provide assistance to vulnerable refugee families in Niger. Please carefully read all instructions below for details.

Priority Region:

All regions of Niger

Program Objectives:

What is the goal of the Taft Refugee Fund?

The Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM) Taft Refugee Fund is intended to support a one-time, low-cost interventions that address important gaps in protection and assistance for refugees and stateless persons, which larger multilateral humanitarian programs have not addressed.

Who are the Beneficiaries of the Julia Taft Fund?

The Taft Refugee Fund is intended primarily to support projects that assist **refugees or refugee returnees**. The Taft Refugee Fund is intended for projects that include a target beneficiary base of at least 50 percent refugees or returned refugees. These should be one-time interventions, *not* sustained programs.

Who can submit a proposal for Julia Taft Fund?

U.S Embassy Niamey may accept proposals for support of international NGOs that demonstrate close partnerships with local NGOs, but the preference is to support reliable local NGOs to encourage capacity building for smaller, local partners.

Proposed Interventions

Applicants may submit proposals to carry out important humanitarian activities that UNHCR and other institutions providing humanitarian assistance have not been able to implement in a given area. The project interventions are intended for improving the living conditions of refugees and/or returnees within one or a combination of the following sectors:

- Education
- Health
- Water, Sanitation and hygiene
- Food Security
- Protection
- Shelters and non-food items
- Environment and Energy
- Empowerment of communities

B. FEDERAL AWARD INFORMATION

Length of performance period: **06 to 12 months**

Number of awards anticipated: **1 or 2 awards**

Total available funding: **\$25,000 (Minimum Award Amount \$5,000 - Maximum \$ 25,000)**

Type of Funding: **Overseas Refugee Assistance Programs for Africa**

Funding Instrument Type: **Grant**

Anticipated program start date: **July 1st, 2022**

Note that this notice is subject to availability of funding.

C. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

The following organizations are eligible to apply:

- Local/National NGO

Other Eligibility Requirements

- In order to be eligible to receive an award, all applicants must have a unique entity identifier (UEI) also known as DUNS number,
- All applicants must be registered with the System for Award Management at www.SAM.gov.

- Applicants are only allowed to submit one proposal per organization. If more than one proposal is submitted from an organization, all proposals from that institution will be considered ineligible for funding.
- All applicants must have a valid Standard Agreement (PAT) with the government of Niger.
- Applicants must have experience working with refugees/ returnees, UNHCR, and tracking data, etc.
- Applicants for PRM funding are also required to submit an organization-specific Code of Conduct as an attachment to their proposal. The Codes of Conduct must be consistent with the [Inter-Agency Standing Committee's \(IASC\) six core principles](#) to protect beneficiaries of humanitarian assistance from sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA).

D. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Address to Request Application Package

You can request required application forms from U.S Embassy Niamey Program Grants Unit at nahantchii@state.gov

Content and Form of Application Submission

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 ineligible.

Content of Application

Please ensure:

- The proposal clearly addresses the goals and objectives of this funding opportunity
- All documents are in English
- All budgets are in U.S. dollars
- All pages are numbered
- All Microsoft Word documents are single-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font, with a minimum of 1-inch margins.

The following are **required**:

1. SF-424 Forms

- **SF-424 (Application for Federal Assistance – organizations)** to be downloaded at www.Grants.gov
- **SF424A (Budget Information for Non-Construction programs)** to be downloaded at www.Grants.gov
- **SF424B (Assurances for Non-Construction programs)** to be downloaded at www.Grants.gov

2. Proposal (09 pages maximum): The proposal should contain sufficient information that anyone not familiar with the project would understand exactly what the applicant wants to do. You may use your own proposal format, but it must include all the items below.

- **Proposal Summary:** Short narrative that outlines the proposed program, including program objectives and anticipated impact.
- **Introduction to the Organization:** A description of past and present operations, showing ability to carry out the program, including information on all recent previous grants from the U.S. Embassy and/or U.S. government agencies.
- **Program Activities:** Describe the program activities and how they will achieve the objectives.
- **Proposed Program Schedule and Timeline:** The proposed timeline for the program activities. Include the dates, times, and locations of planned activities and events.
- **Key Personnel:** Names, titles, roles and experience/qualifications of key personnel involved in the program. What proportion of their time will be used in support of this project?
- **Program Partners:** List the names and type of involvement of any key partner organization(s) or sub-awardee(s).
- **Program 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 by your organization to ensure they are happening in a timely manner, and how will the program be evaluated to make sure it is meeting the goal/objective(s) of the grant?

3. Budget Justification Narrative: After filling out the SF-424A Budget, use a separate sheet of paper to describe each of the budget expenses in detail.

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 program, and the percentage of their time that will be spent on the program.

Travel: Estimate the costs of travel and per diem for this program, for program staff, consultants or speakers, and participants/beneficiaries. If the program 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 program, which has a useful life of more than one year (or a life longer than the duration of the program), 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 program. 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-award(s) to non-profit partner(s) that will help carry out the program activities.

Other Direct Costs: Describe other costs directly associated with the program, 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 program 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.

4. Attachments:

- 1-page CV or resume of key personnel who are proposed for the program. (Required)
- Letters of support from partners. (Optional)
- If your organization has a NICRA (Please see “Indirect Costs” in the definitions section below) and includes NICRA charges in the budget, your latest NICRA should be included as a PDF file. (**Note:** local/national NGO usually do not have NICRA)
- Official permission letters (if required for program activities)

5. Required Registrations:

All organizations applying for grants must obtain these registrations. All are free of charge:

- Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) / DUNS number
- NCAGE code
- www.SAM.gov registration

Step 1: Apply for a UEI/DUNS number and an NCAGE number (these can be completed simultaneously)

DUNS application: 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>

NCAGE application: Application page here:

<https://eportal.nspa.nato.int/AC135Public/scage/CageList.aspx>

Instructions for the NCAGE application process:

<https://eportal.nspa.nato.int/AC135Public/Docs/US%20Instructions%20for%20NSPA%20NCAGE.pdf>

For NCAGE help from within the U.S., call 1-888-227-2423

For NCAGE help from outside the U.S., call 1-269-961-7766

Email NCAGE@dliis.dla.mil for any problems in getting an NCAGE code.

Step 2: After receiving the NCAGE Code, proceed to register in SAM.gov by logging onto: <https://www.sam.gov>. SAM registration must be renewed annually.

Submission Dates and Times

Applications are due no later than **February 2nd, 2022**

All application materials must be submitted by email to Niameygrants@state.gov

Funding Restrictions

These funds cannot be used for any of the following:

- *Purchase of alcoholic beverages*
- *Illegal drugs consumption and smuggling*
- *Support to terrorism activities*
- *Weapon smuggling*
- *Activities that involve trafficking in person*

E. APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

1. Criteria

Based on the weighted scores below, a Grants Review Committee will evaluate all eligible applications using the criteria shown in this section. The relative importance of each criterion is indicated by the number of points assigned.

A total of 100 points is possible.

Quality and Feasibility of the Program Idea – 30 points: The program idea is well developed, with detail about how program activities will be carried out. The proposal includes a reasonable implementation timeline.

Organizational Capacity and Record on Previous Grants – 10 points: The organization has expertise and experience in its stated field and has the internal controls in place to manage federal funds. The organization has included a list of previous grants carried out to support refugees and returnees, especially in the project's area within the past five years.

Program Planning– 20 points: Goals and objectives are clearly stated, and program approach is likely to provide maximum impact in achieving the proposed results.

Budget – 15 points: The organization has submitted a budget (in *Excel* format) and a detailed budget justification (Narrative in *Word* format). Costs are reasonable in relation to the proposed activities and anticipated results. Budget lines are realistic, accounting for all necessary expenses to achieve proposed activities.

Monitoring and evaluation plan – 15 points: Applicant demonstrates it is able to measure program success against key indicators and provides milestones to indicate progress toward goals outlined in the proposal. The program includes output and outcome indicators and shows how and when those will be measured.

Sustainability – 10 points: Program activities will continue to have positive impact after the end of the program.

2. Review and Selection Process

A proposal review committee will evaluate all eligible applications. Applicants should expect the outcome by March 2022.

F. FEDERAL AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

Federal Award Notices

The grant award agreement will be written, signed, awarded, and administered by the Grants Officer. The assistance award agreement is the authorizing document, and it will be provided to the recipient for review and signature by email. The recipient may only start incurring program expenses beginning on the start date shown on the grant award document signed by the Grants Officer.

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

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.

Payment Method:

The payment mechanism will be through Electronic Funds Transfers (EFT). The Embassy has the discretion to advance 80 % of the award amount at the opening of the project, followed by the final 20% after the grantee submits the final reports (narrative and financial).

Administrative and National Policy Requirements

Terms and Conditions: 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:

2 CFR 200, 2 CFR 600, Certifications and Assurances, and the Department of State Standard Terms and Conditions, all of which are available at:

<https://www.statebuy.state.gov/fa/pages/home.aspx>

Note the U.S Flag branding and marking requirements in the Standard Terms and Conditions.

Reporting Requirements: Recipients will be required to submit financial and narrative reports. The award document will specify how often these reports must be submitted.

Applicants should be aware of the post award reporting requirements reflected in [2 CFR 200 Appendix XII—Award Term and Condition for Recipient Integrity and Performance Matters](#).

G. FEDERAL AWARDING AGENCY CONTACTS

Should you have any questions about the Grant application process, please contact: Nahantchii@state.gov.