

May 17, 2018

Via email

Global Partnership for Education

1850 K Street NW, Suite 625
Washington D.C., USA
20006

Notice of Expression of Interest for prospective Grant Agent for the ASA Funds

The Global Partnership for Education (GPE) is pleased to announce a new call for expressions of interest, as part of its Financing and Funding Framework, to select a grant agent for the Advocacy and Social Accountability (ASA) funding mechanism.

Background

The Global Partnership for Education (GPE) provides financial and technical support to developing country partners to facilitate the development, implementation, and monitoring of Education Sector Plans (ESPs) and Transitional Education Plans (TEPs). We aim to strengthen national education systems to deliver stronger outcomes in the areas of learning and early childhood development, equity, gender equality, and inclusion.

In December 2017, the GPE Board of Directors approved the establishment of a grant mechanism to support civil society participation in education sector policy dialogue. The goal of the ASA mechanism is to enhance civil society capacity to further GPE 2020 goals in learning, equity, and stronger systems by improving their participation, advocacy, and efforts to ensure transparency and increased effectiveness in national educational policy and implementation processes. GPE operates through its partners to deliver funding on the ground, and is therefore looking for a grant agent to manage one or more of the following Operational Components within the ASA mechanism.

- Operational Component 1 will support the Global Campaign for Education and its regional and national members in GPE-eligible countries in the implementation of a successor program to the current [Civil Society Education Fund](#). Approximately US \$30 million has been allocated to this objective between 2019 and 2021.

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- Operational Component 2 will support social accountability initiatives aimed at improving transparency and social mobilization for education. Approximately US \$15 million has been allocated to this objective between 2019 and 2020 to implement three- to four-year grant activities.
 - Operational Component 3 will support transnational civil society alliances in improving enabling environments for civil society advocacy and transparency efforts which promote the adoption and implementation of effective evidence-based education strategies. Approximately US \$15 million has been allocated to this objective between 2019 and 2020 to implement three- to four-year grant activities.

Interested grant agents may elect to manage the grant portfolio for one or more of the above operational components of ASA.

Expected role of the grant agent

Through this selection process, GPE intends to select one to three agents to manage a portfolio of grants; support grant design; provide fiduciary oversight, monitoring, quality assurance and reporting on grants; and offer technical support, as appropriate, for one or more of the operational components of the ASA mechanism. Grant agents are expected to manage the call for proposals processes and support the successful achievement of the ASA mechanism's goals and objectives. A full description of the grant agent role may be found in the attached Terms of Reference.

Grant agent selection process

We are employing a new approach for the selection of the ASA grant agent that aims to streamline the application and evaluation processes. We expect all organizations interested in applying to submit an email confirmation as soon as possible, but no later than **Wednesday, May 30, 2018 at 17h00 Eastern Time**, to ASAINquiries@globalpartnership.org with the following information:

- Organization Name (and any parent organizations if a subsidiary)
- Main point of contact full name
- Main point of contact title
- Main point of contact email address
- Main point of contact location / time zone
- **Operational Components:**
 - Interest in ALL Operational Components combined - Yes or No
 - Interest in one, or a combination of Operational Components:
 - Interest in Operational Component 1 (US \$30MM) - Yes or No
 - Interest in Operational Component 2 (US \$15MM) - Yes or No

■ Interest in Operational Component 3 (US \$15MM) - Yes or No

We will promptly reply with a confirmation and send an information packet detailing the application process and requirements by **Friday, June 1, 2018 at 17h00 Eastern Time**.

Each applicant will be assigned a point of contact from the Grant Agent Recruitment Team, staffed with support from a consortium firm of Bivee LLC and Second Muse LLC, who will offer an initial call with the applicant to walk through the requirements and documentation needed to complete the application and assist in answering applicant questions.

In order to improve the quality and timeliness of the applications, we will review application materials as they are submitted and may request additional information as needed. Applications are due on **Wednesday June 13, 2018 at 17h00 Eastern Time**. All application materials must be received by this time.

For new GPE Grant Agents

GPE has *Minimum Grant Agent Criteria* that need to be met in order to complete the application process. We will work with new grant agents to verify the minimum criteria.

For existing GPE Grant Agents

Grant agents who already have operations with GPE and have been cleared through the *Minimum Grant Agent Criteria* will proceed through a streamlined application process.

For all Grant Agents

New and existing grant agents will receive an evaluation checklist, which helps GPE evaluate their qualifications, fit, and abilities to act as grant agent for the ASA mechanism. Our Grant Agent Recruitment Team will help each applicant provide supporting information and documentation to assist with the selection process. Our goal is to ensure that applicants provide the best quality application through open communication and subsequently proceed through evaluations.

The evaluation of grant agent candidates' applications will be reviewed by the GPE Strategy and Impact Committee on July 18 - 19, which will nominate up to three grant agents for ASA. For new grant agents, this nomination is subject to the accreditation of the Finance and Risk Committee, in consultation with the Trustee, which will ensure that all minimum criteria have been met. **The GPE Secretariat will then notify all candidates of the final selection decision by July 31.** Note that the selected grant agent(s) will then need to develop a full proposal for the ASA portfolio, which will be reviewed by the Board of Directors for final approval at its meeting on December 10-12.

We thank you in advance for your consideration, and we look forward to working with you through the application process.