



April 11, 2011

Reference: RFA No.: RFA-OAA-11-000006
FY-2011 Lives at Birth: A Grand Challenge for Development

Subject: Amendment No. 3(a)

Dear Applicants,

The purpose of this amendment is to make the following changes:

- 1) Other administrative changes and
- 2) Revised Questions and Answers submitted via email on or before March 31, 2011

Please direct any questions to the Agreements Specialist, Deidre Jackson,
dejackson@GrandChallenge.gov.

Sincerely,

Shanon Krause
Agreements Officer
US Agency for International Development
Office of Acquisition and Assistance
M/OAA/GH

1) Other administrative changes:

A. URGENT!!! Review Amendment #4 (to be posted no later than 12:00pm EST on 4/12/11) for information pertaining to the www.grants.gov registration process for new Domestic and International applicants.

B. Additional Information:

Review Amendment #5 (to be posted no later than 9:00am EST on 4/13/11 for information pertaining to the content and availability of the Application package located on www.grants.gov).

C. Make the following changes to the original RFA:

i. Page 9: Key features of the Saving Lives at Birth Challenge are:

Replace:

Opportunities for shared learning and collaboration between innovators, funders and other public health experts including participation by all finalists in the Development Exchange July 27-29, 2011 in Washington, DC

With:

Opportunities for shared learning and collaboration between innovators, funders and other public health experts including participation by all finalists in the Development Exchange July 26-28, 2011 in Washington, DC

ii. Page 14: Timetable

Replace:

July 27-29, 2011: Development Exchange in Washington, DC

With:

July 26-28, 2011: Development Exchange in Washington, DC

iii. Page 23:

Replace:

Development Exchange: To take advantage of the presence of a variety of development actors together in one place, the partners will host the Development Exchange in Washington DC on July 27-29, 2011.

With:

Development Exchange: To take advantage of the presence of a variety of development actors together in one place, the partners will host the Development Exchange in Washington DC on July 26-28, 2011.

II. Questions and Answers

Responses to questions asked during the open question and answer period are listed below. Questions are organized by topic area, with the question highlighted in bold. Similar questions are grouped together or merged into a composite question.

ABOUT SAVING LIVES AT BIRTH

Q1: What size are the grants?

A1: There will be two types of grants: Seed Grants of up to \$250,000 USD each to demonstrate proof of concept, and Transition Grants of up to \$2 million USD each to support the transition to scale of promising innovations.

Q2: How much money is each partner contributing to the Challenge?

A2: The following are the expected contributions each partner will make for the first wave of grants: USAID is contributing 5,150,000 USD, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Government of Norway are each contributing 3,000,000 USD, and Grand Challenges Canada is contributing 2,500,000 USD.

Q3: What is the Development Exchange event?

A3: The Saving Lives at Birth partners plan to co-host a Development Exchange in Washington, DC on July 26-28, 2011. The Development Exchange is a key feature of the Saving Lives at Birth program, and is designed to serve as the first step in building a community of innovators. Approximately 75 finalists will be invited to Washington to compete in the final stage of the review process. Finalists will display their innovations in an open marketplace and participate in a round of interviews with the technical review panel. As part of this Exchange, finalists will have the opportunity to network with development experts, other innovators, a range of potential funders and each other. Finalists will also participate in a series of workshops tailored to the participants' needs such as business planning, fundraising and measurement and evaluation. Some or all of the awards will be announced in an award ceremony at the end of the Development Exchange. *Awards will be contingent on the successful negotiation of final grant agreements between the funding organization and the awardee including milestones and reporting requirements.*

Q4: How many applications did your office receive in the last round of funding, and of those, how many were awarded?

A4: This is our first request for applications under this program. No prior grants have been awarded under this program.

Q5: Will there be a second RFA in the near future for those who are not quite ready to apply by the current deadline? The proposal does mention "waves", but it is not clear if this will be a yearly process or not.

- **When is it anticipated that the next wave of funding will begin?**

A5: The Partners expect to fund at least two waves of awards, with highly successful seed projects applying for transition grants in future waves of funding. We also expect that the second wave will request applications for new seed awards. The date has not yet been set for the second RFA.

INNOVATIONS AND IDEAS – WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR

Innovations

Q6: Does my idea qualify? Is this the type of idea you would consider?

A6: We have received several questions regarding specific ideas. We cannot provide individual guidance on ideas either before or after submission. An applicant should decide if it is worth submitting their idea based on the information provided in the Request for Applications (RFA).

Q7: The challenge seeks "groundbreaking prevention and treatment approaches for pregnant women and newborns in rural, low-resource settings around the time of delivery." Is this grant opportunity only restricted to organizations based in rural settings?

A7: The call for applications seeks interventions (technologies, service delivery, demand) targeted towards rural, low-resource settings. The organizations applying do not need to be from these rural settings, just ensure that the operational focus of their interventions targets these hardest-to-reach communities.

Q8: What is the definition of poor rural areas that Saving Lives at Birth endorses?

A8: Please refer to the Problem Statement on pages 6-7 of the RFA. In addition (per page 13 of the RFA), we seek applications with an operational focus in low-income countries. An operational focus in middle-income countries will also be considered.

Q9: We wish to design an intervention targeting women in urban poor settlements or slums – does the call have such women in mind as well? Is the lack of mention of the urban poor deliberate?

A9: This RFA seeks only applications with an operational focus in poor, rural settings. Urban poor communities are not eligible under this program.

Q10: Will seed grant funding support interventions focused on displaced population groups within a target country?

A10: Seed grant funding will support innovative interventions focused on pregnant women and newborns in poor, rural communities. Please use your best judgment to discern if the proposed group falls into this population.

Q11: Please clarify the meaning of integrated innovation as used in the RFA. Specifically, must a concept include a scientific innovation to be considered as integrated innovation? The RFA lists 3 separate domains of interest (S&T/Service Delivery/Demand) but then defines (p.8) an integrated innovation as one which combines advances in S&T with social and business innovation. Does this mean that proposals in the domains of Service Delivery and/or Demand

Creation cannot be considered "integrated innovations" unless they also contain a new scientific innovation? For example, would a concept that includes social and business innovations to overcome barriers to delivery of existing health technologies be considered an "integrated innovation" ?

A11: Yes. The idea behind integrated innovations is the belief that “scientific and/or technological innovations have a greater chance of going to scale and achieving global impact if they are developed from the outset with appropriate social and business innovations.” Therefore, an integrated innovation incorporates technologies, service delivery and demand innovation. Some of these integrated practices may already have been proven but need to be better incorporated into a service delivery platform. Please see <http://www.grandchallenges.ca/files/news/integratedInnovation.pdf> for more information.

Q12: For the call Saving Lives at Birth, is it possible to cover the 3 areas (combined them): Technology, Delivery and Demand or you have to choose only one.

A12: We encourage the incorporation of multiple components in your application.

Q13: Outside of the priorities listed in the RFA itself, how high are other neonatal conditions on the challenge's priority list--more specially, jaundice. Is the problem of newborn jaundice an applicable candidate for a transition to scale grant?

A13: We seek innovative prevention and treatment approaches that have the potential to substantially and sustainably reduce stillborn, maternal and/or newborn deaths. Each application is expected to justify the proposed impact of the intervention on mortality for these target populations.

Q14: Are the donors receptive to proposals that focus on HIV prevention and care for pregnant/post-partum women?

A14: Yes. For example, as described on page 12 in “Strong Areas of Interest,” applications utilizing mass communication and other technologies and approaches targeting individual and collective behaviors, including PMTCT and other HIV/AIDS prevention, care, and treatment services for pregnant women, infants, and children are encouraged.

Q15: Would a program of drug resource enhancement against AIDS and malnutrition in the prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV program qualify for application under the “Saving Lives at Birth” challenge?

A15: We purposely have not prescribed the solutions to this Challenge. Each application is expected to justify the potential impact of the proposed intervention on reductions in maternal and neonatal mortality.

Q16: On page 11 of the RFA; under “What we are looking for”; three bullet points are mentioned: (1) Substantially increase access to primary health care for women and newborns (for example, by at least 50% for interventions with low coverage); (2) Substantially improve the quality of care as measured by health outcomes; and (3) Lead to improved and sustained healthy behavior.

Does an applicant have to elaborate in the technical application how all three will be achieved and not less than three, even for the seed funds?

A16: Applicants are encouraged to address as many of the above targets that apply.

Q17: In your section of what you will not fund, you mention that you will not fund “approaches that address tertiary care or mental health” (page 13 of the RFA). Can you please define what you consider to be tertiary?

A17: This RFA seeks innovative approaches for pregnant women and newborns in poor, rural communities around the time of childbirth. We have not prescribed solutions to this Challenge. Each application is expected to justify the potential impact of the proposed intervention on reductions in maternal and neonatal mortality.

Q18: Does USAID have a preference with regards to where on the continuum of care (ante-natal, delivery, post-natal) the effort is focused?

A18: No.

Q19: Is Grand Challenges open to integration of health and other sectors (e.g. fishery, agriculture, other livelihoods), if applicant considered it necessary to engage with these in order to create demand and initiate social transformation for saving lives at birth under this RFA?

A19: We purposely have not prescribed the solutions to this Challenge. Each application is expected to justify the potential impact of the proposed intervention on reductions in maternal and neonatal mortality.

Q20: If possible, please provide additional examples of ideas that would clearly fit into the science and technology categories (as opposed to the service delivery and demand categories.) Please confirm if ICT and/or mobile technology could potentially fit into the science and technology, as well as the service delivery and demand categories.

A20: We are purposely not prescribing the solutions to this Challenge. ICT and/or mobile technology may have applications across the three focus areas: technology, service delivery and demand.

Q21: To understand where the Agency is coming from, would the Secretary give us an example of an innovation in the space that is great and one that is hype?

A21: We are purposely not prescribing the solutions to this challenge. Each application is expected to justify the potential impact of the proposed intervention on reductions in maternal and neonatal mortality.

Q22: I have two questions regarding the “problem statement” facts on page 6 of the RFA. The second bullet point states that “the critical conditions occurring after birth are serious infections (sepsis, meningitis, pneumonia, and diarrhea), intrapartum-related deaths (“birth asphyxia”), and complications of preterm birth.” There is no mention of malaria as a serious infection. So based on this definition, would or would not malaria be considered a serious infection? If not, could you provide examples of serious infections as it relates to this RFA. My second question notes

that the third bullet does address malaria as an “important cause” of stillbirth but not maternal mortality.

A22: Malaria is a serious infection. Sepsis has higher incidence amongst newborns, and, therefore, is a critically serious infection. Secondly, we regard malaria as a contributor to stillbirth, but not a major contributor of maternal mortality.

Q23: Will this funding mechanism cover innovative interventions focused on family planning, contraception, or safe abortion services as it would certainly directly impact the rates of maternal and child mortality, and result in increased maternal health for many women. If so, I assume that this would need to be within the USAID rules and regulations applicable to provision of family planning counseling and safe abortion (i.e. provision of counseling on full range of family planning options, with restrictions on provision of safe abortion services). Would the USAID restrictions also apply if the funding agreement was administered through Grand Challenge Canada?

A23: We invite applications that consider technical innovations in family planning, including healthy timing and spacing of pregnancy that may also contribute to improved maternal and newborn health. Grants funded by either mechanism must adhere to USAID’s Standard Provisions for grants including those entitled “Voluntary Population Planning Activities”.

Seed and Transition to Scale Grants

Q24: Do you have any guidance for projects that find themselves in-between the two options outlined in the RFA?

A24: Seed grants will be provided to support the development and experimentation needed to bring component innovations or integrated innovations to proof of concept. Projects applying for seed funds may have been previously tested but preliminary data are not required. Projects for transition funds must have demonstrated proof of concept previously to be eligible. If you do not yet have those results, you may need to wait for future funding rounds to apply for a transition grant.

Q25: Can you explain what proof of concept means with regards to this RFP?

A25: Proof of concept demonstrates credible evidence supporting the validity of an idea and sufficient proof to warrant expanded support.

Q26: If the proposed solution is an integrated solution and you are attempting to submit a transitional response, is it feasible that a team could be denied transitional funds but granted seed funding? In other words, is it possible that in the course of the evaluation, that a proposal that was intended to be transitional could be scaled back and funded at the seed level or would it just be rejected?

A26: Applications for transition funds will not be considered for seed funds nor will seed applications be considered for transition funds.

Q27: Are seed grants restricted to projects that have not yet begun? That is, will seed money be given to projects that are implemented but needing further development?

A27: Please see page 9 of RFA. Projects applying to seed funds may have been previously tested and are not current standard practice, but innovative variations on existing themes may be considered

Q28: Can an Applicant focus on only specific and limited aspects of the Programs?

A28: If applying to a seed grant, applicants can propose component innovations (science and technology, service delivery or demand). Integrated innovations are encouraged. Transition grants will only support integrated innovations. If the applicant is looking to fund a portion of a program with funds from this challenge, note that cost sharing is allowed but not required.

Q29: I understand the size of seed grants are \$250,000. Is it OK if the proof of concept involves sponsorship from other sources? Namely, \$250,000 would only cover one activity of the pilot we propose, such as the monitoring and evaluation (impact assessment). If co-sponsoring is allowed, is there a preference re what types of activities to which this seed grant is budgeted/assigned?

A29: Cost sharing is allowed but not required. Seeds funds are provided to support the development and experimentation needed to bring component innovations or integrated innovations to proof of concept (page 9). We encourage you to use your best judgment on what constitutes a compelling application.

Q30: We'd like to know that the Agency will support both the translational end of projects that have matured and are ready to go, but also the more nascent ideas that need to get to that maturity scale. We've identified a "double valley of death," particularly in medical devices for developing countries: The classical valley when it leaves the lab into the grown up world of companies, NGOs etc, but also a harsher environment where simple, elegant ideas, will simply not get funded by traditional basic research because it's too simple. The irony is that the simple, appropriate technology might save lives faster.

A30: Page 11 of the Request for Applications outlines what we are looking for: scalable, sustainable, low-cost approaches that have a strong likelihood of achieving substantial impact in a variety of settings. We recognize that these solutions may be simple in design. Please watch the launch presentation on our website (www.savinglivesatbirth.com) for a discussion on this issue. Highly successful seed fund projects are eligible to apply through RFA competition in future waves of funding for scale up. We envision that the most successful transition projects will be incorporated into mainstream funding by major donors.

Q31: Is there any minimum or maximum coverage (population as well as geography) expected for both seed and transition grant?

A31: No.

Q32: Can more than one innovation be included in a Seed proposal, if they contribute to the same outcome measures, or is it preferred that each proposal be limited to a single innovation?

A32: See page 9 of the RFA. Seed funds will be provided to support the development and experimentation needed to bring component innovations or integrated innovations to proof of concept. Integrated innovations are encouraged.

ELIGIBILITY

Eligibility Criteria

Q33: Is the program open to applicants from outside of the United States

- **Is an organization registered in the Netherlands (or any other non-US based organization) eligible for this grant?**
- **Is this grant program only for American citizens to apply for?**

A33: Except the foreign policy restricted countries noted in Section B: Eligible Country List, there is no geographical restriction for applicants. We encourage innovators worldwide to submit their ideas. See A49 and A52 for more information.

Q34: Are not-for-profits eligible for this solicitation?

A34: Yes. As described in Section B: Eligibility Criteria, applications are welcome “from all types of organizations including for-profit companies, foreign and domestic non-profit organizations, faith-based organizations, foundations, academic institutions, civic groups and regional organizations. Grantees must be legally recognized organizational entities under applicable law and be able to document the above.” Applications will not be accepted from governments or individuals.

Q35: Can for-profit companies apply?

A35: Yes. See A34 above.

Q36: I am a Peace Corps volunteer in Albania in the health sector....working very closely with two local NGO's to implement a prenatal / postnatal education project. I am wondering if I am eligible to apply for funding through this program.

A36: Individuals are ineligible to apply under this program. The application must be from legally recognized organizational entities under applicable law.

Q37: Are we eligible for this grant if we plan to work in a country where we do not have legal registration/status? We are a legal US-based 501(c)(3) non-profit organization working in developing countries.

A37: The statement “legally recognized organizational entities under applicable law” in Section B on page 12 of the RFA refers to the requirement to be legally formed and organized in some

jurisdiction. An organization receiving an award will be obligated by the terms of its agreement to comply with local law. A legal, US-based 501(c)(3) non-profit organization is eligible to apply.

Q38: Under Section A: Program Description and Structure, are eligibility requirements the same for both funding mechanisms?

A38: Yes, eligibility requirements are the same for both funding mechanisms: (1) the pooled resources from USAID, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and the Government of Norway and (2) Grand Challenges Canada.

Q39: My university has recently begun a collaborative relationship with faculty at a university in West Africa. Is this the type of collaboration you envision for this grant?

A39: As stated in the Program Summary of Section A, we encourage partnerships between “for-profit companies, non-governmental organizations, academic/medical research institutions, faith-based organizations, civic groups and foundations.” Moreover, in Section C, page 20, we encourage partnerships with innovators in low- and middle-income countries.

Q40: Is an IPVO, registered with USAID, eligible to apply for this grant in partnership with local, community-based NGOs in South Africa who would then be the sub-grantees.

A40: Yes. Please refer to A34 and A39.

Q41: Are the donors receptive to a multi-country/regional/global proposal?

A41: Yes, we are looking for scalable ideas – ideas that are potentially applicable in many poor, rural settings. Note that governments are not eligible to apply and programs may not include foreign policy restricted countries (see Section B: Eligible Country List).

Q42: Can two doctors submit a joint application i.e. both be named Applicants?

A42: Yes, as long as those doctors submit through an organization (individuals cannot apply) and meet the eligibility criteria detailed in Section B of the Request for Applications.

Q43: Under Section D: Relevant Documentation, there appears to be an inconsistency regarding relevant documentation required for non-profit organizations. Can you clarify if it is CFR 230 or CFR 228?

A43: In addition to the links provided on page 25 of the RFA, please review these additional links:

2CFR230: http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov/cgi/t/text/text-idx?c=ecfr&tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title02/2cfr230_main_02.tpl and
2CFR220: http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov/cgi/t/text/text-idx?c=ecfr&tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title02/2cfr220_main_02.tpl

Q44: Does our application have to be like a proper research project ie compare to controls etc. or can it be in program delivery mode?

A44: Applicants should include a clear set of key experiments, methodologies, or activities that test the idea in a way that could provide sufficient evidence of impact. Applicants should use their best judgment on what experiments or approaches to apply for a particular project.

Q45: Would an application involving operational research be eligible?

A45: Yes.

Eligible Countries

Q46: Is the priority country listing based on the World Bank's lower and middle income countries something that will be given more or less points depending on whether a country is a low-income country or a middle-income country?

- **Are you aware of any specific countries or regions that would be preferred? I noticed mention of sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia but was not sure if that was intentional.**
- **Are lower-middle income countries (as defined by World Bank) eligible as the primary location of the proposed projects, or only low-income countries?**

A46: As stated on page 13, "Eligible Country List," we seek applications that have an operational focus in low-income countries. We will also consider proposals with an operational focus in middle-income countries.

Q47: Is a "low-middle" income country like Guatemala (as defined by the World Bank) considered "low" or "middle" income in terms of the RFA's eligibility requirements? The RFA states that USAID and its partners seek applications with an operational focus in low-income countries, but will also consider middle-income, and yet Guatemala is listed as "low-middle" income, so will USAID consider Guatemala a low or middle income country? Please clarify.

A47: Applications with a focus in Guatemala will be considered.

Q48: Would you consider proposals targeting Mexico?

A48: Yes.

Q49: Is a proposal that includes support for any activities in Madagascar acceptable? If funding to the Government of Madagascar is not acceptable, could activities in Madagascar be included in a proposal that would work only with non-governmental and/or private entities there?

A49: Projects with an operational focus in any low-income or middle-income country will be considered, except for the foreign policy restricted countries listed in Section B "Eligible Country List" of the RFA. Applications will not be accepted from governments or individuals. Grantees are permitted to work with local governments as part of their project. Final grant agreements may require certain terms related to country-specific legal restrictions of the applicable funding entity.

Q50: Is North Sudan eligible to receive funds?

A50: Please refer to A49.

Q51: Is Laos eligible for this grant?

A51: Projects with an operational focus in Laos are eligible. See A49 for more information.

Q52: Given the requirement that "Grantees must be legally recognized organizational entities under applicable law", we would like to know if an application would be considered from an organization based in Thailand operating "cross-border" into Myanmar? This is a unique situation in which the cross-border operation itself is illegal according to Myanmar, technically illegal according to Thailand, and the organizations conducting the operation are not registered entities in Thailand. However, the operation and organizations themselves are recognized by the US Government, funded by donors such as USAID and the Bill and Melinda Gates Center for Population and Reproductive Health at Johns Hopkins University, and permitted to operate unofficially by the Thai government.

A52: The statement "legally recognized organizational entities under applicable law" in Section B on page 12 of the RFA refers to the requirement to be legally formed and organized in some jurisdiction. An organization receiving an award will be obligated by the terms of its agreement to comply with local law.

Q53: Will proposals that are not situated in a particular country but designed for a region be considered? For instance, it is possible to propose a project for Sub-Saharan Africa?

A53: Yes, we are looking for scalable ideas – ideas that are potentially applicable in many poor, rural settings. Programs may not include foreign policy restriction countries (See Section B of the RFA: Eligibility Country List.)

Q54: Is the Northern Mariana Islands eligible to apply for the "A Grand Challenge for Development program"?

A54: As described in Section B: Eligibility Criteria, applications will not be accepted from governments or individuals. However, eligible applicants conducting projects in the Northern Mariana Islands are eligible to apply.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Number of Applications

Q55: Do you allow multiple submissions from the same institution?

- Can an organization submit more than one application if the different applications propose different interventions?

A55: Yes, multiple submissions from an institution are allowed. Each submission, however, must be associated with a different primary contact (Project Manager/Principal Investigator) and propose a different idea or experiment. We encourage institutions to submit their best idea.

Q56: Can an investigator submit more than one application?

A56: No. Each submission must be associated with a different primary contact (Project Manager/Principal Investigator) and propose a different idea or experiment. We encourage you to submit your best idea.

Q57: Is it possible to have multiple applicants on a proposal?

- **Can we be a part of multiple grant applications with various partners?**
- **Can we submit multiple bids if we are a sub on the application? For example, can we submit one component on Seed as sub and Prime on another?**

A57: Teaming and collaboration are welcome within a single application. However, applicants need to elect one primary contact per team. If awarded, the grant will be made to the Primary Investigator. Teams cannot submit multiple applications with the same idea or experiment under different primary organizations and Primary Investigators.

Q58: With many grants, multiple Principal Investigators are now acceptable. Our proposal would be one where that structure would be appropriate, as there would be distinct engineering and clinical areas in the overall effort.

A58: Multiple Principal Investigators (referred to in this program as Project Manager) are acceptable, but applicants need to elect one primary contact per team. If awarded, the grant will be made to the organization associated with the Project Manager. This organization's name needs to be listed on the Cover Page (see page 15 in the RFA and the Application Instructions) and on the SF-424.

Q59: Can one applicant submit applications for both seed funds and transition funds?

A59: Organizations may submit more than one proposal if the applications propose different interventions and the applications are associated with a different Project Manager or Project Investigator. You should not submit applications for a seed and transition grant for the same intervention.

Q60: Can organizations receive more than one award?

A60: Yes. Organizations can receive more than one award. Please refer to A55 for information on multiple submissions.

Q61: Could the same organization submit more than one proposal albeit for two or three different countries?

A61: Organizations and institutions may submit more than one proposal if the applications propose different interventions and if the applications identify different Project Managers or Principal Investigators. You cannot submit multiple applications for the same intervention, even if the work will be carried out in different countries.

Q62: Can an Applicant submit multiple applications for different Program Components for funding?

A62: Applicants are encouraged to submit their best idea. Single programs should not be broken up into multiple grant applications. Organizations can submit multiple applications, however, for different interventions. Please refer to A55.

Awards and Timetable

Q63: What date will the grant monies be awarded? Is it the same date as the finalization of the awards on September 30th 2011 or some later date?

A63: Once the awards are finalized, the funding will be made available to the grantees according to negotiated schedules.

Q64: What is the length of the grant period?

A64: For seed grants, the implementation period is up to two years. Transition grants will be funded for up to four years.

Q65: For each grant what is the timing and size of the monies awarded: i.e., for the seed grants would the recipient receive all \$250,000 at once or over which time period?

A65: The money will be awarded according to negotiated schedules. For seed grants, the implementation period is up to two years. Transition grants will be funded for up to four years.

Q66: To clarify, the funding for the seed grant would be \$125,000 per year x 2 years and for the transition grant \$500,000 per year for 4 years.

A66: Please refer to A65.

Q67: Please confirm the award amounts indicated are the total (not annual) for each respective period –

Seed – total costs of \$250,000 for up to a 2-year period

Transition – total costs of \$2,000,000 for up to a 4-year period

A67: Yes, these are the total award amounts.

Q68: What is the earliest start date?

A68: The official start date will be the date that the negotiated grant agreement is signed by the funding mechanism. Once the awards are finalized, the funding will be made available to the grantees according to negotiated schedules.

Q69: If an organization is awarded a one year seed grant, will it be possible to apply for transition funds at the end of the first year?

A69: Please refer to A64.

Q70: Can the seed grant be used to fund a pilot of tested and proven technology in a country where it has not yet been tested? (i.e. if the approach is completely new to the proposed country)?

A70: Projects applying for seed grants may have been previously tested but are not considered current standard practice (see page 9 of the proposal).

Q71: Will all respondents be invited to attend the Development Exchange in Washington on July 27, (pg. 9) since finalists will not be announced until July 29 (pg. 14)?

A71: It is expected that approximately 75 finalists will be announced in June, 2011 and invited to attend the Development Exchange event in Washington. Grant awardees will be announced on July 28, 2011, although the receipt of the grant will be subject to negotiation of award with the funding entity.

Q72: Will the finalists determined on July, 29th be the awardees, or will awardees be determined in the timeframe between July 29 and September 30.

A72: Awardees will be announced on July 28th subject to successful grant negotiation, which is expected to occur between July 28th and September 30th.

Q73: Will successful applications for the first round of the Challenge be shared with the public?

A73: The project summary as reported on the application cover sheet from finalists advancing to the final Technical Review will be shared with the public. Please do not include proprietary information in the project summary.

Q74: Will you publish the institutional make-up of your applicants and your winners?

A74: The competition finalists and final awardees will be announced along with their project abstracts. This information will be included on our website www.savinglivesatbirth.net and promoted through multiple means including a press release.

Q75: Would you consider giving credit to laboratories or organizations that purposely share resources to achieve a project to bring the cost of the investigational activities for the funders. This is beyond two researchers splitting a grant in two. What I mean considering the efforts of labs who provide in-kind support to each other to make the collaboration more fluid.

A75: We encourage partnerships and collaborations. However, applicants need to elect one primary contact per team. If awarded, the grant will be made to the Primary Investigator. We will work with the finalists and awardees to ensure that partners are duly recognized.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Q76: It is not stated on grants.gov which form set is to be used for these grant applications.

A76: The Application Package will be available online at grants.gov the week of April 11, 2011. Please read the application instructions very carefully before completing the application.

Q77: Is there a specific format for the application?

A77: Please read the application instructions in the Application Package and the proposal (see page 15) carefully. The Technical Application requires a cover page to be submitted with the application. You can find an optional sample Cover Page on grants.gov that you may use for this purpose. The Application Package also includes required forms that must be included with the application.

Q78: Should indirect costs be included within the \$250,000 funding ceiling?

A78: Yes. Please refer to pages 17-19, Cost Application, for guidance on what should be included in the cost application. The following budget categories should be included: salary and wages, fringe benefits, travel and transportation, equipment, supplies, contractual, other direct costs, and indirect costs. If your organization has a pre-existing NICRA from a Federal Agency, apply those figures and guidelines; and provide a copy of the document.

Q79: Can we include 8% indirect (NIH rate) for foreign organizations who do not have an indirect rate agreement – this is likely the case with our low-income country collaborators.

A79: In the absence of an US NICRA rate, an organization must use actual figures based the previous year's expenses.

Q80: Can foreign organizations who do have a US government negotiated indirect rate agreement use that rate – our negotiated rate is 51% but we are limited to 8% on some US federal grants (e.g. NIH).

A80: An applicant can apply the pre-existing and pre-approved NICRA rates.

Q81: If Canadian institutions with approved Negotiated Rate Agreements are permitted to include this in the budget?

A81: If the Canadian institution has a pre-existing US NICRA; those figures must be used. Foreign NICRA rates may not be recognized and approved by USAID. In the absence of a US NICRA rate, an organization must use actual figures based the previous year's expenses.

Q82: If we do not have an approved NICRA rate, does USAID recommend using any specific rate?

A82: In the absence of an US NICRA rate, an organization must use actual figures based the previous year's expenses.

Q83: On page 17, under supporting documentation, it indicates "Letters of Support from countries in which you are operating." Does this refer to letters of support from the government or from other NGOs/stakeholders in the country?

A83: Use your best judgment regarding which letters of support would most strengthen your application, drawing from local, regional and national level governments and partners.

Q84: Will letters of support from the Government of Madagascar (Ministry of Health) be acceptable?

A84: Letters of support from the Ministry of Health in the country of operations are welcome and are a good way to demonstrate country support for the project. Please refer to A83 for additional information.

Q85: Can the following statement from Section C please be clarified: “the program encourages prospective partners to focus resources in project implementation rather than salaries, equipment, supplies? For example, is it reasonable to use the resources on salaries/wages that are part of an implementation (rather than development) strategy?”

A85: Yes.

Q86: Who should the contact point be? The Applicant or Project Manager?

A86: The contact point does not necessarily have to be the Project Manager, but should be from/employed by the applicant.

Q87: What is meant by fixed pitch spacing?

A87: To simplify the requirements for all applicants, we will not restrict the font type. Please ensure, however, that the font size is not smaller than 11 point font.

Q88: Should the signature of authorized representative of the applicant come from the Applicant or an authorized body from the Applicant’s institute?

A88: The signature of the authorized representative must come from an authorized body from the applicant’s organization.

Q89: We would like to know if the Saving Lives at Birth website is available in Spanish - that would be a great help for our staff to be able to review it.

A89: The Saving Lives at Birth website and grants.gov (where the application must be submitted in English) are only available in English.

Q90: As a national research institution we are given a federally mandated indirect cost percentage for all research regardless of the funder. Does the funding have this earmarked in place, just as NIH and other grant agencies do for their RFAs?

A90: If your organization has a pre-existing NICRA from a Federal Agency, apply those figures and guidelines; and provide a copy of the document.

Q91: On page 17 of the RFA, you mention that we can provide “brief biographical descriptions of key project personnel.” Do you mean for these brief descriptions to be included in lieu of full resumes, or would you like resumes to be included as well? If so, can the resumes be considered outside of the page count?

A91: Descriptions can be in lieu of full resumes. Please use your best judgment on what to include in the biographical descriptions. All the supporting documentation listed on page 17 of the RFA is not included in the overall page limit.

Q92: We have a large public-private alliance with multiple letters of commitment and biographical sketches that would take most of the 9 pages. Will any appendices be allowed?

A92: These letters of commitment and biographical sketches are considered part of the application's supporting information (see page 17 in the RFA) and not included in the technical application page limit.

Q93: Are you requesting an organizational chart? If so in which section?

A93: We do not request an organizational chart. You may submit one if you think this supports your proposal. Please note that charts are included in the technical application page limit.

Q94: In the RFA Section A, Program Description and Structure, page 8: It states, "Projects will be jointly selected through a unified application process." Please provide additional information on this process.

A94: The application process is detailed in Section C: Application Guidelines and Submission Instructions which begins on page 13 of the RFA.

Q95: RFA Section A, Program Description and Structure, page 9: Are applicants expected to include the costs of participating in the annual Grand Challenges meetings in their budgets, or will this cost be covered by the Saving Lives at Birth Challenge partners? If applicants are expected to include costs for participation in the Grand Challenges meetings, should they budget for participation of one representative in meetings in Washington, DC for three days each year?

A95: Yes, you should include participation in Gates Foundation Grand Challenge meetings in your budget. We encourage participation in these meetings if feasible. Please note these meetings are different than the Development Exchange.

Q96: RFA Section C, Cost Application, page 19: Are there any restrictions on the types of goods (e.g. supplies and medicines for maternal care and delivery, midwife delivery kits, and basic portable equipment to monitor vital signs) procured? If so, please provide clarification.

A96: Source origin determinations will be may on a case-by-case basis for all awardees.

Q97: On the fact sheet that can be accessed from the savinglivesatbirth website, it is mentioned that solutions should, amongst other things, "be able to be monitored, measured, and evaluated" (my emphasis added). I wanted to check that including a significant M&E component in a proposal would be consistent with this statement.

A97: Applicants are required to provide a plan for measuring project results. See page 13 of the RFA for discussion on measuring success.

Q98: If a US-based university were to team up with a local implementing partner, do you have a preference over which institution would be the appropriate formal applicant?

A98: No.

Q99: At what level will be the detailed proposal required?

A99: Use your best judgment in what detail to provide. Each application is expected to justify the potential impact of the proposed intervention on reductions in maternal and neonatal mortality.

Q100: Will the awarding agency provide the medical information and content needed to realize the desired learning outcomes? Or, must solution providers supply their own?

A100: No, solution providers must supply their own.

Q101: Does the awarding agency have a medical subject matter expert available to provide guidance to solution providers that are awarded funding? Is this guidance provided free or must we allocate budget for it?

A101: Awardees will benefit from interactions with subject matter experts from each of the partners at no charge. This partnership will also work to build a community of innovators.

Q102: Will the awarding agency deploy the solution in the field for testing or is the solution provider expected to handle all deployment including on the ground presence? If the funding body is providing this service, is it free or must we allocate budget for it?

A102: If the proposal calls for field testing beyond the development of the innovation, the applicant must budget for this.

Q103: It appears that timeline and evaluation plans should be incorporated into the page count. We want to confirm. Can these be attached with supporting information, not to be included in the overall page count for the technical application?

A103: No, this text will count in your technical application page count.

Q104: To what extent is it helpful or detrimental for us to reference other grants that will be submitted in this process? This could include current or potential partners whose technology we may intend to incorporate into our plan upon proof of concept.

A104: You are welcome to include this information but it is not required.

Q105: We plan to have a consortium but so not have any legal documents between our two institutions. Do we need to create this document for inclusion?

A105: If a formal consortium has not been formed, you do not need provide documentation.

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

Q106: How does one apply to this program?

A106: Please go to grants.gov and search by funding number: RFA-OAA-11-000006. Applications must be submitted through this website. Please follow the instructions carefully for completing your application and submitting an application through grants.gov. The application package will be available the week of April 11, 2011.

Q107: Do I have to submit my proposal through grants.gov?

A107: Yes, all applications must be submitted through grants.gov.

Q108: What is the deadline for submission? In one place it says noon EST on April 29th and in another it says 5pm EST.

A108: The deadline for application submission is 5:00 pm EST on April 29, 2011.

Q109: Are there any implications to submitting an application closer to or on the April 29, 2011 submission deadline?

A109: No. Applicants applying before the deadline will not receive any preference. PLEASE NOTE, however, that the process of applying includes several steps. We strongly encourage you to register with Grants.gov prior to the deadline. Registering with the Central Contractor Registry (CCR) can be a lengthy process.

Q110: Am I able to edit my profile and proposal once submitted?

A110: No, applicants will not be allowed to edit their profile and proposal once submitted. Submitted applications are considered final.

Q111: Is this the final opportunity to ask questions?

A111: The original question period ended on March 18 and was amended through March 31. After March 31st, any submitted questions will not be answered.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Q112: Pg 17 of the RFA states that past performance information is by request only. Please confirm that no past performance information should be included in the proposal submission due on April 29, 2011.

A112: That is correct. All applications advancing to the final round of review will be requested to provide past performance information.

Q113: Our organization largely incurs private donations from individuals, not institutions. Therefore, we do not have a total of three references from past donors. If applying for 'Seed grants', would our organization be eligible or have the opportunity to justify/provide other relevant documentation relevant to its situation?

A113: Yes. USAID prefers to receive references from which you were the Prime partner. If this is not possible and you are requested to submit past performance information during the application review process, you may include references from collaborative partners describing your work together.

Q114: Please be so kind to specify if there is a required minimum time a non-U.S. NGO needs to have been in existence in order to be eligible to participate at the Grand Challenge for Development. We found reference in section C, Application Instructions, Past Performance, that we might be asked to provide proof of past performance over the past three years. Since our organization was founded in April 2009, we wonder if it is mandatory to cover the full three years, or if we could simply provide evidence of our work in the past two years.

A114: There is no minimum time an organization needs to have been in existence to be eligible to participate in the program, provided that the organization is a legally recognized entity (see A37). If you are requested to submit past performance information during the application review process, you may provide evidence that your organization was founded in 2009 and then provide evidence of your work for the past two years.

Q115: How will you rate the community driven aspect of the innovation? We feel this is critically important because many people are happy with sourcing a problem at the community and then designing a solution separately. We engage the community from identification to design to prototyping to evaluation of the final solution. We would like more people to understand the value of the model, or least have a way of evaluating it against the convention.

A115: In remarks made by the Partners during the Saving Lives at Birth launch, they discussed the importance of “community-based insight” and the likelihood that groundbreaking innovations will come from visionaries in low- and middle-income countries. See www.savinglivesatbirth.net to see the video from the launch. As mentioned throughout the RFA, consideration of community involvement is important.

Q116: On page 22, under “Stage Two: Innovation Screen” the RFA states that “This screening process will utilize all four sub-criteria listed under Criteria 1: Innovation and Significance”. However, Criteria 1: Innovation and Significance only has two sub-criteria. Please clarify.

A116: You are correct. The Innovation Screen will screen all project summaries (as reported on the cover sheet and the Abstract Form) against Criteria 1 on pages 20-21.

REVIEW PROCESS

Q117: We would like to understand further the selection process and criteria behind grants being funded and administrated by Grand Challenges Canada as opposed to the pooled resources administrated by USAID. What would drive the decision to receive a recommendation for funding from one funding organization over the other? As a consequence, would it be possible on our side to specify a preference to apply solely to Grand Challenges Canada?

A117: All applications will be reviewed under a single review process. Applicants cannot specify a preference for a funder. The funding organizations will decide which funding mechanism will support recommended applicants.

Q118: Will the study sections that review the proposals be selected from basic research, from development, or both? Any guidelines about this would help.

A118: The review process is designed to identify potentially groundbreaking ideas that show great promise. Our review process is based on reviewers with a track record in identifying innovative ideas who will recommend the proposals they find most pioneering and that have the potential for greatest impact.

AWARD EXECUTION AND ADMINISTRATION

Q119: Our proposal will require up-gradation and development of some software applications. We would like to retain the intellectual property of this proposed solution. We were wondering if that is possible or do we have to handover the Intellectual Property (IP) to the USAID? In case USAID retains the IP, Will we be able to use this technology in other initiatives or we have to seek USAID permission anytime we use this application? And lastly will USAID be able to use our developed technology without our permission and without any benefit to us?

A119: Partners are mutually interested in applicants promoting (a) prompt and broad dissemination of the knowledge gained during the Project and (b) availability and accessibility at reasonable cost to people most in need within developing countries of the intended products. Awardees will not have to give up IP to either funding entity. The Partners acknowledge their mutual interest in conducting and managing the Project in a manner that promotes (a) the knowledge gained during the Project to be promptly and broadly disseminated and (b) the intended product(s) to be made available and accessible at reasonable cost to people most in need within developing countries. For awards funded through USAID, awards will be subject to the rights and restrictions as set forth in 22 C.F.R. 226.36. Generally speaking, recipients will own title to any IP created or acquired with the grant funds, to which USAID retains a royalty-free, nonexclusive and irrevocable right to reproduce, publish, or otherwise use the work for Federal purposes, and to authorize others to do so. For Grand Challenges Canada's Global Access Policy, please see http://www.grandchallenges.ca/files/funding/GCC_Global_Access_Policy_Final_May3_2010_ENG.doc.pdf.

Q120: At what point during this process would we need to have our IRB approval completed? (for example, would we need to have this done during the application process, after award, before starting program implementation? When is it required to be completed)?

A120: Recipients (prime contractor) of grants from the pooled resources administered by USAID are responsible for complying in detail with research ethics (ADS-200). USAID does not need to see documentation. Applications awarded grants from Grand Challenges Canada must follow their

policy on research ethics, which can be found at http://www.grandchallenges.ca/files/funding/GCC_Ethics_Policy_Final_May3_2010_ENG.doc.pdf. On page 3, this document states that “Grantees must provide Grand Challenges Canada with documentation of approval obtained from an appropriately constituted research ethics review committee before any human participants are enrolled to participate and/or human materials requiring oversight are utilized in the research project.”

Q121: Is there any restriction in use of funding relative to construction? For example, if your innovation required infrastructural changes to existing property or facility, or could you construct a facility to house an integrated solution?

A121: Construction utilizing funds under this program is prohibited.

Q122: RFA Section A, Program Description and Structure, page 8: It states, “Successful innovators will be funded and managed independently by one of two funding mechanisms – pooled resources from USAID, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and the Government of Norway through grants awarded and administered by USAID or grants awarded and administered by Grand Challenges Canada – and supported collectively as a community of innovators by all five of the Saving Lives at Birth Challenge partners.” How will Grand Challenges Canada manage their grants and are there any requirements by Grand Challenges Canada on awardees in terms of project implementation?

A122: Please see Section D: Award Execution and Administration.

Q123: RFA Section A, Program Description and Structure, page 8: Please provide additional information on the grants management structure for the Saving Lives at Birth Challenge partners?

A123: Please see answer above (A122).