

**THE WORLD BANK COUNTRY OFFICE IN KAZAKHSTAN
and
EURASIA FOUNDATION OF CENTRAL ASIA**

SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM 2008

Guidelines for Civil Society Organizations

The Small Grants Program 2008

The World Bank Country Office in Kazakhstan and Eurasia Foundation of Central Asia

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About the Program

The Small Grants Program (SmGP) was created by the World Bank in 1983 to provide a way for the Bank to promote dialogue and disseminate information about development in forums outside its own operations. Grants are provided to civil society organizations through participating World Bank Country Offices.

In 2006 the founder of Eurasia Foundation of Central Asia (EFCA) Eurasia Foundation joined the World Bank in this initiative as a partner donor. According to the agreement signed in May 2006, Eurasia Foundation will provide additional funding for the SmGP through its Open Door program. Within the Open Door program, EFCA reviews all proposals that fit within one of its mandated focus areas - private enterprise development, community development, education and public administration.

To reinforce the empowerment dimension of poverty reduction, the Small Grants Program has developed a focus on ***engagement of marginalized and vulnerable groups of population in civic activities*** by means of promoting dialogue and disseminating information and knowledge, as well as strengthening partnerships with key participants of the development processes. Priority will be given to projects implemented in the rural areas of the Republic of Kazakhstan. The Small Grants Program does not provide financing for political activities of any level. As in the past, the focus of the Small Grants program is *to support development of local governance and self-governance and the empowerment of citizens, especially rural residents, to have greater ownership of development processes, thereby making these processes more inclusive and equitable.*

Crucial ingredients for empowerment of vulnerable groups include: access to information, access to organizational links outside the local domain, capacity to influence the public arena and to negotiate with local and national authorities, the existence of trustful national and local institutions, and the presence of enabling policy and legal frameworks for civic engagement. Civil society organizations perform a valuable role in engaging their fellow citizens in the fight against poverty and exclusion. Thus, the intended beneficiaries of the Small Grants Program are civil society organizations engaged in initiatives aiming at empowering rural population groups and individuals that have been marginalized and excluded from the public realm.

Before You Apply

The World Bank Small Grants Program is able to fund only a very small percentage of the requests it receives. Many requests are declined, not because they lack merit, but because they do not match either the current objectives, or the criteria of the Small Grants Program. Your activity may fall within the objectives and criteria, but the demand far surpasses the availability of funds.

Before applying, take time to read the Guidelines to determine if there is a match. For more information and application form please visit web sites of the World Bank Country Office in Kazakhstan <http://www.worldbank.org.kz/> and Almaty Office of EFCA <http://www.efcentralasia.org>. Application forms and consultations are also provided by:

- Ms. Irina Galimova, World Bank Country Office in Astana, tel: (7172) 580-555, igalimova@worldbank.org
- Ms. Elena Karaban, World Bank Central Asia Regional Office in Almaty, tel: (727) 298-0580, ekaraban@worldbank.org

Who Can Apply?

- Civil society organizations based in Kazakhstan and working on issues of development can apply for a grant.

- Civil society organizations must be in good standing and have a record of achievement in the community and record of financial probity;
- Priority will be given to organizations not supported by the Program in previous years (organizations are not eligible for more than three grants from the Small Grants Program within a five-year period).

From “Working Together: The World Bank’s Partnership with Civil Society”

International development today is moving increasingly toward partnerships among government, donors, private sector, and civil society as the most effective way to achieve sustainable economic and social benefits. In these multi-sector partnerships, civil society organizations (CSOs) play an especially critical role in helping to amplify the voices of the poor in the decisions that affect their lives.

The World Bank defines civil society as the space among family, market and state; it consists of not-for-profit organizations and special interest groups, either formal or informal, working to improve the lives of their constituents. In this sense, the Bank considers research and policy design organizations, labor unions, the media, NGOs, grassroots associations, community-based organizations, religious groups, and many others typical examples of the actors that comprise the dynamic web known as civil society.

What Kind of Activities are Supported?

The Small Grants Program supports activities related to *civic engagement for the empowerment of marginalized and vulnerable groups*. Activities should:

- Promote dialogue and dissemination of information; and
- Enhance partnerships with key players in support of the development process. Key players could include government agencies, civil society organizations, multilateral and bilateral agencies, foundations, and private sector.

Civic Engagement is the process through which civic society organizations actively engage in relationships and actions with the state and other development actors to address issues of public concern.

Activities may include, but are not limited to, workshops and seminars, costs for publications or audio-visual materials, or other innovative networking efforts that small organizations generally find difficult to fund through their regular program budgets. The activity should be completed within one year of the date the grant is awarded.

What Kind of Activities are not Supported?

Small Grants can not fund: Political activities, research programs, formal academic training programs, operational projects, ongoing institutional core support (such as equipment), scholarships, fellowships, study programs, individuals applying on their own behalf, or non-legal entities. Proposed activities should not compete with or substitute for regular World Bank instruments; the activity should be clearly distinguishable from the Bank’s regular programs.

What Size of Grants are Awarded?

In Kazakhstan the individual grant cannot exceed 5,000 US dollars. The Small Grants Program rarely funds more than half of the proposed budget for an activity, and therefore prefers that its grants help leverage additional contributions from other sources. Applicant organizations are asked to describe how a grant from the Small Grants Program might help them to raise matching funds from other donors.

How Proposals are Evaluated?

Before evaluation by the Selection Committee all proposals are screened for compliance with the criteria of the Program.

Criteria:

- The project promotes dialogue and dissemination of information
- The project enhances partnerships with key players in support of the development process. Key players could include government agencies, civil society organizations, multilateral and bilateral agencies, foundation, and private sector.
- Proponent is a legally-established non-governmental organization or a public foundation
- The grant is for a specific activity to be completed within one year
- The application form is submitted before the deadline

Proposals which meet the above-listed criteria, are reviewed and evaluated by the Small Grants Selection Committee, convened in the World Bank Country Office and comprised of the World Bank and EFCA staff, other donors and civil society representatives. During evaluation the Committee pays special attention to the following factors:

- Strategic nature and importance of the proposed activity for **engagement of marginalized and vulnerable groups of population in civic activities** solving social problems and addressing issues of local governance and self-governance and private enterprise development, especially in the rural regions.
- Technical feasibility of the initiative: goals vs. means and technical capacity of the proponent
- Innovative nature of the initiative
- Urgency and social importance
- Engagement of different categories of population
- Creation of favorable legal environment

How to Apply for a Grant?

Administration of the Small Grants Program has been decentralized to World Bank offices in Almaty and Astana. Requests and proposals should not be sent to the World Bank Headquarters, as decisions are made not at the Headquarters, but in every Country Office responsible for Small Grants Program administration.

Application forms, fully completed according to the Guidelines, should be submitted to the World Bank offices in Almaty and Astana after the announcement of the program. Guidelines and application forms for applicants from Kazakhstan are available from the World Bank Country Office in Astana and Regional Office in Almaty as well as from the websites of the World Bank Country Office in Kazakhstan <http://www.worldbank.org.kz/> and Almaty Office of EFCA <http://www.efcentralasia.org>. The Small Grants Program makes decisions only once a year. Applicants are advised to read the criteria and the application form carefully before submitting an application to the Country Office.

The deadline for submitting applications in Kazakhstan for year 2008 is **February 15, 2008**. The review may take up to two months to complete. Given the very large number of requests, personal visits and phone calls by the grantees are not encouraged.

Grant Application forms should be submitted in Russian or English to the World Bank Country Office in Astana to the attention of Ms. Irina Galimova or to the World Bank Regional Office in Almaty to the attention of Ms. Elena Karaban.

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Projects financed by the Small Grants Program in 2007

	Organization	Brief Description of the Project
1	Regional Public Fund «Iris» Semey	This project is aimed at development of public self-governance in Semey. The goal of the project is mobilization and activation of civil society and state institutions to address social problems of the region by means of its active participation in implementation of state social order as well as providing access to information and ensuring transparency of mechanisms, procedures and results of the State Social Order program.
2	Association of disabled women “Shyrak” Almaty	This project is aimed at promotion of interests of disabled women. The grantee will conduct series of educational seminars for disabled women from rural areas to improve their understanding of the necessity to promote their interests by participating in the decision-making process, more specifically – the process of formation of local budgets; and to improve understanding by decision-makers of the special needs of this vulnerable group of the society.
3	Fund for Support and Development “Tan” Atyrau	This project is aimed at increasing civil society participation in the decision-making processes by means of establishing Public Councils. Creation of such public institution is necessary for ensuring public participation in the decision-making processes on the local level.
4	Public Foundation for Continuous Education Pervomaiiski settlement, Shemonaikha district, Eastern Kazakhstan Oblast	This project is aimed at engagement of rural initiative groups in territorial management through establishment of Public Councils which should serve as a model of local self-governance in rural areas. The goal of this project is to involve population of rural areas of Eastern Kazakhstan Oblast in discussion of important public issues and elaboration of solutions for activation of civil society in the development processes and poverty reduction.
5	Public Foundation “Beskaragai Women” Bolshaya Vladimirovka settlement, Beskaragai district, Eastern Kazakhstan Oblast	This project is aimed at improving institutional and professional level of NGOs and state agencies of Beskaragai district in administering State Social Order Program and effective cooperation between NGOs and state agencies by means of establishing Pubic Room in akimat of Beskarai.
6	Public Foundation “Public Policy Research Center” Almaty	This project is aimed at informing civil society of principles of the local self-governance by means of conducting information campaign on local self-governance in the rural settlements of Almaty Oblast.
7	Public Foundation of Disabled People “Namys” Almaty	This project is aimed at inclusion of interests of different groups of population in the draft law “On Social Services in the Republic of Kazakhstan” by means of informing interested NGOs about the draft law concept; involving interested NGOs in discussion of the draft law; formulating and adopting suggestions which take into account interests of different groups of the society; facilitating dialogue between NGOs and government agencies; and attracting media’s attention to this draft law.
8	Almaty Branch of Public Association “Kazakhstan Society of Blind People” Almaty	This project is aimed at activation of people with eye-sight disabilities in Almaty by means of improving their skills of getting information. The project suggests organization of computer training courses and special reading courses for people with eye-sight disabilities, organization of information campaign to attract attention of civil society to problems of blind people in accessing information, and organization of a round table for elaborating recommendations to improve access to information for people with eye-sight disabilities.
9	Public Foundation of Mothers with many children “Gibrat” Almaty	This project is aimed at providing legal assistance for vulnerable groups of population by creation of the Mobile Consulting Center. The project suggests conducting series of seminars-trainings on social and legal issues with participation of stage agencies representatives, as well as creation of the webpage with legal information.
10	Karatalsky Branch of the Public Foundation “Kazakhstan Society of Blind People” Ushtobe, Karatalsky district, Almaty Obl.	This project is aimed at activation of people with eye-sight disabilities by implementing series of measures on social support and social adaptation of people with eye-sight disabilities.