

THE WORLD BANK IN KAZAKHSTAN
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT CIVIL SOCIETY FUND

Guidelines
for Civil Society Organizations

2009



2009 Grant Competition under the Social Development Civil Society Fund The World Bank

Guidelines for Civil Society Organizations

About the Program

The Social Development Civil Society Fund (CSF), known till 2007 as Small Grants Program, was created in 1983 to provide a way for the World 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.

To reinforce the empowerment dimension of poverty reduction, the CSF focuses on **engagement of marginalized and vulnerable groups of population in civic activities** solving social problems and addressing environmental issues. Priority is given to projects implemented in the rural areas. Special attention will be paid to **projects aimed at building capacity of civil society organizations (CSO's) in identification of potential projects, project management, and leveraging funds**. The CSF does not provide financing for political activities of any scope and level.

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 Civil Society Fund 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 CSF is able to finance 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 CSF. 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 <http://www.worldbank.org.kz/> or contact Ms. Irina Galimova in Kazakhstan Country Office in Astana at (7172) 580-555 (igalimova@worldbank.org) or Ms. Elena Karaban in Central Asia Regional Office in Almaty at (727) 2980-580 (ekaraban@worldbank.org).

Who Can Apply?

- Civil society organizations based in Kazakhstan and working on issues of development
- 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 CSF in previous years (organizations are not eligible for more than three grants from the CSF 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 CSF 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?

The CSF 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, and should not replace or duplicate any of the public programs implemented by the public agencies.

What Size of Grants are Awarded?

In Kazakhstan the individual grant cannot exceed 5,000 US dollars. The CSF 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 World Bank might help them to raise matching funds from other donors.

How are Proposals Evaluated?

Before evaluation by the Internal Selection Commission 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 suitable for World Bank support
- 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 Internal Selection Commission consisting of the World Bank Country Office staff members, and then – by the Grant Committee. The Grant Committee consists of 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 environmental issues, especially in the rural regions.
- Technical feasibility of the initiative: goals vs. means and technical capacity of the proponent
- Innovative nature of the initiative

How to Apply for a Grant?

Administration of the CSF grant competition has been decentralized to participating World Bank Country Offices. 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 the CSF administration.

Guidelines and application forms for applicants from Kazakhstan are available from the World Bank Country Office in Astana and Regional Office in Almaty. The CSF 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 is **March 16, 2009**. The review takes up to two months to complete, and the results are usually announced mid- or end-May. Given the very large number of requests, personal visits and phone calls to the World Bank Office by the grantees are not encouraged.

Grant Application forms should be submitted in Russian or English to the World Bank Offices in Astana OR Almaty at the addresses below. If you submit your application electronically please only use the email address indicated below:

010000 Astana
12 Samal, 14th Floor
World Bank
Tel: (7-7172) 580-555
Fax: (7-7172) 580-342
Email: astana_office@worldbank.org

050010 Almaty
41A Kazybek bi Street, 4th floor
World Bank
Tel: (7-727) 298-0580
Fax: (7-727) 298-0581
Email: astana_office@worldbank.org

Additional Resources

Additional resources for Civil Society Organizations are available from the World Bank website www.worldbank.org.

Projects financed by the Social development Civil Society Fund in 2008

	Organization	Brief Project Description
1	“Zubr” Social Corporative Fund, <i>Ust-Kamenogorsk</i>	Development of effective models to inform vulnerable population on guaranteed public services
2	Public Foundation “Support Center for Children, Youth and Women “Tomiris””, <i>Zhezkazgan</i>	Building active self-consciousness of rural women as a key to rural social stability
3	Public Foundation “DOM”, <i>Semey</i>	Organization of school committees for parents and students through trainings and round-tables
4	Public Foundation “Blago”, <i>Karaganda</i>	Training seminars on principles and criteria of sustainable development in the context of Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) implementation in Kazakhstan
5	Public Foundation “Creativity Center for Children and Youth “Istok”, <i>Semey</i>	Development of regulations on School Forestries
6	Public Foundation “Aral Tenizi”, <i>Aralsk</i>	Protection of labor rights of Aral Sea fishermen through legal advice and services