

SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM
Guidelines for Civil Society Organizations
World Bank Liaison Office in Turkmenistan

The Small Grants Program
The World Bank 2006-2007

Guidelines for Civil Society Organizations

About the Program

The Small Grants Program supports activities related to civic engagement by providing small grants administered through World Bank Country Offices. The Small Grants Program seeds and supports activities that empower and enable citizens to take initiatives to enhance and influence development outcomes. Activities strengthen mechanisms for inclusion, accountability, and participation. Activities also strengthen partnerships with public sector, other civil society organizations, and the private sector.

Box 1 Outcomes of Civic Engagement

Civic Engagement can...

- **Promote public consensus and local ownership** for reforms and for national poverty reduction and development strategies by creating knowledge-sharing networks, building common ground for understanding, encouraging public-private cooperation, and sometimes even diffusing tensions;
- **Give voice to the concerns of primary and secondary stakeholders**, particularly poor and marginalized populations, and help ensure that their views are factored into policy and program decisions;
- **Strengthen and leverage impact of development programs** by providing local knowledge, identifying potential risks, targeting assistance, and expanding reach, particularly at the community level;
- **Bring innovative ideas and solutions to development challenges** at both the local and global levels;
- **Improve public transparency and accountability** of development activities, contributing to the enabling environment for good governance.

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 as closely as the selected proposals. Your activity may fall within the objectives and criteria, but the demand far surpasses the availability of funds.

Before applying, please take time to read the Guidelines to determine if there is a match.

Additional information and application forms could be obtained by visiting our website <http://www.worldbank.org/tm> or the World Bank Liaison Office in Turkmenistan.

Who Can Apply?

- Civil society organizations based in a developing country 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).

What Kinds of Activities are Supported?

The Small Grants Program supports activities whose **primary objective is civic engagement**. In addition:

- Activities may include, but are not limited to workshops and seminars to enhance civic engagement skills and/or knowledge; appropriate communication campaigns to *influence* policymaking or public service delivery; or innovative networking efforts to build the capacity of the particular sector.
- The activity should be completed within one year of the date the grant is awarded.
- Priority shall be given to organizations that have not been supported by the Program in previous years.

What Kind of Activities are not Supported?

Small Grants cannot fund: Research programs, formal academic training programs, operational projects, provision of basic services, 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 Turkmenistan the individual grant cannot exceed 7,000 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 World Bank might help them to raise matching funds from other donors.

How to Apply for a Grant?

The Small Grants Program is administered out of participating World Bank Country Offices. Not all Country Offices administer the Small Grants Program. Requests and

proposals should not be sent to the World Bank Headquarters, as decisions are not made at the Headquarters.

Guidelines and application forms for applicants from Turkmenistan are available from the World Bank Liaison Office in Turkmenistan. 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 World Bank Liaison Office in Turkmenistan.

The deadline for submitting applications in Turkmenistan is **February 16, 2007**. Grants are awarded by the Small Grants Committee, convened in the World Bank Liaison Office in Turkmenistan. Applications are screened and reviewed to ensure that the criteria are met. The Small Grants Program gives full consideration to all proposals.

The review may take up to two months to complete. 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 Liaison Office in Turkmenistan at the following address:

744000 Ashgabat

40 Galkynysh, 4th Floor

World Bank Liaison Office in Turkmenistan

Tel: 350477

Fax: 351693

Email: sdjepbarov@worldbank.org

Additional resources are available from the World Bank website, www.worldbank.org.

Examples of Activities Supported by the Small Grants Program

Project 1. The purpose of the grant is to foster social integration of the disabled youth in the life of the region by creating elements of social partnership and collaboration with local authorities (labor registry office and municipality), private sector and civil society. The project will facilitate development of the local initiatives to assist inclusion of disabled youth in the society. It is planned to provide informational educational & legal support to disabled youth in order to raise awareness of their rights, give voice to their concerns and enhance engagement in the local development process.

Project 2. The purpose of the grant is to support social rehabilitation and directly help children living in rural areas with special needs by improving their psychological and social adaptation in society thru their active involvement in the Special Olympics activities in the rural areas of Turkmenistan. The project will support establishment of network of the parent of children with special needs in order to exchange experience and provide training to parents on issues of social integration of the disabled children and to raise public awareness about the issues faced by the children with special needs thru joint round tables with local authorities and community groups. The project will support public awareness campaign which facilitate the change of social attitude to disabled children in society.

Project 3. The project will support active engagement of women living in the rural areas in social and economic life of the region and encourage the increase of the share of their participation in the local governments thru organization of the joint seminars and trainings on women leadership and women rights; The activities will provide women with access to information related to development of women's social activity in rural areas; The project activities will facilitate local initiatives by holding "Open House" events and round tables with women activists, local authorities and communities, international organizations and civil society organizations experienced in women leadership issues to share experience and to provide opportunity women living in rural areas for dialogue with stakeholders.