



INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR ELECTORAL SYSTEMS

[RFA-23-033_Youth Public Policy Network in Nepal] Questions and Answers

[Oct 12, 2023]

Theme 1: Cost and Financial Clarifications

1. Regarding cost validity, the RFA stipulates that "the applicant must agree to keep these costs valid for a minimum of 90 calendar days." We would appreciate clarification on what is meant by "cost validity" in this context.

IFES Response: Cost validity refers to price quotations for products and services from an organization; this stipulation refers to keeping the price of products and services at that quoted price for a minimum of 90 calendar days. While IFES recognizes that proposed expenses are based on estimates, organizations should prioritize cost validity through inclusion of realistic costs in their proposal budgets.

2. Is there a different budget template for RFA 23-033, or should we use the standard template? We have been unable to locate the specific template on the website.

IFES Response: The standard budget template is fine. It should now be on the website and available for download.

3. How should we categorize costs, especially travel expenses within Activity 4.1? Specifically, we are unsure whether to categorize travel costs related to a specific activity under the overarching 'Travel' category (3.1) or within the 'Project Activities' section itself. Additionally, we face the challenge of deciding whether to allocate these costs at the Activity 4.1 level or at the sub-activity or budget line level.

IFES Response: Travel costs related to a specific activity can be included under the activity it pertains to (ex: participants' bus fare, plane tickets, etc.). Travel costs under 3.1 usually include regular monitoring trips or support staff travel, if applicable. If you do not have travel costs to add under 3.1, that is fine!

Theme 2: Understanding of Youth Network

1. Is the youth network intended to be a council/network of individuals or a network of registered/loose networks of youth organizations, youth civil society organizations, and community-based organizations?

IFES Response: This is intended to be a network of youth organizations, youth civil society organizations, and community-based organizations and other entities working with youth.

2. Should we prioritize the identification and selection of organizations for the Youth Network in advance, or is it expected to be part of the activities outlined in the project's work plan? We believe that our role primarily involves convening, but we seek guidance on this matter.

IFES Response: Please provide a list of organizations you would potentially reach out to, but there is no need to confirm their participation before the award. The selected organization can begin to contact and confirm participating organizations after the award is issued, in consultation with IFES.

3. Regarding the governance structure of the formed network, can we propose a governance model, such as a steering committee and working groups, or should the secretariat role be fulfilled by the sub-awardee, with other members serving as network participants?

IFES Response: Please feel free to propose a tentative model. IFES will work with the selected organization to finalize this structure.

4. Are student unions affiliated with political parties eligible for inclusion in the public policy youth network?

IFES Response: No, this project should be non-partisan.

5. In relation to the action plan development process, can we utilize project funds to support network members in implementing their advocacy plans? Is it possible for us to subgrant our financial resources to network members for this purpose?

IFES Response: Yes, the sub-awardee may include in its budget small grants for network members to implement their advocacy plans.

6. Is the focus primarily on youth engagement in problem-solving, or does it entail a more concentrated effort on digital advocacy and generating demand among young people for electoral reform?

IFES Response: This project will focus on both youth engagement in problem solving as well as digital advocacy and generating demand among youth for electoral reform.

Theme 4: Project Implementation and Involvement

1. We would appreciate clarification on the extent of IFES's involvement in the project to ensure alignment with expectations.

IFES Response: The sub-awardee should consult with IFES to finalize the structure of the youth network. However, IFES expects the sub-awardee to manage the coordination and logistics associated with the activities under this sub-award, while maintaining regular communication on activity development, implementation timelines, budgets, etc.