**Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI)**

**First Round Preliminary Call for Proposals for 2016 in Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, and Tajikistan**

**Program description:**

The Embassy of Canada to Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, and Tajikistan is pleased to launch its annual call for proposals for the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI). The CFLI is a responsive, flexible program, directly managed by the Canadian Embassy in Astana, to fund small but visible, high impact, results-oriented projects in Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, and Tajikistan. Through contribution agreements, the CFLI provides monetary assistance that covers all or a portion of the cost of projects that are comparatively modest in scope, scale and cost and that are usually conceived and designed by local organizations.

**Qualifying Projects:**

All projects supported by the CFLI must be consistent with and align with one or more of Canada’s five CFLI themes:

 Priority themes:

* **Championing inclusive and accountable governance, peaceful pluralism and respect for diversity, and human rights**
* **Addressing climate change and enhancing environmental sustainability**

Other themes:

* Promoting stability and security
* Promoting gender equality and empowerment of women and girls
* Stimulating sustainable and green economic growth

Project proposals that address a priority theme will be given priority consideration, though proposals addressing other themes will also be considered. Priority consideration will also be given to project proposals that have a cross-border or regional component, a women’s rights component, and/or an emphasis on good governance and anti-corruption.

**Available Funding:**

Project funding will typically be available up to 25,000 Canadian Dollars per project, though funding up to 50,000 Canadian Dollars will be considered for larger projects that qualify for priority consideration. For exchange rates, the following currency converter can be consulted: <http://www.oanda.com/lang/ru/currency/converter/>

**Term of Projects:**

All projects must be completed between the date of signature of the Contribution Agreement and February 28, 2017.

**Process to Submit a Proposal:**

* Project proposals must be submitted in English or French (unofficial translations accepted) for consideration under the first round submission.
* Only those proposals using the official application form and budget template will be considered.
* As required in the project narrative of the application form, each proposal must explicitly answer all stated questions and provide a summary of all project activities. The proposed project budget must reflect the costs associated with each proposed project activity.
* Proposals should be submitted electronically to the following e-mail: ASTNAGR2@international.gc.ca
* Applications will be assessed on their merits by a Selection Committee. Final selection of projects will be made by the Canadian Ambassador.
* **Project proposals will be considered on a rolling basis, with a first round submission deadline of June 24, 2016.**

**Who Is Eligible to Submit a Proposal?**

* local non-governmental, community and not-for-profit organizations,
* local academic institutions working on local projects,
* international, intergovernmental, multilateral and regional institutions, organizations and agencies working on local development activities,
* municipal, regional or national government institutions or agencies of the recipient country working on local projects, and
* Canadian non-governmental and not-for-profit organizations that are working on local development activities.

The majority of CFLI funding is to be directed toward local civil society organizations (including non-governmental organizations) and other institutions working at the local level. Other entities, such as international, intergovernmental, multilateral and regional organizations can be eligible for a contribution, provided that they are working with local partners and on local projects that are consistent with the objectives of the CFLI. Similarly, municipal, regional or national government institutions may receive CFLI funding, provided that their projects are essentially local in nature.

**Eligible Activities:**

Eligible activities must be directly related to the delivery of the proposed project. The following are examples of eligible types of activities:

* conducting advocacy;
* providing training or education;
* providing technical expertise;
* conducting research or reporting;
* providing or repairing infrastructure;
* providing equipment;
* delivering supplies.

**Eligible Costs:**

When a signed contribution agreement is in place, CFLI funds can be disbursed to cover costs that are integral to the implementation of the agreed project. The CFLI cannot be used to pay for operating costs or ongoing expenses of an organization (i.e. salaries, utilities, rent, etc.). The following list of costs indicates the range of costs that are eligible under the Program:

* administrative and overhead costs related to the project,
* capital and/or operating expenditures related to the lease and/or purchase and/or building of infrastructure,
* installation, maintenance, shipping and/or transportation costs, including fuel, computers and communication devices,
* civic education costs,
* conference and event expenditures,
* hospitality costs, excluding alcoholic beverages,
* training and capacity building expenditures,
* costs of services received by recipients,
* outreach, communication and information dissemination costs,
* environmental assessment costs,
* advocacy and lobbying related costs,
* legal costs,
* accounting costs,
* medical costs,
* publishing costs,
* radio and television broadcast fees,
* facilities and equipment rental charges,
* research-related costs,
* salary costs relating to the project,
* security costs,
* translation and interpretation fees,
* travel expenses, excluding for international travel, using lowest fares possible but not exceeding full fare economy class
* lease or rental of vehicles,
* vehicle and equipment operation, installation and/or maintenance,
* website development and related costs,
* miscellaneous expenses integral to the project.

**The following costs are not eligible for CFLI funding**:

* nuclear technologies and facilities,
* assistance to military or paramilitary organizations,
* gifts,
* luxury goods,
* direct fiscal support to a government,
* core funding or recurrent costs of an organization,
* international travel, (limited cross-border travel within a region could be considered on an exceptional basis),
* revolving funds, (that is, funds used to advance loans to individuals, i.e. microfinance),
* expenses incurred prior to the signing of the contribution agreement.

*For questions regarding the application and submission process, please contact the Embassy of Canada at* *ASTNAGR2@international.gc.ca*

**Embassy of Canada**
Rue Kabanbay Batyr Street 13/1

Astana, 010000, Kazakhstan

[www.kazakhstan.gc.ca](http://www.kazakhstan.gc.ca)

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