

Questions and Answers Webinar

First Call for proposals ACTIF March 09, 2021 At 12:00 p.m Est

This document compiles most of the questions asked during the March 9 2021 webinar.

1. What needs to be in the letter of commitment? Can it be a letter with the signatures of partners who agree to work together?

Yes. The letter needs to explain how the partners will work together so that there is a common understanding of each partner's role.

2. Why have all partners sign one letter?

For simplicity's sake. But if there is another method being more straightforward for you, that is acceptable.

3. Can Canadian and Southern partners be added after the deadline submission?

We want to be as inclusive as possible, so we are willing to be flexible. However, the intention of asking for both organizational profiles in this first step is so that projects are designed in partnerships with Southern Partners. So if you wish to make changes, you need to justify them, but this would be treated as an exception. We are not changing the rule.

4. Is there a recommended budget split between Canadian and Southern partners?

Not explicitly, we want to be flexible. The answer depends on the nature and circumstances of the project and the partners.

5. Does the initial budget amount proposed to limit the amount requested in the final submission?

This decision will have made when we evaluate all projects and the total amount requested for all projects.

6. If a potential southern partner cannot connect with a Canadian partner by the deadline, is it disqualified?

Yes. A project requires a Canadian partner. Partners can begin to prepare for the following years' calls for proposals.

7. Is there a definition of a Southern partner?

A Southern partner must be working in a country on the GAC list ODA counties. The funded work needs to occur in such a country.

8. Are the number of grants already determined?

No. But ACTIF has \$10 million over six years and across four calls for proposals. This gives you a ballpark estimate of the value of each call.

9. If a Southern partner does not have significant LGBTQ2I representation at the staff or board level, can it be a lead partner, or could it be a secondary partner?

It would be a leading partner. However, priority will be given to organizations with a high LGBTQ2I representation at the staff or board.

10. How rigid is the requirement of LGBTQ2I representation for staff/boards?

There is a difference between eligibility and priority criteria in the call. Not meeting this threshold is not an eligibility factor that will exclude an application. But the fund is intended for LGBTQ2I organizations that have traditionally been excluded from GAC funding. To define LGBTQ2I led organizations, key aspects that we will look at are mission, activities, board, management and staff composition.

Canadian and Southern LGBTQ2I serving organizations can still apply as partners in ACTIF as our goal is to advance the human rights of LGBTQ2I people. We also realize that there may be



potential Southern partners that cannot register as an LGBTQ2I organization in their country but do work on LGBTQ2I issues. So we would be flexible in how we apply this criterion.

11. Can the fiscal sponsor be based in Canada?

No. But you can have another Canadian and Southern partner. A fiscal sponsor needs to be a Southern partner.

12. Why does the Southern organization need to be registered?

This is a requirement of GAC. However, an unregistered Southern organization can work with a registered Southern partner, who acts as the fiscal sponsor. The registration requirement helps to mitigate the financial risk of the project.

13. Can there be direct funding of a secondary organization?

Yes, if it is done through a lead partner.

14. Can a Southern partner act as a fiscal lead and sub-grant to other organizations?

Yes

15. Can a submission have multiple partners?

Yes

16. Is it better to request (increase the chance of our application being successful?) the lower limit of the range of available funding?

If we receive many good applications whose total requests are high, we may return to the applicants and ask them to reduce their funding request amount. This is ACTIF's first call for proposal, and as such, we are invested in learning from this process.

17. Can we add additional documents to the application?

Yes, at the end of the form, it is possible to download a supplementary document.

18. How much experience does the Canadian organization need to have?

We are exploring different Southern and Canadian group combinations. But it is the Canadian organization that is ultimately responsible for the project; it would be the one that GAC could potentially audit. This call is geared to organizations that are ready to proceed. It has been structured with a shorter process and with less built-in capacity building and support. We expect more experienced organizations who have existing partnerships or relationships in the South to apply. Future calls will be structured to accompany organizations that are newer to international work.

19. How do you handle the dangerous situations in Southern partner countries? Is ACTIF sympathetic to this challenge?

There are no specific GAC guidelines. In the application, we ask for a risk and mitigation analysis. We are having discussions with GAC on how Canadian embassies can provide support to Southern partners.

20. Can we request funds for Canadian staff?

Canadian partners may apply for staff funding working directly on the project, and funding for support staff can come from the 12% overhead. New organizations and ones dealing with more vulnerable groups might require higher Canadian program management costs.

21. Is there a limit on the indirect funding that we can request?

Yes. 12% (for the Canadian partner(s).) The Southern partners may include justifiable indirect costs in their budget.

22. Requiring a fiscal partner to be based in an ODA-eligible country may shut out non-registered partners.

This is how the fund is set up and the nature of the ACTIF's contribution agreement rules. We noted that GAC is now relaxing this rule in a recent Call for Concept Notes - Education for Refugee and Displaced Children and Youth in Sub-Saharan Africa. We understand and agree that the nature of the work to advance LGBTQ2I human rights in many southern countries it depends on the commitment and hard work of vibrant non-registered organizations, movements and activists.

We are working with GAC to relax this requirement, and this is an important issue for the Dignity Network's advocacy work.

23. Can professional organizations apply?

You need to be a registered non-profit or charity in Canada. Our goal is to create solidarity between LGBTQ2I civil society organizations in Canada and abroad in ODA eligible countries.

24. How often does the list of ODA countries change?

We don't know. It is updated every few years.

25. Would past GAC funding include past CIDA funding?

Yes, unless it is from over 20 years ago. The genesis of ACTIF is to give access to GAC funding to Canadian organizations for whom it has never been available.

26. Could you release the application form earlier than planned to give organizations more time to prepare?

Since we are still negotiating with GAC for their final approval of our PIP before we can make commitments, we would not be able to share the form before it is approved. Throughout the process, we are trying to be as transparent as possible.

27. Has the composition of the Project Selection Team be determined?

The Advisory team has chosen candidates for many people, and a subgroup has narrowed the list to a small list. Invitations have been sent to them, and we are awaiting their responses. When the Project Selection team's composition is finalized, we will publish their names and bios on the website as we did with the Advisory Committee.

28. What time on March 26th is the submission deadline?

17:00 h EDT.

29. When will the second call occur? Will it be the same process?



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We are constantly learning as we proceed with this project and regularly integrate these lessons into our work. So the process for the next call will be different. We will also have a more formal evaluation of the first call. We expect the next call to occur in January 2022.