

## **USAID Justice for All Project in Serbia**

Announces a

### **REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS**

for Civil Society Organizations (CSO)

**Subject:** Request for Application (RFA)

**Title:** Small Grants for Promoting People-Centered Justice for Underserved and Disadvantaged Communities in Serbia

**RFA Issuance Date:** March 11, 2024

**Deadline for Questions/Clarifications:** March 18, 2024, 10:00 Belgrade time

**Deadline for Submitting Applications:** March 29, 2024, 10:00 Belgrade time

### **BACKGROUND**

The USAID Justice for All Activity (Project) is a USAID-funded five-year project, implemented by Development Professionals Inc. (DPI) and focusing on people-centered justice. The Project is designed to help the Government of the Republic of Serbia solve people's legal problems and satisfy their justice needs by strengthening the justice system and service providers to guarantee the rule of law and empower citizens to know their rights and use the law. The Project provides assistance in the following areas:

- Delivering legal literacy initiatives that inform and educate Serbia's citizens - particularly its most vulnerable groups - about the law, their rights, and their pathways to justice.
- Harnessing technologies and facilitating court-community dialogues to promote public participation in legal reforms and a greater understanding of justice needs, services, and outcomes.
- Initiating community mobilization and participatory research processes to improve the performance and accountability of justice institutions and service providers.
- Introducing innovative policies, practices, and tools that help people access services, protect their rights, and solve their legal problems without discrimination, particularly those from underserved and disadvantaged communities.
- Supporting the creation of a justice ecosystem that is people-centered and uses data and evidence-based decision making to inform new strategies and address pressing legal problems.

Through its Grants Program, the Project is promoting the role of civil society in the overall justice reform process and within people-centered justice, along with fostering cooperation between the judiciary and civil society.

## SCOPE OF WORK

The Project invites interested CSOs to submit project proposals within the areas of:

- I. **Mapping and enhancing justice pathways for justice seekers from underserved and disadvantaged communities** focusing on their priority case types and experiences with discrimination and unequal treatment. Illustrative priority case types for mapping include divorce, child custody, property, and social benefits. The mapping exercise should be carried out by drawing on the expertise of CSOs representing the underserved communities. Illustrative interventions may involve informational materials in Romani language, e-Justice tools, use of court staff to guide parties through proceedings, self-help materials, procedural justice guides and checklists, and potentially limited targeted facility improvements.
- II. **Translating selected guides into format(s) that people with sensory disabilities can use**, i.e., identifying and adapting information materials available at <https://www.otvorenavratapravosudja.rs/vodici/> to the legal needs of underserved and disadvantaged groups (e.g., translations into Serbian Sign Language, Braille alphabet, Romani language, etc.). Illustrative examples may include *Guide on Exercising the Right on Free Legal Aid*, *Guide on Legal Aspects of Marriage*, *My Rights in the Enforcement Procedure*, etc.
- III. **Developing the sensitivity component for a planned training program targeting, in part, the needs of disadvantaged groups and People with Disabilities (PWD) for courts and court staff.** The Project will develop a training program on procedural justice and communications in courts for judges and court staff to help them improve interactions with the different court user audiences they encounter, as seen through the lens of justice seekers. The CSO will support the Project by developing the sensitivity component of the training program tailor-made to reflect the appropriate tone and rapport to be established with court users from disadvantaged and underrepresented groups, especially PWDs. The CSO will subsequently take part in delivering training sessions to judges, court staff and members of People-Centered Justice Councils in communities where Project activities will be carried out, as well as students in legal clinics the Project supports.

Grant awards will be in the range of \$10,000-\$30,000. The grant implementation period cannot exceed 12 months.

## APPLICATION SUBMISSION AND QUESTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS TO RFA

The Application, in English, should be sent in electronic format to: [grants@serbiaj4all.com](mailto:grants@serbiaj4all.com)

Please note the RFA number **RFA-J4ALL-N.2024.01** in the subject section of the email.

The deadline for submission of Applications is March 29, 2024 (electronic applications must be received by 10:00 on that date). Instructions for Applicants and the Grant Application Package with a set of supporting materials are available upon request to [grants@serbiaj4all.com](mailto:grants@serbiaj4all.com). For more information, please contact Igor Mandic, Grants Manager at [grants@serbiaj4all.com](mailto:grants@serbiaj4all.com).

The RFA package contains:

- Annex A - Eligibility and Selection Criteria
- Annex B - Review and Evaluation Procedure
- Annex C - Application Form
- Annex D - Budget Guidelines and Sample
- Annex E - Budget Form
- Annex F - Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) and Answers

**Applications submitted after the deadline will not be considered.**

Any questions concerning this RFA should be submitted in writing to [grants@serbiaj4all.com](mailto:grants@serbiaj4all.com) no later than the deadline stated above. All correspondence should note the RFA number **RFA-J4ALL-N.2024.01** in the subject section of the email. Responses to questions received prior to the deadline will be furnished through an amendment to this notice via e-mail. **Phone calls are prohibited.**