

USAID Climate Finance for Development Accelerator (CFDA)

Annual Program Statement (APS) 2024-0016-APS

Funding Opportunity Title	CFDA General APS
Announcement Type	Annual Program Statement
Issuance Date	July 18, 2024
APS Closing Date	July 17, 2025
Submit Questions to the Following Link:	Solicitation Question Submission Form
Submit Concept Notes:	See Part 2

This Annual Program Statement (APS) is issued as public notice to ensure that all interested and qualified organizations have a fair opportunity to qualify for funding. This APS is a broad funding statement under which (1) the Climate Finance for Development Accelerator (CFDA) program is soliciting General APS grant applications for climate finance concepts that align with CFDA objectives and (2) allows CFDA to issue Addenda to this APS with more narrowly defined climate finance objectives and specific pools of grant funding when available. CFDA will review applications based on the criteria and instructions set forth in this General APS or Addenda, if any, to which the applicant is responding. Applicants may submit concepts in response to specific Addenda issued under the APS in the future, which will contain more targeted, specific program descriptions (read Part 1, below, and the relevant Addendum). Applicants may also submit concept notes in response to this General APS, according to the instructions and criteria contained herein (read both Parts 1 and 2, below).

- Concepts submitted under this General APS will be reviewed on a rolling basis, until the APS closing date or until funds are no longer available.
- Concepts submitted under each Addendum will be reviewed according to the timeline stated within the Addendum.
- Any Addenda released will be published on [CFDA's main procurement page](#), and members of the [Climate Finance Investment Network \(CFIN\)](#) will be notified directly via email. See Part 1 for information on joining the CFIN.
- Please note that the APS is subject to change and any changes will be posted in an APS Amendment.

Issuance of this APS and any Addenda tied to it, and any co-creation efforts associated with application development do not constitute an award or commitment on the part of CFDA, nor

does it commit CFDA to pay for costs incurred in the preparation and submission of an application. Further, CFDA reserves the right to accept or reject any or all applications received and reserves the right to ask further clarifications from the applicants. Applicants will be informed in writing of the decision made regarding their application.

CFDA and Chemonics employees may not ask for, and applicants are prohibited from offering, any money, fee, commission, credit, gift, gratuity, thing of value, or compensation to obtain or reward improper favorable treatment regarding this solicitation. Any improper request from a project employee should be reported to the chief of party or BusinessConduct@chemonics.com.

The APS is divided into two parts as follows:

Part 1 – for All Prospective General APS and Addenda Applicants – contains information relevant to all applicants, both to the APS and under any Addenda released. All applicants to either the APS or Addenda must read Part 1 closely before applying (page 2).

Part 2 – for Prospective General APS Applicants – contains information relevant for applications to be submitted under the General APS. Applicants to the General APS must read both Parts 1 and 2 closely before applying (page 8).

Part 1 – For All Prospective General APS and Addenda Applicants

The sections included in Part 1 are relevant to all applications submitted under the General APS and Addenda. All prospective applicants should read Part 1 of the APS prior to applying.

Section I. Project Background

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Climate Finance for Development Accelerator (CFDA), also known as “the Accelerator,” is a \$250 million initiative designed to mobilize \$2.5 billion in public and private climate investments by 2030. These investments will fund a range of climate change mitigation and adaptation activities focused on scaling up the transition to an equitable and resilient net-zero economy. Through this APS, CFDA will primarily address three main objectives:

- Objective 1: Develop and scale effective climate finance partnerships and new investment solutions to achieve transformational change in countries where USAID works.
- Objective 2: Improve the enabling environment and increase and broaden participation in climate finance including the range and diversity of stakeholders driving climate solutions.
- Objective 3. Advance learning and develop community capacity to mobilize catalytic private sector partnerships and finance.

CFDA will communicate with and send notifications regarding opportunities under this solicitation through CFDA’s partnership portal, the [Climate Finance Investment Network \(CFIN\)](#) and published on CFDA’s [procurement page](#). Potential applicants are encouraged to join the

partnership portal to receive timely CFDA-related updates. The CFIN, which is managed by CFDA, brings together climate finance-related stakeholders across a diverse set of sectors that engage in emerging and frontier markets to partner with USAID. There is no cost to join the CFIN, and membership does not involve any commitment or obligation.

Section II – Eligibility Information

Applicants under the General APS and Addenda can include but are not limited to financial institutions, investors, businesses, business service organizations, industry/sector organizations, and trade or other private sector associations. CFDA strongly encourages applications from potential new partners to USAID. *Addenda may have additional eligibility requirements.*

Applicants must read the relevant Addendum for details. **NOTE:** USAID must approve all award recommendations.

Eligibility Requirements Checklist:

- Applicants must commit to a minimum 1:1 leverage (see definition below in Section II).
- Applicants must be a registered organization, formally constituted, recognized by, and in good standing with appropriate authorities in their country of operation, and compliant with all applicable civil and fiscal regulations. Additionally, international organizations proposing activities in another country must be able to demonstrate that they are legally operating in the country where grant activities are proposed.
- Applicants may submit more than one application per organization under the General APS. Applicants may only submit one application per organization under each Addendum.
- Applicants must be able to demonstrate successful past performance in implementation of activities related to the proposed activity.
- Applicants must display sound management in the form of financial, administrative, and technical policies and procedures and present a system of internal controls that safeguard assets; protect against fraud, waste, and abuse; and support the achievement of program goals and objectives. CFDA will assess this capability prior to awarding a grant.
- Applicants operating as commercial companies or other organizations or enterprises (including nonprofit organizations) in which foreign governments or their agents or agencies have a controlling interest are not eligible as grantees.
- Grant support may not be extended to government implementing entities including an office, organization, or body at any level of a public administration system (i.e., ministry, department, agency, service, district, or municipality). This includes parastatals and quasi-governmental entities not formed primarily for commercial purposes, including public universities. See ADS 220.3.2 for more information.
- Faith-based and community groups will receive equal opportunity for funding in accordance with the mandated guidelines laid out in ADS 303.3.28 except for faith-based organizations whose objectives are for discriminatory and religious purposes, and whose main objective of the grant is of a religious nature.

- Grant support may not be extended to public international organizations (PIOs).
- Grant funding may not support any People’s Republic of China (PRC) government-linked entity (including PRC-controlled enterprises) nor support any transaction involving co-investment from a PRC government-linked entity with a Controlling stake, “Control” is defined in accordance with the federal securities laws and regulations. Grant recipients must undertake reasonable steps to determine that no collaboration with or exploitation by the People’s Republic of China (PRC) takes place with U.S. Government (USG) funding. Any grant recipients are prohibited from collaborating with entities included in the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act (UFLPA) [Entity List UFLPA Entity List | Homeland Security \(dhs.gov\)](#).

Other requirements:

- For any grant resulting from this solicitation, organizations will be required to provide a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) at the time of award. If the applicant already has a UEI number, it should be included in their application. Otherwise, applicants will be expected to get a UEI number before an award is made. CFDA will assist successful applicants with this process. More information on UEIs can be found [here](#).
- Applicants must sign certain required certifications prior to receiving a grant. The certifications are from ADS 303.3.8. [ADS Chapter 303 | Document | U.S. Agency for International Development \(usaid.gov\)](#)
- CFDA will work with the successful grantee to draft a marking and branding plan which will be annexed to the agreement.

Section III. Definitions of Leverage and Mobilization

Leverage	Mobilization
<p>Non-U.S. government resources provided by the recipient or third parties that directly contribute to the implementation of the grant activity and was unlocked by the presence of a USG financial commitment, such as cost-sharing a grant or guaranteeing a loan. Leverage may be any resource of measurable value, including cash, other financing, in-kind commitments of goods and services, technology transfers, etc. In the case of funds and investment vehicles, it can include capital that will be invested during the period of the grant. Leverage should be included in the</p>	<p>Non-U.S. government resources that are directed into an activity, business or entity, investment vehicle, or initiative. Investments “mobilized” include both the leveraged resources committed to the immediate implementation of the grant activities, as well as investments for the recipient’s climate or climate finance solution that are catalyzed as a result of that activity. Climate investment mobilization may be achieved during or beyond the period of a grant award as a key outcome of a partnership.</p>

applicant's summary budget for the proposed grant activity.	
---	--

Section IV. Cost Merit Review Criteria

Proposed budgets will be reviewed based on the following criteria. Costs that do not meet these criteria will be deemed non-responsive.

- *Applicant Cost-Contribution:* Applicants are expected to adhere to CFDA's minimum 1:1 leverage requirement. See definition of leverage above in Section III.
- *Effectiveness:* Will proposed costs provide a good value in achieving desired outcomes at a relatively low cost or becoming more cost-effective over time?
- *Reasonableness:* Are proposed costs generally recognized as ordinary and necessary, and would they be incurred by a prudent person in the conduct of normal business?
- *Allocability:* Do proposed costs have a legitimate justification for the funding amount requested and a direct relationship with the grant objectives, and are those costs clearly captured in the budget and concept paper?
- *Allowability:* Are proposed costs strictly for the achievement of the activity, anticipated to be incurred during the grant period of performance, in accordance with your organization's policies and procedures, and are they free of any restrictions or limitations (see below)?
- Ineligible cost items include:
 - Ceremonies, parties, celebrations, or "representation" expenses
 - Purchases of restricted goods, such as: restricted agricultural commodities; motor vehicles including motorcycles; pharmaceuticals; medical equipment; contraceptive products; used equipment, without the previous approval of CFDA; or prohibited goods under USAID regulations, including but not limited to the following: abortion equipment and services, luxury goods, etc.
 - Covered telecommunication and video surveillance equipment or services – per the standard provision entitled "Prohibition on Certain Telecommunication and Video Surveillance Services or Equipment", grant funds including direct and indirect costs, cost share and program income may not be used to (1) procure or obtain; (2) extend or renew a contract to procure or obtain; or (3) enter into a contract (or extend or renew a contract) to procure or obtain equipment, services, or systems that use covered telecommunications equipment or services ("CTES") as a substantial or essential component of any system, or as critical technology as part of any system. This prohibition covers certain telecommunications equipment and services, including, but not limited to, phones, internet, video surveillance, and cloud servers, produced or provided by Huawei Technologies Company, ZTE Corporation, Hytera Communications Corporation, Hangzhou Hikvision Digital Technology Company, or Dahua Technology Company (or any subsidiary or affiliate of such entities) unless Project Name has determined that there is no available alternate eligible source for the CTES. For fixed amount awards, this

restriction is only applicable if any of the milestones are for telecommunication or video surveillance services or equipment.

- Alcoholic beverages
- Purchases of goods or services restricted or prohibited under the prevailing USAID source/ nationality (Cuba, Iran, North Korea, and Syria).
- Any purchase or activity, which has already been made
- Purchases or activities unnecessary to accomplish the purpose of the award as determined by CFDA
- Prior obligations of and/or, debts, fines, and penalties imposed on the Awardee
- Military equipment
- Commodities and services for support of police and other law enforcement activities
- Luxury goods and gambling equipment
- Weather modification equipment
- Creation of endowments
- Grant award funding may not be utilized to directly finance construction or infrastructure activities of any kind (i.e., the recipient cannot use grant money received from CFDA to finance direct purchase of construction materials or services). CFDA funding may cover the costs of investment in construction of facilities, but the actual cost of construction can NOT be covered by CFDA funds.

Section V. Co-Creation

As appropriate, CFDA may engage shortlisted applicants in a co-creation process as part of the application process. Where co-creation is appropriate, CFDA will meet virtually with applicants to provide feedback and input to support applicants to further refine their concepts to identify appropriate concrete results (milestones), to further define and develop the specifics of the budget, and to define the respective roles of each partner that align with the shared objectives of the partner firm and USAID and identify and share risk and responsibility, if appropriate. Milestone reporting and verifiable metrics may be discussed and agreed upon during the co-creation phase. This process empowers the parties involved to design more transformational partnerships that maximize the value of CFDA grant funding while supporting organizations to reach their goals. It is not unusual for the ideas offered in the original concept note to evolve significantly as the applicant determines the best ways to achieve the greatest impact.

Section VI. Financial and Organizational Due Diligence

All organizations selected for award are subject to a pre-award risk assessment conducted by CFDA, to ascertain whether the organization has the minimum management capabilities required to handle US government funds, as well as environmental and social due diligence. All applicants must demonstrate that they have adequate financial and monitoring systems in place that ensure auditable systems and records. The review – which may be conducted remotely and on-site – will also ensure applicants have the ability to comply with the award conditions, including measuring

and reporting on selected milestones, the ability to meet the leverage requirement, and a demonstrated good record of performance on the management and implementation of partnership activities and grants.

Section VII – CFDA Contact Information

For any questions related to this General APS and any Addendum during the APS process please submit questions to the [Solicitation Question Submission Form](#). For general inquiries please email CFDAProcurement@cfdaccelerator.com.

Section VIII – Other Information

CFDA reserves the right to modify by written notice the terms of this APS at any time or to withdraw this APS at any time—with or without a statement of cause—prior to any funding award.

CFDA grant awards are made under the authority of the U.S. Foreign Assistance Act and USAID’s Automated Directive System (ADS) 302.3.5.6, “Grants Under Contracts.” Awards will adhere to guidance provided under [ADS Chapter 303](#), “Grants and Cooperative Agreements to Non-Governmental Organizations” and will be within the terms of the USAID Standard Provisions as linked below, as well as the CFDA grants procedures.

ADS 303 references two additional regulatory documents issued by the U.S. Government’s Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and the U.S. Agency for International Development:

- [2 CFR 200](#) Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards, Subpart E (U.S. applicants are subject to 2 CFR 200 in its entirety)
- [2 CFR 700](#), USAID’s Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards_ (only applicable to U.S. Applicants)

CFDA is required to ensure that all organizations receiving USAID grant funds comply with the guidance found in the regulations linked above, as applicable to the respective terms and conditions of their grant awards.

Under the CFDA grant program, USAID retains the right at all times to terminate, in whole or in part, CFDA grant-making authorities.

Mandatory References and Required as Applicable Standard Provisions

- [Standard Provisions for U.S. and Non-U.S. Nongovernmental organizations](#) receiving a fixed amount award
- [Standard Provisions for U.S. Nongovernmental recipients](#) receiving all other types of grants
- [Standard Provisions for Non-U.S., Nongovernmental recipients](#) receiving all other types of grants

End of Part 1. General APS Applicants should continue to Part 2. Addendum Applicants are not required to read Part 2 and should consult the respective Addendum for key program details, merit review criteria, and submission requirements.

Part 2 – For Prospective General APS Applicants

The sections included in Part 2 are relevant only to applications submitted under the General APS. All prospective applicants applying to the General APS should read Parts 1 and 2 of the APS prior to preparing an application. *The Sections included in Part 2 are **not relevant** for applicants responding to an Addendum. All prospective applicants responding to an Addendum should read Part 1 above as well as the relevant Addendum for instructions and additional information..*

Section I – General APS Funding Opportunity Description

Through this General APS, CFDA is currently accepting innovative concept notes that support CFDA in achieving one or more of the overarching objectives outlined above in Part 1, Section I. The concept notes should support activities that help achieve the program’s results, including, but not limited to, the following areas:

Agricultural Resilience and Food Security

- Improved ability of farmers to access funds for more resilient agricultural practices
- Increased private sector investment in resilient and sustainable commodity production
- Increased investments in solutions and/or practices that reduce deforestation and land degradation due to agriculture
- Increased investment in practices that improve soil quality, water retention, and resilience to erratic rainfall, pests, and/or rising temperatures

Nature Based Solutions for Climate Mitigation and Adaptation

- Increased public and/or private sector investment in nature-based solutions for urban resilience
- Increased public and/or private sector investment in nature-based solutions for coastal and marine resilience
- Increased public and/or private sector investment in nature-based solutions for agricultural resilience
- Increased investment in conservation of critical landscapes and biodiversity
- Increased investment in solutions to combat deforestation and degradation of critical landscapes and native vegetation

Inclusive Carbon Markets

- Increased financial mechanisms to help underrepresented groups initiate and manage carbon credit projects
- Improved frameworks for fairer distribution of financial benefits of carbon credit projects to involved stakeholders, especially indigenous and local communities
- Increased engagement of a diverse range of stakeholders – i.e., indigenous peoples, local communities, smallholder farmers – in the development of carbon market policies

- Increased investments in tools or technologies (i.e., mobile apps and online platforms) to facilitate easier participation in carbon markets for remote and underserved communities and/or to support project monitoring, reporting, and verification to reduce costs and/or increase transparency of outcomes

Clean Energy Transition

- Increased public and private sector investment in electric vehicle fleets
- Increased public and private sector investment in mini-grids and off-grid solutions to expand energy access in remote areas
- Increased public and private sector investment in renewable energy technologies tailored to local conditions and needs
- Improved financial instruments to attract private sector investors to renewable energy solutions
- Increase investment in digital platforms and financial technology (fintech) solutions to facilitate investment and crowdfunding for renewable energy projects

Climate Adaptation and Resilience

- Increased public and private sector investment in extreme heat solutions
- Increased public and private sector investment in more climate resilient infrastructure
- Increased finance for smallholders adopting climate- and water-smart agricultural practices
- Increased access to international climate finance through mechanisms like the Green Climate Fund and the Adaptation Fund
- Improved risk insurance schemes to protect investments in adaptation projects from climate-related losses
- Improved financial products that hedge against climate risks, such as weather derivatives

Gender and Inclusion (either as stand-alone activities or with these elements integrated into the sectoral areas of focus above)

- Increased access for women to climate finance to support adaptation and adoption of more resilient practices
- Increased finance and investment in climate solutions led by women and/or benefitting women and girls
- Increased financial mechanisms to help underrepresented groups (i.e., women, youth, indigenous communities, ethnic minorities, etc.) initiate and manage climate mitigation and adaptation projects and enterprises.

Gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) is a guiding principle for all CFDA interventions and applicants to this APS should ensure that their activities embrace an inclusive development approach that achieves both climate and equity goals. Preference will be given to concepts that

are gender-responsive and recognize and address issues faced by indigenous and local communities, and other marginalized and underrepresented groups.

Geographic Focus: Ideas and approaches must focus on one or more countries [where USAID works](#).

Section II – Award Information

CFDA expects to make awards under this General APS on a rolling basis, however funding availability may not align with the timing of grant application submission. It is anticipated that each grant award may range from between \$50,000 to \$500,000 USD but the final amount will be dependent upon grant activities, available funding, and final negotiation and may be lower or higher than that range. Start dates and award duration will be dependent on available funding and timing of awards but are estimated to be between 12 to 24 months, with a period of performance ending by May 31, 2027. CFDA may choose to extend this APS until all available funding has been awarded. CFDA may choose to fully fund or incrementally fund selected application(s). Information on eligibility can be found above in Part 1. **NOTE:** *USAID must approve all award recommendations.*

Section III – Application and Submission Information

CFDA will review applications responding to the General APS on a rolling basis. Applicants must propose strategies for the implementation of the program description described above, introducing innovations that are appropriate to their organizational strengths. CFDA will manage a streamlined application process that begins with applicants submitting a grant application that includes a detailed concept note and a high-level budget (instructions below). CFDA will assemble a merit review committee to review applications on a rolling basis against the merit review criteria outlined below. CFDA may engage shortlisted applicants in a co-creation process to clarify elements of the grant application (see “Co-Creation” under Part 1, Section V, page 6). After this process, applicants will be notified whether their grant application has been rejected or approved, pending a pre-award risk assessment and negotiations.

Concept notes must be completed using the template provided in Annex A (Concept and Budget Template). Concept notes and budgets must meet the following requirements or they will not be reviewed:

- Be written in English as a PDF or PowerPoint slide deck.
- Contain a maximum of 12 slides (slide decks).
- Be a minimum of 9-point font.
- Include the APS name and number.
- Include address of organization and point of contact (including contact name and email information).
- Content must include and/or describe:

- Cover page that includes an activity title, name of the organization, legal representative, country of legal residence of the organization, and Tax ID (TIN) numbers (maximum one slide)
- Executive summary
- Description of activity context and definition of the problem this activity seeks to address in line with the CFDA objectives as stated in the solicitation
- Proposed solution to the identified problem
- Level and status of private sector commitment and co-investment
- Total climate finance mobilization potential from the proposed activity (see Part 1)
- Engagement of stakeholders/partners in relevant [USAID presence countries](#)
- Additionality and potential scale of impact
- Gender and social inclusion considerations, including any social and environmental risks and risk mitigation plans, as applicable
- Company/organization profile and proposed staffing
- Grant funding requested (summary budget). Summary budgets must be presented in either the local currency of the organization (e.g., applicants from Dominican Republic must present budgets in Dominican pesos) or in USD for international applicants, as well as include a commitment to a **minimum 1:1 leverage** (see Part 1, Section III above) of USAID funding (maximum one slide).
- Estimated timeline for implementation of activities (maximum one slide).

Each grant application must clearly distinguish between the funding/resources requested from CFDA, funding/resources to be committed to the grant activity by the applicant or other parties (i.e., leverage), and any third-party investment to be mobilized for the applicant’s climate solution during or as a result of the proposed activity. Please see the chart in Part 1, Section III for definitions of leverage and mobilization used by CFDA, as adapted from USAID’s Private Sector Engagement policy and the climate finance mobilization indicators from USAID’s Climate Change Standard Indicator Handbook.

Concept Note Merit Review Criteria: All applicants will be assessed using the merit review criteria below. Each criterion will have equal weight:

- 1) **Relevance:** Addresses the priorities and additional merit review considerations included in the General APS. Applicants are encouraged to read those considerations carefully to make sure concepts are aligned with the priorities of the APS.
- 2) **Scale of Impact:** Achieves significant climate mitigation and/or adaptation impact and contributes to CFDA’s overall target of mobilizing \$2.5 billion in climate finance. Additional priority will be given to applications that strengthen local or regional climate finance ecosystems and/or have a strong possibility for replication.
- 3) **Additionality:** Incentivizes or de-risks private sector investments or commitments which are unlikely to occur (or unlikely to occur at the same speed and/or scale) without USAID/CFDA’s involvement.

- 4) **Gender and Social Inclusion:** Benefits and demonstrates inclusion of social, economic, and environmental concerns from highly climate vulnerable populations, including women, Indigenous peoples and local communities, youth, or other marginalized and/or underrepresented groups.
- 5) **Private Sector and Local Engagement:** Demonstrates interest of private sector, as well as relevant local stakeholders in one or more [USAID presence countries](#). Priority will be given to concepts demonstrating (1) higher levels of private sector commitment and co-investment and (2) the ability to commit to a minimum 1:1 leverage (see definition above in Section IV).
- 6) **Activity and Approach:** Includes feasible, innovative, forward-thinking ideas that allow USAID and CFDA to work with the private sector more collaboratively, differently, and/or with greater agility. Approaches should have a viable business case or model.

Cost Merit Review criteria can be found under Part 1, Section IV above.

Submission: All applicants shall submit their materials through the [General APS Submission Portal](#). Late or unresponsive applications will only be considered at the discretion of CFDA. Please submit all questions concerning this solicitation via the [Solicitation Question Submission Form](#).