USAID Climate Finance for Development Accelerator (CFDA)
Request for Applications (RFA) 2025-0024-RFA

Funding Opportunity Title	Greening Value Chains in Africa (GVCA)
Announcement Type	Request for Applications
Issuance Date	November 14, 2024
RFA Closing Date	January 17, 2025, 11:59pm (EST)
Submit Questions to the Following Link:	Solicitation Question Submission Form
Deadline for Submitting Questions:	December 2, 2024, 11:59pm (EST)
Submission Portal Link:	Submission Portal
Virtual Pre-Application Workshop (see Part 2):	November 21, 2024, 10am EST

The USAID Climate Finance for Development Accelerator (CFDA), implemented by Chemonics International, is seeking grant applications from experienced debt, equity, or other investors (e.g., asset managers, asset owners, financial institutions with investment or lending capabilities) to improve the sustainability and help enhance the economic contribution of Africa's energy transition value chains.[1] The grants will be awarded and implemented in accordance with USAID and US Government regulations governing grants under contracts and CFDA's internal grant management policies.

Issuance of this RFA does 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 to ask for 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 RFA is divided into three parts as follows:

Part 1 – Program Overview, Eligibility, and Requirements

Part 2 – Application and Submission Information

Part 3 – Required Annexes (linked separately)

[1] For purposes of GVCA, energy transition value chains (ETVCs) are defined as the suite of economic activities involved in the production and delivery of clean energy, from the processing of energy transition minerals to energy consumption and, eventually, end-of-life management (e.g., battery recycling).

Part 1 - Program Overview, Eligibility, and Requirements

1A. PROGRAM OBJECTIVE

CFDA seeks to award grants to local, U.S., and international organizations and private entities (including European Economic Area organizations) to experienced debt, equity, or other investors (e.g., asset managers, asset owners, financial institutions with investment or lending capabilities) to improve the sustainability and help enhance the economic contribution of Africa's energy transition value chains.

1B. PROGRAM BACKGROUND

CFDA 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 RFA, GVCA will primarily address Objective 1 of CFDA - *Develop and scale effective climate finance partnerships and new investment solutions to achieve transformational change in countries where USAID works*.

Developed in partnership with stakeholders under the Investment Mobilisation Collaboration Alliance (IMCA), Greening Value Chains in Africa (GVCA) aims to channel blended finance into green and sustainable funds or other investment vehicles focused on the expansion and increased sustainability of higher-value economic activities in African energy transition value chains. CFDA and IMCA are jointly launching a funding window that sources, structures, and executes partnerships with debt, equity, or other investors seeking to deploy capital that supports the greening of value chains and simultaneously promotes economic development in Africa.

IMCA Background. IMCA was launched at COP 28 and is a global partnership of donor governments and development finance institutions (DFIs) from Nordic countries and the United States committed to fostering pipeline collaboration and catalyzing private sector investments at scale into emerging markets and developing economies. IMCA seeks to provide new catalytic public capital for blended finance vehicles, aiming to mobilize billions in private capital for climate and Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) investments before 2026.

1C. DETAILED PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The International Energy Agency (IEA) has estimated that over $2 trillion is needed annually by 2030 to reduce carbon emissions while addressing growing energy demands of emerging markets and developing economies. This urgent action is anticipated to nearly triple the demand for critical energy transition minerals (e.g., nickel, cobalt, lithium) essential for renewable energy technologies by 2030 and quadruple it by 2040. The global energy transition presents an opportunity for emerging markets in Africa to attract investment, create local jobs and markets, support climate mitigation goals and increase energy access, among other potential benefits. Despite this, current practices on the continent are increasing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and environmental degradation, and significant gaps remain in effectively addressing key environmental, social, and governance (ESG) metrics in crucial local value chains. Emissions from minerals production and processing are expected to continue growing alongside projected growth in demand. Environmental impacts, including biodiversity loss, water depletion, air pollution, and waste-related contamination may also accompany greater activities in this sector. Beyond mining activities, little, if any other economic activities in the value chain occur in Africa.

The energy transition in Africa, which includes scaling renewable energy, efficient resource usage, and responsible waste management, is a critical opportunity for both achieving global climate change goals and fostering local economic growth. Capitalizing on this opportunity, however, will require significant investment to (1) reduce emissions associated with energy transition investments and (2) help Africa capture greater local value across the energy transition value chain in areas such as minerals processing, manufacturing, and circular materials technology. In response to this, GVCA seeks to support the greening and increased localization of Africa's energy transition value chains while supporting sustainable economic development. GVCA seeks to use blended finance to mobilize investments in renewable energy, green technology, sustainable practices, and local capacity building throughout Africa's energy transition value chains. By strengthening crucial value chain segments, GVCA will promote both environmental sustainability and job creation in Africa. GVCA is designed to address three key objectives:

1. Improve key ESG and impact dimensions in energy transition value chains supporting clean energy generation and investments enabling the development of further local value addition in value chains between critical minerals extraction and renewable energy installation;
2. Promote economic growth for local communities through the onshoring of key stages in the value chain, such as responsible energy transition minerals processing and renewables manufacturing, with strong environmental and social safeguards;
3. Increase speed and supply of capital for enhancing local energy transition value chains in Africa, by deploying blended finance to mobilize additional investors.

Geographic Focus: The geographic focus of these activities is Africa. Only funds or other investment vehicles investing 100 percent of their capital in OECD DAC countries in Africa are eligible for support. There is a strong preference for funds or other investment vehicles to support projects and opportunities in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Sectors: Renewable power generation and/or transmission with a meaningful nexus of energy transition minerals activities (e.g., geothermal power generation for minerals refining operations) are **prioritized**. Other illustrative value chain sectors may include: renewables manufacturing, circular economy solutions (e.g., recycling, repairing, reusing energy parts and materials), manufacturing and sales of EV batteries and/or battery energy storage systems (BESS), or green hydrogen. CFDA recognizes that there are limited direct investment opportunities upstream in the value chain that meet the People's Republic of China (PRC) restriction outlined in Section 1G. However, CFDA and IMCA believe there are significant opportunities midstream/downstream (e.g., battery manufacturing and recycling) and adjacent investments (e.g., utility scale renewable investments that supply electricity to energy transition value chain operators).

Communication: 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.

Examples of Eligible Investment Vehicles: Acknowledging that there may be limited existing investment vehicles focused on enhancing Africa's energy transition value chains, the RFA encourages proposals for new investment vehicles from experienced investment managers that use CFDA's grant funding to initially operationalize the concept and incorporate IMCA instruments at a later stage of development. Non-exhaustive examples of investment vehicles that would be eligible under this RFA may include:

- An investment fund (or sleeve of fund) with a focus on renewable energy generation projects that supply power along the energy transition value chain (e.g., mining, refining and processing, manufacturing, transport)
- A debt platform that provides project finance to renewable energy and other green infrastructure projects that support the energy transition value chain
- Private equity or venture capital funds that invest in companies that develop technology in support of onshoring some aspect of the energy transition value chain to Africa

Co-Creation Support: Given the willingness to support newly created investment vehicles (or new sleeves within existing vehicles) GVCA recognizes that some grantees may need technical or financial support to structure and launch their investment vehicles. Applicants are encouraged to specify these needs in their application.

1D. ACTIVITY INDICATORS

Successful applicant(s) will be required to report on activity progress, provide data for performance indicators on a semiannual basis, and agree to the requirements listed below. **Successful applicants must be able to provide data for the following investment mobilization and climate change mitigation indicators, where applicable:**

- Amount of investment mobilized (in USD) for climate change adaptation and mitigation as supported by USG assistance (disaggregated by climate sector; public and private resources; investment type; investment source; and country)
- Percentage of investment mobilized that is inclusive of marginalized and underrepresented groups (disaggregated by group and mode of inclusion)
- Projected greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, estimated in metric tons of CO2 equivalent, reduced, sequestered, or avoided through clean energy actions supported by USG assistance
- Megawatts (MW) of new clean energy generation capacity supported by USG assistance
- Number of local decent jobs created

Successful applicants must also provide data for **at least one additional indicator** relevant for the impact outcomes of their proposed activity. Applicants should name these indicators in their proposals. Outcome areas may include renewable energy generation capacity, energy access, circular economy, local economic growth, decent work, social inclusion, or others as applicable. Applicants are encouraged to select from the indicators listed below, consult the USAID Global Climate Change Standard Indicator Handbook for other options, or to propose another indicator or set of indicators that are closely aligned with the outcomes of their activity. All applicants requesting IMCA funding will also be required to provide data for indicators requested by IMCA members, such as those based on IRIS+.

- Number of new clean energy connections (preferred)
- Expected lifetime energy savings from energy efficiency or energy conservation (in GJ), as a result of USG assistance
- Full-time equivalent employment of firms receiving USG assistance

Grantees selected for this funding opportunity will be expected to contribute to CFDA's learning agenda related to climate finance ecosystem strengthening, private sector investment, and other relevant themes.

Contributions may consist of participating in interviews or events, facilitating access to local partners, collaborating on short technical documents or other learning products, or sharing relevant data. Details of these engagements will be specified during award negotiation discussions.

1E. AUTHORITY/GOVERNING REGULATIONS

CFDA grant awards are made under the authority of the U.S. Foreign Affairs Act and USAID's Advanced 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 in the annexes, 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)

Full text of 2 CFR 200 and 2 CFR 700 can be found through the links above. CFDA is required to ensure that all organizations receiving USAID grant funds comply with the guidance found in the regulations referenced 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.

1F. AWARD INFORMATION

Grant Award: CFDA anticipates making several grant awards of up to an expected USD $3,000,000 each. However, the final amount will be dependent upon grant activities and final negotiations, and therefore, may be lower or higher than that amount. The duration of any grant award under this solicitation is expected to be no more than two years. Grant funding is intended to provide flexible capital for start-up costs, technical assistance, or other catalytic uses in support of investment fund or vehicle launch and investment. U.S. companies and organizations are limited to grants of up to USD $500,000.

IMCA Support: In total, IMCA members, including USAID, anticipate providing at least USD $70 million of catalytic finance through GVCA. In addition to USAID's grant capital, IMCA members may provide credit guarantees based on the applications received. Guarantees are subject to the independent decision-making process in the IMCA member institution potentially issuing the guarantee and any agreements will be negotiated and executed bilaterally between the issuing institution and the selected applicant.

Other Support: Other contributing donor partners and/or DFI partners, including the US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC), may be invited to review the applications received for investment consideration, and deploy their suites of investment products–debt, equity, guarantees, and others–in support of the proposed vehicles. For successful applicants, CFDA and/or IMCA may engage other donors, government agencies, asset owners and private investors to assist with fundraising to secure additional catalytic and private capital. Any guarantees or other catalytic investments provided by donor partners and/or DFI partners will be executed bilaterally between the selected investment manager and the catalytic capital provider.

Applicants **must** integrate use of USAID grant capital in their applications. Applicants are required to show their capital structure, including additional blended capital needs such as IMCA credit guarantees. CFDA/IMCA will use this information to determine the allocation of its guarantees and to source other potential investment partners for the successful applications.

1G. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- ☐ Applicants must commit to a minimum 1:1 leverage (see definition below).
- ☐ 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 only submit one application per prime organization under this RFA.
- ☐ Applicants must be able to demonstrate successful past performance in implementing programs or investment activities related to CFDA's priority areas.
- ☐ Applicants must have established outreach capabilities with linkages to the beneficiary group(s) identified in the program description. This should be reflected by the incorporation of the beneficiary perspective in the application.
- ☐ 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.
- ☐ 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 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.
- ☐ Grant support may not be extended to public international organizations (PIOs).
- ☐ Grant funding may not directly support any People's Republic of China (PRC) government-linked entity (including PRC-controlled enterprises) nor directly 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:

- Applicants must be an experienced debt, equity, or other investor (e.g., asset managers, asset owners, financial institutions with investment and lending capabilities) with a demonstrated track record of raising and deploying capital, as well as successfully exiting investments with returns acceptable to investors.

- Applicants must be developing a fund or other investment vehicles (see Section 1C for examples) to be deployed in Africa designed to improve the sustainability and enhance the value addition of local energy transition value chains.
- Applicants must maximize private capital mobilization by using USAID and IMCA's catalytic capital without distorting or crowding out other market actors.
- Applicants must maximize development impact measured through ESG metrics including expected GHG reductions and creation of decent jobs in Africa.
- Applicants must adhere to IFC's Environmental and Social Performance Standards as well as investment exclusion lists (Annex F).
- Applicants must adhere to strong environmental and social (E&S) and business integrity standards.
- Energy transition value chain projects or companies operated by or linked to a Foreign Entity of Concern (FEOC) are restricted.
- Applicants must sign certain required certifications prior to receiving a grant. The certifications are attached to this solicitation (Annex D) and CFDA will review them with applicants.
- For any grant award(s) resulting from this solicitation that is other than in-kind, equivalent to $25,000 USD or more, and has no anticipated subawards, grantees 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.
- The project will work with the successful grantee to draft a marking and branding plan which will be annexed to the grant agreement.

CFDA encourages applications from new organizations that have previously **not worked with USAID** and that meet the above eligibility criteria.

Leverage	Mobilization
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 applicant's summary budget for the proposed grant activity.	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.

1H. APPLICATION MERIT REVIEW CRITERIA

Full applications will be evaluated against the merit review criteria in the table below.

Merit Review Category	Rating (Points)
Feasibility of Design & Technical Approach	30
Scale of Impact	25
Management & Programmatic Capacity	20
Additionality	15
Gender, Inclusion and Localization Considerations	10
Overall Rating (out of 100 points)	**100**

These merit review criteria elements are described more fully below.

A. Feasibility of Design & Technical Approach. The quality and feasibility of the application in terms of the viability of the proposed technical approach and clarity of investment thesis, appropriateness of the proposed methodology, innovation, and the implementation timeline for achieving project objectives to offer significant impacts on improving the sustainability of energy transition value chains in Africa. The technical approach must directly contribute to the achievement of CFDA's results and performance under the activity and must be measurable under one or more of the CFDA indicators included in Section 1D above. There is a strong preference for funds or other financial vehicles (e.g., debt platforms) ready to deploy capital (See Section 1C for examples), however innovative approaches that address the RFA objectives will be considered for a co-creation process. Proposed mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation with objectively measurable indicators will also be evaluated. Degree to which the application proposes clear, inclusive and transparent investment structures and concept models that facilitate the participation of (1) private capital providers and (2) use of IMCA's instruments. **30 points**

B. Scale of Impact. The extent to which the proposed activity corresponds to the needs of energy transition value chains in Africa and will directly benefit target groups, especially groups that are vulnerable to climate change. Also, the degree to which it will directly or indirectly stimulate other organizations and resources to replicate, develop, or implement activities supporting the objectives of CFDA. The degree to which application integrates climate adaptation for reducing climate-related vulnerabilities and supporting development progress (e.g. creation of decent jobs with living wages in line with ILO's Decent Work Agenda) into the fund's proposed investment thesis and process, including impact measurement integrated in fund management. Finally, the degree to which the activity will mobilize private sector (non-USG, non-DFI) capital and/or provide leveraged funds by non-USG partners. CFDA requires that all activities propose a minimum of 1:1 leveraged funds. **25 points**

C. Management and Programmatic Capacity. Evidence of experienced investment managers with capability to undertake and accomplish the proposed activities and positively improve the sustainability of energy transition value chains in Africa, with a preference towards experience in Sub-Saharan Africa. The applicant must have demonstrated experience raising and deploying capital, as well as successfully exiting investments. This should include successful experience launching at least one investment fund (or comparable) with private sector participation. The application should demonstrate the organization's effectiveness in terms of internal structure, technical capacity, and key personnel in meeting GVCA's goals. In addition, the organization must demonstrate adequate financial management capability. The evaluation will be based principally on the background, qualifications, reputation, appropriateness and skills of its key personnel; and the track record, reputation, and achievements (including development of self-sufficient, sustainable activities) of the organization. **20 points**

D. Additionality. Demonstrates additionality of the provision of USG and IMCA instruments, specifically the extent to which this funding will help mobilize private (non-DFI) capital financing that would otherwise not be mobilized, and the extent to which GHG emissions and climate vulnerability will be reduced and/or resilience increased as a result of this assistance. Early-stage concepts are welcome as long as there is a clear path for rapid deployment. Strong preference for applications that demonstrate minimal concessionality and do not distort markets. **15 points**

E. Gender, Inclusion and Localization Considerations. The extent to which the proposed activity includes a gender, inclusion and localization component, contributes to a positive impact on gender equality, on Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, and/or contribute to a just and equitable transition. Demonstrates a conflict-sensitive approach to local contexts, indicating how activities and investments are planned and implemented to prevent or minimize negative effects and maximize positive effects on peace and security. Demonstrates a clear framework for environmental and social safeguards, particularly in high-risk areas such as mining. **10 points**

Additionally, CFDA will ensure environmental soundness and compliance in design and implementation as required by 22 CFR 216.

Part 2 – Application and Submission Information

2A. INSTRUCTIONS TO APPLICANTS

Applicants must propose strategies for the implementation of the program description described above, introducing innovations that are appropriate to their organizational strengths.

2B. PRE-AWARD RISK ASSESSMENT

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.

2C. VIRTUAL PRE-APPLICATION WORKSHOP

The project will hold a virtual pre-application workshop on **November 21, 2024** from **10am – 11am EST.** This workshop will allow eligible and interested applicants the chance to ask questions about the RFA and receive guidance on how to complete the application form. Interested applicants that meet the eligibility requirements defined in Part 1 above and would like to attend this workshop must confirm their attendance by sending the participant's name and the organization's name to this registration link. Attendance at this workshop is optional. A recording of the workshop will be shared with the CFIN and made available to interested applicants.

2D. GRANT APPLICATION

Templates to be utilized when developing the application are provided in Annex A and B. Applicants shall present their technical application and budget in the formats provided and shall follow the instructions and guidelines listed in these annexes.

All grant activity costs must be within the normal operating practices of the Applicant and in accordance with its written policies and procedures. For applicants without an audited indirect cost rate, the budget may include direct costs that will be incurred by the Applicant to provide identifiable administrative and management costs that can be directly attributable to supporting the grant objective.

The application must be signed by an authorized agent of the Applicant.

2E. INELIGIBLE EXPENSES

CFDA grant funds may not be utilized for the following:

- Construction or infrastructure activities of any kind.
- 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, 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 CFDA 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 grant purposes as determined by CFDA.
- Prior obligations of and/or, debts, fines, and penalties imposed on the Grantee.
- Creation of endowments.

2F. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Applications 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 total**. Applications containing more than 12 slides will not be reviewed.
- Be a minimum of 9-point font.
- Include the RFA name and number.
- Include address of organization and point of contact (including contact name and email information).
- 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 *(TIN required for US Organizations only)* (maximum one slide; does not count toward total slide number)

The technical content of the application must include:

1. **Technical Approach:** The technical approach should be a **maximum of 7 slides**. Please design the application in close alignment with the evaluation criteria listed under 1E. The Technical Approach must include the following elements:
    a. Executive Summary
    b. Problem Statement – identify the problem that activities propose to address
    c. Other technical elements fitting with the grant program, such as:
        i. Investment thesis and technical approach
        ii. Capital structure and instrument diagram
        iii. Additionality of CFDA and other IMCA capital
        iv. Impact and inclusion methodology, indicators, and preliminary targets
    d. Implementation plan and proposed timeline for grant activities
2. **Management Approach:** The management approach should be a **maximum of 2 slides**. The Management Approach must include the following elements:
    a. The applicant's strategy for managing implementation of the proposed technical approach
    b. Staffing plan detailing the team necessary to implement the proposed program.
    c. Organizational chart detailing team structure and reporting lines.
3. **Past Performance**: The past performance section should be a **maximum of 2 slides**.
4. **Grant funding requested (summary budget).** The summary budget should be a **maximum of 1 slide**. Summary budgets must be presented in either the local currency of the organization (e.g., applicants from South Africa must present budgets in South African Rand) or in USD for international applicants, as well as include a commitment to a **minimum 1:1 leverage** (see Part 1 above) of USAID funding.

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 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.

Applications (including the budget and supporting documentation) should be submitted in electronic form only via the link given on the cover page and must reference solicitation No. 2025-0024-RFA. Applications must be submitted no later than the date given on the cover page. Late or unresponsive applications will only be considered at the discretion of CFDA.

In addition to the technical application, applicants should submit the following to CFDA:

- Signed and dated Required Certifications included in Annex D
- Applicant Self-Assessment form in Annex C
- Detailed budget provided in Annex B
- A copy of the Applicant's valid legal registration
- A copy of their latest audited financial statements. CFDA may accept unaudited financial statements if the organization does not yet have audited financial statements.

Please submit all questions concerning this solicitation the portal link given on the cover page by **December 2, 2024**, **11:59pm ET**. CFDA will assist applicants in understanding the application process and can provide coaching in application development at the request of applicants.

Oral Presentations: CFDA anticipates inviting a select group of applicants to participate in virtual oral presentations and an interview with the evaluation committee. Only select applicants will be invited to the oral presentation stage. Oral presentations will focus on applicants' proposed activities and approaches in line with the program description and evaluation criteria outlined in this solicitation, as well as time for follow-up questions. At a minimum, key individuals who will be playing a critical role in launching and managing the fund may be requested to participate in the presentations.

2G. AWARD AND ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

All grants will be negotiated, denominated and funded in USD. All costs funded by the grant must be allowable, allocable and reasonable.

Issuance of this RFA and assistance 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 offerors. Applicants will be informed in writing of the decision made regarding their application.

2H. CFDA CONTACT INFORMATION

For any questions related to this RFA please submit questions to the Solicitation Question Submission Form. For general inquiries please email info@cfdaccelerator.com.

Part 3 – Required Annexes

- **Annex A** – Concept Note Template
- **Annex B** – Detailed Budget Template
- **Annex C** – Applicant Self-Assessment Form
- **Annex D** – Required Certifications
- **Annex E** – Mandatory and Required As Applicable Standard Provisions: Standard Provisions for U.S. and Non-U.S. Nongovernmental organizations receiving a fixed amount award
- **Annex F** – Exclusions List *(Document ID: Annex 1)* & General limitations and provisions to IMCA's guarantees *(Document ID: Annex 2)*