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REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

FOR PARTICIPATION OF LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT UNITS IN BiH

RFA reference number:	15.02.0-N2.3-3810
RFA title:	Support Activity for Marginalized Groups of Women in Developing Businesses
Issuance date:	June 27, 2016
Deadline for submitting project proposals:	July 27, 2016 by 4 pm



RFA for participation of local self-government units

Marginalized Populations Support Activity (**USAID/PPMG**)¹ of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) invites all local self-government units to submit their applications to the RFA for Support in Implementing the **Support Activity for Marginalized Groups of Women in Developing Businesses**.

The local self-government units apply for funds of the USAID/PPMG in the amount equal to funds invested in an **Entrepreneurial Fund for Women** (for 1 BAM allocated by a local self-government unit, the USAID/PPMG will also allocate 1 BAM).

All questions regarding the RFA are submitted exclusively via email to prijava@ppmg.ba (subject/predmet: 15.02.0-N2.3-3810, Upit).

The full text of the RFA and all the requisite forms are available on the www.ppmg.ba website.

Interested local self-government units are required to send their application by **July 27, 2017** at the latest, of deliver it themselves to the following address: Ul. 4. viteške brigade 34-36, 71210 Iliđa (the envelope must state: 15.02.0-N2.3-3810 *Prijava na javni poziv – Ne otvarati prije zvaničnog otvaranja prijava*).

Applications that are not submitted in the aforementioned manner will not be taken into consideration.

The USAID/PPMG will inform all the local self-government units who applied about the outcome of the RFA in writing.

¹ USAID's Marginalized Populations Support Activity (PPMG) supports the activities of local organizations advocating for the rights, empowerment and dignity of under-represented social groups in BiH, and builds the capacities of local nongovernmental organizations, BiH institutions and USAID's implementation partners for achieving the aforementioned goal.



Background

In the world, for women aged 15-44, violence represents one of the basic causes of death and disability. More than 80 percent of human trafficking victims are women. Over 130 million girls and women today live as survivors of genital mutilation. Not only does violence over women represent a crude violation of human rights, but it also represents a vast social and economic expense and undermines the contribution of women to development, peace and safety. It represents a serious threat to the realization of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

The consequences of this kind of position of women in the BiH society lead to an unfavorable position of women in entrepreneurship, economy and business in BiH. There is a relatively small number of women in business and those who are successful have difficulties in overcoming the obstacles enforced by the society in BiH, which is still burdened by stereotypes.

Women are a significant but insufficiently used potential of the BiH economy. The lack of research on women in the private sector is an indicator that their problems are insufficiently recognized. The positive changes include the ratification of the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and adopting key laws on women's rights, including the Law on Gender Equality, the Family Law and the Law on Protection against Domestic Violence. Despite the positive laws and the political progress, women are still in an economically disadvantaged position and are involved less in the economy than men. The rate of participation of women in Bosnia and Herzegovina in the workforce that amounts to 43% is extremely low in comparison to the global average of 52.5%, and women are still the victims of high unemployment rates.

The economic strengthening of women contributes to development and creates economic and social opportunities that benefit the individuals, communities, countries and the world in general. The relevant institutions, organizations and the international community in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as the organizations of the BiH diaspora in the world, have to cooperate additionally in this direction.



Framework

The Marginalized Populations Support Activity (USAID/PPMG) of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is inviting all local self-government units in Bosnia and Herzegovina to submit an application to the RFA for Support in Implementing the Support Activity for Marginalized Groups of Women in Developing Businesses, issued by the United States Agency for International Development.

The USAID/PPMG is issuing a RFA to local self-government units to submit expressions of interest in participating in the implementation of the program for supporting micro, small and medium-sized enterprises and farms of women victims of violence, single mothers, unemployed young women under 30, women with disabilities or women with children with disabilities, thus contributing to the competitiveness of local economies and creating employment opportunities for difficult-to-employ categories. USAID/PPMG and the local self-government units will join their funds to create an **Entrepreneurial Fund for Women**.

The USAID/PPMG, in cooperation with all selected local self-government units will prepare a common framework concept which will be used as the model for providing support. After that, the USAID/PPMG will support local self-government units in implementing the defined model. In each of the local self-government units, the USAID/PPMG will hold workshops on writing business plans, filling out the applications and instructions for the target group.

Criteria and Procedures for Applying

The RFA is open to all local self-government units in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which meet both of the following criteria:

- Local self-government units will provide funds for the Entrepreneurial Fund for Women in the amount equal to funds requested from the USAID/PPMG, with the proviso that the amount of their own contribution, i.e. the amount requested from the USAID/PPMG is a minimum of **20,000 BAM** and a maximum of **150,000 BAM**.
- Local self-government units are prepared to apply the **model for providing support** that will be developed in cooperation with the USAID/PPMG, issue a RFA for the aforementioned target groups, and provide budget funds for the Entrepreneurial Fund for Women, for supporting selected businesses by the end of 2017.

Local self-government units apply to participate in the program by filling out and sending an **APPLICATION TO THE RFA**.

The full text of Request for Applications is available for download at: <http://www.ppmg.ba/en/grants/call-for-proposal>.

The Application Form for the Municipalities can be downloaded from the following link: <http://ppmg.ba/ba/grantovi/obrasci>.



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Local self-government units will ensure that eminent representatives of the local business sector are included in the process of selecting businesses which applied to the RFA of the local self-government units, and will be prepared to provide advisory support to women during the process of supporting businesses.

A representative of the USAID/PPMG will be included in the committee for selecting businesses to be supported in the program.

The modality of the process of managing funds, monitoring the implementation of business plans and reporting will be defined in cooperation between the selected local self-government units and the USAID/PPMG.

The minimum amount the USAID/PPMG is requesting from local self-government units is 20,000 BAM and the maximum is 150,000 BAM.

The USAID/PPMG is entitled to conduct a financial review and audit of the funded businesses.

All **inquiries** concerning this RFA are submitted exclusively to:
prijava@ppmg.ba (subject/predmet: *15.02.0-N2.3-3810, Upit*).

Deadline for submitting applications

Interested local self-government units are required to send their application by July 27, 2017 at the latest, of deliver it themselves to the following address: Ul. 4. viteške brigade 34-36, 71210 Iliđa (the envelope must state: ***15.02.0-N2.3-3810 Prijava na javni poziv – Ne otvarati prije zvaničnog otvaranja prijave***).

Applications that are not submitted in the aforementioned manner will not be taken into consideration. Applications submitted after the stated deadline, and applications with inadequate forms will not be taken into consideration.

Outcome of the RFA

After the Commission rates and evaluates all the submitted applications, the USAID/PPMG will inform all the local self-government units who applied about the outcome of the RFA in writing.

Positively rated applications will enter the negotiation stage and the contract signing stage.