**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 raising justice-related awareness and providing psychological and social support in GBV cases

**RFA Issuance Date**: July 01, 2024

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

**Deadline for Submitting Applications**: July 31, 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’ 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:

* 1. **Developing street law initiatives and/or young lawyers mentorship programs** as an effective way of improving people’s knowledge of the law and empowering young leaders to advocate for change. The CSO will support the Project by collaborating with partner universities to develop innovative and effective strategies aimed at making the judiciary profession more attractive to young professionals and to sensitize them to the specific needs of vulnerable or marginalized groups (for example gender-based violence victims, and/or work with representatives of underserved populations). In order to incorporate the voices of younger generations into the transformation of the justice sector, the CSO will work on inspiring law students to reinvigorate interest for entering the judiciary, as well as to promote and advocate for legal literacy and empowerment of citizens. Building on this, the CSO will also work to broaden the target audience by involving high-school students and other target groups, and having law school students take the lead in presenting/explaining the relevant legal issues to these audiences, engendering greater understanding and knowledge about the legal system and their legal rights and role in a just society.
	2. **Providing psychological and social support for victims, witnesses and survivors of gender-based and domestic violence** focusing on better addressing gender and social norms that perpetuate/protect GBV. The CSO will support the Project by collaborating with other organizations in Serbia who are devoted to preventing and combating GBV, wherein they will collectively select experts to offer the most effective form(s) of assistance. The CSO will consistently provide support before the victim reports violence, at the time of reporting, throughout the reporting process, and after the conclusion of all procedures. They will work with survivors of all various forms all violence to develop safety plans and establish support systems and meet personal goals. This form of support should be delivered through support services, such as an SOS hotline. Additionally, direct physical support will be provided in dedicated spaces within the prosecutor's office and superior courts in selected locations across Serbia.
	3. **Raising awareness regarding the rights and status of victims of gender-based and domestic violence** focusing on developing better understanding of the causes and effects of various forms of violence through online and offline campaigns. Moreover, the focus should be on increasing victims' awareness of their rights and types of help and support within the legal system of the Republic of Serbia, ensuring that easily understandable and organized information is accessible to them, and that this information remains continuously updated and organized. The objective is to quickly and widely disseminate information, develop social media campaigns and establish connections with websites advocating against violence (such as various CSO and MOJ websites). Furthermore, the CSO(s) will create a visual concept and apply it to chosen materials: posters, flyers, billboards, banners, etc., in the areas of the respective courts and prosecutor's offices across Serbia.
	4. **Developing evidence-based reporting standards for gender-based and domestic violence cases**. The CSO will work together with journalist groups to improve the skills of media regarding the obligations, methodologies, and limitations of reporting on topics referring to victims' rights, with the goal of avoiding secondary victimization. This will be accomplished by improving representation of information concerning victims' rights in both public and commercial media outlets. The objective is to consistently focus on enhancing the mechanisms of professional ethics among media representatives and improving their knowledge and skills. The focus is to help the public to understand how widespread violence against women is, who is affected, and how it can be prevented. Additionally, reporting should also show how victims understand their experiences of violence and how perpetrators understand their choices to use violence, including their decisions about whether they will receive support and speak out. This could also include developing draft practical guidelines in order to improve the quality of reporting on this topic and help resolve dilemmas that journalists who report on this issue often experience. Ultimately, the purpose is to minimize the level of traumatization experienced by victims of violence, especially for the additional trauma that occurs as a consequence of media reporting on gender-based violence.

Grant awards will be in the range of $10,000-$50,000. 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

Please note the RFA number **RFA-J4ALL-N.2024.02** in the subject section of the email.

The deadline for submission of Applications is July 31, 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. For more information, please contact Igor Mandic, Grants Manager at 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
* Annex G - Deliverable Schedule

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

Any questions concerning this RFA should be submitted in writing to grants@serbiaj4all.com no later than the deadline stated above. All correspondence should note the RFA number **RFA-J4ALL-N.2024.02** 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.**