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## **Liberia Accountability and Voice Initiative (LAVI)**

**Annual Program Statement (APS)**

**Request for Concept Papers**

**Thematic Window Programming Grants - Collaborative Problem Solving: Education Sector**

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- Funding Opportunity Title** : Thematic Window Programming Grants; Collaborative Problem Solving: Education Sector
- Announcement Type** : Annual Program Statement (APS)
- Funding Opportunity Number:** LAVI-APS-008
- Applicant** : Non-Governmental Organizations (including but not limited to Civil Society Organizations, Community Based Organizations, Universities, Colleges, Professional Associations, Labor Organizations, Coalitions, Private Sector, Religious Organizations, Women and Youth Groups and Organizations representing Marginalized Constituencies) based in Bong, Lofa and Grand Gedeh Counties.
- Issuance Date** : **25<sup>th</sup> January, 2018**
- Deadline for Questions** : **21<sup>st</sup> February, 2018**, all questions should be sent to [LAVIgrants@dai.com](mailto:LAVIgrants@dai.com)
- Pre-Submission Meeting** : **16<sup>th</sup> February, 2018 in Voinjama, Lofa County,**  
**19<sup>th</sup> February, 2018 in Zwedru, Grand Gedeh County**  
**21<sup>st</sup> February, 2018 in Gbarnga, Bong County**
- Please confirm your participation via [LAVIgrants@dai.com](mailto:LAVIgrants@dai.com) or 0770207033 - 0888728482 prior to the meeting
- Deadline for Submission of Concept Papers** : **1<sup>st</sup> March, 2018** at 5:00 PM via e-mail at [LAVIgrantapplication@dai.com](mailto:LAVIgrantapplication@dai.com)
- Project Office Address** : 18<sup>th</sup> Street and Warner Avenue, Sinkor, Monrovia
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## **TO INTERESTED APPLICANTS:**

The USAID Liberia Accountability and Voice Initiative (LAVI) is requesting Concept Papers from qualified, reputable, experienced and legally registered Liberian organizations or existing coalitions to design and implement an advocacy campaign to improve Teaching Quality and Classroom Relevance.

The following organizations or groups are encouraged to submit Concept Papers:

- Civil Society Organizations
- Community Based Organizations
- Coalitions
- Labor Organizations
- Private Sector
- Religious Organizations
- Universities and Colleges
- Women and Youth Groups
- Organizations Representing Marginalized Constituencies
- Based in Bong, Lofa or Grand Gedeh.

Concept Papers are due by 1<sup>st</sup> March, only shortlisted applicants will be contacted. Grantees will be selected based on the selection criteria and guidelines outlined in Section IV of this Annual Program Statement (APS). Organization or coalition with no base in Bong, Lofa and Grand Gedeh Counties are not eligible to submit applications.

## **SECTION I – ANNUAL PROGRAM STATEMENT BACKGROUND**

LAVI is a five-year, USAID-funded project implemented by DAI Global to strengthen multi-stakeholder partnerships to advocate for and monitor policy and accountability reforms in Liberia. It aims to increase the influence of citizens and media in the governance of public goods and services, as well as to create more effective, accountable and inclusive governance in Liberia. LAVI supports government partners in strengthening their mandates around accountability and transparency that align with the Advocacy Objectives of LAVI supported coalitions or teams. LAVI focuses on the following four Complementary Objectives:

- (1) Increased Horizontal and Vertical Linkages among actors engaged in similar issues;
- (2) Increased Organizational Capacity of targeted CSOs to participate in issue based reforms;
- (3) On-going Capacity Development Services available on local market; and
- (4) Learning and Methodologies shared and applied by other development actors.

In January 2017, LAVI worked with GeoPoll/Mobile Accord to conduct a national survey to obtain citizens' perception of the major issues that are trending in Liberia. According to this survey, Education emerged as one of the three priority areas for possible LAVI's intervention along with security and budget transparency. As a follow-up to this survey, LAVI supported the National Civil Society Council of Liberia to conduct five complementary regional consultative dialogues that were held in Bomi, Maryland, Grand Gedeh, Bong, and Bassa Counties. These dialogues

brought together 176 participants to discuss and prioritize GeoPoll/Mobile Accord's survey results. The consultative dialogues confirmed Education as citizens' top priority area for improvements.

In order to have a better understanding of the Education Sector, LAVI conducted a political economic analysis (PEA) of the Education Sector in July 2017 which identified issues such as Poor Teaching Quality and Classroom Learning Relevance as root causes of the problems faced by Liberia's Education System. These challenges are complex and require coordinated approach at multiple levels for improvement of the system. To address these challenges for a systemic and sustainable change, there is to establish broad-based coalition or team of non-government stakeholders to advocate for and monitor the implementation of specific policies, laws, rules and regulations related to Teacher Quality and Learning Outcomes.

**USAID LAVI is currently seeking organizations or existing coalitions engaged in the Education Sector to collaborate on the design and implementation of an Advocacy Campaign to contribute towards improving Teaching Quality and Classroom Learning Relevance through:**

- **Strengthening Sector Communication and Stakeholder Engagement**
- **Enhancing Implementation of Accountability Measures**
- **Advocating for Increased Resources for Education Sector Priorities or Existing Gaps**

## **SECTION II – ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION**

Interested applicants must meet all of the following requirements:

- Be a legally registered institution. Individuals are not eligible for this grant
- Support results consistent with LAVI's Objectives; and
- Demonstrate organizational experience in Advocacy that could be applicable to the Education Sector at County Level.
- Be based in either Lofa, Bong or Grand Gedeh County.

## **SECTION III – APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION**

### **A. General Instructions for the Application**

Interested applicants are expected to submit a Concept Paper using the template provided by LAVI. The Concept Paper should not exceed three (3) pages. Application must be submitted in English in size 11 Times New Roman Font, and must include page numbers. Applications must be developed in accordance with the instructions described below. Applicants should retain for their records one copy of all parts of the application and all enclosures that accompany their application. Only one application per applicant per county will be accepted. Multiple applications will be disqualified. The content for the application submission is as follows:

#### **1. Cover Page (Maximum of 1 page)**

- Name and Physical Address of the Lead Organization

- Type of Organization
- Contact Point
- Signature of Authorized Representative of the Organization
- Statement that all information in application is true and correct

## **2. Technical Narrative (Maximum 3 pages)**

- Brief Presentation of the Organization (½ page maximum)
- Past Performance in relation to working on Education and Advocacy (present evidence of the organization's past achievements working in the Education Sector, on Educational Issues, Conducting Advocacy Work and Applying Institutional Learning; 1 page maximum)
- Description of the Advocacy Approach (1page maximum)
- Brief Description of the specific role the institution or organization will play in the Advocacy Campaign (½ pages maximum)

**The Concept Paper Application Template can be requested from LAVI Grants Team via [LAVIGrants@dai.com](mailto:LAVIGrants@dai.com).**

USAID/LAVI encourages applicants to apply early. There is no guarantee a Grant Application submitted by organization or institution will be awarded or successful for funding.

## **B. Questions for Concept Papers**

All applicants can submit questions to [LAVIGrants@dai.com](mailto:LAVIGrants@dai.com) from the publication of this APS on **21 February, 2018 latest** or subsequently announced deadline if additional reviews are announced. Responses to all relevant questions will be e-mailed to all applicants by **23<sup>rd</sup> February, 2018**. Please review the APS and Concept Paper Template closely before submitting questions.

Oral explanations or instructions given before award of a grant will not be binding. Any information given to an applicant concerning this APS will be furnished promptly in writing to all applicants as an amendment of this APS, if that information is necessary in submitting applications or if the lack of it would be prejudicial to any applicant.

## **C. Pre-Submission Meeting**

A pre-submission meeting will be held on **16<sup>th</sup> February, 2018 in Voinjama, Lofa County, 19<sup>th</sup> February 2018 in Zwedru, Grand Gedeh County and 21<sup>st</sup> February 2018 in Gbarnga, Bong County**. Interested Applicants should confirm their participation via [LAVIgrants@dai.com](mailto:LAVIgrants@dai.com) or 0770207033, 0888728482 prior to the meeting. While attendance at the pre-submission meeting is not mandatory, all Interested Applicants are encouraged to attend in order to have a better understanding of what is expected of applicants and get tips on how to develop quality Concept Papers in relation to LAVI's Objectives.

## **D. Submission Information**

Concept Papers must be submitted no later than **1<sup>st</sup> March, 2018 by 5pm**. Concept Papers shall be submitted in pdf (preferred) or other electronic format to LAVI at [LAVIgrantapplication@dai.com](mailto:LAVIgrantapplication@dai.com). Applicants should write “[Name of Applicant Organization] Concept Paper” in the subject line of the e-mail. **Only Electronic Applications will be accepted, please do not send Hard Copy documents.**

Applicants should retain for their records one copy of the Concept Paper. Issuance of this APS does not commit USAID/LAVI to pay for cost incurred in the preparation and submission of an application.

#### **SECTION IV – SELECTION PROCESS**

Applications will be reviewed in terms of responsiveness to the following Broad Criteria:

- Alignment with LAVI’s Objectives of increasing the influence of citizens and media in the governance of public goods and services, as well as create more effective, accountable and inclusive governance in Liberia
- Demonstrated ability to produce sustainable, tangible and verifiable results
- Demonstrated evidence of institutional capacity and/or willingness to learn and participate in collective Advocacy Campaign

<b>Category</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Points</b>
<b>Past Performance</b>	Demonstrated partnership and relationships or links with other local Civil Society Organizations or Government Partners working in the Education Sector.	<b>10</b>
	Demonstrated evidence of working on laws and policies and/or research and/or capacity building and/or information dissemination and/or conducting community dialogues.	<b>10</b>
	Demonstrated Success Stories and impact of the previous activities conducted by the organization or institution.	<b>10</b>
<b>Advocacy Approach</b>	Alignment of the proposed working methods and approaches to influence policies and awareness raising in the Education Sector with LAVI’s Education Sector Objectives.	<b>30</b>
<b>Expected Role to be played in the Advocacy Campaign</b>	Alignment of the proposed role in the Advocacy Campaign to address LAVI’s Education Sector Objectives.	<b>20</b>
	Singularity of the role to be played in the Advocacy Campaign.	<b>20</b>

#### **SECTION V – LAVI PROJECT CONTACTS**

The points of contact for this APS and any question during the APS process are:  
 USAID/LAVI Grants Team  
 Phone: 0770207033 or 0888728482  
 E-mail: [LAVIgrants@dai.com](mailto:LAVIgrants@dai.com)