



UNITED STATES
INSTITUTE OF PEACE

United States Institute of Peace:

Call for Concept Notes

Strengthening Peace Studies and Conflict Resolution in

Sub-Saharan African Universities

Background

The United States Institute of Peace's Africa Program seeks to strengthen peace studies and conflict resolution through a grant program for Sub-Saharan African universities. In addition to training the next generation of policymakers and academics, universities often serve as important pillars of peace in the communities where they are located. Many universities, however, struggle to provide quality education as growing student populations stretch available resources.

Grant Competition

In 2014, the United States Institute of Peace will make two or three grants to Sub-Saharan African universities to enable these universities to strengthen their undergraduate or graduate programs in peace studies or conflict resolution. Activities eligible for funding will include experiential learning programs for students, partnerships between universities, exchange programs, student research and fieldwork, improving the quality of instruction, salaries for additional staff, and initiatives to attract and retain high-quality staff, among others. **USIP will not fund construction projects or faculty research.** To accompany the grants, USIP will provide the grantees access to its online courses as well as a set of USIP's relevant books.

Only legally registered Sub-Saharan African universities are eligible to apply for this grant opportunity. Project funds should be used to directly support a university's growing peace education or conflict resolution program, or to support similar activities within a related disciplinary department (e.g. political science, psychology, economics, and international development). Depending on the nature of the project, USIP will make grants for up to \$150,000, with implementation periods ranging from six months to two years.

Application Process

Applicants are invited to submit brief concept notes by May 26, 2014.

Concept notes should be no more than two pages, and should include:

- Name of applicant university, names of project directors, and contact information (email and telephone).
- A description of the university and the peace studies/conflict resolution program.
- The specific need within the peace studies/conflict resolution program.
- The objective of the project and expected outcomes. Explain how exactly you are seeking to strengthen the peace education/conflict resolution program. If your project is successful, what change will have been created?
- The activities through which you will achieve your objective(s). Activities must clearly and logically contribute to achieving the stated objectives.
- An estimated budget figure. (Applicants who are invited to the next stage of the competition will be required to provide a detailed budget.)
- An implementation period. (If successful, applicants will receive funds in September.)
- Brief comments on how the impact of the project will be sustained following the conclusion of the grant period.

After a review of all concept notes, a small group of applicants will be contacted by May 30 and invited to submit full grant proposals to USIP by June 18. Grant proposals will then be reviewed in a three-step process, and applicants will be notified of the outcome of their proposals in August 2014. For applicants whose proposals are approved, it is estimated that grant funds will be available by September.

To submit a concept note, please use this online form: [USIP Africa Grants Concept Note Form](#). Note that all concept notes must be received by 5pm Eastern Standard Time on May 26. If you have difficulty submitting your concept note using the online form, please contact africagrants@usip.org for assistance.