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## **Request for Applications (RfA) for Rapid Response Grants Program**

### **Purpose:**

In line with its programmatic mission and objectives to build the capacity of Georgian civil society to act as trusted and effective representatives of citizens' interests, the USAID Civil Society Engagement Program announces the Rapid Response Grants program aimed at ensuring continuity and resilience of civil society organizations (CSOs) in Georgia. The Rapid Response Grants program will provide rapid, flexible and critical financial resources, as well as capacity development support to CSOs to navigate and adapt to the evolving regulatory environment and other challenges they may face.

### **Eligible Activities:**

Rapid Response Grants can be used to address various issues requiring timely and diligent responses, including but not limited to:

- Access expert consultancy services on legal, financial, data protection, and other critical issues
- Conduct legal or regulatory compliance audits to address emerging legal challenges or changes in regulations
- Implement mental health and wellbeing programs for staff facing increased stress and burnout
- Provide temporary staffing or consultant support for specialized tasks
- Deploy digital technology enhancements to improve operational efficiency and security
- Cover unforeseen operational costs due to sudden changes or emergencies
- Address other emergency needs arising from the current operational environment

### **Application Process:**

- **Deadline:** Grants are available and awarded on a rolling basis until funding is exhausted.
- **Application Form:** The application form is attached to this RfA.
- **Budget:** There is no specific budget form for this grant program. Please feel free to use your own template.
- **Submission:** Applications must be submitted electronically in English or Georgian to Ani Nikabadze at [anikabadze@ewmi.org](mailto:anikabadze@ewmi.org). Emails must have "RAPID RESPONSE GRANT" in the subject line.

### **Grant Details:**

- **Amount of Grant:** Minimum \$300 – Maximum \$3,000
- **Duration of Projects:** Minimum 2 weeks – Maximum 2 months

### **Evaluation Criteria:**

Applications will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- **Relevance and Urgency:** Applicants must demonstrate that the proposed intervention is critical and must happen quickly to be effective.
- **Clarity:** Applicants must clearly articulate the objectives, activities, and expected outcomes of the proposed project.
- **Cost-effectiveness:** The proposed budget must demonstrate efficient use of funds relative to the expected impact.

### **Processing Time:**

Considering the urgency of the issue, the USAID Civil Society Engagement Program will process grant applications within 3 to 5 days. If approved, grants will be processed within one week from approval.



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**Reporting Requirements:**

Grant recipients will be required to submit a short written report and include copies of all original receipts upon completion of their grant projects.

**Requests for Clarifications:**

For any clarifications, please contact Ani Nikabadze, EWMI Citizen Engagement Coordinator, at [anikabadze@ewmi.org](mailto:anikabadze@ewmi.org).