## Liberia Accountability and Voice Initiative (LAVI)

## Annual Program Statement (APS) Request for Concept Papers Thematic Window Programming Grants - Collaborative Problem Solving: Education Sector Reform

**Funding Opportunity Title :** Thematic Window Programming Grants; Collaborative Problem

Solving: Education Sector Reform

**Announcement Type :** Annual Program Statement (APS)

**Funding Opportunity Number** **:** LAVI-APS-006

**Applicant** **:**  Non-governmental entities (including but not limited to civil

society organizations, community-based organizations,

 universities, colleges, professional associations, labor

 organizations, business associates, private enterprises, religious

 organizations, women and youth groups and

 organizations representing marginalized constituencies).

**Issuance Date**  **:** **26 September, 2017**

**Deadline for Questions** **:**  **13 October 2017.** All questions should be sent to

LAVIgrants@dai.com.

**Pre-Submission Meeting : 4 October, 2017** at Corina Hotel, Sinkor, Monrovia

 Please confirm your participation via LAVIgrants@dai.com or

 0770207033 - 0888906293 prior to event.

**Deadline for Submission of :** **27 October 2017** at 5:00 PM via email at

**Concept Papers** LAVIgrantapplication@dai.com

**Project Office Address :** 18th Street and Warner Avenue, Sinkor, Monrovia

**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 address poor teaching quality and classroom relevance.

The following organizations are encouraged to submit concept Papers:

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| --- | --- |
| * Civil society organizations
* Community-based organizations
* Associations
* labor organizations
* business associates
* Private sector
 | * Religious organizations
* Universities and Colleges
* Women and youth groups
* Organizations representing marginalized constituencies
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Concept notes are due by **27 October, 2017**. Only applicants who have been shortlisted will be contacted. Grantees will be selected based upon the selection criteria and guidelines outlined in Section IV of this Annual Program Statement (APS).

## SECTION I – ANNUAL Program statement Backround

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 also supports government partners in strengthening their mandate around accountability and transparency that align with the advocacy objectives of the LAVI-supported coalitions. 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 support, along with security and budget and 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 survey results. The consultative dialogues confirmed education as Liberian citizens’ priority area for policy reforms.

In order to have a better understanding of the sector and policy gaps, LAVI conducted in July 2017, a Political Economy Analysis (PEA) of the education sector which identified poor teaching quality and classroom learning relevance as the major root causes of the problems faced by the education sector. These challenges are intentionally broad and have multiple entry points that, if addressed, have implications for systemic and sustainable change, and offer opportunities to establish broad-based coalitions of government and non-government stakeholders to advocate for and monitor 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 improve poor 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**

## SECTION II – ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

Interested applicants must meet all of the following requirements:

* Be a legally registered institution. Individuals are not eligible for the grant funding
* Support results consistent with LAVI’s objectives; and
* Demonstrate organizational experience in advocacy that could be applicable to the Education sector at national level.

## 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. The application must be submitted in English in size 11 Times New Roman Font, and must include page numbers. Applications must be prepared 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 will be accepted. 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 applicant
	* 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 education and advocacy (Present evidence of the organization’s past achievements working on education 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 will play in advocacy campaign – ½ pages maximum

**The Concept Paper Application Template is attached to this APS, please use it to develop your concept paper document.**

DAI encourages applicants to apply early. There is no guarantee a grant application submitted will be awarded.

**B. Questions for Concept Papers**

All applicants can submit clarification questions to **LAVIGrants@dai.com** from the publication of the APS to **13 October, 2017 latest** or subsequently announced deadlines if additional reviews are announced. Responses to all relevant questions will be emailed to all applicants by 17 October, 2017. 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 a prospective applicant concerning this APS will be furnished promptly in writing to all other prospective 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 other prospective applicants.

**C. Pre-submission meeting**

A pre-submission meeting will be held on **4 October, 2017** at the Corina Hotel, Sinkor, Monrovia.

Interested applicants should confirm their participation via LAVIgrants@dai.com or 0770207033 –

0888906293 prior to event. 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 write outstanding concept papers .

**D. Submission information**

Concept papers must be submitted no later than **27 October, 2017.**  Concept papers shall be submitted in pdf (preferred) or other electronic formatto LAVI at **LAVIgrantapplication@dai.com**. Applicants should write “[Name of Applicant Organization] Concept Paper” in the subject line of the email. **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 LAVI to pay for costs 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 the LAVI 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 work.

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| **Category** | **Description** | **Points** |
| **Past performance**  | Demonstrated partnership and relationships or links with other local national civil society organizations or government partners working in education sector. | 10 |
| Demonstrated evidence of working on laws and policies and/or research and/or capacity building and/or information dissemination and/or conducting community dialogues. | 10 |
| Demonstrated success stories and impact of the previous activities conducted by the organization | 10 |
| **Advocacy approach** | Alignment of the proposed working methods and approaches to influence policies and awareness raising in education sector with LAVI’s Education Sector objectives. | 30 |
| **Expected Role to be played in the advocacy campaign** | Alignment of the proposed role in the advocacy campaign to address LAVI’s Education Sector objectives.  | 20 |
| Singularity of the role to be played in the advocacy campaign | 20 |

## SECTION V – LAVI PROJECT CONTACTS

The points of contact for this APS and any questions during the APS process are:

DAI LAVI Grants Team

Phone: 0770207033 or 0888906293

Email: LAVIgrants@dai.com