



SUBJECT: Request for Applications (RFA) No. SC-TOPS-MG-CB-2011-01
Technical and Operational Performance Support Program (TOPS)
Save the Children

ANNOUNCEMENT DATE: May, 4, 2011

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Open, no deadline – Micro grants will be awarded on a rolling basis

The **Technical and Operational Performance Support (TOPS)** program, a five year USAID/FFP funded program awarded to Save the Children beginning on August 13, 2010 and ending on August 12, 2015, focuses on strengthening the skills and implementation capacity of Title II grantees and improving the quality and effectiveness of food security and nutrition programming and implementation through collaboration, innovation, and knowledge sharing. The TOPS program includes a small grants award fund (which includes the micro grants), an important tool for advancing these aims.

The purpose of this announcement is to launch of the **TOPS Micro Grant (Capacity Building) Program** specifically aimed to support capacity building and skills development activities in food security and nutrition. TOPS invites eligible implementers, organizations, and institutions to take full advantage of this fund to strengthen and sustain high quality implementation skills for you and your partner organizations in your working environment, e.g., train local NGO/CBO partners, government counterparts.

Subjects for Micro Grants can involve a broad range of skills and practice in food security and nutrition. The emphasis will be on innovative approaches, strengthening existing best practice skills, disseminating promising new practices and skills, and reaching a wide audience of practitioners in the operating environment. Illustrative subject areas could include the following:

- Food security
- Nutrition
- Agricultural and economic development
- Natural resource management
- Food technology
- Gender equity
- Commodity management
- Social and behavior change in food security and nutrition
- Knowledge dissemination and networking
- Monitoring and evaluation



Illustrative activities that could receive Micro Grants funding might include:

- A national or regional workshop sponsored by organization “X” to train implementing staff of Title II and food security organizations, collaborating partners, or government counterparts on improved methods in M&E, gender equity, operations research study design, social and behavior change, commodity management, or other food security practices..
- Refine and improve the application of best practices, promising practices, and/or information products, methods and tools (IMT)
- Structured educational study tours and cross visits to introduce proven best and promising practices to practitioners for wider dissemination.

Eligibility

Applicants may be U.S., non-U.S. non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and institutions that are legally recognized under applicable laws and that contribute to the TOPS’ strategic objective of promoting the use and adaptation of capacity building tools, field-led and collaborative projects, and dissemination of best practices to Title II grantees/implementers and food security and nutrition stakeholders.

Award Information

It is anticipated that up to \$3.4 million in total will be available to support the TOPS Small Grant Awards program, which includes the Micro Grants, over the life of the project. Awards under the TOPS Micro Grant program are expected to be up to \$20,000 in total costs for up to 12 months; proposed budgets cannot exceed the allowable amount.

TOPS plans to make multiple Fixed Obligation Micro Grants under this Micro Grant RFA, and the number of awards will depend on resources, demand and the availability of funding.

Contact Information / Full RFA Package Request

To express interest and request the full RFA and application package, please email:

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TOPS Program

Save the Children.