



KOSOVO UNITED STATES ALUMNI

Notice of Funding Opportunity

Funding Opportunity Title: **Fulbright Alumni Small Grants 2023**

Funding Opportunity Number: **FASG2023**

Opening Date: **April 27, 2023**

Closing Date: **May 21, 2023, until midnight.**

Grant Funding Amount per Project: **Up to \$7,000.00**

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I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Kosovo United States Alumni (KUSA) announces the 2023 Fulbright Small Grants Program, funded by the U.S. Embassy in Kosovo. Subject to the availability of funds, KUSA will award small grants as described below to Fulbright alumni of U.S. Government-funded exchanges and training programs. The program seeks to support alumni-initiated projects to improve Kosovo's educational system, bring transparency to governance, reduce corruption, enhance democracy, grow its economy, and ensure sustainable development. Successful proposals will bring together alumni of U.S. government-funded exchange programs to work on a project and share with the Kosovo community the best practices and American values gained during their experiences in the U.S.

II. PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

With funding from the Fulbright Alumni Small Grants Program (FASG), the U.S. government seeks to support alumni initiatives. Through this grant program, KUSA aims to:

- 1. Support U.S. government-funded exchange program alumni to make a positive impact in their communities.**
- 2. Provide a platform that allows alumni of U.S. Government-sponsored exchange programs to connect with other program alumni, share knowledge and best practices, and collaborate on joint initiatives.**

Proposals should articulate a clear strategic rationale for how it advances policies and priorities set by the U.S. Embassy and other partners.

Topics supported for these grant opportunities are as follows:

- Education
- Rule of Law and Good Governance
- Economic Growth and Integration with the West
- Environment and Energy
- Youth, Culture, and Sports.

III. AVAILABLE GRANTS AND ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Announcement posted: **April 27, 2023**

Closing date for applications: **May 21, 2023, 12 a.m. GMT+1**

Funding type: **Small grant awards**

Decision date: **No later than June 10th, 2023**

The expected size of individual awards: Grant Funding Amount per Alumni Small Grants Project is **up to 7,000.00 USD**

Program Performance Period: Proposed projects should be completed between **threeto six months.**

IMPORTANT NOTE: To be eligible for consideration for the **Fulbright Alumni Small Grant Program**, applicants must meet the following respective criteria:

- At least one of the team members must be an alumna/alumnus of the **Fulbright Program**, including the Fulbright Foreign Student Program, Fulbright Visiting Scholar Program, Fulbright Faculty Development Program, or Fulbright Humphrey Fellowship Program.
- Not-for-profit, non-governmental organizations, think tanks, and academic institutions are not eligible to apply in the organization's name but can serve as partners for implementing project activities.
- Alumni of all programs can apply. However, **at least one team member must be a Fulbright alumni.**

Cost Sharing

The inclusion of cost share is not a requirement of this opportunity. However, if cost sharing is included in the proposed project, it must be mentioned in the application form.

IV. APPLICATION CONTENT AND FORMAT

Grant Awarding Phases

The 2023 FASG Program is split into two phases. In the first phase, all applying alumni must submit a concept idea, and the committee will evaluate the proposed ideas. The shortlisted concept ideas to continue the application for the second phase will be required to submit a more detailed application form, including the project alumni team members, a specific work plan, and a detailed project budget.

The U.S. Embassy in Pristina will authorize the committee composition for both phases.

Specific requirements for each phase are described below.

Phase I

First Phase Application Form Requirements:

- A one-pager of the project concept idea (max. 600 words), which should contain the following;
- Contact Information for Project Leader
 - KUSA Alumni Full Name (Project Leader)
 - Team Alumni you are applying with and the program attended in the U.S. *(Alumni can apply on their own if they have not completed the alumni team with at least another alumni for the second phase. KUSA can assist in matching alumni with potential team members based on the project field.)*
 - Phone Number
 - Email Address
 - Current Position
- Project Details
 - Title of the Project
 - Estimated Amount Requested
- Project Summary (100 characters)
- Project Goals and Objectives (150 characters)
- Short Description of Project Activities (200 characters)
- Target Audience (50 characters)
- Impact (100 characters)

NOTE: Only the selected concept ideas will be eligible to apply for the second phase.

Phase II

Phase II Application Form requirements:

- Contact Information of the Project Leader
 - KUSA Alumni Full Name (Project Leader) and Program Attended in the U.S.
- Project Details
 - Project Title
 - Total Budget Requested in U.S. Dollars (\$)
- Alumni Team/Project Partners
 - Alumni Team Members Details (Full Name, Program Attended in the U.S.)
 - Non-Alumni Team Members (if any)
 - Organizations/Institutions (if any)
- Alumni Role in Project Implementation
- Project Dates
- Project Description
- Target Audience
- Project Goals and Objectives
- Project Activities and Timeline
- Expected Results/Outcomes
- Project Sustainability and M&E Plan
- Activity Plan Table
- Budget Justification
 - Personnel (non-alumni)
 - Fringe Benefits
 - Travel
 - Equipment
 - Supplies
 - Contractual (Speaker/Artist Honorarium or Fees)
 - Other Direct Costs

Note: Application Forms for both phases and Instructions are provided to applicants along with this NOFO.

2. CONSTRAINTS OF THE PROGRAM

The Fulbright Alumni Small Grants Program cannot fund the following activities:

- Organizations with affiliation to elected officials, political parties, or religious groups,
- Humanitarian or charitable activities, including direct social services to populations,
- Fundraising campaigns,
- Career development,
- Political or partisan activities,
- Scientific research,
- Individual trips abroad,
- Trade activities, or
- Health projects.

3. EVALUATION PROCESS

Each technically eligible application submitted will be evaluated and rated by the Selection Committee based on the criteria set below. It will take the committee up to two weeks after the application deadline to complete its review process. Applicants may be contacted with questions during this review process.

Phase 1: The concept ideas in the first phase of the application will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- **Summary, Goal & Objectives, and Activities:** The concept idea is focused on program-supported topics, the activities are clear, and the project encourages alumni from various programs to participate and share their American experiences with the community.
- **Target audience:** The concept idea is aimed at the general public, addresses the audience within the supported topics, and includes alumni collaboration.
- **Project Impact and Funds Relevance:** The concept idea demonstrates a clear case that the funding will deliver relevant activities, outputs, and results.

Phase 2: The proposals in the Second phase of the application will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- **Project description and target audience:** The description provides comprehensive and detailed information on the project, the topic it tackles is specified, and the intended audience is measurable.
- **Goal, Objectives, Activities & Time-plan:** The project has a clear goal, its objectives are measurable, and the activities & time-plan are concrete and reasonable.
- **Results and Outcomes:** behavior improvements, sharing of experience and knowledge gained in the U.S. through mentorship and advancement in the respective fields covered by the grants program.
- **Sustainability and Monitoring & Evaluation:** The project must include a reasonable and functional plan for the project continuation and achievement of its intended outcomes after the completion of the grant period. The project has a comprehensive plan for monitoring & evaluating its progress and impact, including the use of appropriate assessment tools to measure the performance and outcomes of the project activities.
- **Budget Justification:** The budget plan and justification are sufficiently detailed, well-organized, and reasonable. Costs are reasonable in relation to the proposed activities and anticipated results. There are no budget lines labeled miscellaneous expenses.

Applicants are encouraged to provide as much detail as possible so that the committee may determine the extent to which the request represents an efficient use of U.S. government resources. The budget demonstrates that the applicant has devoted time to plan for and assess actual expenses associated with the project instead of providing rough estimates. Cost-sharing is strongly encouraged; however, it is not a requirement of an application in response to this funding announcement.

4. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Applicants must follow the instructions and conditions and supply all required information. Failure to furnish all information or comply with stated requirements will result in disqualification from the competition. Applicants must set forth full, accurate, and complete information. Providing false or misleading information in an application will result in disqualification from this and future FASG competitions.

Application materials must be submitted by email to info@kusalumni.org. The subject line of submission emails should follow this format: [FASG Application "Project Title"]. For assistance with the requirements of this solicitation, please email info@kusalumni.org

Application Files

First Phase Applications should include the following document:

First phase application form (Concept Idea Form)

Second Phase Applications should include the following document:

- Application Form
- Budget Form
- Short Bios of team members

Please ensure:

- The proposal clearly addresses the goals and objectives of this funding opportunity
- All documents are in English
- All budgets are in U.S. dollars

Deadline for submission of the application

All concept idea applications must be submitted by email before **May 21st, 2023, before midnight**, at info@kusalumni.org. Applications submitted after that time will be ineligible for consideration. There will be no exceptions to this application deadline.

Period of Performance

This program supports projects of up to 6 months in duration.

Contact Information

Should additional information be required, please contact Kosovo United States Alumni at info@kusalumni.org or +383 44 573 066.