

Social Innovation in Central Asia

Notice of Funding Opportunity

De-bureaucratization and Digital rights Initiatives Grants

1. BACKGROUND

Eurasia Foundation (EF) announces this call for applications among candidates interested in organizing **de-bureaucratization and digital rights initiatives** in Kazakhstan. De-bureaucratization and Digital rights Initiatives (DDRI) Grants are a part of Social Innovation in Central Asia (SICA), a five-year program funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and implemented by EF. The goal of the program is to cultivate a vibrant and responsive civil society in Central Asia.

As part of its ongoing efforts to support civil society, EF aims to strengthen collaboration of civic activists, CSOs and experts focused on digital rights, data privacy, cybersecurity, and effective digital governance in Kazakhstan. The Kazakhstani government has prioritized digital transformation as a key component of its de-bureaucratization reforms. This initiative will involve building the capacity of CSOs to collaborate as a coalition, identify priorities, and develop a strategic approach to advocacy. EF will support these strategies with grants aimed at strengthening legislation, conducting research to support recommendations, developing awareness campaigns about digital rights, and fostering intersectoral dialogue.

DDRI grants are designed to support interested candidates in organizing and delivering de-bureaucratization and digital rights initiatives in Kazakhstan. These projects will allow interested candidates in Kazakhstan to work together, form coalitions, consortium of CSOs to organize and host de-bureaucratization and advocacy initiatives aimed at improving a human rights-centered approach to digital transformation.

2. OVERVIEW

In coalitions or individually, applicants will identify topics meaningful to their communities and organize initiatives and plan events around these themes. Applicants will take the lead on all aspects of planning, development, and delivery of their initiatives. Regardless of the format, initiatives should have a clear goal, such as improving the digital rights of citizens, combating corruption or discrimination, promoting transparency and accountability in digital governance and transformation and strengthening partnerships and collaborations among coalition members. Additionally, initiatives may involve two to three members of a coalition working together to enhance their capacity to implement effective de-bureaucratization and digital rights initiatives at both local and national levels.

3. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

The selection process of the grants is competition-based for all candidates interested in organizing de-bureaucratization and digital rights initiatives in Kazakhstan.

Upon completion of the project, the grant recipient must submit a final program report; forms will be provided by Eurasia Foundation.

4. USE OF FUNDS

Funding for the grants will be flexible and based on the scope and complexity of the proposed initiatives. The average grant amount of the grant could vary, with awards potentially **ranging from \$3,000 to \$25,000**, depending on the project's scale, **but not exceeding \$25,000**. The overall budget for all grants is \$150,000, allowing for a range of projects addressing different aspects of the strategy.

Applicants must justify the project duration and indicate the requested funding amount in their applications. Projects that receive funding may vary in **duration from eight to ten months** and must be completed **no later than August 31, 2025**, within the established period for which funds were initially awarded.

Funding *may not be used* for expenses such as the payment of organization, business registration, purchase of real estate, expenses for equipment that negatively impacts the environment, the purchase of alcoholic beverages, entertainment costs, the salaries of government employees, business or first-class travel or the repayment of debts.

Funding recipients are responsible for payment of all relevant taxes, fees and other legally mandated costs of project implementation.

Please note, the project budget must be presented in U.S. dollars (USD), while the project expenses will be paid to the grant recipient according to the agreed payment schedule in Kazakhstani tenge, at the exchange rate on the date of signing the grant agreement. The expenses of each project partner must be clearly defined and reflected in the project budget.

5. APPLICATION PROCESS

All interested participants must apply by [online application](#). The application requires applicants to provide basic information about themselves, such as name and contact information, as well as information about their advocacy experience. Applicants must also include detailed information about planned activities and a budget estimate.

If selected the following additional documentations must be provided:

- Copy of the organization's charter (.pdf or .jpeg)
- Copy of certificate of registration OR certificate of registration of the organization or individual entrepreneur (.pdf or .jpeg)
- Copy of certification of absence of tax debt (.pdf or .jpeg)
- Financial statements for the last fiscal year and audit report (if applicable)
- Proof of a bank account
- Copy of ID of chief executive and financial officers of the organization (.pdf or .jpeg)

If additional information or clarification on applications is needed, the applicant will be notified in writing and will be asked to submit additional information and/or documentation.

6. EVALUATION CRITERIA

The selection process is open and competitive. Applicants must meet the deadline and eligibility requirements outlined above. If any of the requested information is missing, outdated or incorrect, the application may be rejected solely on that basis and the application will not be evaluated further.

Each evaluation criterion will be scored on the following five-point scale:

- 5 points – application fully corresponds to the criterion
- 4 points – application largely corresponds to the criterion
- 3 points – application somewhat corresponds to the criterion
- 2 points – application slightly corresponds to the criterion
- 1 point – application doesn't correspond to the criterion

All complete applications will be reviewed based upon the following criteria:

- Clear and concise articulation of a problem statement and goal of the initiative
- Alignment of the initiative with the grant's competition priorities
- Coherence and clarity of the initiative's description, including methodology and approach
- Strong and logical connection between the identified problem and the proposed initiative as a solution, with specific and measurable anticipated results
- Reasonableness and justification of the proposed budget in relation to the project's scope

A coalition application is an advantage but not a mandatory requirement

All applicants will be informed about the decision of the competitive selection in a written form. Any questions regarding this competition should be directed to kzgrants@eurasia.org with "DDRI" in the subject line of the email.

All interested applicants must submit [an online Application form](#) together with a detailed [work plan and budget](#) no later than September 30, 2024 at 23:59 Almaty time (GMT+5).

- [Application Form](#)
- [Template Budget and Workplan](#)