

Academics without Borders USA (AWB-USA, www.awbusa.org) is seeking project proposals. Proposals can be sent to Joy Cohan, AWB USA Executive Director, j.cohan@awbusa.org.

Who We Are: AWB USA is a non-profit organization located in Davis, California. We support initiatives focused on building capacity in institutions of higher education in developing nations throughout the world. Our mission is to mobilize academic communities to assist these institutions in their efforts to improve both the quantity and quality of academic programs required to produce the trained professionals needed to address their societal challenges of the 21st century.

How We Assist: AWB USA partners with institutions in developing countries to support their locally-identified academic and/or academic support priority by providing on-site and/or remote expertise from our corps of highly qualified volunteers. The goal is to augment the host institution's own resources to accomplish specific, long-lasting and defined outcomes. Volunteers, the heart of the AWB USA organization, reflect a wide variety of backgrounds and experiences, including current or recently retired university and college faculty, post-doctorates, advanced graduate students, high-level academic administrators and non-academic professionals.

Funding and the Project Budget: AWB USA projects fundamentally are partnerships between the host institution submitting the proposal and AWB USA. In these partnerships, AWB USA's financial support focuses upon the travel costs (i.e., transportation, medical insurance, visas and other related expenses) of volunteers journeying to the host institution. In turn, the host institution commits to providing in-kind support, which could include accommodations, in-country travel and logistics, and technical and administrative support for the AWB USA volunteers. AWB USA does not transfer funds abroad, nor pay for equipment or construction of buildings.

A typical AWB USA project grant totals \$5,000 or less. AWB USA's financial commitment to each approved project is evaluated on a case-by-case basis, and is influenced by factors such as project duration, location and availability of basic services needed to adequately support the volunteers.

Projects We Support: Projects range from expansion or enhancement of existing academic, professional, research, technical and administrative programs, to helping set-up new initiatives. This can include undertakings such as program design, curriculum development, teacher and professional training, etc. Projects can also be targeted at providing guidance and technical support in the development of academic administration such as admissions, registration and other student services; and administrative functions (e.g., computing, information systems, and communication services; library management, resource development and financial management).

Project duration can vary. For example, a project focused on curriculum development might span several weeks with AWB USA volunteers working directly with faculty followed by on-going communications throughout the year. Alternatively, building a student record system or overhauling the operations of a registrar's office could require extensive on-site work and recurring "remote" visits spread over a year or more.

How Projects Are Conceived: Projects are first proposed by the requesting institution of higher education, and then developed and refined collaboratively with AWB USA. Once a project plan is developed and agreed to by both parties, AWB USA recruits volunteers based on their expertise and the goals of the project. AWB USA works closely with the interested institution of higher education during this initial phase to vet volunteers and refine the project proposals so that they are manageable, sustainable and consistent with the basic needs of their institution.

ELIGIBILITY

AWB USA considers projects proposed by institutions of higher education in developing countries. AWB USA also will consider projects which include the participation of an institution of higher education in the USA, so long as the project proposal is submitted by a host institution in a developing country, and the project is carried out in joint partnership between the two institutions.

In determining whether countries and proposals are eligible for funding, AWB USA is informed by several international indices of Poverty, Hunger and Malnutrition (including the World Bank, FAO/United Nations, and International Food Policy Research Institute). We recognize the great heterogeneity within countries, and, therefore, project proposals will be evaluated based on their potential impact for the designated geographic area.

Please note that AWB USA is not able to support projects in regions that are under a travel alert or warning issued by the U.S. Department of State.

Proposals are evaluated based on the following criteria:

BASIC REQUIREMENTS:

- Occurs within a developing country
- There is an identified need for an AWB USA academic volunteer
- Is a collaboration with an institution of higher education in the host country
- The in-country host institution has identified this project as a priority
- It is reasonably safe for AWB USA volunteers to travel to the host institution
- There is confidence that the project will be completed

MEASURABLE IMPACT:

- The project will help to build capacity at an institution of higher education
- There is an evaluation plan for determining measurable (quantitative and/or qualitative) results
- The measurable results include qualitative and/or quantitative outcomes that can be reasonably accomplished
- There are defined outcomes that are anticipated to have an impact and include lasting results

SUSTAINABLE:

- Has a longer-term horizon beyond the initial funding
- Will result in identified long-lasting anticipated improvements and/or benefits
- Will be sustained by the host institution's educators and/or administrators

[Eligibility continued on next page](#)

ELIGIBILITY, continued

STRONG PARTNERSHIP POTENTIAL:

- Has a verified track record, or is already an AWB USA project partner
- The host institution will provide adequate in-kind support
- The host institution has adequate staffing and/or local volunteers to implement the project
- There is demonstrated internal leadership and approval of the project within the host institution
- The project helps develop or builds upon a long-term relationship

DEFINITION OF TERMS

- **Host institution:** institution of higher education in a developing country that has submitted a project proposal to AWB USA
- **In country:** taking place within the host institution's country
- **USA partner:** academic or other professional representing an institution of higher education in the USA, working in full collaboration with the host institution
- **Volunteer:** academic or other professional sponsored by AWB USA who travels to the host institution to assist with the project

PROJECT PROPOSAL FORM INSTRUCTIONS

Please follow prompts for each question or section on the form. For your convenience, the form has been designed as a “fillable” PDF document, allowing you to type into the form after activating the “fill and sign” feature for PDF. It is expected that some questions will require narratives or additional information as attachments to the completed form.

Extensive consultation between AWB USA, the volunteer and the host institution via email and Skype is anticipated during the periods between project submission, approval and initiation. As a result, an amended proposal likely will be required eventually, and this, as well as a formal Letter of Agreement will need to be signed by all parties involved prior to the commencement of the project.

QUESTIONS?

Please contact, Joy Cohan, Executive Director, at j.cohan@awbusa.org