

# Call for Proposals – Application guidelines

Within the framework of project:

“Empowering Voices for Inclusive Development: Strengthening CSOs from Uzbekistan Working with Women and Youth”, implemented by AFEW International and Nurbonu Center with the financial support of the European Union.

Submission deadline: June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 17:00 CET.

## Background Information

Dutch-based non-governmental organisation AFEW International, together with Samarkand-based non-governmental organisation Nurbonu Center, is implementing the project “Empowering Voices for Inclusive Development: Strengthening CSOs from Uzbekistan Working with Women and Youth” with the financial support of the European Union. The project aims to strengthen the role of local Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) as governance and development actors in Uzbekistan.

The **objectives** of the project and this Call for Proposals include:

- Reducing self- and societal stigma and discrimination experienced by youth, women, and people living with or affected by HIV.
- Strengthening CSOs and improving their organizational capacities to become more independent and resilient.
- Promoting youth inclusion and empowerment, gender equality and women’s empowerment, and media literacy.
- Engaging in policy dialogue with various stakeholders at multiple levels.

A key element of the methodology is the application of the Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) approach. This approach emphasizes that community-based organizations and members should take control of their own development by identifying and utilizing their strengths, resources, and potential (their “assets”).

More information about the ABCD approach can be found in the reference document “ABCD Description” attached to this Call for Proposals. For additional information, we encourage you to contact us at [grant.eu@afew.org](mailto:grant.eu@afew.org), and we will connect you with a trained ABCD facilitator in Uzbekistan. An informational session will be organized on May 22, 2025 (see details on p. 4).

## Call for Proposals Details

We invite local CSOs to apply for funding for small-scale projects that align with the project objectives (see above).

Examples of eligible activities include:

- Conducting trainings for educational and healthcare staff on HIV and related stigma and discrimination.
- Organizing dialogue meetings with stakeholders (e.g., government, CSO representatives, youth and women, health workers, media) to address stigma affecting target groups.
- Holding networking events for CSO representatives.
- Developing and launching awareness campaigns.
- Conducting workshops on software and IT skills.

Proposals that integrate the Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) approach will be prioritized.

## Target Groups

Projects must include at least one of the following target groups:

- Women
- Youth
- People living with or affected by HIV

## Geographic Focus

Activities must take place in at least one of the following regions of Uzbekistan:

- Fergana Region
- Namangan Region
- Samarkand Region
- Tashkent Region
- Tashkent (city)

## Eligibility Criteria

- Registered non-governmental or civil society organizations in Uzbekistan.
- Organizations must be based in or have representative offices in one of the target regions.

Please note: Grants can be disbursed to the selected CSOs only after the CSOs apply for and obtain the approval from the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

## Implementation Timeline

Projects should be implemented within 9 months, starting July 15, 2025.

## Budget

Total budget for this call: EUR 126,000.

Minimum grant amount: EUR 2,000. Maximum grant amount: EUR 25,000.

Co-funding (including in-kind contributions) is encouraged. Please request only the amount necessary to implement your project effectively.

## Submission Guidelines:

- Proposals may be submitted in Russian, English, or Uzbek. Please note that proposals submitted in Uzbek will be translated into Russian
- Use the proposal form and attachments. Submit them as a PDF file (not scanned) to: [grant.eu@afew.org](mailto:grant.eu@afew.org)
- Deadline: June 15, 2025, 17:00 CET
- Respect the word limits indicated in the form.
- You will receive an confirmation email upon submission.
- If you encounter technical issues with the form, please contact: [grant.eu@afew.org](mailto:grant.eu@afew.org)
- Ensure all questions in the form are thoroughly answered to facilitate evaluation.

## Evaluation Results

Applicants will be informed of the outcome in July 2025.

## Evaluation criteria

Applicants will be evaluated based on the certain criteria. Please refer to the criteria below when preparing your application.

Is the application in line with this Call for proposals' <b>objectives</b> and <b>target groups</b> ?	0-5
Does the proposal integrate <b>ABCD approach</b> ? Are trained ABCD <b>facilitators</b> going to be engaged?	0-5
Do the proposed activities focus on <b>partnership and cooperation</b> or are these more single focussed?	0-5

Are the existing <b>assets</b> in the community used to improve the current situation?	0-5
Is the <b>budget</b> clear and reasonable, and are the assets of the community are demonstrated as co-funding or in-kind / own contributions?	0-5
Does the applicant have the <b>experience</b> to implement the proposed activities?	0-5
Is the proposed strategy in the given context <b>relevant</b> for improving the situation in the community	0-5
<b>Maximum points</b>	<b>35</b>

## Informational Session

AFEW-International and Nurbonu Center will host an informational session to address questions related to this call for proposals on 22/05/2025 at 14:00 Tashkent time.

Please register for the information session by sending an email to [grant.eu@afew.org](mailto:grant.eu@afew.org) and indicating the following:

- Number of participants
- Which organization the participants are from
- Names and positions of participants
- E-mail of each participant.