

Sponsor/Title: Department of State (DOS) - International Religious Freedom Fund (I-REFF)
Emergency Assistance

Website: <https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/361150>

Funding Opportunity Number: DFOP0017721

Submission Limitation per Institution: One (1)

Notre Dame Limited Submissions Listing:

<https://research.nd.edu/our-services/funding-opportunities/faculty/limited-submissions-program/>

Internal Expression of Interest Deadline: 2026-02-12

Sponsor Application Deadline: 2026-03-16

Goals and Objectives: In pursuit of its statutory mandate to promote religious freedom, the Office of International Religious Freedom (IRF) seeks a program to provide emergency financial assistance to those facing or who have recently experienced persecution on the basis of religion, including assistance to address threats of violence, medical needs resulting from violent assault, legal representation, and replacement of equipment damaged or confiscated as a result of harassment for those working to defend religious freedom.

Outcomes: Program outcomes may include but are not limited to:

- Individuals persecuted for their religious beliefs, practices, or affiliations ameliorate emergency conditions arising from their persecution with financial assistance.
- Individuals at imminent risk of religious persecution receive financial assistance allowing them to avoid persecution.
- Individuals or organizations persecuted for their defense of religious freedom ameliorate emergency conditions arising from their persecution with financial assistance.
- Recipients of emergency assistance enjoy greater health, safety, or freedom to practice their religion as a result of assistance.
- Emergency assistance is provided in a timely, secure manner that does not expose recipients or program staff to unnecessary risk.
- Emergency assistance is monitored and verified that it is used by recipients for its intended purposes.
- The program implementer verifies emergency conditions of applicants through adequate research and references.
- Emergency assistance is prioritized for recent emergencies and per a triage plan.
- Emergency assistance is provided in amounts appropriate to specific situational and geographic circumstances.
- The program implementer maintains an extensive network of geographic coverage and networks with access to a wide range of religious communities. The implementer should work to expand its networks of trusted partners to refer appropriate individuals for assistance.
- Emergency assistance is provided to persecution victims globally, including in places designated as Countries of Particular Concern or placed on the Special Watch List,

which have demonstrated systematic, ongoing, or egregious violations of religious freedom.

Internal Application Requirements: Upload the following information to the Google Form -- <https://forms.gle/6QWm4jgY2q6F3e28A> by the internal deadline.

- Name of the Principal Investigator (PI)
- Project Title
- Names of ND Collaborators
 - For each ND Collaborator listed, include name, department or unit, and specific role for this project in three sentences (maximum).
- Project Summary (maximum of three (3) pages). The Project Summary must align with the Review Criteria, as described on pages 15 and 16 of the NOFO. The summary should address the following criteria:
 - *Quality and Feasibility of the Program:*
 - Identify, verify, and evaluate severe religious freedom violations for identified individuals.
 - Determine types and amounts of assistance appropriate to specific emergencies.
 - *Program Planning/Ability to Achieve Objectives:*
 - Deliver funding in restrictive environments including those the United States has designated as Countries of Particular Concern or Special Watch List countries; places recommended for such designations by the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom; and/or other places where religious persecution occurs.
 - *Monitoring and Evaluation Plan:*
 - Appropriate milestones to indicate progress toward goals outlined in the proposal.
 - Quality of output and outcome indicators and how and when those will be measured.

Questions? Contact Notre Dame Research Limited Submissions at limited@nd.edu.

Unless otherwise noted, all internal applications are due by 11:59 PM Eastern Time on the internal expression of interest deadline.

Applications submitted after the deadline will not be accepted.