

Sponsor/Title: Department of Justice (DOJ) - 2026 VAU PDS Annual Program Statement

External Link: <https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/361631>

Funding Opportunity Number: 2026VE-001

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: 2026-04-02, at 12:00 Noon

Sponsor Application Deadline: 2026-04-30

Program Description: The U.S. Department of State's Venezuela Affairs Unit (VAU) invites proposals that focus on Venezuela-based programming in support of President Trump's three-phase plan for Venezuela, with an emphasis on Venezuela's economic recovery, transformation, and growth. Specifically, the VAU is seeking proposals that focus on cooperation in the energy, mining and technology sectors as well as higher education partnerships between the United States and Venezuela that build networks that make America safer, stronger, and more prosperous.

The VAU seeks proposals for programs that support the U.S. government's three-phase plan for Venezuela, focused on one of the following U.S. Embassy priority program areas listed below.

Priority Program Areas/Goals: Applicants may submit a proposal to address one of the program goals below. Proposals should focus on one or more of the priority outcomes, but applicants may also recommend their own objective.

Goal 1: ENERGY, MINING & TECHNOLOGY COOPERATION NETWORKS

Proposals that support Venezuela's economic recovery, transformation, and growth by building cooperative networks in the energy, mining, and technology sectors, including creative projects that prepare Venezuela for economic growth; workforce development; and closer commercial ties with the United States.

Priority Program Areas:

- Supporting Venezuela's economic growth and expanding U.S.-Venezuela bilateral trade by focusing on:
 - Workforce development for Venezuela's emerging labor markets; and
 - Building commercial networks that expand the energy, mining, and technology sectors.

Goal 2: HIGHER EDUCATION ENGAGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS

Proposals that focus on higher education cooperation between the United States and Venezuela, highlighting shared objectives and building networks that make America safer, stronger, and more prosperous.

Priority Program Areas:

- Building university partnerships and/or higher-education exchanges that ensure a U.S.-aligned Venezuela, focusing on:

- Curricula development capacity building through collaborative online models;
- Research capacity building;
- Post-graduate career services; and/or
- Intellectual property.

PLEASE NOTE:

1. All programs must include an American component, conveying an element of U.S. culture, history, and/or shared values. This must be a concrete element that establishes or strengthens ties between people in Venezuela and the United States. For example, competitive proposals will include a connection with U.S. experts, organizations, or institutions that promote increased understanding of U.S. policy and perspectives and/or increased cooperation that continues after the conclusion of the program that makes America safer, stronger, and more prosperous.
2. Grant proposals from individuals will not be accepted. All proposals must be submitted by educational and/or registered non-profit institutions that have the capacity to receive U.S. government funding, in the name of the entity applying for funds.
3. Programs should predominantly occur in Venezuela.

Priority Outcomes: Applicants may focus on one or more of the outcomes listed below. Applicants are encouraged to propose additional objectives and innovative activities that address the priority program areas.

1. Closer U.S.-Venezuelan economic and trade relationships.
2. Expansion of U.S.-Venezuelan commercial and trade relationships
3. Increased university partnerships, exchanges, and faculty development.
4. Stronger university capacity in research and curriculum development.
5. Expansion of post-graduate career services in the higher education sector.

Internal Application Requirements: Upload the following information to the Google Form at <https://forms.gle/MCywa6wyHUaPBCbr8> by the internal deadline:

- Name of the Principal Investigator (PI)
- Project Title
- All ND Collaborators:
 - For each ND Collaborator listed, include name, department or unit, and specific role for this project in three sentences (maximum).
- Project Summary: Three (3) pages (maximum) addressing the following Review Criteria as outlined on pages 14-15, in the NOFO.
 - Quality and Feasibility of the Program Idea
 - Organizational Capacity and Record on Previous Grants
 - Project Design and Implementation
 - Capabilities and Competencies

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

All internal applications are due by 12:00 Noon Eastern Time on the internal expression of interest deadline.

Applications submitted after the deadline will not be accepted.