

Sponsor/Title: Department of State (DOS) - Accelerating Prosecution of Criminals and Terrorists in Lebanon by Digitizing Paper Criminal Court files

External Link: <https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/361666>

Funding Opportunity Number: OFOP0002567

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: 2026-04-13

Sponsor Application Deadline: 2026-05-26

Note: Applicants must also meet the following requirements to be eligible to apply to this NOFO:

- Experience in Lebanon or similar Middle Eastern country that routinely deals with conflict.
- At least 5 years' experience working with a judicial system to document and digitize criminal or other case files.
- Successfully digitized court case files for a non-U.S. partner government.

Project Description: The Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs of the U.S. Department of State announces an open competition for organizations to submit applications to implement a project to digitize criminal court files at Lebanon's Financial Prosecutor's Office and the Court of Cassation's General Prosecutor's Office.

This project directly supports the America First Initiative by prioritizing the safety and security of the United States and its citizens. By digitizing criminal court files, the project will expedite investigations and prosecutions, ensuring that individuals accused of collaborating with Foreign Terrorist Organizations (FTO)s or Transnational Criminal Organizations (TCO)s, including those who threaten U.S. Interests, are held accountable. Enhanced digital access will also strengthen collaboration between U.S. and Lebanese Law Enforcement Agencies, enabling both countries to access criminal case files in minutes rather than months. This will significantly enhance the ability of U.S. agencies to investigate and disrupt FTO and TCO activities in Lebanon, directly supporting U.S. national security objectives.

- Currently, the paper-based filing system at these offices is inefficient and unreliable, judicial clerks often spending weeks or even months searching for case files, and some files never located. Files are stored haphazardly, sometimes in suitcases, and the absence of a standardized system leads to frequent delays, lost records, and compromised case management. This disorganization impedes the timely prosecution of transnational criminals and terrorists, undermines law enforcement investigations, and hinders effective collaboration with U.S. agencies. Without digitization, the risk of lost, inaccessible, or mishandled files remains high, threatening the integrity and effectiveness of Lebanon's criminal justice system and, by extension, U.S. security interests.
- Digitizing these criminal court files will transform physical documents into secure, searchable electronic records in Beirut, where most of Lebanon's criminal cases are adjudicated. This transformation will enable immediate access to case files, supporting

the timely prosecution of serious crimes and enhancing the capacity of law enforcement investigators. U.S. Law enforcement agencies will benefit from improved access to relevant criminal case information, strengthening joint efforts to counter FTOs and TCOs operating in Lebanon and internationally, and protecting American lives and interests. Lebanon will dedicate judicial personnel to be trained on how to use, maintain, and expand these systems. The project will promote best practices in records management, ensuring that both paper and digital case files are organized, secured, and managed effectively. It will also introduce an intuitive search capability, role-based access, permissions and restrictions, and comprehensive logging of all file access.

- By modernizing Lebanon's criminal justice infrastructure, this project will reduce vulnerabilities, improve the efficiency and integrity of the justice system, and advance U.S. administration goals of protecting American interests, strengthening international security partnerships, and ensuring effective law enforcement cooperation to keep Americans safe.

Priority Region/Countries: Lebanon

Problem Statement: Lebanon's criminal court files are managed through a disorganized and inefficient paper-based system, resulting in frequent delays, lost or inaccessible records, and compromised case management. This undermines the timely prosecution of serious crimes, impedes law enforcement investigations, and limits effective cooperation with U.S. and international partners.

Project Goal(s) and Objectives: The goal of this project is to accelerate the effective and timely prosecution of transnational criminals and terrorists in Lebanon by converting physical documents into searchable electronic records in Beirut where the majority of the country's criminal and terrorism cases are adjudicated. The project will implement best practices in records management to ensure that both paper and digital case files are organized, secured and properly managed. Additionally, it will introduce intuitive search functionality, role-based access controls, permissions and restrictions, Comprehensive logging of all file access.

The first objective of this project is to make access to and use of criminal records fast and efficient for prosecutors, law enforcement, and collaboration with U.S. agencies. Over the course of the project, the criminal court files at the Financial Prosecutor's office and the criminal court files at the General Prosecutor's office of the court of cassation (both offices located at the justice palace in Beirut), will be organized physically and digitized electronically instead of being piled in suitcases in order to accelerate prosecution of criminals and terrorists in Lebanon. The project will include slight refurbishments in the areas where the shelving and the physical archives will be located.

The second objective of this project is to train current and retired judicial clerks to both implement the project and run the system once complete.

Internal Application Requirements: Upload the following information to the Google Form at <https://forms.gle/os8oJEj96x8oyps3A> 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 Technical Evaluation Criteria as outlined on pages 17-18, in the NOFO.
 - Project Analysis & Design
 - Program Monitoring and Risk
 - Institution's Record and Capacity Rating
 - Cost Effectiveness

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.