

Sponsor/Title: Department of State (DOS) - Public Diplomacy Section Praia: Small Grants Program

External Link: <https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/361927>

Funding Opportunity Number: PAS-PRAIA-FY26-01

Submission Limitation per Institution: One (1)

[Notre Dame Limited Submissions Listing](#)

Internal Expression of Interest Deadline: 2026-05-11

Sponsor Application Deadline: 2026-06-12

Description: As the United States commemorates 250 years of independence through the America250 and Freedom250 initiatives, the U.S. Department of State's U.S. Embassy Praia announces an open competition to celebrate this historic milestone while advancing core U.S. foreign policy priorities in Cabo Verde. This initiative promotes democratic governance, inclusive economic growth, and strengthened bilateral partnerships through interactive programming highlighting American excellence in innovation, education, culture, and democratic institutions. In alignment with the U.S. Strategy for Sub-Saharan Africa, this program seeks proposals from eligible organizations and individuals to engage youth, emerging leaders, educators, entrepreneurs, and broader Cabo Verdean audiences. The America250 and Freedom250 commemorations provide a strategic opportunity to explore enduring principles of freedom, civic responsibility, and democratic values—examining how these principles have shaped American democracy for 250 years and their relevance to contemporary challenges including freedom of expression, economic opportunity, digital access, civic participation, and innovation.

Priority areas include technology and innovation, artificial intelligence and digital responsibility, cybersecurity, American culture and history, and youth civic participation. All proposals must include a clear American element, such as collaboration with U.S. experts, institutions, or exchange alumni, or content highlighting U.S. democratic institutions and innovation.

Project Goal: The long-term goal of this program is to strengthen U.S.–Cabo Verde ties by promoting democratic values, responsible innovation, and youth civic engagement in alignment with U.S. foreign policy priorities of advancing freedom, prosperity, and resilient democratic institutions.

Project Objectives: Proposals must address at least one of the following objectives and include measurable targets appropriate to the project's scale and budget:

- **Objective 1:** Increase understanding of democratic principles, civic responsibility, and freedom among a clearly defined target audience, with at least 75 percent of participants

demonstrating increased knowledge through pre- and post-program assessments or other appropriate evaluation tools.

- **Objective 2:** Promote responsible use of technology—including cybersecurity awareness, artificial intelligence literacy, or digital citizenship—by establishing measurable skills or knowledge indicators, with at least 70 percent of participants demonstrating improved understanding or practical application.
- **Objective 3:** Encourage youth participation in innovative civic engagement initiatives, resulting in measurable outputs such as youth-led activities, partnerships, digital engagement platforms, or follow-on programming.

Internal Application Requirements: Upload the following information to the Google Form at <https://forms.gle/Scj3qpNHNstm7Enm7> 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 16-18 in the NOFO.
 - Quality and Feasibility of the Program Idea
 - Program Planning/Ability to Achieve Objectives
 - Monitoring and Evaluation
 - Sustainability

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

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

Internal applications submitted after the deadline will not be accepted.