

Sponsor/Title: Department of State (DOS) - U.S. Mission UAE PDS Annual Program Statement

External Link: <https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/362624>

Funding Opportunity Number: PDS-UAE-01-FY2026

Submission Limitation per Institution: One (1) per Priority Program Area

Internal Expression of Interest Deadline: 2026-06-15

Sponsor Application Deadline: 2026-07-15

Description: The Public Diplomacy Section (PDS) at U.S. Mission UAE invites results-oriented proposals for programs that foster economic opportunities for U.S. businesses, investors, and innovators, and showcase American leadership and excellence in science, technology, culture, arts, sports, culinary diplomacy, artificial intelligence (AI), and health. The purpose is to strengthen ties between the United States and the United Arab Emirates in ways that make America safer, stronger, and more prosperous and advance the interests of the American people as we commemorate the 250th anniversary of U.S. independence (2026) and celebrate the enduring U.S.-UAE partnership.

Goals and Objectives: Proposals must focus on one of the seven priority areas outlined below. All proposed programs must clearly advance American strength, safety, and/or prosperity, to advance Goal 2 of the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs: Secure opportunities to advance U.S. commercial and strategic interests. Specifically, all proposals must include an American element or demonstrate meaningful engagement with American experts, organizations, or institutions in ways that advance U.S. interests and promote understanding of American policies, perspectives, society, culture, and values.

Proposals that include programming across multiple emirates are encouraged.

Priority Program Areas: Proposals must focus on one of the seven priority areas outlined below:

1. **CELEBRATING AMERICA'S 250th ANNIVERSARY (FREEDOM 250):** Initiatives that celebrate America's 250th birthday by showcasing American excellence, innovation, technology, dynamism, culture, and strength of the U.S.-UAE partnership.
2. **CELEBRATING AMERICAN SPORTS EXCELLENCE DURING THE AMERICAN DECADE OF SPORTS:** Initiatives that leverage major U.S.-hosted sporting events, such as the 2028 Summer Olympics and Paralympics and the 2034 Winter Olympics and Paralympics, to showcase American excellence in sports, sports science, athlete development, event management, tourism, and entertainment while strengthening U.S.-UAE engagement and creating opportunities for American sports institutions, companies, and experts to expand partnerships and commercial engagement in the UAE.
3. **ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) ADOPTION AND INNOVATION:** Initiatives that promote the adoption of American AI technologies and strengthen U.S.-UAE collaboration in AI, innovation, and applied STEM fields, including cybersecurity, space, energy, water security, and smart agriculture, while creating opportunities for U.S. companies, universities, and research institutions to expand partnerships and commercial engagement in the UAE.
4. **CULINARY DIPLOMACY:** Initiatives that use food and culinary arts as a bridge to strengthen U.S.-UAE ties while promoting American agricultural products, food systems, hospitality expertise, and culinary innovation. Programs should create opportunities for U.S. food producers, culinary professionals, hospitality companies, and agricultural exporters to expand partnerships and commercial engagement in the UAE.

5. **CULTURAL HERITAGE PRESERVATION AND DIGITAL HERITAGE:** Initiatives that showcase American leadership in cultural heritage preservation, artifact and antiquities protection, site conservation, and digital heritage technologies, including VR/AR platforms, 3D scanning, and digital archiving, while promoting U.S. expertise and expanding opportunities for American technology providers, educational institutions, and cultural organizations to strengthen partnerships and commercial engagement in the UAE.
6. **HEALTH AND LIFE SCIENCES:** Initiatives that strengthen U.S.-UAE collaboration in health and life sciences by promoting American expertise, technologies, research, and innovation while expanding partnerships and commercial opportunities for U.S. companies, healthcare institutions, and academic organizations in the UAE.
7. **CREATIVE INDUSTRIES AND DIGITAL INNOVATION:** Initiatives that strengthen U.S.-UAE cooperation and commercial engagement in the creative industries, digital media, entertainment, gaming and game development, esports, immersive technologies, and AI-enabled creative sectors by showcasing American platforms, technologies, platforms, storytelling, and innovation models while creating opportunities for U.S. companies, creators, developers, institutions, and experts to expand partnerships, collaboration, and market engagement in the UAE. Programs may also highlight the importance of intellectual property protections, creator rights, licensing frameworks, and responsible innovation in supporting growth across the digital and creative economy.

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

- Name of the Principal Investigator (PI)
- Project Title
- Which of the following Priority Program Areas does your proposed project address? (Select one.)
- 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 page 14 in the NOFO.
 - Quality and Feasibility of the Program Idea
 - Program Planning/Ability to Achieve Objectives
 - 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 Time on the internal expression of interest deadline.

Internal applications submitted after the deadline will not be accepted.