



Caribbean Policy Development Centre

Call for Grant Proposals

Contracting Authority:	Caribbean Policy Development Centre (CPDC)
Lot Name:	Strengthening the voice of vulnerable groups in Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean
Reference Number	CPDC-SV202301
Geographic Scope	Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Submission Guidelines	Date application must be submitted by 31 st March 2023, 11:59 p.m. (UTC/GMT -4)
	Submissions are to be sent to the Caribbean Policy Development Centre via electronic mail to cpdcs submissions@gmail.com with the subject line: Call for Proposals: Strengthening the voice of vulnerable groups in Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean

Notice

This is an open Call for Proposals where all documents are submitted. After evaluating the full proposals, an eligibility check will be performed for those provisionally selected. Eligibility will be checked based on the supporting documents requested by the Caribbean Policy Development Centre (CPDC) and the signed “Declaration by the Applicant” sent together with the application.

GUIDELINES FOR GRANT APPLICATIONS

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1.1 BACKGROUND

The Caribbean Policy Development Centre is a legally registered non-profit headquartered in Barbados and established in 1991. CPDC serves as a regional umbrella NGO for organisations comprising of small farmers, women, youth, Indigenous People, rural populations and faith-based organisations located across CARICOM. CPDC also has strong networking partnerships with organisations of persons with disabilities, artisans, micro-entrepreneurs, human rights, and workers. Altogether it serves some thirty-five (35) regional, sub-regional and national (local) NGOs working at the grassroots level in economic, social, and cultural areas in the Caribbean. The Centre also has working relationships with many other NGOs and development partners across the region.

The organisation was mandated to work with NGOs and civil society to understand how policies affecting Caribbean people are made; to share information about policies and decision-making processes; to work to influence and bring change to the developmental process, and to support and to lobby for policies which improve the lives of Caribbean people. In fulfilling its mandate, the CPDC seeks to build the confidence and the ability of the Caribbean peoples to influence public policy. Our main work modalities are research, training, advocacy, publications, public education, and institutional strengthening. CPDC is officially recognised, both regionally and internationally, as the principal representative of Caribbean NGOs working with CARICOM/CARIFORUM, Commonwealth Foundation, and UN System Agencies.

CPDC, with support from the European Union (EU) implementing a project entitled **“Strengthening Civil Society’s Capacity to Alleviate the Impact of COVID-19 on Vulnerable Communities in Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean”**. The project aims to strengthen the enabling environment for Caribbean NGOs to provide essential developmental services to vulnerable communities by improving access to resources and increasing institutional capacity building opportunities post-COVID-19.

The project covers seven CARICOM countries; these countries include Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. The project will build the Non-Governmental Sector's capacity in the Caribbean by implementing several specific actions. These actions focus on strengthening NGOs' capacity to provide key development solutions to vulnerable groups affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. These actions include activities that promote NGO’s institutional and organisational capabilities through several core thematic areas: - addressing the legislative environment through advocacy programming, promoting greater transparency within the sector, project management skills development, enhanced regional policy dialogue and improving access to small grants to name a few.

The project comes against a background of “the multidimensional impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on marginalised social sectors, requiring development support, critical CSO

interventions to achieve sustainable development. However, the meaningful participation of CARIFORUM civil society has been stymied by two main factors; the lack of capacity to effectively engage in the COVID-19 policy process and the lack of an institutionalised mechanism to facilitate dialogue between civil society and CARIFORUM governments. This Action is therefore intended to implement activities to address these challenges.

KEY DEFINITIONS

Non-Governmental Organisations

A non-governmental organisation (NGO) is a not-for-profit or voluntary citizens' group organised on a local, national, or international level to address issues supporting the public good. These organisations provide critical development services to vulnerable groups. NGOs also engage in advocacy and lobbying initiatives on behalf of their organisation, beneficiaries or the public good.

Vulnerable Groups

Vulnerable groups can be defined as populations with specific characteristics that make them at a higher risk of falling into poverty than others living in the same area. These groups are often less able to participate effectively and, in some cases, have little negotiating power to articulate their positions. Traditionally, these groups have been the victims of violations and accordingly require distinctive protection for the equal and effective enjoyment of their human rights. These groups include the elderly, Indigenous Populations (IPs), Persons with Disabilities (PWDs), At-risk children and youth, Individuals and households affected with HIV/AIDS, Women, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex (LGBTI) Groups, Sex workers, Victims of sexual exploitation and/or abuse, Homeless and those excluded because of economic standing, migratory background, ethnicity, cultural beliefs.

Criteria for the provision of sub-grants for Non-Governmental Organisations

Proposed Actions should be designed to produce specific solutions to identified needs and constraints of vulnerable groups within the COVID-19 pandemic and priority areas.

1.2 CALL FOR PROPOSAL'S OBJECTIVES

Major Objective

- To improve service delivery and strengthening the voice of the marginalised social sectors and groups impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic within Caribbean society by providing small scale funding for actions that enable NGOs to respond to the needs vulnerable groups adequately.

Specific Objectives:

- To support NGOs to provide essential developmental services to their beneficiaries which address development issues that directly impact on their lives and livelihood;
- To foster positive social change in the lives of marginalised social sectors/groups through the formulation and implementation of educational and advocacy strategies;
- To improve organisational capacity of NGOs to deliver project services and advocacy solutions to vulnerable groups.

Expected Outcomes:

- Improved access to quality services and advocacy outreach by vulnerable groups to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic;
- Enhanced voice of vulnerable groups in policy spaces on COVID-19 related issues;
- Increased NGO capacity to deliver services and advocate in response to the needs of vulnerable groups.

Proposals that do not meet these objectives will not be evaluated.

1.3 TYPES OF ACTION

The types of Action that are eligible and may be financed under this sub-grant directly contribute to achieving the purpose and objective of this Terms of Reference as indicated in Section 1.2 above.

Actions to be funded must be in the form of a coherent and self-contained set of activities designed to achieve the specific objectives stated in Section 1.2 within the specific timeframe identified in the guidelines. The actions must have clear objectives, identified target groups, and must be conceived to produce specific, measurable results related to a particular issue or issues. Their justification must be tied to the organisation's ability to achieve some development action and long-term sustainability.

The applicant is responsible for identifying the appropriate set of activities necessary to achieve the Action's objectives. The following types of Action are **eligible** [within the objectives of Section 1.2]:

- Targeting populations with limited resources with affordable, innovative strategies including the provision of much-needed social and economic development actions, and health-care services;
- Research and knowledge dissemination which includes formulation and production of advocacy materials that assist in communicating to beneficiaries better or communicating sector policy positions; and
- Limited institutional capacity building actions (ICTs, staff training, M&E systems formulation etc.)

Actions to be funded must be in the form of coherent activities designed to achieve the objectives in the priority areas identified in the call. The actions must have clear objectives, and they must be conceived to produce specific, measurable results with relevant indicators. Applicants must foresee planning, human resources, budget and other appropriate measures to ensure results-oriented monitoring and management of the Action. Moreover, all applications should plan the necessary human resources and the appropriate budget to support the Action's final evaluation.

Please note that this list is not meant to be exhaustive or prescriptive in any way.

The following types of actions are **ineligible**:

- Actions concerned only or mainly with individual sponsorships for participation in workshops, seminars, conferences and congresses unless proven to be an integral part of the project outcome;
- Actions concerned only or mainly with individual scholarships for studies or training courses;
- Actions which consist exclusively or primarily in capital expenditure, e.g. land, buildings, equipment and vehicles, except in special circumstances;
- Actions which discriminate against individuals or groups of people on the grounds of their gender, sexual orientation, religious belief or lack of them, or their ethnic origin;
- Actions concerned only with one-off conference with no intended follow up. Conferences can only be funded if they form part of a wider range of activities to be implemented in the project's lifetime. For these purposes, preparatory activities for a conference and the publication of the proceeding of the conference do not, in themselves, constitute such 'wider activities';
- Actions supporting individual political parties; and
- Actions involving proselytism.

Value Added Elements

The following elements are considered as significant added value and should be taken into account as far as possible in designing the Action:

- The implement of activities based on research that builds or strengthens the access to need resources for vulnerable groups;
- Promotion of disaster risk mitigation skills training or other practices that help preserve the environment;

- Integration of cross-cutting principles of human rights, gender equality and non-discrimination within initiatives; and
- Promotion of innovation and implementation of best practices with the potential for further replication at a greater scale.

1.4 FINANCIAL ALLOCATION PROVIDED BY THE CONTRACTING AUTHORITY

The overall indicative amount made available under this Call is USD 242 304.00. The Contracting Authority reserves the right not to award all available funds. Similarly, this amount could be increased should more funds become available. **A minimum co-financing requirement of USD 1200.00 will be required from all grantees.**

Size of Grants

Any grant requested under this Call for Proposals must fall between the following minimum and maximum amounts (not inclusive of co-financing or in-kind:

- **Minimum amount: USD 12,115**
- **Maximum amount: USD 21,000**

For this financial envelope, a maximum of 5 sub-grants will be provided to NGOs in one or more of the following Caribbean States: (Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and Grenadines). The Grants will assist NGOs in providing key development services to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on their operations and strengthen their operational and technical capacity.

1.5 DURATION OF GRANT CONTRACT

The period to execute the project may not be lower than six months nor exceed nine (9) months from signing the Grant Contract. No extensions will be granted to beneficiaries. All proposed project activities must be completed within the nine (9) month period.

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

2.1 ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

There are three sets of eligibility criteria, relating to:

(1) The actors:

- The **applicant**, i.e., the entity submitting the application form (2.1.1);

(2) The actions:

- Actions for which a grant may be awarded (2.1.2);

(3) The costs:

- Type of costs that may be taken into account in setting the amount of the grants (2.1.3).

2.1.1 Eligibility of Applicants

Applicant

To be eligible for a grant, the applicant must:

- Be non-profit-making and
- Be a legally registered organisation and
- Be established in Caribbean States (Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and Grenadines) and
- Be directly responsible for the preparation and management of the project **and**
- Have an operational presence including a current and registered bank account with two signatories, **and**
- Have the demonstrated human resources to ensure the delivery of the project **and**
- Have a proven track record of at least three years working with the respective vulnerable group.

International organisations¹ are NOT eligible.

2.1.2 Eligible Actions

The grant application form must be accompanied by a completed 'Declaration by the applicant form.

If awarded the grant contract, the applicant will become the Beneficiary as identified by the Coordinator. The Coordinator is the main interlocutor of the Contracting Authority. He/She represents and acts on behalf of any other co-beneficiary (if any) and coordinates the Action's design and implementation.

¹ As per the Rules of Application of the EU Financial Regulations, 'international organisation' means an international public-sector organization set up by intergovernmental agreement, and specialised agencies set up by such organisations. These organisations may have worldwide or regional scope. Organisations created under national law are not international organisations (e.g. a national NGO with several regional or country offices).

Number of applications and grants per applicants

- The applicant **may not submit more than one** application under this Call.
- The applicant **may not be awarded more than one grant** under CPDC's Call for Applications.

Definition

- a) An action is comprised of a set of activities.

Duration

- b) The initial planned duration of an action may not be lower than six months nor exceed nine months.

Sector or Themes

- c) See Section 1.2 of these guidelines for grant applications (objectives of the programme).

Location

- d) Actions must take place in one or more of the following countries: these countries include Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and Grenadines

2.1.3 Eligibility of Cost

Only 'eligible costs' can be covered by a grant. The categories of costs that are eligible and non-eligible are indicated below. The budget is both a cost estimate and an overall ceiling for eligible costs.

At the contracting phase, the Contracting Authority decides whether to accept the proposed amounts or rates based on the applicant's provisional budget by analysing factual data of grants carried out by the applicant or of similar actions and by performing checks.

The total amount of financing based on simplified cost options that can be authorised by the Contracting Authority for any applicants individually **cannot exceed USD 21,000**.

Recommendations to award a grant are always subject to the conditions that the checks preceding the contract's signing do not reveal problems requiring changes to the budget (such as arithmetical errors, inaccuracies, unrealistic costs and ineligible costs). The checks may give rise to requests for clarification and may lead the Contracting Authority to impose modifications or reductions to address such mistakes or inaccuracies. It is not possible to increase the grant or the percentage of co-financing due to these corrections.

Eligible Direct Cost

To be eligible under the Call for Applications:

- a) These costs must be incurred during the implementation of the project. In particular:
 - I. cost relating to service and works shall relate to activities performed during the implementation period. Costs relating to supplies shall be related to the delivery and

- installation of items during the implementation period. Signature of a contract, placing an order, or entering into any commitment for expenditure within the implementation period for future delivery of services, works, or supplies after the implementation period's expiry do not meet this requirement. Cash transfers between the Coordinator and/or the other Beneficiary(ies) and/or affiliated entity(ies) may not be considered as costs incurred;
- II. costs incurred should be paid before the submission of the final reports. They may be paid afterwards, provided they are listed in the final report together with the estimated date of payment; and
 - III. an exception is made for costs relating to final reports, including expenditure verification, audit and final evaluation of the Action, which may be incurred after the implementation period of the Action.
- b) They are indicated in the estimated overall budget for the Action;
 - c) They are necessary for the implementation of the Action;
 - d) They are identifiable and verifiable, in particular being recorded in the accounting records of the Beneficiary(ies) and determined according to the accounting standards and the usual cost accounting practices applicable to the Beneficiary(ies);
 - e) They comply with the requirements of applicable tax and social legislation;
 - f) They are reasonable, justified, and comply with sound financial management requirements, particularly regarding economy and efficiency.

Salary costs of the national administrations' personnel may be eligible to the extent that they relate to the cost of activities that the relevant public authority would not carry out if the Action were not undertaken. **This cost must not exceed 15% of the grant.**

Total Eligible Costs

The grant may not exceed 90% of the total eligible costs of the Action. Any grant requested under this Call for Proposals must fall under this stated maximum percentage of total eligible costs of the actions for NGO applicants established in seven CARICOM countries: Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and Grenadines.

In-kind Contributions

All applications are required to identify the 10% required of the in-kind contributions in the submitted budget. In-kind contributions relate to the provision of goods or services to a Beneficiary(ies) or affiliated entity(ies) free of charge by a third party. As in-kind contributions do not involve any expenditure for a Beneficiary(ies) or affiliated entity (ies), they are not eligible costs.

Contributions in kind may not be treated as co-financing. However, if the action description includes contributions in kind, the contributions have to be made.

Eligible Indirect Cost

The indirect costs incurred in carrying out the Action may be eligible for flat-rate funding, but the total **must not exceed 15% of the estimated total eligible direct costs**.

Indirect costs are eligible, provided that they do not include costs assigned to another budget heading in the standard grant contract. The applicant may be asked to justify the percentage requested before the contract is signed. However, once the flat rate has been fixed in the standard grant contract's special conditions, no supporting documents must be provided.

Suppose any of the applicants or affiliated entity(ies) receives an operating grant financed by the EU. In that case, it may not claim indirect costs on its incurred costs within the proposed budget for the Action.

Ineligible Cost

The following costs are not eligible:

- Acquisition of motor vehicles
- Costs declared by the Beneficiary (ies) and financed by another action or work programme receiving a European Union (including through EDF) grant;
- Credits to third parties;
- Currency exchanges losses;
- Debts and provisions for losses or debts;
- Interest owed;
- Interim financing costs;
- Provision for losses or potential future liabilities; and
- Purchases of land or buildings, except where necessary for the direct implementation of the project, in which case ownership must be transferred to the final beneficiaries and/or local partners by the end of the project.

2.2 HOW TO APPLY AND THE PROCEDURES TO FOLLOW

A project team member from CPDC will work with potential grantees and those receiving grants to mentor and coach awardees in the preparation and execution of grants, respectively.

2.2.1. Application Forms

Applications must be submitted in accordance with the instructions on the Grant Application Form in the Grant Application Form annexes to these Guidelines (Annex A).

Applicants must apply in English. Hand-written applications will not be accepted.

Note that any major inconsistency in the application form (e.g., if the amounts in the budget worksheets are inconsistent) may lead to the application's rejection.

Clarifications will only be requested when the information provided is unclear and prevents the Contracting Authority from conducting an objective assessment.

Please note that only the application form and the published annexes which have to be filled in (budget, logical framework) will be evaluated. It is therefore of utmost importance that these documents contain ALL the relevant information concerning the Action. No additional annexes should be sent.

2.2.2 Where and How to Send Applications

Submissions are to be sent to the Caribbean Policy Development Centre via electronic mail to cpdcsubmissions@gmail.com with the subject line: Call for Proposals: **Strengthening the voice of vulnerable groups in Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean**

The Proposal Checklist and the Declaration by the Applicant must be included in the electronic copy.

Applicants must verify that their application is complete using the Proposal Checklist.

Incomplete applications may be rejected.

2.2.3 Deadline for Submissions of Applications

The deadline for submitting applications is **Friday 31st March 2023** at 11:59 p.m. (UTC/GMT -4). Any application submitted after the deadline will automatically be rejected.

2.2.4 Further Information about Call for Proposal

All questions may be sent to **cpdcsubmissions@gmail.com** no later than ten working days before the deadline for submission of applications by 6th March 2023, 11:59 p.m. (UTC/GMT -4). CPDC has no obligation to provide clarifications to questions received after this date. Replies will be given no later than six working days (23rd March 2023) before the deadline for the submission of applications. Frequently asked questions and related answers will be published on CPDC's website. Therefore, it is advisable to regularly check the above-mentioned website to be informed of the questions and answers published.

2.3 Evaluation and Selection of Applications

Applications will be examined and evaluated by the Contracting Authority with the possible assistance of external assessors. All actions submitted by applicants will be assessed according to the following steps and criteria.

If the application's examination reveals that the proposed Action does not meet the eligibility criteria stated in Section 2.1, the application will be rejected on this sole basis.

STEP 1: OPENING & ADMINISTRATIVE CHECKS AND EVALUATION

The following will be assessed:

- Compliance with the submission deadline. If the deadline has not been met, the application will automatically be rejected.
- The Grant Application Form satisfies all the criteria specified in points 1-5 of the Proposal Checklist. If any of the requested information is missing or is incorrect, the application may be rejected on that **sole** basis, and the application will not be evaluated further.

The Applications that pass the first administrative check will be evaluated on the Proposed Action's relevance and design.

STEP 2: EVALUATION OF THE FULL APPLICATION

The grantees will be selected after meeting the minimum and maximum funding criteria. The specific funding allocation awarded will depend on each potential grantee's proposed budget from the grant evaluation process.

The quality of the applications, including the proposed budget and capacity of the applicants and affiliated entity(ies), will be evaluated using the evaluation criteria in the evaluation grid below. There are two types of evaluation criteria: selection and award criteria.

The selection criteria help to evaluate the applicant(s)'s operational capacity and the applicant's financial capacity to ensure that they:

- have stable and sufficient sources of finance to maintain their activity throughout the proposed Action and, where appropriate, to participate in its funding;

- have the management capacity, professional competencies and qualifications required to complete the proposed Action successfully. This also applies to any affiliated entity(ies) of the applicants.

The award criteria helps evaluate the quality of the applications concerning the objectives and priorities and award grants to projects that maximise the Call for Proposals overall effectiveness. They help select applications that the Contracting Authority can be confident will comply with its objectives and priorities. They cover the relevance of the Action, its consistency with the objectives of the Call for Proposals, quality, expected impact, sustainability and cost-effectiveness.

Scoring:

The evaluation grid is divided into sections and subsections. Each subsection will be given a score between 1 and 5 as follows: 1=very poor; 2=poor; 3=adequate; 4=good; 5=very good.

Evaluation Grid

Section	Maximum Score
1. Financial and operational capacity	25
1.1 Does the applicant have stable sources of finance?	5
1.2 Does the applicant have sufficient management and project management capacity? (including staff, equipment and ability to handle the budget for Action)	5
1.3 Does the applicant provide sufficient evidence of handling similar finances?	5
1.4 Does the project team have sufficient and appropriate technical expertise (especially knowledge of the issues to be addressed), management capacity, qualifications, and experience to manage this project?	5
1.5 Is the applicant a registered Non-Profit making organisation?	5
2. Relevance of the Action	30
2.1 How relevant is the proposal to the objectives and priorities of the Call for Proposals?	10
2.2 How relevant is the proposal to the particular needs and constraints of the target groups represented?	5
2.3 How clearly defined and strategically chosen are those involved (final beneficiaries, target groups)? Have their needs been clearly defined, and does the proposal address them appropriately?	10
2.4 Does the proposal contain specific added value elements, such as environmental issues, promotion of gender equality and equal opportunities, needs of disabled people, rights of minorities and rights of indigenous peoples, or innovation and best practices and the other additional elements indicated in 1.2 of these guidelines?	5
3. Effectiveness and feasibility of the Action	15
3.1 Are the activities proposed appropriate, practical, and consistent with the objectives and expected results?	5
3.2 Is the action plan clear and feasible?	5

3.3 Does the proposal contain objectively verifiable indicators for the outcome of the Action? Is any evaluation planned?	5
4. Sustainability of the Action	15
4.1 Will the project results have a long-term impact on the target group?	5
4.2 Is the proposal likely to have multiplier effects? (Including scope for replication, extension and information sharing)	5
4.3 Are sufficient financial and institutional structures in place to ensure sustained activities after the project ends? - Financially (how will the activities be financed after the funding ends?) - Institutionally (will structures allow the activities to continue to be in place at the end of the Action? Will there be local 'ownership' of the action results?) - Environmentally (if applicable) (will the Action have a negative/positive environmental impact?)	5
5. Budget and cost-effectiveness of the Action	15
5.1 Are all the activities appropriately reflected in the budget?	5
5.2 Is the ratio between the estimated costs and the expected results satisfactory?	5
5.3 Are the proposed expenses eligible and feasible for the implementation of the project?	5
Maximum total score	100

Duration of Evaluation Process

The duration of the evaluation process is thirty (30) working days and commences the next working day after the date of the deadline of the Call for Proposals.

Provisional selection

Application receiving an average score of 60 or greater out of 100 will be ranked according to their average score. In Section 5 of the evaluation grid (Budget and cost-effectiveness), for organisations to be eligible for selection the organisation requires a score of 8 out of 15. All ranked applications, though eligible, may not be awarded a grant due to the pre-assigned value of the financial envelope allocated for the Call for Proposals.

STEP 3: VERIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY OF THE APPLICANTS

The eligibility verification, based on the supporting documents requested by the Contracting Authority (see Section 2.4 below), will only be performed for the applications that have been provisionally selected according to their score and within the available financial envelope.

- The Declaration by the Applicant will be cross-checked with the supporting documents provided by the applicant. **Any missing supporting document or any incoherence between the Declaration by the applicant and the supporting documents may lead to the rejection of the application on that sole basis.**

- The eligibility of applicants, the affiliated entity(ies), and the Action will be verified according to the criteria set out in Sections 2.1.1, 2.1.2, 2.1.3.

2.4 SUBMISSION OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS FOR PROVISIONALLY SELECTED APPLICATIONS

An applicant that has been provisionally selected or placed on the reserve list will be informed in writing by the Contracting Authority. It will be requested to supply the following documents to allow the Contracting Authority to verify the eligibility of the applicant:

Supporting documents which may/must be provided:

- a) A copy of the applicant's latest accounts (the profit and loss account and the balance sheet for the last financial year for which the accounts have been closed). However, the provision of an audited financial statement would be highly advantageous in the scoring process.
- b) A copy of the legal registration documents of the organisation.
- c) Verification that the bank account is maintained by two signatories.
- d) Evidence/verification of implementation of a project valued for at least USD 10 000 or an annual Programme Report for the last two years for an applicant organisation having its headquarters in Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and Grenadines.

Supporting documents must be supplied in the form of photocopies or scanned versions (i.e., showing legible stamps, signatures and dates) of the said originals.

If the above-mentioned supporting documents are not provided before the deadline indicated in the request for supporting documents sent to the applicant by the Contracting Authority, the application may be rejected.

After verifying the supporting documents, the Evaluation Committee will make a final recommendation to the Contracting Authority, which will decide on the award of grants.

2.5 NOTIFICATION OF THE CONTRACTING AUTHORITY'S DECISION

Caribbean Policy Development Centre will officially inform applicants, by e-mail, whether they have been awarded a grant. The applicants will be informed in writing of the Contracting Authority's decision concerning their application and, if rejected, the reasons for the negative decision. An applicant believing that an error or irregularity has harmed it during the award process may lodge a complaint within ten days of receiving the rejection letter.

Following official notification, successful candidates may be contacted directly by Caribbean Policy Development Centre to clarify items listed in their budget before the Grants Contracts are finalised for signature. Grant Contracts will be dispatched via e-mail.

	DATE	TIME*
Deadline for submission of Application Form	31 st March 2023	11:59 p.m. (UTC/GMT -4)
Information to applicants on the evaluation of the Application	6 th March 2023	11:59 p.m. (UTC/GMT -4)

Provisional date: All times are in the time zone of the country of the Contracting Authority

The Contracting Authority may update this indicative timetable during the procedure.

3. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS AFTER THE CONTRACTING AUTHORITY'S DECISION TO AWARD A GRANT

Following the decision to award a grant, the Beneficiary(ies) will be offered a contract based on the Contracting Authority's grant contract. By signing the application form (Annex A of these Guidelines), the applicants agree to accept the contractual conditions of the standard grant contract.

Reporting Requirements

Obligations to provide information and financial and narrative reports:

- Each report must provide a full account of all aspects of the Actions implemented for the period covered. Details of expenditure incurred in the period covered by the report should be noted in the Financial Report(s), indicating its title, amount, relevant heading in the Budget of the Action. The Budget headings listed in the Financial Report(s) must match the approved Budget heading identified in the proposal. Supporting documentation to verify expenditure in the Financial Report(s) must be original.
- The Narrative Report(s) and Financial Report(s), and the Grant Assessment Report must be drafted in English. Final reports should be submitted to Caribbean Policy Development Centre no later than one (1) month after the final disbursement or at the end of the implementation period.
- Caribbean Policy Development Centre may request additional information to verify expenditures in the Financial Report(s) at any time. That information must be supplied within fifteen (15) working days of the request.
- If the Beneficiary fails to supply Caribbean Policy Development Centre with the final report by the deadline stipulated and fails to furnish an acceptable sufficient written explanation of the reasons why he/she is unable to comply with this obligation, Caribbean Policy Development Centre may terminate the Contract in accordance with the guidelines, and recover the amounts already disbursed and not substantiated.

Financial Record Keeping

- All financial reporting is to be conducted in accordance with CPDC procedures and policies utilising the interim financial report form.
- All original invoices, receipts, paid bills, and financial records substantiating grant expenditures must be submitted with the final Financial Report. CPDC will retain copies of all receipts for their records.

Financial Reporting Requirements

- The grantee shall report to the Executive Director, or a representative as designated by CPDC.
- The Grantee is required to submit a **bi-monthly** financial report to CPDC by the 13th day of the month for the previous month's expenditure, following the specified report format.
- Bi-monthly financial reports will include project budget line items and reporting of expenditures against budget items.
- Bi-monthly financial reports will also include amounts provided by CPDC in the cost of the project.

- Bi-monthly financial reports will reflect the exchange rate used for converting local currency into USD on the day the funds are received on the Grantee's bank account. The Grantee can request an official letter confirming the exchange rate from the bank.
- The Grantee will submit a final financial report on a date set by CPDC.

Narrative Reporting Requirements

- The Grantee will submit **bi-monthly** narrative reports to CPDC, which will be due two (2) weeks following the end of a period using the Report Template provided by CPDC.
- The Grantee shall submit the final narrative report for the last two months on a date set by CPDC, including findings from project review or evaluation.

Visibility Requirements

- The Applicants must take all necessary steps to publicise that it is a CPDC project in which the European Union has financed the Action. As far as possible, the successful applicant must ensure sufficient time and resources are allocated to work with CPDC's Project Team and Communication Specialist to raise awareness about the project work.

Accountability Requirements

- All grantees will be required to sign onto and abide by the CPDC NGO Code of Conduct and Ethics. The Code reflects the growth of the NGO sector as it attempts to address issues of transparency and accountability proactively.
- Following the award of the grant contracts, grantee summary profiles, the type of award, and evaluation scores from the evaluation committee will be published on the CPDC website. The grantee will also be required to register on the CPDC NGO Directory.

Procurement Requirements

- Where the implementation of the Action requires the Beneficiary(ies) to award procurement contracts, those contracts must be awarded according to best practices outlined to successful organisations.