

**PRE-SOLICITATION ANNOUNCEMENT**

Winrock International, a nonprofit organization that works around the world to increase economic opportunity, sustain natural resources, and protect people and the environment, will be seeking proposal applications to the *Community-based Innovations to Reduce Child Labor through Education (CIRCLE)* project under a cooperative agreement with the United States Department of Labor. **This is a pre-announcement, not an invitation to bid. The RFP will be disseminated and posted on the CIRCLE project website at [www.circle.winrock.org](http://www.circle.winrock.org) within the next forty-five (45) days.**

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The CIRCLE project will award contracts on a competitive basis to **local non-profit organizations** in selected countries with high rates of child labor in Africa, Asia, and Latin America to implement initiatives that design, build on, and promote innovative community-based pilot projects. These projects should successfully address the reduction (or elimination) of child labor and its worst forms, through education, as well as document their Best Practices and replicable aspects. All CIRCLE contract activities must contribute directly to one or more of the following objectives.

1. Strengthen national institutions and policies on education and child labor.
2. Ensure sustainability and/or replicability as documented by monitoring and measuring techniques for tracking impact, including numbers and stories reflecting educational persistence, completion and prevention of child labor for at-risk children.
3. Strengthen formal, non-formal, and transitional education systems that encourage working children, and those at risk of working, to attend school.
4. Raise awareness of the importance of education for all children, and mobilize a wide array of actors to improve and expand education infrastructures.

**In this third round of CIRCLE sub-projects, preference will be given to innovative projects that include emphasis on one of the first two objectives (as listed above).**

CIRCLE sub-contract activities must also contribute **directly** or **indirectly** to the following indicators:

- a) Withdrawn or prevented: Children are prevented or withdrawn from exploitative child labor (cf. international and national standards), and are provided with education or training opportunities as a result of the project.
- b) Retention: Children are retained in educational programs as a result of the project.
- c) Completion: Children complete educational programs as a result of the project.

NOTE: NGOs **must** have or propose systems for monitoring and verifying that children receiving direct assistance are withdrawn or prevented from exploitative child labor.

To apply, organizations must meet the following minimum criteria. The organization must:

- Be a nationally-based, non-governmental organization registered according to country laws and legislation (faith-based and community organizations are encouraged to apply);
- Be registered in one of the following CIRCLE target countries: **Brazil, Peru, Bolivia, Guatemala; Senegal, Mali, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Kenya, Tanzania, and Malawi; Nepal, Pakistan, India, and Bangladesh: Philippines, Thailand, and Cambodia.**
- Propose a project that does not generate profit for the applicant or any individual;
- Demonstrate ability to manage contracts in a sound manner (such as a bank account and an experienced accountant);
- Demonstrate technical knowledge, capacity, and relevant experience to address child labor and educational issues;
- Submit a complete application with a project description that will promote CIRCLE project goals and objectives; and
- Bring 10% (of the sub-contract amount) in contribution of match funds or assets to the project.

The RFP will call for sub-projects that range from \$18,000-\$25,000 (around 9 awards); \$50,000-\$60,000 (around 4 awards); and \$75,000-100,000 (around 2 awards). Implementation can range from 9-15 months. For further information based on regional interest, please contact:

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