

## **Blueprints for Gender Equality (BLUEPRINTS) Project - Community Engagement Fund (CEF) – Round 1**

**Call Launch Date:** November 17, 2023

**Concept Note Submission Deadline:** December 11, 2023

**Concept Notes Selected:** January 12, 2024

**Selected concept notes announced:** January 19, 2024

### **Community Engagement Fund Description**

This call invites concept notes for Cuso International's CEF, funded by Global Affairs Canada (GAC) under the Blueprints for Gender Equality Project (BLUEPRINTS). The BLUEPRINTS project is a four (4) year project designed to build the capacity of local governments to better integrate gender into policies, programs and services to serve vulnerable groups. BLUEPRINTS is being implemented in Dominica, Grenada, St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. A key component of the BLUEPRINTS project is to increase engagement between governments, civil society organizations and community groups to ensure public institution's policies, programs and services are responsive to the needs of marginalized groups, specifically women, young women, women living with disabilities, Indigenous women and LGBTQ2IA+ people.

The CEF is designed to support civil society and community groups to use creative and impactful initiatives to communicate the cultural, social and economic issues marginalized groups, specifically women, young women, women living with disabilities, Indigenous women and LGBTQ2IA+ people, to inform Ministries, Departments and Agencies policies, programs and services. The ultimate objective is to ensure the interests, needs, perspectives and rights of the marginalized groups, specifically women, young women, women living with disabilities, Indigenous women and LGBTQ2IA+ people, are factored into the country's development plans and strategies. The CEF will fund small initiatives such as interactive advocacy campaigns, art shows, photo reality projects, edutainment-based communication campaigns and digital applications and will be accessible to civil society organizations, including women's rights organizations, youth groups and other community actors.

This call is the first of two calls to award a total of CAD \$24,000 under the CEF. This first round call will award a maximum of two (2) projects with a combined total value of not more than \$CAD 24,000.

### **Guidelines**

- A. All proposed projects should have a primary focus on gender equality, particularly for marginalized groups, specifically women, young women, women living with disabilities, Indigenous**

women and LGBTQ2IA+ people, and survivors, or those at risk, of gender-based violence. Projects should use creative ways to articulate the specific barriers, challenges and inequalities faced by these groups and how the project proposes to address them.

- B. Program area:** Projects must align with the objectives of the BLUEPRINTS project: Increased engagement between civil society and community groups and ministries, departments agencies to design responsive programs and services to the needs of the marginalized groups, specifically women, young women, women living with disabilities, Indigenous women and LGBTQ2IA+ people.
- C. Only one concept note per organization will be considered.** Submissions can be from individual organizations or a consortium.
- D. Duration of Activity:** Project plans for six months to one year will be considered.
- E. Funding limits:** Projects up to CAD \$12,000 will be considered.
- F. Anticipated Number of Awards:** Cuso International anticipates, but makes no guarantee, to fund as many as two awards through this call.
- G. Anticipated Amount to be Awarded Total:** Cuso International anticipates, but makes no guarantee, to approximately award up to \$24, 000 total through this call.

## Timelines

Concept Note Step	Date	Responsible
Stage 1: Concept note Submission Deadline	December 11, 2023	Organizations and Community Groups
Stage 2: Project Selection	January 12, 2024	BLUEPRINTS CEF Evaluation Committee
Announcement of Selected Projects	January 19, 2024	BLUEPRINTS CEF Evaluation Committee

## Submission and Selection Process

The selection process will be guided by the following. Organizations will be invited to submit a concept note, independently or as part of a coalition for consideration by the CEF selection committee.

**Submission Process:** Please send questions and concept notes to [hr@cusointernational.org](mailto:hr@cusointernational.org)

## Cuso International CEF Concept Note

Submission Package Checklist:

- ☐ Completed Concept Note (see template below)
- ☐ Completed Budget (template provided)
- ☐ Completed Activity Timeline and Implementation Plan (template provided)

The **word limit** for each question is indicated and reflects the relative weight assigned to the response.

Country:  
Organization:  
Main Contact and Position:

Project Title:

Project Duration in months (please include start/end months):

\*projects must wrap up by January 2025

Requested Funds (in CAD): \$

\*note the accompanying budget template to be completed

**1. Project Description:** Please provide a detailed description of your project a) description of the problem the project aims to address b) how the project will address it, including list of key activities; and c) the expected impact the project will have on participants. Include how the project will be sustainable and achieve longer term outcomes **(500 words )**

**2. Project Participants:** Please provide detailed description of your targeted group (s) **to be represented** including a) rationale for selected target group of women and girls b) description of barriers, challenges and inequalities faced by the group c) target number of beneficiaries to be reached. Please disaggregate by gender and other relevant factors. **(300 words)**

**3. Collaboration:** Please list organizations or individuals who are key collaborators in this project (i.e. partners, volunteers etc.) and describe their roles, responsibilities and technical capacities. **(100 words)**

**4: Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL):** How will the projects' impact be measured? Please provide an overview of the proposed plan for capturing project impact. **(300 words)**

**5. Risks:** Describe the risk/s that could limit the success of the project and please describe your plan to mitigate these risks. **(100 words)**

**6. Innovation:** Describe how the project is innovative, e.g. approach, partnerships, etc. **(200 words)**

**7. Alignment to BLUEPRINTS Objectives:** Please describe specifically how the project will contribute towards an increased awareness and understanding of ministries, departments and agencies of the needs and issues of the poorest, most vulnerable groups [to support them in designing more effective policies and programs that respond to their needs]. **(300 words)**