Population Reference Bureau

Request for Applications (RFA)

**RFA Information**

 Issue Date June 15, 2021

RFA Name **Policy Advocacy Initiative to Enhance Youth Contraceptive Continuation**

Ceiling Amount $3,500

Point of Contact Francesca Alvarez, falvarez@prb.org

**Due Dates**  Questions Due 8:00pm UTC on June 25, 2021

 Applications Due 8:00pm UTC on July 16, 2021

Submit the questions and proposals to Francesca Alvarez at falvarez@prb.org. Responses to questions will be shared with all interested partners. PRB expects to make an award decisions in July.

**Request for Applications**

**Overview/Scope**

In many countries, youth ages 15 to 24 years have higher rates of contraceptive discontinuation than older women. Youth may be particularly sensitive to side effects and face significant barriers to accessing quality family planning care, including provider bias. Policies that support high-quality counseling, active follow up mechanisms between appointments, and access to the full complement of contraceptive methods are best practices for sustaining youth contraceptive use.

As countries work to ensure women and couples are able to choose whether, when, and how often to have children, it is critical to examine the drivers of contraceptive discontinuation that may inhibit young people from achieving their reproductive intentions. Available in both French and English, the [*Best Practices for Sustaining Youth Contraceptive Use*](https://www.prb.org/resources/best-practices-for-sustaining-youth-contraceptive-use/) policy brief and accompanying presentation explore the unique patterns and drivers of contraceptive discontinuation among youth based on new analysis of Demographic and Health Survey and Service Provision Assessment data. The products also outline policy and program strategies to address obstacles to contraceptive continuation among young women who wish to prevent, delay, or space pregnancies.

Through this grant, support will be offered to two youth-led organizations (1 Anglophone and 1 Francophone)—with strong advocacy objectives and strategies and demonstrated capacities to work with high-level stakeholders—that can effectively and strategically utilize the *Best Practices for Sustaining Youth Contraceptive Use* presentationin their advocacy efforts. PRB will provide technical assistance to selected organizations who would like to integrate the presentation into their policy advocacy efforts. This technical assistance could involve identifying opportunities to feature the presentation, developing talking points, and planning dissemination events. The selected organizations will each receive a grant up to $3,500 USD.

Issuing this RFA does not constitute a commitment for PRB to issue a subaward, nor does it commit PRB to pay for costs incurred in the preparation and submission of an application.

**Required Qualifications and Eligibility**

PRB seeks applications from organizations that meet the following qualifications.

* Youth-led organizations with an established record of family planning (FP) advocacy or policy work and outcomes.
* Youth-led organizations must be based in [USAID family planning priority countries](https://www.usaid.gov/global-health/health-areas/family-planning/countries#priority).

If applicable, the successful applicant organization must adhere to [legislative restrictions](https://www.usaid.gov/global-health/legislative-policy-requirements) on the use of U.S. foreign assistance funds for abortion-related activities. Please note: These restrictions preclude the use of U.S. foreign assistance funds to lobby for or against abortion.

**Budget Type and Deliverables**

PRB anticipates awarding a fixed-price grant with payment based on the successful completion of deliverables. Deliverables will be determined based on the successful applicant’s proposal.

**Selection Criteria**

Applications will be assessed on the:

* Nature of existing policy advocacy work related to youth and family planning.
* Clarity and timeline of the advocacy objectives that could be supported by the *Best Practices for Sustaining Youth Contraceptive Use* brief and presentation.
* Experience utilizing policy communications products in advocacy efforts.
* Experience working with stakeholders to achieve program and/or policy change.
* Strength of plan for material use within the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**About PRB**

Population Reference Bureau (PRB) is a mission-driven organization headquartered in Washington, D.C. PRB’s staff includes researchers, data analysts, policy analysts, and communications experts who help others understand and leverage data and research from the population, health, and demographic fields. In doing so, we help policy decisionmakers and program implementers improve the well-being of people through evidence-based policies and practices. Under the USAID-funded PACE Project—Policy, Advocacy, and Communication Enhanced for Population and Reproductive Health— PRB works closely with global actors, national and local governments, USAID missions, and civil society to build champions, bridge sectors, and communicate effectively through data-driven, innovative products.  Learn more about PRB [here](https://www.prb.org/about/) and the PACE project [here](https://thepaceproject.org/about/).

Attachment A. Application

1. **GENERAL INFORMATION**

Organization Name:

Year Established:

Application Point of Contact (name):

Title:

Address:

Email Address:

Telephone Number:

Website:

Organization Country:

1. **PROPOSAL**
	1. What is your organization’s policy and advocacy goal and why is this an important goal?
	2. Describe your organization’s current policy advocacy efforts related to youth contraceptive use and continuation.
	3. Why do you think contraceptive continuation is important for your country's family planning objectives?
	4. Describe the short-term policy advocacy objectives the *Best Practices for Sustaining Youth Contraceptive Use* policy brief and presentation would support. This description should include the context, measurable advocacy objectives, timeline, advocacy targets, any planned activities, and communications approaches you plan to use.
	5. Please share one to three ideal advocacy outcomes that might result from your participation in this initiative (e.g., policy change, budget line increase, public support from a high-level family planning champion, etc.).
	6. When do you expect your policy and advocacy goal to be met? How have you determined this timeframe?
	7. Please list any advocacy opportunities or events where the materials could be used in the future. (This could be an event or activity where the materials will be distributed or shown.) If you already have specific events planned, please include the dates.
	8. Describe a recent policy change outcome brought about by your advocacy efforts.
	9. Do you have experience utilizing policy communications products in your advocacy efforts? If yes, please provide an example of a time when you used a product in your work.
	10. Describe how your organization ensures commitment to youth leadership (e.g., What is your governance structure? Is there an age limit for staff/executives/members?).
2. **BUDGET**

Please include a grant budget proposal that outlines your estimated costs in US dollars. The budget must contain the information in the columns below (Description, Unit Type, No. of Units. Unit Cost, Total, and Cost Assumptions for each line).

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **DESCRIPTION** | **Unit Type** | **No. of Units** | **Unit Cost** | **Total** | **Cost Assumptions (How did you determine the units and unit cost?)** |
| Travel (airfare, bus, driver, and car, etc.). List each cost separately.  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Lodging and meals (please break down by day and location)  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Editorial assistance (research, graphic design, photography, video, etc.). List each cost separately.  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Communication (phone, translation, wifi, etc.). List each cost separately.  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Other (Please specify) |  |  |  |  |  |
| **GRAND TOTAL** |  |  |  |  |  |