

RFP QUESTION AND ANSWERS

Strengthening Economic Growth in the Caribbean (SCEG)

UPDATED NOVEMBER 17, 2025

1. **Question:** What are the reporting requirements for projects that are funded?
 - a. **Answer:** For awarded grants, there are mid-term report and final report requirements. The final report will be due 30 days after the end of the award. Reporting requirements include narrative, indicators, and financial reporting components.
2. **Question:** How long would the review process take, and when should we expect to receive feedback?
 - a. **Answer:** Mercy Corps is aiming to have feedback for applications within three weeks of the deadline. However, this timeline will depend on the number of applications we receive.
3. **Question:** We are a fishing community, and our co-op produces ice for the industry. Our building got damaged during Beryl and are in the process of repairs. Can we apply for additional machinery to upscale our production?
 - a. **Answer:** Mercy Corps encourages all interested parties to review the RFP for alignment with their project ideas. We cannot interpret the RFP within this info session for individual organizations. If you feel the project aligns with the RFP we invite you to apply.
4. **Question:** Are you looking to create dynamics between several islands during this project, or do you want projects to focus on single islands?
 - a. **Answer:** Within one application, organizations can propose projects that cover more than one jurisdiction/country, but the budget limit will remain \$50k per project. Applicants are eligible to submit more than one application for different jurisdictions/counties but a maximum of one application per jurisdiction.
5. **Question:** Is there a minimum limit to the size of the project in terms of the number of persons impacted?
 - a. **Answer:** Mercy Corps has not set any parameters in terms of targeting. It is up to each applicant to set the target and present the targeting strategy for the proposal.



6. **Question:** Please clarify the requirement for organizations to have three years of experience. For example, our organization was recently established in a new location in June but has years of experience within the region.
- a. **Answer:** Each applicant needs to be registered in the place for which they are applying, and you can present the organization's relevant experience in the region.
7. **Question:** Does the applying organization need to be registered on SAM.gov and have the UEI?
- a. **Answer:** Applicants need the UEI to receive the award. Applicants do not need a UEI to submit an application. However, if an organization does not currently have a UEI, we recommend they begin the process as part of the application. We will clarify with the State Department to confirm that registration in sam.gov is not required.
8. **Question:** What is the UEI?
- a. **Answer:** The Unique Entity Identifier, or UEI, is a requirement for all awards and subawards with the U.S. Government. Mercy Corps recommends applicants follow the steps closely within [this link](https://www.fsd.gov/gsafsd_sp/en/what-information-will-i-need-to-provide-to-get-a-unique-entity-id?id=gsafsd_kb_articles&sys_id=c680c51487aba610cc3c0e950cbb35a1&spa=1) to secure their UEI.
(https://www.fsd.gov/gsafsd_sp/en/what-information-will-i-need-to-provide-to-get-a-unique-entity-id?id=gsafsd_kb_articles&sys_id=c680c51487aba610cc3c0e950cbb35a1&spa=1)
9. **Question:** Are there co-financing requirements?
- a. **Answer:** There are no co-financing requirements for this opportunity. If you wish to show other funding for the proposed activity you may do so in the budget but there is no co-financing requirement.
10. **Question:** Are you open to funding projects already being implemented?
- a. **Answer:** If that falls within the RFP guidelines, you are welcome to apply. It is not a requirement for this to be a new or separate project.
11. **Question:** Will the recording for this info session be accessible on the website?
- a. **Answer:** Yes, we will put this on the website and post all the questions and answers [Mercy Corps' Tenders page](#). Additional questions can be sent to scegrants@mercycorps.org.
12. **Question:** Can you add additional rows to any of the sections in the budget template?
- a. **Answer:** Yes, additional rows and cost categories may be added to the template. All templates are illustrative and can be modified. Additionally, applicants can also use their own templates as long as they align to the information requested in the RFP.
13. **Question:** In terms of the research shared, what was Mercy Corps' involvement in it and what are the lessons learned from it?
- a. **Answer:** Please refer to the [full report](#) and [two-page report](#) on the findings posted on the tender website. Mercy Corps would also recommend applicants utilize their own background information and expertise that is specific to their geographic location,

population, and sector. Mercy Corps recognizes there is economic diversity across the 12 targeted jurisdictions. Based on that, Mercy Corps did not limit the RFP to specific sectors and welcome applicants' expertise on the needs as they align to the RFP.

14. **Question:** Is there a specific time of day that the application is due on December 2, 2025

a. **Answer:** Applications are due at 12:00pm EST on December 2, 2025 (Jamaica-December 19th).

15. **Question:** Is there an editable version of the application template included in the RFP package?

a. **Answer:** A MS Word version will be added to the tender website.

16. **Question:** Under the SCEG RFP, academic and research institutions are listed as eligible entities, whereas government entities are excluded. Are publicly funded, but legally autonomous institutions governed by its own Board, eligible applicants?

a. **Answer:** Publicly funded, but legally autonomous, institutions are not considered government entities. Therefore, they are eligible to apply. However, all recipients must be able to accept all Department of State terms and conditions that flow from the prime award to the subawards. Acceptance of the subaward's terms and conditions is conditional on accepting the form of subaward agreement.

17. **Question:** I am the owner of a small business and would like to expand my business. Am I eligible?

a. **Answer:** Per the eligibility criteria, the following entities are eligible:

- Community-based organizations (CBOs) and Non-Profit Organizations.
- For-profit entities who implement activities that provide community/social benefit.
- Business support organizations and associations (e.g., Chambers of Commerce, Business incubators and accelerators, industry associations etc.)
- Academic and research institutions (e.g., university centers, research institutes)

b. **Answer:** This program is not intended to provide direct grants to individual businesses or individuals. For-profit entities who also implement charitable activities that provide community or social benefit may apply for funding for those activities, so long as the activities fall within the scope of the call for proposals.