

Long-term Assistance and Services for Research (LASER)



About LASER

The United States Agency for International Development's (USAID) U.S. Global Development Lab seeks a five year cooperative agreement with a Higher Education Institution (HEI) to establish and leverage a strong international network to help solve pressing development challenges through research. The resulting Long-term Assistance and Services for Research (LASER) network will work in partnership with USAID to engage academics and stakeholders in identifying and refining critical development research questions. LASER will fund research projects that address those questions so that the entire research system - from universities to policy-makers and civil society - can engage, educate, and contribute to the success of the research projects towards achieving development impacts. Additionally, LASER will increase the human and institutional capacity of higher education institutions in low and middle-income countries to become global leaders in research. The resulting LASER network will not only generate new knowledge for USAID, but also initiate long term, sustainable collaborations between U.S. and developing country institutions that are characterized by equitable university partnerships. Through LASER, USAID strives to engage with global university partners, leading to a connected global research network focused on development challenges, and stakeholders that are better equipped to use research to further their country's development.

Eligibility

Only HEIs are eligible to serve as the lead implementer, however consortium applications that include other organizations (eg, NGOs, private sector) are welcome as long as the lead applicant is an HEI. USAID specifically seeks to support a university whose operations includes the creation, engagement, and/or growth of a large, international network of university researchers, centers, and institutes across disciplines that can 1) independently identify and address new and impactful research questions with high relevance to the international development community, 2) partner with USAID Missions, Bureaus, and Independent Offices to address unique research needs identified by USAID, and 3) provide opportunities to work with and build up individual and institutional capacity of HEIs and their communities in low and middle-income countries.

Please submit all questions by December 20, 2017. Concept notes are due on **January 24, 2018**. Learn more:
<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=299303>