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# **Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor (DRL)**

## **Office of Global Programs Overview**



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# Human Rights and Democracy Fund

Established by Congress in 1998 for DRL

DRL Programs support four pillars:

- Respect for and protection of fundamental human rights
- Accountable and effective institutions of government under the rule of law
- Inclusive political processes that reflect the will of the people
- Vibrant civil societies including non-governmental organizations and a free press



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## **DRL Programs**

- Grants Officer Representatives (GORs) & Program Officers serve as the primary grantee contacts for programs.
- DRL Global Programming (DRL/GP) has obligated approximately 1 billion dollars since 1998.
- DRL/GP is currently managing over 400 open grants.



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## Priorities

DRL funding priorities are guided by US policy priorities as outlined in:

- Country narratives in the Department of State's International Religious Freedom and Human Rights Reports
- Priorities identified by the President, Secretary of State, the Department, the Ambassador at Large, and DRL



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# **Congressional Support for Religious Freedom Programs**

In fiscal years 2016, 2017 and 2018 Congress directed \$20 million per year for religious freedom programs.



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## Government Constraints

restrictive laws, policies, regulations, or actions that discriminate based on religious identity/beliefs or unduly restrict religious freedom

# Religious Freedom

## Societal Constraints

discrimination, harassment or violence directed at individuals on the basis of their religious identity/beliefs





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# **International Religious Freedom (IRF) Program Examples: Addressing Government Restrictions**

- Strengthening advocacy for legal change
- Building government capacity to reduce restrictions on religious freedom
- Training legal sector actors on religious freedom law



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## **IRF Program Examples: Addressing Societal Restrictions**

- Peacebuilding and mitigating societal tensions and conflict
- Civil society coalition-building
- Countering social discrimination of religious minorities





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# Applying for Grants



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# Overview of Award Process

1. Application  
Process/Requirements
2. Paneling and Review
3. Timeline/Lifecycle



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Grants  
.gov

SAMS  
Domestic  
mygrants.  
service-now.com

SAM  
.gov

**3 Essential  
Systems**



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## Before You Apply:

Get a  
Unique ID  
[DUNS  
Number]



Register at  
SAM.  
GOV



Register at  
Grants.  
GOV



## You are Now Ready



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## **Know the Regulations**

- Office of Management and Budget Guidance for Grants and Agreements found at 2 CFR 200 (<https://www.ecfr.gov>)
- Department of State Terms and Conditions



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## **Who is Eligible to Apply?**

- US and foreign non-governmental organizations (NGOs)
- Foreign Public Entities (FPEs)
- Colleges, Universities, Institutions of Higher Ed.
- For-profit organizations (with certain conditions)





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## **DRL Program Scope**

- Length of projects: 24-36 months
- Funding amounts: \$500,000 - \$1,000,000
- Partnerships between organizations are encouraged when applying



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## **Application Process**

- DRL allocates foreign assistance through a fair, open, and competitive solicitation process
- DRL does not accept unsolicited applications



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# Technical Requirements for Applying

Applications must:

- Be in English
- Include budget figures in U.S. dollars
- Follow the Proposal Submission Instructions (PSI) provided with each announcement to avoid technical ineligibility



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## Where to Apply

The Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) are posted:

- **SAMS Domestic**

[www.mygrants.service-now.com](http://www.mygrants.service-now.com)

- **Grants.gov**

[www.Grants.gov](http://www.Grants.gov)

- **The DRL website**

[www.state.gov/j/drl](http://www.state.gov/j/drl)

**If you encounter any problems, please open a help desk ticket. DRL cannot assist with any technical issues**



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## **Paneling and Review**

- Grants Officer determines if technical requirements are met.
- Applications are reviewed by an interagency panel and provide conditions/recommendations.
- Issuance of awards depends on final Grants Officer review and approval.



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## Timeline

- NOFO season is generally October-December with decisions released in spring or summer the following year
- Implementation usually starts in summer/fall
  - \*Frequently monitor for new solicitations on SAMS Domestic and Grants.gov





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## **More information**

- **DRL's website**

<https://www.state.gov/j/drl/>

- **DRL's Annual NGO workshop Oct 26, 2018**

Registration process on website.



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