



CALL FOR BUSINESS PLAN PROPOSALS FOR THE UCC/RCDF GRANT FOR DIGITAL LITERACY CAMPAIGNS FOR WOMEN PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (PWDS)

STATEMENT OF REQUIREMENTS

1.0 Introduction

Uganda Communications Commission through the Rural Communications Development Fund has launched a call for business plan proposals for available funds under a grant to cater for Digital Literacy campaigns for women persons with Disabilities across the country.

Section 3 of the Uganda Communications Act 2013 mandates the Commission to administer and run a fund for the development of rural communications and information and communication technology in the country. ICTs for Women Persons with Disabilities is one of the priority areas under the RCDF III programme thematic area of Broadband Connectivity and Access. Funds have therefore been set aside for the financial year 2019/20 to be utilised under a collaborative grant framework between UCC/RCDF and a suitable partner to implement digital literacy campaigns for women persons with disabilities.

2.0 Background

Women with disabilities are more likely to face poverty, unemployment and under-education than their male counterparts. This means they are less likely to have access to ICT, which, in turn, means they are less likely to overcome socioeconomic barriers.

According to the published study conducted in 2017 by UCC on the Access and Usage of ICTs by People with Disabilities in Uganda, it was discovered that awareness, access and use of ICTs by PWDs is deficient in Uganda. The most accessible and used ICT device amongst PWDs is a radio (70.1%) followed by mobile phone at 69.4%. 8% of PWDs are using computers whereas internet usage stands at 16% amongst PWDs. Regarding Assistive Technologies (ATs), only 5% PWDs have ever heard of these technologies.

In addition, 1% have ever used ATs while less than 0.5% of the 1% currently use these technologies.

Using the \$2 per day poverty line threshold, 43.6% of PWDs are living in poverty compared to the national average of 36%. Despite the existence of Universal Primary Education (UPE) and Universal Secondary Education (USE), slightly more than half (55.7%) of individual PWDs interviewed have not gone beyond senior four (S.4), 26.2% did not complete any grade, while approximately 2.6% have completed bachelors or postgraduate levels.

Based on the above adverse effects that mostly affect the disabled women, UCC/RCDF is seeking to collaborate with a suitably qualified stakeholder with the requisite qualifications, competencies and experience as per the eligibility criterion and statement of requirements below to execute the digital literacy campaigns across the country. The campaigns are aimed at developing an effective strategy to enhance ICTs and IT skills among Women Persons with Disabilities. Through these campaigns, training on assistive technology, ICTs and IT skills will be delivered to women Persons with disabilities.

3.0 Project Objectives

1. Drive Digital Literacy for Women with Disabilities
2. Reduce the Digital Divide and Empower Women with Disabilities
3. Mainstream Gender in ICT
4. Increase the ability of women with disabilities to access and use ICT and most importantly, to use the internet as critical part of modern society.
5. Inclusion of all women with disabilities in the digital age.
6. Create awareness on Assistive Technologies to drive their usage for Social Inclusion of Women Persons with Disabilities.
7. Obtain feedback from Women Persons with Disabilities on ICT/AT and their usage for purposes of informing Government policy.

4.0 Target Group

1. Women in rural areas
2. Women with Disabilities
3. Persons with Disabilities

5.0 Eligibility of Applicants

5.1 General Criteria

1. Be legally established in Uganda
2. Be in satisfactory financial health and have adequate financial systems to report to the RCDF when required.
3. Be involved in works with Women Persons with Disabilities
4. Have a presence in more than 50% of Uganda's Districts
5. Over 10 Years of experience dealing with Women Persons with Disabilities
6. Have a clear strategic Plan incorporating such Projects

5.2 Preference

The Fund will give preference to applicants whose Business Plan proposals highlight the following:-

1. Clear Financial and material contribution from the applicant over and above the grant amount.
2. Entities that have qualified human resources or have the ability to outsource to competent human resource groups to implement the proposed project within the proposed timeframe.
3. Strategies that minimise Project expenses while meeting objectives.
4. Strategies that provide for greater focus to project execution in the remote and challenging environments (e.g. low or sparsely populated areas, difficult terrain, lack of access or remoteness to the power grid, limited infrastructure)
5. Strategies that will enable Women Persons with Disabilities' full uptake of mobile internet across the country.
6. Solutions that require the lowest grant (subsidy) for a specific area shall be considered first, all other requirements constant.

6.0 Assessment Criterion

The grant applications will be assessed based on a 3-stage process (Administrative, Technical and Financial) process but also incorporating the four equally-weighted, all-encompassing criteria:-

1. Technical capacity to deliver – whether an applicant has the capability and experience to achieve some or all of the objectives of the project.
2. Ability to meet project priorities – how well the service meets the priorities of the grant project and will address the target issue/s.
3. Ability to meet community needs – how well the service meets the needs of the community and will make a difference to the target group/s.
4. Value for money – whether the cost of the service, event or activity represents fair expenditure, relative to the outputs and outcomes to be delivered.

7.0 Risk Assessment

The RCDF Assessment team will carry out a Risk assessment of the indicated and non-indicated risks. The evaluation based on the risks assessed will consider the totality of an applicant's submission in determining whether a potential engagement would involve low, medium, high, or extreme risk to UCC/RCDF.

8.0 Required Applicant's Legal Documents

1. Legal Name – The name that identifies the applicant for legal, administrative and other official purposes;
2. Memorandum and Articles of Association
3. Trading Name – the name used by the applicant for commercial trading, publicity and provision of services, which may differ from their legal name;
4. Head Office Address – the registered place of business and any other service branch locations.
5. Postal Address – the address to which correspondence should be directed;
6. Contact Details – the name, position, phone and email contact for an authorised representative of the Applicant.
7. Affiliated Entities
8. Audited Financial statements
9. Code of Ethical Conduct in Business for Grant applicants and Providers

9.0 Business Plan Requirements

1. Project Description and Objectives of the Project
2. Experience in Similar Projects
3. Feasibility Analysis of the Project
4. Relationship to RCDF Strategy
5. SMART Project Outputs and Outcomes
6. Location and Target Communities
7. Project Rationale for the location or community selection/targeting
8. Technology features and selection (if relevant)
9. Capacity building / Training features to ensure success
10. Implementation Schedule and Length
11. Milestones
12. Project Implementation Budget
13. Partner Contributions
14. Gender Analysis of the Project
15. Sustainability plan of the project

16. Ethics and Transparency
17. Risk Management Plan
18. Monitoring and Evaluation of the Project
19. Any other additional Business plan information relevant to the assessment criterion.

10.0 Application Timeline

The grant application is open, effective 5th November 2019 up to 22nd November 2019.

A Pre – grant Application meeting will be held on 15th November 2019 at 10.00 am at the Uganda Communications Commission Head Office located at Plot 42-44, Spring Road Bugolobi in Kampala.

For any required clarification or guidance on the grant application process, please contact Mr Mujuni Arnold on telephone contact +256414339162 or email amujuni@ucc.co.ug.

Final Applications will be submitted to the address below:-

The Executive Director
Uganda Communications Commission
Plot 42-44, Spring Road Bugolobi
P.O.Box 7376, Kampala
Uganda

Disclaimer

Personal information supplied in an application will be used by UCC in accordance with the Laws of Uganda.