



MILLENNIUM
CHALLENGE CORPORATION
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Fact Sheet

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MCC's Invitation to Innovate: Request for Proposals

Summary

The Millennium Challenge Corporation is soliciting ideas from private firms and non-governmental organizations for partnerships through its *Invitation to Innovate* initiative. This initiative was launched through an Annual Partnership Solicitation, a framework to facilitate the development of partnerships that expand the impact of MCC's investments and support the agency's mission of reducing poverty through economic growth.

Through this initiative, MCC seeks to test new technologies and approaches for development, pursue innovative financing structures, enhance training and expertise, and increase sustainability of present and future MCC investments. Successful partnerships will propose creative ideas, leverage MCC resources, and contribute expertise to enhance MCC-funded projects and increase economic activity, trade, and investment in MCC countries.

Funding

Awards may range from \$50,000 to \$2,000,000, depending on the length and characteristics of the agreement, and are likely to be funded as sub-grants under the relevant compact or pre-compact agreement between MCC and the partner country. In some cases, MCC may make a limited amount of funding available directly from MCC to the partnership.

Who Should Apply?

Ideal partners will be U.S. or international organizations that bring new ideas and innovations to MCC projects, as well as expertise and guidance for practical implementation. Partners may include:

- ★ Foundations
- ★ Social responsibility funds
- ★ Development investment funds
- ★ Private enterprises
- ★ Non-governmental organizations
- ★ Other donors

What Partners Can Offer

Partnerships may include a range of characteristics and cooperative arrangements, including:

- ★ Coordination of activities
- ★ Risk sharing
- ★ Resource sharing
- ★ Co-financing arrangements
- ★ Shared implementation

Length of Partnerships

Partnerships will last from 12 to 60 months.

Priority Countries and Priority Sectors

Invitation to Innovate is focused on partnerships in select MCC partner countries, including countries in compact development and compact implementation, as well as select priority sectors spanning a number of MCC countries.

Compact Countries in Development	Areas of Focus
Cape Verde	Property Rights; Water, Sanitation & Hygiene
Zambia	Sustainable Tourism, Conservation & Wildlife Management, Alternative Livelihoods, Land & Property Rights

Compact Countries in Implementation	Areas of Focus
Tanzania	Road Safety & Maintenance, Renewable Energy, Environmental Conservation

Priority Sectors	Relevant Compact Countries
Land Tenure & Property Administration	Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Lesotho, Mali, Mongolia, Mozambique, Namibia, Senegal, Zambia
Transportation Corridor Development	Burkina Faso, El Salvador, Mali, Mongolia, Tanzania

In the future, MCC may expand the initiative to include additional countries or sectors.

Application Process

U.S. and international companies and organizations may apply for funding under the *Invitation to Innovate* by submitting a short concept paper to MCC. Upon review, qualified candidates will be invited to submit a full application.

MCC is committed to country ownership and country-led development. All partnerships will be subject to agreement and, as appropriate, engagement of MCA country counterparts. Concept papers and applications may be shared with MCA country counterparts.

MCC recognizes that partners will want to consider carefully their relationship to foreign government agencies and projects, and will facilitate this relationship where appropriate to achieve effective and meaningful partnerships.

Deadlines

Invitation to Innovate concept papers are accepted and evaluated on a rolling basis. However, potential partners are encouraged to submit concept papers as soon as possible, as partnership opportunities, particularly for compacts in development, may become narrower as the compact becomes more defined. At its discretion, MCC may issue updates to the Annual Partnership Solicitation as partnership opportunities arise.

Application Materials

Invitation to Innovate Eligibility Criteria, Concept Paper Instructions, Application Form, and Full Program Description are all available at www.grants.gov.

For more information, contact Patrice Lopez at lopezpa@mcc.gov.