Request for Grant Proposals
for
The 100K CLIMA Grant Competition to Build Inclusive, Climate-Action, Student Exchange Programs between the United States and Colombia (2023)

Issuance Date: October 5, 2023
Closing Date: January 31, 2024

Partners of the Americas (POA) and the Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs at the U.S. Department of State (WHA/DOS) invite all higher education institutions (HEIs) from the United States and Colombia to create partnerships and submit proposals for consideration in the 100,000 Strong in the Americas Climate Initiative (100K Strong CLIMA).

This new 100K Strong CLIMA grant competition is generously supported by Grupo Energía Bogotá (GEB), Fundación Santo Domingo (FSD), and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), in collaboration with the U.S Department of State and the U.S. Embassy in Colombia.

This 100K Strong CLIMA competition is designed to stimulate and support innovative, inclusive partnerships between teams of HEIs that will create and implement climate-focused student and faculty exchange and training programs and climate action projects between the United States and Colombia.

The 100K Strong CLIMA Initiative supports the Department of State’s priorities to ensure a more inclusive, prosperous, and climate-resilient Americas through expanded regional education cooperation, exchanges, and workforce training programs. 100K Strong partnerships between HEIs in the U.S. and the rest of the Western Hemisphere provide students with innovative opportunities to work in teams at both their home and host institutions, solve real-world problems, and gain technical, linguistic, and intercultural skills, imperative for workforce development.

The new 100K Strong Climate (100K CLIMA) and Inclusive Education (100K I.E.) Initiatives announced at the ninth Summit of the Americas in June 2022 will expand partnership opportunities for a diversity of HEIs to create and implement inclusive education exchange and training programs in the Americas. These new 100K Strong initiatives also build on the Department of State’s collaboration with Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU), and other minority-serving institutions (MSIs), and support bilateral agreements on social inclusion and racial equality with Latin American countries, including Colombia.

For this 100K CLIMA grant competition, teams of HEIs between the U.S. and Colombia are invited to submit proposals to show how they will use the 100K Strong grant to (1) design and carry out inclusive, climate-focused, student/faculty exchanges, both virtually and in-person; and/or (2) create opportunities to conduct research that support innovative, sustainable climate action projects (CAPs) to leverage the expertise of HEIs to contribute solutions to regional climate challenges.
All types of HEIs in the United States and Colombia are eligible to submit proposals for consideration. We seek a diversity of HEIs to create partnerships and submit proposals, including U.S. colleges and universities, HBCUs, HSIs, community colleges, Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs), and first-time 100K Strong applicants. HEI teams must demonstrate clearly in their proposals how students and faculty from diverse socioeconomic and racial backgrounds will be recruited and included in the proposed 100K Strong program activities and exchanges.

The intent of this 100K CLIMA competition is to award \textbf{up to sixteen (16) grants} – \textit{pending the results of the 100K proposal evaluation and final selection process}. The grants will be distributed according to the following:

- Approximately eleven (11) grants up to $27,174 each for inclusive student/faculty exchange and training programs.
- Approximately five (5) grants up to $50,000 each for proposed programs that include inclusive student/faculty exchanges and climate research/climate action projects (CAPs).

\textbf{NOTE:} If selected, teams of HEIs must carry out their full 100K Strong CLIMA project during \textit{June 1, 2024 – May 31, 2025}.

WHA-DOS, the U.S. Embassy-Colombia, and POA, in coordination with GEB, FSD, USDA reserve the right to fund any or none of the grant proposals received by the deadline in this 100K Strong CLIMA competition. Please see Section IV: “Description of this 100K Strong CLIMA Grant Competition” for a list of eligible thematic areas and related 100K Strong grant proposal requirements.

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\textbf{Brief Overview of the 100K Strong Initiative}

The 100,000 Strong in the Americas (100K Strong) hemisphere-wide education initiative is the signature public-private sector collaboration between WHA/DOS, U.S. embassies, and POA, working with regional companies, foundations, governments, and education networks throughout the United States, Latin America, and the Caribbean (LAC). The 100K Strong Innovation Fund is the trusted USG-branded mechanism to catalyze inter-regional partnerships that build institutional capacity and ensure that more students from diverse backgrounds gain access to innovative, inclusive exchange and workforce training programs.

Over ten years (2013-2023), the 100K Strong Innovation Fund has awarded 306 grants to 572 HEIs working in teams across 25 countries and 49 U.S. states. To date, Colombia, Mexico, Brazil, Peru, Argentina, Chile, Guatemala, and Costa Rica are leading 100K Strong grant-recipient countries to partner with U.S. colleges/universities to create and implement new models of student and faculty exchanges in multiple thematic areas. The 100K Network, managed by POA, currently includes 4,000 individual members – and growing – and including 2,300 regional HEIs.
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Section I: Background of 100K Strong CLIMA

During the ninth Summit of the Americas (June 2022), two new 100K Strong initiatives were announced by senior leadership at the Department of State: the **100K Strong Climate (100K Strong CLIMA)** and **100K Inclusive Education (100K I.E.)** initiatives. These new initiatives support a greener, more prosperous, and inclusive Hemisphere through expanded regional education cooperation, exchanges, and training opportunities for students and faculty in the Americas.

The **100K Strong CLIMA Initiative** will catalyze higher education collaboration on climate action and expand access to inclusive exchange opportunities that will equip students with workforce skills to lead in a climate-positive, 21st century regional economy. The goals of the 100K Strong CLIMA initiative include the following:

- Expand access to innovative, climate-focused, inclusive exchange and training programs for students in fields such as climate resilience, renewable energy, green economy, and other related thematic areas.
- Stimulate inter-regional partnerships to expand climate-action and inclusive education opportunities.
- Support inclusive climate action projects (CAPs) led by HEIs in the U.S. and LAC.

There are significant barriers, both administrative and financial, that limit opportunities for HEIs to work together to climate action. Through the 100K Strong initiative, regional higher education institutions can be empowered are empowered to mobilize resources to address climate action exchange and research programs. With targeted support from the 100K Strong CLIMA Initiative, HEIs can expand their efforts to combat climate change and provide more students with the regional, sustainable training to lead in the 21st century climate-resilient economy.

Section II: Funding Partners in this 100K Strong CLIMA Grant Competition

**Grupo Energía Bogotá (GEB)** is an international company with more than 125 years of history, with operations throughout the energy chain in transmission, generation, and distribution of electric power, and transportation and distribution of natural gas through 11 subsidiaries and strategic investments in companies in the energy sector in Colombia, Peru, Brazil and Guatemala. The higher purpose of GEB is “to improve lives with sustainable and competitive energy”, which aims to contribute to the construction of sustainable, inclusive, and equitable societies through competitive businesses in the energy sector that maximize the generation of value for interest groups and contribute to the well-being of the communities in the environments where GEB operates. Their Sustainability Strategy establishes that the presence of GEB in the territories must generate benefits in terms of regional prosperity and contribute to the creation of favorable conditions for improving the quality of life of people in the areas of education, health and energy, among others.

Taking into account its presence in more than 200 municipalities in Colombia, their higher purpose, and Sustainability Strategy, GEB created the "Legacy for the Territory" initiative, a part
of its Fabio Chaparro Training Program, which seeks to strengthen education and promote the development of skills, knowledge, and abilities related to climate change and energy transition in the company’s areas of influence. This 100K CLIMA competition is developed within the framework of said program. For more information, visit: www.grupoenergiabogota.com/.

**Fundación Santo Domingo (FSD)** is a non-profit organization that, for 63 years, has had a great higher purpose: that more people in Colombia can care for the well-being for their families and make Colombia a more equitable place. In partnership with public and private organizations, FSD leads projects in prioritized sectors, including education, environment, health and territorial development, the latter with a focus on the Colombian Caribbean. Aware of the enormous challenges Colombia faces, as well as the opportunities offered by the richness of its ecosystems for social and economic development, FSD has supported projects through partnerships and initiatives that have contributed to conservation and sustainable use of natural resources. This becomes a reality through the implementation of their Environmental Strategic Framework, which has three action fronts: ecosystems, water and sustainable cities, and climate change in a transversal manner, as well as four impact programs and a portfolio of projects that, together, contribute seek to promote both the recovery and conservation of ecosystems and water, as well as the creation of sustainable cities.

Likewise, from their strategic framework of Education, they have three action fronts. Two are educational transformation and connection of education and employment, which is tied to their purpose of the mobilization of educational commitments focused on research that generate knowledge that supports and accompanies the transformation that benefit all areas of society, through the strengthening of capacities, competencies, and skills in young researchers who enrich the production of knowledge in the Colombia and represent a significant impact on decision-making in the public and private sector. For more information, visit www.fundacionsantodomingo.org/.

USDA Food for Progress Colombia - **Colombian Cacao and Complementary Crops for Development (C4D)** aims to achieve a living income for cacao farmer families by helping them attain economically viable diversified farming systems, sustainable agricultural landscapes, and equitable commercialization models. To do so, C4D brings together government, NGOs and private sector allies to improve cacao and other promising complementary supply chains such as plantain, cassava/yuca, chili bell peppers, mango and Tahiti lime. This program is the largest of its kind in Colombia and aims to improve the conditions of the farmers using a household living income lens. Through a Value Chain approach, the program will help close to 6,000 families boost their agricultural productivity, as well as improve the aggregation, processing and commercialization processes of their cacao farmer associations. C4D also seeks to promote sustainable business models and expand trade between the U.S. and Colombia of these agricultural products, by improving post-production processing and handling, facilitating lending and increasing the use of financial services and creating marketing linkages between farmers, producer groups and national and international value chain actors.

C4D aims to continue positioning Colombia as the de-facto origin for cacao in agroforestry systems and as a part of this, C4D has been able to jumpstart a unique carbon offset program for cacao smallholders in Colombia. A key strategy for the sustainability beyond the program’s intervention is to support youth engagement in the growth of this diversified cacao farming
systems through actions such as the promotion of rural youth academic research opportunities and exchange visits to spur innovation and knowledge-sharing on cacao and complementary crop sectors across the Americas. For more information, visit: USDA - C4D: 1st Circle of Knowledge of Cocoa and Complementary Crops and the C4D LinkedIn Page.

The Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs (WHA) at the U.S. Department of State (WHA/DOS) supports and oversees the 100,000 Strong in the Americas (100K Strong) Initiative with Partners of the Americas and U.S. Embassies, in collaboration with the public, private, and academic sectors in the region. Since the inception of the 100K Strong Innovation Fund in 2013, the contributions from the U.S. Department of State to this hemispheric-wide education initiative have leveraged robust, resilient public-private sector cooperation with regional companies, foundations, governments, and higher education networks throughout the United States, Latin America, and the Caribbean. 100K branded partnerships and programs align with regional policy goals to support inclusive education opportunities, exchanges, democratic institutions, and economic prosperity.

Section III: Eligibility Information

All higher education institutions (HEIs) located and legally registered in the United States and Colombia are eligible to apply for this 100K Strong CLIMA Grant Competition. Please refer to Section IV for Colombia regional preferences for some of the available grants in this competition.

The 100K Strong program seeks a diversity of HEIs to create and implement innovative, inclusive, sustainable exchange programs for diverse students and faculty. This 100K CLIMA competition seeks proposals from all HEIs, including two-year and four-year degree-issuing universities/colleges (public & private), with special emphasis on U.S. institutions including Historically Black Colleges & Universities (HBCUs), Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs), community colleges, and other minority-serving institutions (MSIs), with credit-bearing programs. First-time applicants and/or applicants those that have not previously received a 100K Strong grant are also encouraged to submit proposals.

Grant proposals must include a team of at least one HEI based in the U.S. and one HEI based in Colombia. Additional HEIs can be added to proposals; however, this is not required. 100K Strong grant proposals can involve new partnerships and/or build on existing partnerships.

In order to increase the diversity of participating institutions, the Review Committee reserves the right to give preference to institutions that have not previously received Innovation Fund grants; however, all HEIs (including previous grant winners) are encouraged to apply.

Section IV: Description of this 100K Strong CLIMA Grant Competition

A. Proposal Timeframe (Grant Period)

All proposed 100K Strong CLIMA program activities, including planning and implementation, must take place during June 1, 2024 – May 31, 2025.
Proposals may include information on activities that have occurred prior to this period that provide background to laying the groundwork for the proposed 100K Strong program activities. Proposals may also include anticipated activities beyond these dates (such as ongoing student/faculty exchanges, extension services), that will demonstrate continuation of and commitment to the program beyond the grant period.

B. Proposed Program Components

The purpose of this 100K Strong CLIMA competition is to provide funds to support innovative partnerships between HEIs that will result in (1) inclusive, climate- or energy transition-focused, student/faculty exchange and training programs between the U.S. and Colombia, and (2) bilateral-focused climate action projects (CAPs), including research collaboration as well as student/faculty exchanges that contribute to climate-action solutions.

For this 100K Strong CLIMA grant competition, HEI applicants must select one of the following options below to address in their proposal. The first option is focused on innovative, inclusive student/faculty exchange and training programs between Colombia and the United States. The second option is focused on stimulating climate action and research projects as well as student/faculty exchanges. The two options are described below:

Option #1: Proposals focused on innovative, inclusive student/faculty exchanges

- **Approximately 11 grants available at $27,174 each**
- Proposals must describe how the teams of HEIs will use the 100K grant resources to create and implement new models of inclusive student/faculty exchange and training programs between the U.S. and Colombia focused on overall themes of climate action, energy transition, and related areas as noted below.

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**OPTION #1 ELIGIBILITY**

**Regional Preferences**

This is open to all HEIs in the United States and Colombia.

**Note:** 8 of the 11 available grants in this option will be awarded to projects that engage HEIs in at least one of following COLOMBIAN departments (states):

- Antioquia
- Bolívar
- Boyacá
- Caldas
- Casanare
- Cauca
- Cesar
- Cundinamarca
- Huila
- La Guajira
- Magdalena
- Meta
- Nariño
- Putumayo
- Quindío
- Risaralda
- Santander
- Tolima
- Valle del Cauca

**Thematic / Academic Areas**

Proposed 100K Strong CLIMA programs must be related to climate change adaptation or mitigation, energy transition, or the thematic areas as noted below.

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1 Proposals must be submitted by or include a partnership with a HEI in one of these departments.
Also included in Option #1: 3 of the 11 available grants will be allocated for proposed 100K programs in any of the thematic areas below and in any region of Colombia that provide applicable solutions to the development and sustainable management of cacao and complementary crops (e.g.: plantain, cassava, chili bell peppers, mango, and Tahiti lime) value chains.

Eligible themes under this option include, but are not limited to:

Agriculture
- Agroforestry systems
- Climate-Smart Agriculture
- Sustainable and Renewable Agriculture and Food Security
- Sustainable Land Use
- Sustainable Value Chains

Climate Technology
- Energy Efficiency
- Electric Mobility
- Green Innovation for Climate Change and Energy Transition
- Technology and Data Analytics to measure, capture, and/or reduce greenhouse gas emissions

Conservation and Reforestation
- Biodiversity Protection
- Community Conservation Practices
- Endangered/Threatened Species Management and Protection
- Forest Conservation and Restoration
- Nature-Based Solutions
- Natural Resource Management
- Water Conservation and Sustainable Management

Decarbonization and Electrification
- Carbon Capture and Storage
- Control of fugitive emissions (CH4) and leaks in electric power substations (SF6)
- Production, Storage and Transportation of Green Hydrogen

Design, Architecture and Construction of Climate-Resilient Infrastructure

Renewable Energy
- Generation and Management of Renewable Energy (solar, wind, geothermal, hydraulic, and bioenergy)
- Renewable Energy Storage
- Renewable Energy Engineering
- Renewable Energy Transmission
**Option #2: Proposals that include climate research connected to climate action projects (CAPs) and student/faculty exchange and training programs**

- Approximately 5 grants available of $50,000 each
- Proposals must describe how participating HEIs will use grant resources to support climate action projects (CAPs), including climate research, with potential participation of local or regional sectors, and include student/faculty exchange components. The proposed 100K Strong CLIMA projects under this option must be related to the thematic areas below and be strategic in terms of strengthening the cooperation and capacities of HEIs in the U.S. and Colombia to work together to solve climate challenges. For more details on climate action projects (CAPs), see Pages 8-10 below.

### OPTION #2 ELIGIBILITY

#### Regional Preferences

This is open to all HEIs in the United States and Colombia.

**NOTE:** Approximately 2-3 grants in this option will be awarded to projects that include the participation of at least one HEI based in the Caribbean region of Colombia.

#### Thematic / Academic Areas

Proposed project topics should be associated with the management of water, food, energy connected to climate adaptation or mitigation, energy transition, or the thematic areas as noted below. Projects must be linked to innovation, science, governance, and communications for environmental education.

Also included in Option #2: Approximately 2-3 grants will be allocated for proposed 100K programming in any of the thematic areas below and in any region of Colombia that provides applicable solutions to the development and sustainable management of cacao and complementary crops (e.g.: plantain, cassava, chili bell peppers, mango, and Tahiti lime) value chains.

Eligible themes under this option include, but are not limited to:

**Agriculture**

- Agroforestry systems
- Carbon Capture optimization and measurement
- Climate-resilient Agriculture
- Climate-Smart Agriculture solutions at low cost for smallholder farmers
- Sustainable and Renewable Agriculture and Food Security
- Sustainable Agricultural Value Chains
- Sustainable Land Use
- Sustainable practices in logistics, processing, packaging, commercialization and other activities in the value chain

**Bioeconomy**
- Effective practices in the conservation of ecosystems that promote lower water and carbon footprint and prevent deforestation

**Circular Economy**
- Solid Waste Management, linking to circular economy
- Integrated farming systems

**Climate Justice**

**Conservation and Reforestation**
- Biodiversity Protection
- Community Conservation Practices
- Endangered/Threatened Species Management and Protection
- Natural Resource Management
- Protection and Restoration of Oceans and Corals

**Integrated Management for Sustainable Cities**
- Energy Efficiency in Cities and Production Systems

**Public Health and Climate**

**Sustainable Design, Architecture and Construction**

**Sustainable/Electric Transportation**
- Promotion of Sustainable Mobility
- Reduction of Emissions Generated by the Transportation Sector

**Water**
- Conservation and Restoration of Water Basins
- Promotion and Efficient Use of Water for Cities and Sustainable Production Systems
- Water Restoration and Protection

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**Design Framework for Climate Action Projects (CAP)**

The framework below was developed by the organization, Second Nature, in collaboration with POA, as part of the design for the 100K Strong CLIMA initiative. It describes various methods that HEIs can employ to take climate action. It may be helpful during the design of CAPs.

Please note that the framework and action categories below are offered for illustrative purposes only. Other models and activities are welcomed and encouraged, so long as the proposal clearly demonstrates the relationship between the proposed CAP and the ongoing global effort to mitigate and adapt to climate change.
Faculty and students must be included as key actors in all proposed CAPs and proposals must show how faculty and students will expand their knowledge, skills and/or capacity through their participation in the CAPs. This should be demonstrated in the description of the intended results and in the M&E framework.

The framework describes seven “Action Categories” that correspond to “Institutional Functions” for which HEIs are uniquely well-suited. In the broadest sense, HEIs can undertake “Enabling” actions that inform and empower other actors in the community or function as direct “Actors” by implementing specific interventions to address climate-related challenges. There is significant overlap among the two categories.

The framework’s “Action Categories” are described below in more detail and may be useful as applicants design proposals to start, sustain, or expand climate action projects:

1. **Research:** HEIs have unique subject matter expertise and facilities to explore solutions to climate challenges through applied research. In the years to come, scientific inquiry, technological innovation, and transdisciplinary investigation will undoubtedly unlock new knowledge, technologies, approaches and practices that will be critical in confronting the climate crisis. Research topics range from the hyper-local to global environments and offer many avenues for the effective use of grant resources to advance efforts to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change.
   a. **Examples for proposed use of 100K grant resources:** Community-based research on the local impact of climate change and potential solutions; analysis of climate justice issues; research on real-world solutions to climate challenges; innovation, science, and technology to address climate challenges.

2. **Anchor Institution:** HEIs occupy a trusted space in society, where neither the profit-driven motives of the private sector nor the ideological politics of the public sector entirely
hold sway. The trusted reputations of HEIs often allow them to serve as honest brokers and effective convenors that bring together diverse stakeholders to explore solutions to shared challenges. Additionally, as long-standing institutions in their respective communities, HEIs are often the primary economic engines in their given localities through operational purchasing and as an employer. HEIs can convene community leaders, policy makers, students, faculty, and others to identify community assets and build consensus support for shared solutions.

a. **Examples for proposed use of 100K grant resources:** Symposia, workshops, and conferences that convene stakeholders to share knowledge, build partnerships, explore solutions, and develop action plans around shared climate goals; establishment of knowledge networks.

3. **Education:** HEIs are the educators of tomorrow’s leaders and bear the great responsibility of equipping the region’s future workforce with the skills needed to lead in a climate-positive, 21st century green economy. It is critical that every student complete their studies with at least a basic understanding of the science of climate change, some practical understanding of how it is likely to affect their lives and careers, and skills that will allow them to incorporate climate considerations into their chosen career paths. Education can equip learners with the knowledge, skills, and opportunities to adapt to and overcome climate challenges. HEIs can accomplish this by, for example, offering new climate-related courses or integrating climate topics into existing course curricula, and otherwise offering opportunities to engage with and learn about the global climate crisis.

a. **Examples for proposed use of 100K grant resources:** Training for faculty on how to integrate climate topics into existing curricula; technical training to help students prepare for green jobs; extension efforts that bring climate knowledge directly to communities.

4. **Advocacy:** HEIs often shy away from the spotlight and avoid controversy, but the climate crisis demands the active participation of all actors, especially those institutions that are most trusted and respected. HEIs can significantly advance climate solutions by nurturing student activism and informing public policy debates at all levels through its subject matter experts.

a. **Examples for proposed use of 100K grant resources:** Support for climate-focused student groups or faculty advocacy; preparation of studies that inform public policy decisions that will affect climate change or the community’s ability to adapt to its effects; development of climate action plans at the local, regional or national levels; environmental processes for environmental education in climate challenges.

5. **Administration/Finance:** Institutions with large endowments can consider divesting from fossil fuel investments and instead place their resources in investment vehicles that support the transition to a green economy. In addition, HEIs can often access outside investment and/or grants to support certain climate actions.

a. **Examples for proposed use of 100K grant resources:** Divestment viability study; financial tools to support decarbonization activities; financial and investment officer educational workshops.
6. Operations: HEI campuses often resemble small or even medium-sized cities and their operations have similar carbon footprints that must be abated. Through efficiency upgrades, renewable energy purchasing, electrification of transportation, sustainable water management, and other actions, HEIs can considerably lower their carbon output and save money.

   a. **Examples for proposed use of 100K grant resources:** The implementation of a greenhouse gas inventory; development of an institutional climate action plan; feasibility studies for renewable energy or electric transportation investment; implementation of proactive measures to reduce climate shocks and stressors in the long-term; pilot projects that test approaches for abating operational carbon emissions.

Applicants are encouraged to review the [Second Nature Solutions Center](#), which includes many excellent examples of CAPs, as well as detailed guides, effective practices, and lessons learned from other HEIs that have already implemented similar projects.

C. Project Design and Requirements

1. **Academic Credit**
   
   Students must receive some level of academic credit from their home institution during, or as a result of, the proposed 100K exchange program.

2. **Recruitment of Diverse Students**
   
   As part of the **100K Inclusive Education initiative**, special consideration will be given to proposals that focus on reaching and benefitting underserved, non-traditional, and/or diverse student populations. Applicants should show that they have identified the student populations within their or partner institution(s) that are not currently accessing international education opportunities offered and illustrate how the project will improve access and participation for those underrepresented student populations. Applicants must use the provided [Student Diversity/Recruitment Plan](#) template, available on the 100K website, to describe their plans for engaging and benefitting diverse groups of students.

3. **Student Mobility and Activities**
   
   Proposed programs should include bidirectional student exchange (not required, but preferred) between the U.S. and Colombia. Proposals should include both virtual and in-person programming activities between partnering institutions. Virtual activities should enhance or complement, not replace, in-person training and exchange components. Consider practices and strategies to using technology/virtual platforms to enhance traditional academic exchange programs and improve education equality, such as the incorporation of Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL).

4. **Sustainability**
   
   Applicants should highlight how a grant from the Innovation Fund would impact HEI teams’ ability to secure additional resources from other sources to sustain the proposed
activities beyond the grant period. Proposals must demonstrate strong institutional support from all parties involved – including from any local partner organizations, when applicable.

5. Effective Practices & Strategies to Student Exchanges
Innovation Fund grant proposals should include the use of innovative practices and models that will increase academic exchange and training opportunities for students in selected academic areas in the United States and Colombia. Applicants should include proposed program activities that enhance student academic learning through practical training, such as engagement through service-learning, field-based activities, or other methods that will enhance course work.

The 100K Strong Innovation Fund encourages grant proposals that include effective practices and strategies discussed at 100,000 Strong in the Americas Innovation Fund workshops and webinars, as well as at regional higher education conferences (i.e., NAFSA, AIEA, CCID, HACU, CONAHEC, FAUBAI, LACHEC, etc.). Related topics may include credit transfer, community engagement, entrepreneurship, language training, local private sector support/engagement, program assessment, student recruitment, technical skills training, and use of technology/virtual platforms to enhance traditional academic student/faculty exchange programs.

6. Carbon Offsets
It is encouraged, but not required, that HEI applicants commit to offsetting carbon\textsuperscript{2} emissions produced by flights involved in the proposed program, using a reputable provider of carbon offset services. MyClimate\textsuperscript{3} is one provider of carbon offsets which makes it very easy to determine the carbon cost of any given flight and offers a number of options to invest in carbon savings in communities in Latin America. Proposals that contain a commitment to offset the carbon produced by flights during the program will be viewed favorably in the review process.

D. Expected Results
HEIs that are successful in implementing grants in this 100K Strong CLIMA competition will accomplish the following:

- Create/strengthen HEI partnerships and expand regional cooperation through bilateral student/faculty exchange programs and collaboration on climate action;
- Implement new, inclusive, climate-focused exchange/training opportunities for students and faculty;
- Design and implement strategic, inclusive climate action/research projects that fall within one or more of the thematic areas described above;
- Increase number and diversity of students/faculty and gain climate-action skills;
- Involve faculty and students as key actors in CAPs and expand their knowledge, skills and/or capacity through their participation;

\textsuperscript{2} How Carbon Offsets Work: https://science.howstuffworks.com/environmental/green-science/carbon-offset.htm
\textsuperscript{3} https://co2.myclimate.org/en/flight_calculators/new
• Produce a final document of the CAP/research project with recommendations for sustainability of the 100K Strong CLIMA project;
• Evaluate and report on project outcomes as they relate to impact on students, faculty, and institutions; and
• Engage/collaborate with the 100K Strong program during and after the grant period to share lessons learned, student outcomes, and models of bilateral training programs.

Section V: Award Information

A. Awards Available

The intent of this 100K Strong CLIMA competition is to award up to sixteen (16) grants to teams of HEIs between the U.S. and Colombia, pending the results of evaluation and selection process.

- Approximately eleven (11) grants of up to $27,174 each for student and faculty exchange projects.
  - 8 grants will be awarded to 100K Strong CLIMA projects that include Colombian HEIs in one of the 19 departments listed on Pages 4-5 of this RFP.
  - 3 grants will be awarded to projects focused on cacao or complementary crops value chains.
- Approximately five (5) grants of up to $50,000 each to support climate action projects (CAPs), including climate research, and student and faculty exchanges.
  - 2-3 grants will be awarded to projects that have the participation of at least one HEI based in the Caribbean region of Colombia.
  - 2-3 grants will be awarded to projects focused on cacao or complementary crops value chains.

WHA/DOS, POA, the U.S. Embassy in Bogotá, GEB, FSD, and USDA reserve the right to fund any or none of the grant proposals submitted for consideration in this 100K CLIMA competition.

B. Notification of Award Recipients

Partners of the Americas will notify HEIs of the status of their proposals by early May 2024. Please note that this date is subject to change.

C. Period of Performance

Following the award notification, Partners of the Americas will provide grant-winning teams with details and documents related to formalizing and receiving the award funds. The grant period will be June 1, 2024 – May 31, 2025. Extensions may be granted pending analysis of the 100K Strong CLIMA program at the time of the request, and in coordination with Partners of the Americas, WHA/DOS, GEB, FSD, and USDA.

D. 100K Strong Award Responsibilities

1. 100K Strong Staff at Partners of the Americas
Partners of the Americas, based in Washington, D.C., will work in close coordination with Award Recipients in the following areas:

- Technical support of grant activities and oversight of award contract/terms;
- Coordination of virtual 100K Strong program orientation and conclusion sessions for all participating students and faculty;
- Review of the recipient’s progress reports;
- Approval of changes in award budget, key personnel, timeline, partnership, and activities;
- Request for additional information on grant activities and student/faculty engagement;
- Facilitation of communications between recipients and WHA/DOS, sponsors, and where appropriate, U.S. Embassies;
- Outreach regarding sharing of lessons learned from program implementation and participation at visibility events and conferences, among others; and
- Enrollment of student and faculty participants in the 100K Strong Alumni Network.

2. **HEI Award Recipients**

Award Recipients will collaborate closely with Partners of the Americas in the following areas:

- Support POA coordination with participating students and faculty to ensure participation in virtual 100K Strong program orientation and conclusion sessions;
- Share information on a regular basis with the Innovation Fund staff on program activities through report mechanisms provided by POA, which will include:
  - Progress on program goals and objectives, including the development of grant activities, student and faculty travel, and climate action projects;
  - Successes, challenges, and lessons learned in program implementation and evaluation;
  - Project outcomes and impact data;
  - Testimonials on how the grant benefits/impacts students, faculty, and HEIs; and
  - Program expenditures and cost-sharing.
- Enrollment of student and faculty participants in the 100K Strong Alumni Network.

### Section VI: Proposal Format and Design

#### A. Proposal Format

Proposals must utilize 12-pt Times New Roman font, single-spaced, typed in standard 8½” x 11” paper with one-inch margins, and each page numbered consecutively. Keep in mind the page limitations and document types for each section of the proposal as listed below. Any additional pages that exceed the page limitations will not be reviewed by the Review Committee.

**Proposals must be submitted in English.**

#### A. Proposal Narrative in PDF

1. Cover Page (1 page)
2. Table of Contents (1 page)
3. Technical Narrative (15 pages max)
B. Budget (5 pages max)
   1. Summary in Excel format
   2. Narrative in Word/PDF format

C. Supporting Documents in PDF (no page limit)
   1. Letters of Support
   2. Résumé/biographies of project team (1-2 pages per person)
   3. Additional materials

Note that Applicants will be required to upload each of the three sections above separately in the Application Portal. For a detailed description of the proposal format and requirements, including the evaluation criteria, visit www.100kstrongamericas.org/app-format/.

B. Online Submission Process

Proposals must be submitted online through the Application Portal found on the 100,000 Strong in the Americas website (www.100kstrongamericas.org/application-portal/) by the deadline indicated on the cover page of this RFP. Proposals that are received late or are incomplete will not be considered in the review process. No proposals will be accepted via email unless otherwise instructed by Partners of the Americas.

Applicants seeking information or clarification about this competition should complete the online form at www.100kstrongamericas.org/questions. For a comprehensive list of questions received from applicants of previous grant competitions, please visit www.100kstrongamericas.org/100k-competition-faqs.

Section VII: Anticipated Timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>TIME PERIOD*</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Launch of 100K Strong CLIMA Grant Competition</td>
<td>October 5, 2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Close of 100K Strong CLIMA Grant Competition</td>
<td>January 31, 2024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100K Grant Proposal Evaluation Process</td>
<td>February 1, 2024 – March 31, 2024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notification of Status of Proposal to HEIs</td>
<td>End of April / early May 2024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Onboarding and Award Funds to 100K HEI Winners</td>
<td>May – June 2024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Period of Performance of 100K HEI Grantees</td>
<td>June 1, 2024 – May 31, 2025</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Dates are subject to change.

Section VIII: 100K Strong Contact at Partners of the Americas

Questions about this RFP must be submitted by completing the online form at www.100kstrongamericas.org/questions.
Questions should be received prior to the deadline stipulated on the cover page of this RFP.