



**Request for Applications (RFA)
Ukraine Civil Society Emergency Response Fund**

RFA Number:	DTI 22-01
Issued Under:	DT Institute
Issuance Date:	June 3, 2022
Funding Floor:	USD \$6,000
Funding Ceiling:	USD \$15,000
Total Funding Available:	USD \$50,000
Period of Performance:	4 - 9 months
Questions Due Date/Time:	June 10, 2022
Answers Provided By:	June, 17, 2022
Anticipated Time to Award:	Funding will be awarded on a rolling basis
Applications Accepted:	June 3, 2022 - July 30, 2022

DT Institute is seeking Applications from qualified entities to provide emergency assistance to Ukrainian civil society organizations. DT Institute anticipates awarding up to \$50,000 total for this solicitation. Grants under this RFA will be awarded and implemented in accordance with US Government regulations governing grants under contracts and DT Institute internal grant management policies.

This funding opportunity is posted on DT Institute's website and may be amended. Potential applicants should regularly check the website to ensure they have the latest information pertaining to this RFA. If you have difficulty accessing this document, please contact the Research and Grants team at impact.grants@dt-institute.org.

Any explanation desired by an applicant regarding the meaning or interpretation of this RFA must be requested in writing, in English, via impact.grants@dt-institute.org and must be submitted no later than the date and time specified in the Questions Due line stated below. This will allow sufficient time for a reply/amendment to reach all applicants before they submit their responses. Any information that substantially changes the requirements of this RFA shall be released through the issuance of an amendment to the RFA. DT Institute may, at its own discretion, extend the deadline for the submission of applications or alter any information contained within this RFA.

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A. Background

Russia's hybrid warfare and invasion of Ukraine leaves many democratic actors from Europe and Eurasia region, including civil society, media, think tanks, and activists, in uncharted territory and facing unprecedented crises. While Russia's primary objective remains the destruction of democratic Ukraine, the Kremlin knows that the war will impact European democracies in the short and long term, exacerbating an acute refugee crisis and contributing to imminent economic and energy crises. Globally, increasing food insecurity will exacerbate the risk of famine in vulnerable countries; growing socio-political instability will drive many into forced migration; and the consolidation of pro-Russian sentiments in the Balkans and Central Asia may contribute to the rise of authoritarian-leaning regimes. Additionally, the conflict has far-reaching implications for Euro-Atlantic peace, security, stability, and democratic order. Even if Russia halts the invasion today or ultimately loses the war, its actions have undermined the democratic agenda for a decade or more.

Ukraine's financial needs are increasing dramatically; according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), monthly resources required to cover basic needs of the population and rebuild Ukraine are estimated at \$5 billion, representing an equal budget of the IMF's pre-COVID annual lending budget of \$60 billion. Yet greater resources will be needed to support the global effort to document, investigate, and prosecute mass atrocities, including civilian casualties, targeting of children, and sexual and gender-based violence. With the global economy still unstable from the shock of the COVID pandemic, this amount will most likely remain unachievable, leaving countless vulnerable Ukrainians in jeopardy. As a result, valuable resources will be funneled away from reforming fragile democratic institutions and processes, severely slowing down the Ukraine's progress on the path towards viable rule of law and respect for fundamental human rights and freedoms.

In parallel to physical warfare, the proliferation of Russian disinformation and propaganda is evident. As coverage of the invasion moves from reporting events on the ground to the impact of the war, Russia and its foreign proxies (i.e., political parties, local media, think tanks, NGOs, and other actors based in democratic societies) work overtime to enhance long-term narratives that break the minimal societal consensus on significant European vulnerabilities, such as immigration, energy dependency, and increased support for authentic and traditional values. At the same time, particularly in countries with strong cultural and religious ties to Russia, foreign proxies are promoting Russia's version of current events. They attempt to discredit multilateral institutions, such as NATO and the EU, while endorsing Russia as the only viable alternative and a defender of traditional European values. Russian discreditation also reaches into third countries, outside of the EU, such as Moldova, Caucasus, or Central Asia. This is compounded by increasing worries that an estimated 500,000 Ukrainians, including 125,000 children, forcibly resettled or deported to Russia may be coerced into spreading Russian disinformation and propaganda narratives.

B. Objective

DT Institute's RFA seeks to provide rapid short-term support to cover emergency programming in the areas of 1) upholding rule of law and fundamental human rights; 2) facilitating access to services (especially at the community level) during the war; 3) supporting independent journalism and countering Russian propaganda (including through international advocacy); and 4) supporting

urgent, basic operational needs for Ukrainian civil society organizations (CSOs) and their staff impacted by the Russian invasion.

C. Detailed Program Description

DT Institute will issue between four (4) to eight (8) awards, ranging from \$6,000 to \$15,000, with an anticipated project duration between 4 and 9 months. The total amount of funding available is \$50,000. Primary organizations may submit two applications in response to this RFA. Applicants may propose activities aligned with DT Institute's strategic priorities in the areas of Stabilization, Rule of Law or Independent Journalism & Countering Propaganda, including cross-cutting activities and operational support. DT Institute will prioritize funding for activities that have been underfunded and innovative ideas to be tested under this RFA. Some illustrative activities may include, but are not limited to the following:

Theme 1: Rule of Law – Illustrative Activities

- Human rights monitoring, documentation, and investigation efforts (including trainings and purchase of software or equipment such as cameras or phones), with emphasis on collection of evidence of human rights violations in line with international protocols and preservation of chain of custody, as distinguished from collection for journalistic or propaganda purposes;
- Provision of basic legal support and consultations for vulnerable Ukrainians (e.g., clinics, hotlines, mobile messenger chat groups);
- Know Your Rights educational campaigns and materials adapted to war realities (e.g., *on civil/administrative law side* – access to social services; identity documents; housing, land, and property rights; labor rights; children's rights; protections for internally displaced persons (IDPs); court proceedings/operations; *on criminal law side* – crime and violence prevention and protection; awareness of different forms abuse and exploitation such as trafficking in persons or sexual and gender-based violence; procedural rights of defendants, victims, and other participants in criminal prosecutions and trials);
- Drafting of laws and regulations adapted to war realities, with an emphasis on closing the gaps in existing laws with respect to enforcing one's rights, access to justice, etc.

Theme 2: Independent Journalism & Countering Propaganda – Illustrative Activities

- Training and application of skills relating to war and peace journalism, investigative journalism, storytelling, citizen journalism;
- Exposing Russian war crimes in a way that resonates with broad, international audiences;
- Amplifying counter-propaganda narratives and messaging in creative ways (e.g., artistic performances and installations; visuals/graphics; production and dissemination of short videos/other digital multimedia content to counter propaganda, fake news, and disinformation, in Ukrainian and other languages, primarily for dissemination via social media channels);
- Tech/Pop culture solutions
- Identifying and debunking Russian myths and narratives.



Theme 3: Operational Support & Cross-cutting Activities – Illustrative Activities

- Registration during temporary relocation in new countries and communities;
- International advocacy to demand holding Russia accountable for war crimes, genocide, and other atrocities in Ukraine (including integrating survivors' voices);
- Keeping the pro-Ukrainian narrative alive on the international agenda (including by promoting the use of proper lexicon from international law standpoint and countering Russia's hate lexicon);
- Networking among displaced journalists and media outlets to encourage intra-organizational and grassroots support.

Project location. Proposed activities may be implemented in Ukraine (preferred) or in neighboring countries (especially those with large numbers of displaced Ukrainians or seen as key targets for Russian propaganda) or entirely online. Special consideration will be given to activities capable of producing immediate impact, as well as activities that build the foundation for longer-term CSO sustainability during the war and its immediate aftermath.

Additional capacity building support offered to grantees. During the grant implementation period, DT Institute will offer up to two optional virtual trainings on the following topics to all selected grantees:

- One digital safety & cyber security training for CSO staff, activists, and journalists;
- One training on trauma-informed programming, skills, and best practices;
- One training on how to register on SAM.Gov (to enable directly applying for US Government funding);
- One training on fundraising skills and best practices in apply for external funding from government and private donors.

Up to two participants from each grantee organization can attend these capacity building sessions. Trainings will be recorded and distributed to grantees and their members who cannot join the live sessions. DT Institute will provide these trainings on a pro bono basis. Applying organizations should not include costs associated with participation in these sessions in their proposed grant budgets.

D. Cost Share

Providing cost sharing, matching, or cost participation is not an eligibility factor or requirement for this RFA, and providing cost share will not result in a more favorable competitive ranking.

E. Excluded Activities

DT Institute's grants under this RFA are intended to reduce the gaps in programmatic and operational coverage under existing funding flows, which focus heavily on humanitarian relief,



medical assistance, and military support. While those needs are extremely important and will persist in the months and years to come, DT Institute has excluded the following types of activities or support, given the significant resources already allocated towards them from other sources:

- Provision of emergency/essential humanitarian relief (e.g., housing/shelter, food, clothing, hygiene items, travel allowances unless directly connected to a programmatic need);
- Cash assistance and/or microloans to refugees, IDPs, and survivors (including CSO staff);
- Purchase of medical supplies and provision of medical assistance/care;
- Purchase of military supplies and weapons, and other support for military/paramilitary entities;
- Training for CSO staff, unless directly connected to programmatic activities and assistance;
- Construction activities or building materials;
- Provision of psychosocial support, and;
- Purely research and/or academic activities.

F. Authority/Governing Regulations

DT Institute requires all recipients to comply with all applicable Federal laws and regulations, including but not limited to the following: The Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards set forth in 2 CFR Chapter 200 (Sub-Chapters A through F) shall apply to all non-Federal entities, except for assistance awards to Individuals and Foreign Public Entities. Sub-Chapters A through E shall apply to all foreign organizations, and Sub-Chapters A through D shall apply to all U.S. and foreign for-profit entities. The applicant/recipient of the award and any sub-recipient under the award must comply with all applicable terms and conditions.

Foreign Corrupt Practices Act. Grantee shall not make or promise to make either directly or indirectly any gift or payment of money or anything of value to any government official, political party or official thereof, or candidate for political office for the purpose of influencing any act or decision of the official's government, department, agency, or instrumentality thereof in order to obtain or to retain business for itself, Grantee or any subsidiary or affiliates thereof.

G. Eligibility

DT Institute welcomes applications from Ukrainian-registered non-profit/ non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and public organizations, including but not limited to think tanks, media groups/journalists, civil society actors including existing civil society coalitions. Regional organizations serving Ukrainians who have been displaced since the invasion are also eligible to apply.

Additional information on eligibility: US based organizations, individuals, and higher education institutions are not eligible to compete for, or receive awards made under this announcement.



Any applicant listed on the Excluded Parties List System in the System for Award Management (SAM.gov) (www.sam.gov) and/or has a current debt to the U.S. government is not eligible to apply for an assistance award in accordance with the OMB guidelines at 2 CFR 180 that implement Executive Orders 12549 (3 CFR,1986 Comp., p. 189) and 12689 (3 CFR,1989 Comp., p. 235), “Debarment and Suspension.” Additionally, no entity or person listed on the Excluded Parties List System in SAM.gov can participate in any activities under an award. All applicants are strongly encouraged to review the Excluded Parties List System in SAM.gov to ensure that no ineligible entity or person is included in their application.

DT Institute is committed to an anti-discrimination policy in all of its projects and activities. DT Institute welcomes applications irrespective of race, ethnicity, color, creed, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, or other status. DT Institute seeks applications that demonstrate that the recipient does not discriminate against any beneficiaries in implementation of a potential award, such as, but not limited to, by withholding, adversely impacting, or denying equitable access to the benefits provided through this award on the basis of any factor not expressly stated in the award. This includes, for example, race, color, religion, sex (including gender identity, gender expression, sex characteristics, sexual orientation, and pregnancy), national origin, disability, age, genetic information, marital status, parental status, political affiliation, or veteran’s status. The recipient should insert this provision, including this paragraph, in all sub-grants and contracts under a potential award.

H. Application Guidelines and Submission Instructions

Application Requirements

- All applications must be written in English with costs given in U.S. Dollars. If an original document within the application is in another language, an English translation must be provided;
 - All pages are numbered, including budgets and attachments;
 - All documents are formatted to A4; and,
 - All documents are single-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font, with 2.5 cm margins. Captions and footnotes may be 10-point Times New Roman font. Font sizes in charts and tables, including the budget, can be reformatted to fit within 1 page width.
- Complete Applications *must* include the following:
 - Cover Page (not to exceed 1 page)
 - Project Narrative (not to exceed 2 pages)
 - Budget (not to exceed 1 page)
 - Timeline (not to exceed 1 page)

Questions

- Please submit questions to impact.grants@dt-institute.org no later than 5:00 pm ET on Friday, June 10, 2022. A complete list of questions and responses will be



emailed directly to all applicants.

Application Submission

- All proposals must be received electronically to impact.grants@dt-institute.org no later than 5:00 pm ET on July 30, 2022. All proposals received after this time and day will be considered ineligible and will not be reviewed.

Point of Contact

- Please direct all questions and inquiries related to this RFA to impact.grants@dt-institute.org.

I. Application Review and Evaluation

Selection Criteria

- Immediacy of Impact
- Reach of Impact
- Institutional Record and Capacity
- Cost Effectiveness
- Team

Selection Process

- The review panel includes subject matter and technical experts from DT Institute. All eligible applications will be reviewed against the criteria listed above. The review process may result in suggested recommendations and conditions.

J. Award and Administration Information

DT Institute anticipates awarding either a grant or cooperative agreement depending on the needs and risk factors of the program. The final determination on award mechanism will be made by DT Institute. The distinction between grants and cooperative agreements revolves around the existence of “substantial involvement.” Cooperative agreements require greater participation in the project. If a cooperative agreement is awarded, DT Institute will undertake reasonable and programmatically necessary substantial involvement. Examples of substantial involvement can include, but are not limited to: Active participation or collaboration with the recipient in the implementation of the award; Review and approval of one stage of work before another can begin; Review and approval of substantive provisions of proposed sub-awards or contracts; or Approval of the recipient’s budget or plan of work prior to the award.

DT Institute may make award(s) on the basis of initial applications received, without discussions or negotiations. Therefore, each initial application should contain the applicant's best terms from a cost and technical standpoint. DT Institute reserves the right (though it is under no obligation to do so), however, to enter into discussions with one or more applicants in order to obtain clarifications, additional detail, or to suggest refinements in the project description, budget, or other aspects of an application.



Issuance of this solicitation does not constitute an award commitment on the part of DT Institute, nor does it commit DT Institute to pay for any costs incurred in the preparation or submission of an application. This notice is subject to availability of funding. DT Institute may reject any or all applications, accept other than the lowest cost application, accept more than one application, and waive irregularities in applications received.

To maximize the impact and sustainability of the award(s) that result from this RFA, DT Institute retains the right to execute non-competitive continuation amendment(s). Any non-competitive continuation is contingent on performance and pending availability of funds. A non-competitive continuation is not guaranteed, and DT Institute reserves the right to exercise or not to exercise this option.

Depending on the length of the project, DT Institute will require between 2-3 financial and progress reports on a quarterly basis, culminating in a final report. Reports will include relevant contextual information; a detailed explanation and analysis of project activities and their impact; relevant success stories; continued efforts to achieve sustainability; an explanation of the reasons project goals were not met; upcoming activities; and any other requirement as indicated by the Grants Committee in the letter of agreement.

K. Other Information

DT Institute will make all efforts and take all precautions to maintain the privacy and confidentiality of the information contained within the applications submitted. The information in this RFA may be subject to change without prior notice.

Foreign Corrupt Practices Act. Grantee shall not make or promise to make either directly or indirectly any gift or payment of money or anything of value to any government official, political party or official thereof, or candidate for political office for the purpose of influencing any act or decision of the official's government, department, agency or instrumentality thereof in order to obtain or to retain business for itself, Grantee or any subsidiary or affiliates thereof.

L. About DT Institute

DT Institute is a U.S.-based 501(c)(3) non-profit organization committed to doing development differently through dual implementation and funding mechanisms which are informed by research activities. We implement complex global development programs in conflict, fragile, and closed environments. We also fund thought leadership initiatives that drive innovation and improve lives through evidence-based programming.

DT Institute is a global non-profit organization with offices in Washington D.C. and Berlin that operates as both a funder and implementer. As a funding organization, DT Institute supports research activities and program implementation globally through grants in the areas of civil society



strengthening, independent media and information integrity, human rights, democracy, rule of law, stabilization, transition, countering violent extremism, and peacebuilding. As an implementer, DT Institute focuses on strengthening communities and leaders, working with local organizations, and developing new approaches through action-oriented research. DT Institute's operational cycle ensures its programming is evidence-driven, captures and leverages program lessons learned to improve the impact of future projects, and informs future research and programming. Our philanthropic strategy complements, informs, and expands these initiatives. The impact grants we make are expected to build, test, and advance bold, innovative approaches to development.

With years of experience operating in challenging and dynamic security environments and closed societies, DT Institute's team is adept at conducting programs remotely and adapting programs to shifting environments. DT Institute has worked in complex contexts and conflict zones around the world and is currently supporting grants and managing programs in 37 countries globally.

More information may be found at www.dt-institute.org.