



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



## Responses to Questions Submitted by Interested Parties regarding Request for Information (RFI) No. RFI-DCHA-2018-001 for Development of a Resource Center for Evidence-Based Standards in the Global Wheelchair Sector

**Question 1:** Our organization has experience and ongoing activities related to Expected Activities 6c and 6d described in the RFI, but only based in one (specific) country. Based on these, is our organization eligible to respond to the RFI-DCHA-2018-001?

**Response to Question 1:** If the organization meets the eligibility criteria described in 7.1, it is eligible to apply. If the organization does not have experience or expertise as described in section 8.2, it is recommended that the organization partners with other organizations that have complementary experience and expertise. When looking to other organizations to partner with, please consider that the intent of the work resulting from the RFI is to create global (not country specific or regional) product and service standards.

**Question 2:** Is a private business engaged in commercial trading and distribution of medical devices and equipment, including wheelchairs and other mobility devices, eligible to participate in this RFI considering the limitations stipulated in the sub-item 7.1 ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA?

**Response to Question 2:** No, a private business as described in Question 2 is not eligible to respond as the primary applicant. However, a private business could, and would be encouraged to, partner with an eligible organization.

**Question 3:** I am a member of a research group at a university, however, my institution does not meet the eligibility criteria. Is there a way I can collaborate to support part of this project?

**Response to Question 3:** Institutions of higher education with the experience or expertise as described in section 8.2 are eligible to apply as a prime applicant or in partnership with another eligible organization. Individual researchers are not eligible to apply to this RFI. However, there may be individual calls for engagement for subject matter experts during project implementation and we encourage you to remain on the HEARD Project list serve to receive information on additional opportunities.

**Question 4:** We are delighted to see USAID's continual support of the Assistive Technology (AT) sector. As an organisation that has worked in wheelchair provision for many years, we value the

support and leadership USAID has shown in this area of work for many years. In particular, we are very excited to see the launch of ATscale – a partnership that aims to increase access to AT across the world and congratulate USAID for leading the way in this as a member of the forming committee. Our understanding is that the strategy for ATscale is under development and, given this, we are keen to understand how this RFI links to ATscale.

**Response:** USAID is committed to ATscale and will ensure that existing and future investments, including those resulting from this RFI, support the developing strategy of the partnership.

- a. The need for AT is greatest in the global South. Would USAID prioritise a submission from an organisation based in the South, or has a strong strategy for ensuring a focus on and representation of low and middle-income countries, to ensure the needs and experience of this population is appropriately reflected in the outcomes and outputs of this body?

**Response to Question 4 a:** As stated in the RFI, it is anticipated that the coordinating body will be led by a stakeholder representative governance structure and informed by relevant experts. Stakeholders will necessarily and deliberately include wheelchair users, people with disabilities and representatives of low and middle-income countries to ensure the needs and experience of this population is appropriately reflected in the outcomes and outputs of this body. Through stakeholder engagement the RFI will ensure the needs and experience of all populations are appropriately reflected in the outcomes and outputs. However, a submission from an organization based in the global South would not be specifically prioritized.

- a. The background section of this RFI outlines the substantial investment USAID has made in this sector. In addition to ones outlined in the document is the establishment of the International Society of Wheelchair Professionals (ISWP). ISWP has, over the past 3 years played the lead in many of the areas outlined in this RFI. What is the expected role ISWP will play in relation to this new opportunity?

**Response to Question 4 b:** There is no pre-defined role for ISWP. Applicants will be evaluated based on their organizational capacity and experience to achieve the objectives outlined in the RFI.

**Question 5:** We have reviewed RFI-DCHA-2018-001 and are planning to submit an application. We have one question regarding the numbers and scope of annexes that are mentioned in section 7.2 under Key Information. We noted that under 7.4c, an annex with CVs is being requested. Are there other annexes that we should or could be included? We have several documents that we would be happy to provide as annexes but will not include them if they would not be used in the review, or if their inclusion would make us ineligible.

**Response to Question 5:** No annexes other than that described in section 7.4 are required. Additional annexes will not be reviewed.

**Question 6: What is meant by the terminology “Resource Center”?**

**Response to Question 6:** The term Resource Center simply means that there is an entity that is capable of housing, administering and promoting evidence-based standards in the global wheelchair sector and that it is led by a stakeholder representative governance structure and informed by relevant experts.