**Request for Proposals (RFP)**: **Virtual Scientist Engagement Fellowship Program** **for Ukrainian Life Scientists**

**Objective:** Health Security Partners (HSP) invites proposals for the Virtual Scientist Engagement Fellowship Program aimed at supporting Ukrainian scientists, technicians, and engineers (STEs) working in the life sciences, public health, and biotechnology sectors. The program seeks to provide short-term financial support for civilian research and research-related opportunities to selected participants via implementation of three-to-six-month virtual fellowships. Selected Fellows will have the opportunity to work with global subject matter experts to share expertise and learn through webinars during the project period. This program is supported by the U.S. Department of State.

**Eligibility Criteria:**

* Ukrainian STEs with public health-related research on pathogens such as tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, etc. as well as non-communicable diseases such as cancer, diabetes, etc. that can be safely studied under U.S. CDC BSL-2 or lower conditions (or other country’s equivalent).
* All applications should describe the relevant biosafety, biosecurity, and cybersecurity requirements and procedures under which the work will be performed.
* Ukrainian STEs currently residing in Ukraine or outside the country, who have been financially affected due to the conflict.
* Applicants should propose short-term research and related activities relevant to their respective technical disciplines, including, but not limited to writing manuscripts for publication, presentation at a conference or scientific meeting, developing webinars and curriculum, etc.
* The program cannot support activities that involve relocation of STEs.
* All proposed research should be entirely civilian in nature. Any proposed research that could be applied for miliary purposes will NOT be funded through this program.

**Grant Details:**

* Duration: 3-6 months
* Maximum Grant Amount: up to USD 12,000 for six months or USD 6,000 for three months.

**Proposal Requirements:**

1. Using HSP’s Proposal Narrative Template:
   * Description of proposed research or related activities.
   * Detailed plan outlining the objectives, methodology, deliverables, timeline, and expected outcomes. Outline of available laboratory infrastructure and support for research, as required.
   * Explanation of how the fellowship/research will fill a critical gap in the life sciences, public health, and biotechnology sectors.
2. Using HSP’s Proposal Budget Template
   * Breakdown of how the grant funds will be utilized.
   * Justification for budget allocation.
3. Curriculum Vitae (CV):
   * Detailed CV showcasing expertise and experience, list of publications, abstracts and presentations at conferences, research grants, or other projects related to biological and life-sciences expertise.

**Submission Guidelines:**

* Proposals must be submitted via email to Emily Hoofnagle ([emily@healthsecuritypartners.org](mailto:Emily@healthsecuritypartners.org)) no later than 29 February 2024.
* The subject line should read: "Application for Ukraine Virtual Scientist Engagement Fellowship Program - [Applicant's Name]."
* Late submissions will be considered at the discretion of the project team.

**Evaluation Criteria:**

* Relevance and quality of the proposed research or project.
* Demonstrated expertise in biological disciplines.
* Feasibility and clarity of the proposed budget and plan.
* Alignment with the program objectives.

**Selection Process:**

* Proposals will be reviewed by a committee of experts appointed by HSP.
* Shortlisted candidates will be contacted for a virtual discussion or may be required to provide additional information.

**Contact Information:** For inquiries or clarification regarding this RFP, please contact Erin Fink at [erin@healthsecuritypartners.org](mailto:erin@healthsecuritypartners.org).

**Important Dates:**

* RFP Release Date: 24 January 2024
* Submission Deadline: 29 February 2024
* Anticipated Fellowship Start Date: no earlier than April 2024