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Call for expression of interest: Evaluation of the 2019 Strategic Opportunity Funding Request for Proposals (RfP)

About the Robert Carr Fund

The Robert Carr Fund is the world's leading international fund focused on funding regional and global networks led by and involving and serving inadequately served populations (ISPs¹).

As a cooperative effort of donors and civil society, the Robert Carr Fund is structured to maximize participation, empowerment, equity, transparency and accountability in our fundraising and grant making.

The Robert Carr Fund works to mobilize and deliver core and strategic funding for regional and global networks to achieve four outcomes:

- Protecting and promoting human rights
- Improving access to HIV services
- Mobilizing and monitoring national and international funding for human rights and health
- Building capacity of civil society and community networks

History and values

Founded in 2012, the Fund is named to honor Dr. Robert Carr, a scholar and activist who worked tirelessly for human rights and an end to HIV in his native Caribbean region and globally. Dr. Carr was vocal, honest, and unapologetic in naming injustices that contribute to poor health and barriers to health services, and he was a powerful organizer and advocate for the central role of civil society and communities in the HIV response.

Human rights are the foundation of our work. This means that the Robert Carr Fund's structures and actions follow core principles of human rights, including:

Participation

The Robert Carr Fund was conceptualized and created through a global dialogue among civil society networks and donors. The Fund's governance, grant making, and monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) all emphasize civil society participation and leadership, and openness to a diversity of perspectives, leaders, and grantees.

Empowerment and equity

¹ The Robert Carr Fund (RCF) defines the term "inadequately served populations" (ISP) as populations facing a high HIV risk, mortality and/or morbidity compared to the general population, and, at the same time, facing systematic human rights violations and barriers to information and services. As people with direct experience of key health-related needs and barriers to health services, ISPs are central to efforts to improve human rights environments, improve HIV service accessibility, and improve efficiency and effectiveness of national and international funding for health and human rights.

ISPs include people living with HIV, gay men and other men who have sex with men, people who use drugs, prisoners, sex workers and transgender people. Depending on the dynamic of the HIV epidemic and the legal status of these populations, ISPs may also include women and girls, youth, migrants, and people living in rural areas.

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As a collective of donors and civil society, the Robert Carr Fund accommodates multiple perspectives, priorities and capacities in our fundraising, grant making and grantee support. In all of our work, the Robert Carr Fund is committed to empowerment and equity across gender, geographic region, and all of the diverse populations represented and served by the Fund, and has strict policies and procedures regarding non-discrimination, accommodation of diversity and disability, and attention to issues faced by women and ISPs in working environments, including gender bias or sexual harassment.

Transparency and accountability

Each Robert Carr Fund funding cycle includes public communication about priorities and opportunities for grantees and stakeholders to provide input. After grants are made, the Fund regularly convenes grantees to meet, exchange ideas, develop strategies, and build solidarity and collaborations. The Robert Carr Fund also works to ensure transparency and accountability in its governance structures and grants management (including zero tolerance for corruption, fraud or mismanagement) and monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) and reporting. In these ways, the Fund maximizes its accountability to donors, to the diverse populations who are intended to benefit, and to the Fund's goal of improved health, inclusion and wellbeing for ISPs.

RCF Request for Proposals (RfP) Background

To date, the Robert Carr Fund has raised and allocated over USD 75 million to civil society and community networks utilizing a request for proposals process.

In 2019 the Robert Carr Fund issued a request for proposals offering Strategic Opportunity Funding (SOF) of up to 7 grants to previous or current RCF grantees.

- **Grant making in 2019 – Strategic Opportunity Funding** (for 18-month grants from mid-2020 to end 2021): USD 2.5 million allocated to 5 networks and consortia; grants of USD 500,000 maximum; submissions open to current or previous RCF grantees only.

This 2019 RfP was in addition to the multiyear grants that the fund awards:

- **Grant making in 2012** (grant covering twelve months in 2013): USD 5.4 million allocated to 24 networks; average annual grant size USD 225,000, maximum annual grant size USD 480,000.
- **Grant making in 2013** (for multiyear grants in 2014–2015): USD 16 million allocated to 14 networks and consortia; average annual grant size USD 443,000, maximum annual grant size USD 975,000; 94% of funding as renewal support to previous grantees, 6% of funding to first-time grantees.
- **Grant making in 2015** (for multiyear grants in 2016–2018): USD 20 million allocated to 18 networks and consortia; average annual grant size USD 377,000, maximum annual grant size USD 875,000; 97% of funding as renewal support to previous grantees, 3% of funding to first-time grantees.
- **Grant making in 2018** (for multiyear grants in 2019–2021): USD 32.6 million allocated to 24 networks and consortia; average annual grant size USD 453,000,

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maximum annual grant size USD 640,000; 88% of funding as renewal support to previous grantees, 12% of funding to first-time grantees.

The 2019 Strategic Opportunity Funding RfP aimed to provide networks and consortia with an opportunity to:

- Try new approaches that could maximize their work to improve the health, wellbeing and social inclusion of inadequately served populations ;
- Exercise creativity and novel thinking to overcome strategic challenges arising from the increasingly difficult environments for civil society, ISPs and the HIV response.

Applications were invited with a focus on creative and cutting-edge approaches to:

- **Movement leadership**, to ensure a stronger, continuous community-led and rights-based response to HIV;
- **Financial health and resilience of ISP programs**, to ensure that ISPs are not overlooked or left behind in the funding landscape;
- **Innovation, learning and partnerships**, to ensure that the lessons networks learn can inform more effective approaches that are better adapted to the current environment.

Applicants were encouraged to devote careful consideration to building partnerships to drive new and more powerful results from this investment.

Scope of the Request for Proposals Evaluation

The Robert Carr Fund seeks to support to evaluate the 2019 strategic opportunity funding request for proposals. The evaluation should aim to do the following:

- Evaluate the RfP as to its success in meeting its stated aims and objectives.
- Provide supplementary insights into specific aspects (including the eligibility criteria and administrative screening) of the RfP process as an addition to the 2018 evaluation conclusions and recommendations.
- Evaluate the process with regard to the roles and responsibilities, including the tasks and time commitment, of the interlinked bodies of the RCF (the International Steering Committee, Program Advisory Panel, Secretariat and FMA) and develop recommendations for efficiencies.

Terms of the engagement include:

- Compile and review key documents on the 2019 RfP process – including 2018 RfP evaluation
- Conduct initial calls with key RCF Secretariat staff to confirm project methodology and timing
- Review of RfP in relation to meeting intended aims, specific aspects of the RFP process, and roles and responsibilities including tasks and time commitment of the interlinked bodies of the RCF.
- Produce a supplementary report for presentation to the Secretariat and International Steering Committee of the RCF.

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Timeline

The Terms of Reference for the Request for Proposals Evaluation is announced during the week of 4th June 2020. Deadline for expressions of interest submissions is **COB 21st June 2020, 5pm CEST.**

The final decision on the selection of the consultant will be announced in the week of 30th June 2020. The consultancy is expected to commence the evaluation in early July 2020 with a draft of the initial report to be delivered by 27th July 2020. The final report is expected 10th August 2020.

Proposals from Consultants

Expression of interest submissions should be received by the RCF Secretariat no later than **COB 21st June 2020, 5pm CEST**. This should include:

- Motivational / elevator pitch letter
- Curriculum Vitae of consultant(s)
- Brief (1–page max.) work plan of suggested methodology for evaluation
- Detailed budget for an envisioned 10–15 days of work

Any questions and expression of interest submissions should be directed to secretariat@robertcarrfund.org.

Submissions beyond the deadline will not be taken in to consideration.