

The Advancing Partners & Communities Project offering global leadership, capacity building, and grant-making services for community programs

Advancing Partners & Communities (APC) is a 5-year USAID-funded project implemented by JSI Research and Training Institute (JSI) and partner FHI 360. The project advances and supports community programs that seek to improve the overall health of communities, especially in relationship to family planning. The project will advance global learning in community-based programming, execute and manage small and medium-sized sub-awards, support procurement reform by building organizational and technical capacity of organizations, provide Missions oversight and management services of awards to local organizations, and prepare awards for execution by USAID. APC's grant mechanism and capacity building assistance can be used to strengthen local NGOs.

- Assist in the development of country strategies and implementation approaches to expand community services.
- Conduct needs assessments of NGOs to determine organizational and technical capacity, and provide assistance to develop NGO capacity to directly implement USAID projects.
- Provide a range of assistance to facilitate policy change and adoption of standards of practice supporting task shifting of family planning services to lower level providers.
- Provide management and financial oversight of USAID awards to local NGOs.
- Conduct solicitations and provide grants to local NGOs to implement health sector projects.
- Improve gender and youth programming by supporting incorporation of gender and youth approaches into NGO services.

APC is managed by USAID's Office of Population and Reproductive Health. APC accepts all types of funding and addresses all health sector areas including family planning; HIV/AIDS; maternal, newborn, and child health; nutrition; and control of infectious disease. Its core funding supports community-based family planning activities.

APC can provide a wide range of technical services to Missions, some of which include:

- Design and implement public and private sector community-based family planning programs.
- Provide technical assistance to bilateral programs in the design of demonstration projects, integration of services, and national scale-up efforts of community-based family planning programs.
- Conduct assessments, introduce, and promote innovative public and private sector community-based strategies.
- Assess programs and provide implementation support to community-based organizations to strengthen services and adopt high impact practices.
- Provide grant-making services by conducting fully open and targeted competitive solicitations; determine eligibility of awardees; prepare cooperative agreement documents for execution by USAID; execute actionable sub-awards; and execute sub-awards competed by an APS.
- Provide Missions with a wide range of grant management

and oversight services for awards to local organizations, such as monitoring of progress and expenditures of programs, ensuring financial accountability of grantees, supporting program monitoring and evaluation, and ensuring compliance with all USAID requirements.

To learn more about APC, please contact the AOR, Victoria Graham, in USAID's Office of Population and Reproductive Health by e-mail: vgraham@usaid.gov or phone: 202-712-0041, or APC's Project Director, Elizabeth Creel from JSI, at ecreel@jsi.com or 571-302-7528.