



Partnerships for Enhanced Engagement in Research (PEER) U.S. Government (USG)-Supported Partner Cooperation Supplements

1. Background

The objective of PEER USG-Supported Partner Cooperation Supplements is to improve the ability of PEER awardees to reach the goals stated in the original PEER proposal through direct, on-site interaction with their USG-supported partners. These funds are intended to support the **specific existing goals of PEER projects as originally proposed and approved**, not to broaden the scope of the originally proposed work. These supplements will support travel and associated expenses related to bringing the members of the USG-supported partner’s research team to a PEER awardee’s location; however, the partner’s activities supported by this supplemental funding should address a gap or need in the PEER awardee’s ability to achieve the goals outlined in his or her original PEER proposal. It is also understood that this supplement must be requested by the PEER PI and that the USG-supported partner must agree to follow the proposed plan of activities outlined in the supplement application. Proposed activities must be completed within one year of receipt of funds.

2. Timeline

October 9, 2017	PEER USG-Supported Partner Cooperation Supplement funding announced
November 17, 2017	Supplement proposals due
January 2018	USG-Supported Partner Cooperation Supplement awardees notified

3. Budget

Supplement funds may only be used to support the travel-related expenses of the USG-supported partner’s research team, according to the discretion of the PEER PI. **The USG-supported partner’s research team is defined as including the USG-supported partner, co-partner, post-doctoral students, and graduate students with useful expertise.** Total awards for PEER USG-Supported Partner Cooperation Supplements will not exceed \$8,000 per supplement. Budgets that exceed \$8,000 will be considered only if the USG-supported partner uses his or her own funds to cover the difference; PEER award funds may not be used to justify budgets over \$8,000.

A detailed budget is required at the time of submission. The budget breakdown should identify costs associated with the USG-supported partner’s travel, lodging and per diem, and any other direct travel-related costs (visas, ground transport, and incidentals allowable under U.S. Government travel regulations). All proposed travel must respect U.S. Government airline restrictions.

Allowable Expenses

- Airline tickets for USG-supported partner or team members
- Airport transportation (taxi or personal auto mileage and parking) for USG-supported partner or team members
- Passport and visa costs for USG-supported partner or team members
- Lodging for USG-supported partner or team members
- Per diem for meals and incidental expenses (M&IE) for USG-supported partner or team members, subject to USG maximum rates for locations visited

Non-allowable Expenses

- Salary support for USG-supported partner or team members
- Equipment purchase or external data analysis
- Travel for the PEER PI
- Lodging or M&IE costs in excess of established per diems as outlined by the U.S. Department of State (https://aoprals.state.gov/web920/per_diem.asp)
- Costs associated with running any proposed outreach activities (e.g., renting space or buying food for a public lecture)
- Indirect costs

Please note that while it is the responsibility of the PEER PI to apply for the supplement, awarded supplement funds will be disbursed to the USG partners. The supplement disbursement will occur in two parts. Before the trip, the National Academies will purchase the air tickets for the USG-supported travelers. After the trip, the National Academies will reimburse the partners for their lodging, per diem, and other trip-related expenses listed above up to \$8,000 total costs (including airfare), subject to the maximum allowable USG rates. When submitting their expenses for reimbursement, travelers will also be required to submit a brief report on the visit describing their activities, results, and any challenges encountered.

4. Eligibility

Eligibility is restricted to current PEER awardees whose primary awards will be active through at least December 1, 2018. PEER awardees must be in good standing, with all quarterly and annual reports submitted as required. They must also continue to meet the original PEER eligibility requirements. In order to be eligible for PEER supplemental funding, applicants must be employed and residing in the eligible PEER country in which the original PEER award was based, and that country must still be eligible for PEER (please see http://sites.nationalacademies.org/PGA/PEER/PGA_181899 for a list of currently eligible countries).

Anyone listed as a PI or co-PI on an eligible PEER award may apply; however, accepted submissions will be limited to one proposal per original PEER project. U.S. partners are not eligible to apply; however, the supplement funds will be used to support their travel at the discretion of the PEER PI.

5. Types of Activities Supported by USG-Supported Partner Cooperation Supplements

USG-Supported Partner Cooperation Supplements will support travel-related expenses for members of the USG-supported partner's research team to engage in cooperative activities that improve the ability of the PEER awardee to reach the goals stated in the original PEER proposal. Applicants must demonstrate that their PEER-funded research would substantially benefit from the presence of a partner team member at the research site. The proposed activities for the USG-supported partner must be designed by the PEER awardee, take place in the PEER awardee's country, and be clearly connected to enhancing the scientific or developmental outcomes of the project. The USG-supported partner must submit a letter of support outlining agreement to the proposed activities.

Examples of activities that a travel supplement might be used to support include, but are not limited to:

- Leveraging the unique expertise of the USG-supported partner's research team to improve the quality of the gathered data or research results
- Guidance or trouble-shooting on PEER project needs assessments, clinical research protocols, lab procedures, data collection and analysis, etc., to help achieve the PEER project's goals
- Training sessions led by the USG-supported partner on topics such as
 - new research methodologies
 - improvement of the accuracy or precision of data measurements
 - advanced simulation or analysis software
- Collaboration to publish PEER-related research results in an international peer-reviewed journal

To maximize the effect of the USG-supported partner's travel to the PI's country, applications for this supplement are **encouraged to include one or more outreach activities**, in addition to the primary activities proposed, that are open to community members from beyond the PI's lab. These activities can be technical—such as a seminar, lecture, or field training session—or can be events that increase the visibility of research results with key stakeholders like a government ministry, USAID, or other implementing partners. Ideally, members of the PEER PI's broader research community will benefit from this opportunity to interact with the USG-supported partner's team.

6. Types of Activities Not Supported by PEER USG-Supported Partner Cooperation Supplements

Supported activities must enhance the impact of and help achieve the broader development objectives of the originally funded PEER award. PEER Supplements can **NOT** be used to support the following activities:

- Travel to support research objectives not mentioned in the originally funded PEER proposal
- Training programs or workshops that do not enhance the impact of the originally funded PEER research
- Activities conducted in the United States

7. Application Sections

Each PEER Supplement application must contain the following sections:

- **Supplement background:** Please describe the accomplishments made under the PEER award to date and specific challenges of the ongoing research that could be resolved through an in-person interaction with the USG-supported partner. Further, please describe the unique skills/expertise that the USG-supported partner (or partner's team) brings to your PEER project. (2000 characters)
- **Objectives of the proposed supplemental activity:** Describe how the outcome of the proposed activities supported by the supplement will directly affect the possibility of achieving the research objectives outlined in the original PEER proposal. Strong applications may also describe how the USG partner visit will improve the development or policy impacts of the research. (2000 characters)
- **Details of the proposed supplemental activity:** Please describe the main proposed activities with the participation of the USG-supported partner that are specific to the original PEER project. See Section 5 for examples of allowable activities. Also, describe any outreach activities to be led by the USG-supported partner or his or her team members supported by travel supplement. An outreach activity could be a scientific talk to the local research community; a training event for local university students, NGOs, or USAID mission staff; etc. *Outreach activities are not required but are strongly encouraged.* (3500 characters)
- **Timeline:** Please provide a timeline for the proposed supplemental activity, specifying milestones and a completion date.
- **Detailed budget:** Provide a detailed budget, broken down by expense categories with relevant justifications. All travel must respect U.S. Government airline restrictions and budgeted travel costs may not exceed allowable U.S. Government per diem rates.
- **Letter of agreement:** A brief written statement from the USG-supported partner stating that he or she has read the supplement application and agrees to participate in the activities as outlined by the PEER PI. USG-supported partners may also wish to include in this letter why the proposed travel is of interest and benefit to their research program. Finally, the USG-supported partner must also certify that there are no alternate sources of available funding for this activity from their own grants, funding agencies, or other sources.

8. Submission

Proposals must be submitted by e-mail to peer@nas.edu by 11:59 PM Eastern Daylight Time on Friday, **November 17, 2017**. Please include the words "PEER USG-SUPPORTED PARTNER COOPERATION SUPPLEMENTS" in the email subject line. **Proposals must be submitted in English using the forms provided** (Word or PDF formats are acceptable).

Supplement proposals will be evaluated by NAS and USAID program staff and awarded competitively. The total amount of funding available to support these supplemental grants is limited and **PEER anticipates awarding no more than eight cooperation supplements for 2018**.

Please note that supplemental funding will be awarded only to applicants who are making steady progress toward meeting the goals and objectives of their active PEER projects. Applicants with questions are invited to contact peer@nas.edu.

9. Review Criteria

All applications will be competitively reviewed based upon the following criteria:

- **Supplement background:** Has the applicant demonstrated a gap in research capacity that cannot be remedied through the use of local researchers or resources?
- **Objectives of the proposed supplemental activity:** Does this supplemental activity directly support the goals of the original PEER project? Will the proposed activities increase the awardee's research capacity?
- **Details of the proposed supplemental activity:** Do the details adequately describe the proposed activity? Will the described activities help meet the objectives of the original PEER project and have the desired impact? Have outreach activities been prioritized?
- **Timeline:** Is the proposed timeline reasonable? Can the proposed activity be completed in the expected 12-month period?
- **Budget breakdown:** Is the project budget detailed and the requested amount reasonable? Are all budget justifications appropriate?
- **Letter of agreement:** Has the USG-supported partner agreed to the supplement proposal?

10. Reporting

Awarded applicants complete the standard quarterly, annual, and final reports required of all PEER awardees. A template for these reports will be provided. In the quarterly and annual report, under the section *Supplemental Grant Summary*, awardees must describe the status of the USG-Supported Partner Cooperation Supplement activities and attach any products or results that were supported by the supplement. The final report that is applicable to this supplement should include a discussion of the PEER awardee's enhanced partnership with his or her USG-supported partner and the effectiveness of the supplemental activities.