



## Request for Personal Services Contractor

### United States Agency for International Development Bureau for Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance Office of Food for Peace

Position Title: Food Security and Markets Advisor  
Solicitation Number: 72DFFP19R00020  
Salary Level: GS-12 Equivalent: \$83,398 - \$108,422  
GS-13 Equivalent: \$99,172 - \$128,920  
  
Issuance Date: May 28, 2019  
Closing Date: July 2, 2019 (Deadline Extended)  
Closing Time: 4:00 P.M. Eastern Time

Dear Prospective Offerors:

The United States Government (USG), represented by the U.S. Agency for International Development's (USAID) Office of Food for Peace (FFP), is seeking offers from qualified U.S. citizens to provide personal services as a Food Security and Markets Advisor under a United States Personal Services Contract (USPSC), as described in the attached solicitation.

Submittals must be in accordance with the attached information at the place and time specified. Offerors interested in applying for this position **MUST** submit the following materials:

**1. Complete resume.** In order to fully evaluate your offer, your resume must include:  
(See sample resume on [www.ffpjobs.com](http://www.ffpjobs.com) website)

- (a) Paid and non-paid experience, job title, location(s), dates held (month/year), and hours worked per week for each position. Dates (month/year) and locations for all field experience must also be detailed. **Any experience that does not include dates (month/year), locations, and hours per week will not be counted towards meeting the solicitation requirements.**
- (b) Specific duties performed that fully detail the level and complexity of the work.
- (c) Names and contact information (phone/email) of your current and/or previous supervisor(s). Current and/or previous supervisor(s) may be contacted for a reference.
- (d) Education and any other qualifications including job-related training courses, job-related skills, or job-related honors, awards, or accomplishments.
- (e) U.S. Citizenship.

Your resume should contain sufficient information to make a valid determination that you fully meet the experience requirements as stated in this solicitation. This information should

**Solicitation for a USPSC Food Security and Markets Advisor  
72DFFP19R00020**

be clearly identified in your resume. Failure to provide information sufficient to determine your qualifications for the position will result in loss of full consideration.

2. **Responses to the Quality Ranking Factors (QRFs):** Each offeror's supplemental document must address the QRFs shown in the solicitation.
3. **USPSC Application form AID 309-2:** Offerors are required to complete sections A through I. This form must be physically signed and scanned. **Electronic signatures will not be accepted.**

All USPSCs with a place of performance in the United States are required to have a Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number and be registered in the System for Award Management (SAM) database prior to receiving an offer. You will be disqualified if you either fail to comply with this requirement or if your name appears on the excluded parties list. Registration information is available at [www.sam.gov](http://www.sam.gov) and further guidance will be provided to the selectee regarding DUNS and SAM registration.

**The submission of additional documents submitted will not be accepted.** Incomplete or late offers will not be considered. FFP reserves the right to select additional candidates if vacancies become available during future phases of the selection process.

Offerors can expect to receive a confirmation email when offer materials have been received. Offerors should retain for their records copies of all enclosures which accompany their offers. Your complete resume, signed and scanned AID 309-2 form, and the supplemental document addressing the QRFs must be emailed to:

**FFP PSC Recruitment Team**

E-Mail Address: [ffprecruitmentteam@usaid.gov](mailto:ffprecruitmentteam@usaid.gov)

Any questions on this solicitation may be directed to FFP PSC Recruitment Team via the information provided above. Further guidance on applying, including a sample resume, can be found at [www.ffpjobs.com](http://www.ffpjobs.com).

This solicitation in no way obligates USAID to award a PSC contract, nor does it commit USAID to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of the offer.

Sincerely,

/s/

Patrice Lee

Contracting Officer

**Solicitation for a USPSC Food Security and Markets Advisor  
72DFFP19R00020**

**SOLICITATION NO.:** 72DFFP19R00020

- 1. ISSUANCE DATE:** May 28, 2019
- 2. CLOSING DATE/TIME FOR RECEIPT OF OFFERS:**  
  
July 2, 2019, 4:00 P.M. Eastern Time (Deadline Extended)
- 3. POSITION TITLE:** Food Security and Markets Advisor
- 4. MARKET VALUE:** This position is classified as a GS-12 (\$83,398 - \$108,422) or a GS-13 (\$99,172 - \$128,920), including Washington, D.C. locality pay. Final Grade will be determined by the candidate's established work history, qualifications and education. Final compensation will be negotiated within the listed market value and based upon the candidate's established salary history. Candidates who live outside the Washington, D.C. area will be considered for employment but relocation expenses will not be reimbursed. **Salaries over and above the top of the pay range will not be entertained or negotiated.**  
  
NOTE CONCERNING MARKET VALUE: The offeror(s) chosen for the position will be recommended for hire at either the GS-12 or GS-13 level commensurate with his/her overall experience, training, and qualifications as determined by the FFP Selection Committee.
- 5. PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE:** One (1) year with four (4) one-year options.
- 6. PLACE OF PERFORMANCE:** Washington, D.C., with possible overseas and domestic travel.
- 7. SECURITY LEVEL REQUIRED:** Secret Level Security Clearance
- 8. STATEMENT OF WORK:**

**BACKGROUND**

USAID's Office of Food for Peace (FFP) predicts, prevents, and responds to hunger overseas. Through its emergency food assistance activities, FFP saves lives, reduces suffering, and supports the early recovery of people affected by conflict and natural disaster emergencies, including refugees.

FFP also addresses the root causes of food insecurity and helps individuals and communities withstand future crises and lay the foundation for stable, inclusive growth. FFP development activities help chronically food insecure populations reduce their long-term need for food assistance by helping communities improve access to food for their most vulnerable people, especially women and children.

FFP works closely with other parts of USAID, especially the Bureau for Food Security, which plays a key role in implementing the U.S. Government's Feed the Future initiative, and the

**Solicitation for a USPSC Food Security and Markets Advisor  
72DFFP19R00020**

Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA), which leads on disaster response around the world. FFP employs a staff of over 100 in Washington and also has officers posted abroad.

More information on FFP is available at: <https://www.usaid.gov/food-assistance>.

## **INTRODUCTION**

The incumbent, based in FFP's Policy and Technical Division (PTD), works as a Food Security and Markets Advisor. He/She provides technical leadership and guidance on the design, implementation, and evaluation of market-based and market-sensitive food security programming. This includes analysis of potential risks to local market systems both from the supply side (e.g., distribution of in-kind food commodities) and the demand side (e.g., procurement of food on local and regional markets, cash transfers, and food vouchers). The incumbent also plays a critical role in ensuring the routine use of response analysis and the existing evidence base to consider the comparative effects of different modalities on food security at the household level.

The incumbent reviews market assessment information; participates in field assessments; provides tools, guidance, and training to field missions and Washington FFP staff to enhance oversight of market-based programming; and supports efforts to incorporate evidence, learning, and good practices pertaining to markets-based programming into FFP decision-making processes.

## **9. CORE FUNCTIONAL AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY:**

As a member of the FFP Food Security Team, and under the direct supervision of the Team Leader or his/her designee, the incumbent will perform the following duties:

### ***At the GS-12 Equivalent Level:***

- Provide markets related technical support to Washington FFP staff, FFP field officers and partners;
- Keep abreast of trends in markets issues and apply knowledge to improve FFP's food assistance and to address the underlying causes of hunger;
- Design and co-facilitate markets workshops, training and learning events for both internal and external stakeholders;
- Update and manage markets-related information systems;
- Support technical review of concept notes, applications, and other documents as needed;
- Conduct market assessments, desk reviews, and ad hoc analyses;

**Solicitation for a USPSC Food Security and Markets Advisor  
72DFFP19R00020**

- Provide analyses of data from a variety of sources – including field assessments, technical data, early warning information, and reporting from USAID field staff, private voluntary organizations (PVOs), and World Food Program (WFP) – to recommend appropriate food assistance programs and strategies where needed;
- Provide technical input on funding priorities, review specific appeals and proposals, serve on proposal review panels, and recommend appropriate food assistance programs;
- Monitor programs through field visits, field staff reports, and reports from implementing partners to maximize program effectiveness and ensure that programs adhere to legislative guidelines, while also recommending appropriate follow-up actions when necessary;
- Draft information products (e.g., updates, memoranda) and provide briefings on emergency food security grants; and
- Represent FFP in meetings and working groups with other USAID colleagues and representatives from other agencies.

In addition to the duties performed at the GS-12 equivalent level, the GS-13 Food Security and Markets Advisor will also perform the following duties:

***At the GS-13 Equivalent Level:***

- Draft information products (e.g., updates, memoranda) and provide briefings internally and externally on market-based programs;
- Draft technical guidance and policy related to cash transfer, food vouchers, and local and regional procurement;
- Review and disseminate lessons learned and/or research related to market-based approaches, and develop this topic area within FFP’s emerging learning agenda; and
- Represent FFP to external audiences on market-based food assistance programs and policy issues.

**Supervisory Controls:**

At the GS-12 and GS-13 equivalent levels, the incumbent takes direction from and reports to the Food Security Team Leader in FFP/Washington. The incumbent’s supervisor sets the overall work objectives and the incumbent consults with the Food Security Team Leader to develop deadlines, projects, and work to be performed.

At the GS-12 equivalent level, the incumbent works under the supervision of the Team Leader. The Team Leader sets the overall objectives while the incumbent exercises independence and initiative in defining and carrying out duties, prioritizing overall objectives, and managing available resources. The incumbent consults with the supervisor to develop deadlines, projects,

**Solicitation for a USPSC Food Security and Markets Advisor  
72DFFP19R00020**

and work to be completed. The incumbent is responsible for independently planning and carrying out assignments and resolving most conflicts. With input from the supervisor, the incumbent interprets policy in terms of established objectives. Completed work is reviewed only in terms of overall feasibility, compatibility with other work, and effectiveness in meeting requirements.

At the GS-13 equivalent level, the incumbent carries out assignments and consults with the supervisor on policy interpretations. The incumbent keeps his/her supervisor informed of progress in the achievement of objectives and advised of potentially controversial matters. The supervisor will evaluate work for technical soundness and effectiveness in achieving FFP strategic objectives.

**Guidelines:**

Pertinent sources of information consist of the Food for Peace Act, the Foreign Assistance Act, and other legislative initiatives; FFP issued guidelines; information bulletins; and USAID and the Bureau of Democracy Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance (DCHA) rules and regulations.

At the GS-12 equivalent level, the incumbent uses initiative and resourcefulness in deviating from traditional methods to develop new methods, criteria, or propose new policies. The incumbent is expected to provide recommendations to his/her supervisor on how to collaborate with United States Government (USG) partners, bilateral donors, multilateral organizations, foundations, and other stakeholders, in efforts to capture and apply lessons learned in ongoing and future programming.

In addition to the scope of the GS-12 equivalent level, the GS-13 equivalent level incumbent exercises considerable independent judgment in determining the application of guidelines to assigned responsibilities. The incumbent uses initiative and resourcefulness in deviating from traditional methods or in researching patterns and trends to develop new methods, criteria, or propose new policies. The incumbent is expected to identify and recommend solutions to inefficiencies or inconsistencies that serve as barriers to accomplishing assigned tasks and report them to the Food Security Team Leader or his/her designee.

**Complexity:**

At the GS-12 equivalent level, duties vary, requiring different processes, methods, and substantial depth of analysis. The incumbent must be able to work independently to conduct technical review, apply operational learning, and make recommendations. He/she must also be able to communicate effectively across units with the Geographic Divisions and Policy Team to ensure that analysis feeds properly into joint processes. The incumbent conducts analysis in support of engagement with agency, interagency, and community of practice on food security and market-based approaches. Selection of methodology, results of analysis, and prioritization of competing demands are subject to review for non-routine tasks including: assessments featuring unusual constraints or conflicting data, originating new techniques, and establishing new criteria or guidance.

**Solicitation for a USPSC Food Security and Markets Advisor  
72DFFP19R00020**

At the GS-13 equivalent level, duties vary, requiring many different and unrelated processes and methods applied to a broad range of activities and substantial depth of analysis. The incumbent must be able to work independently to conduct technical review, apply operational learning, and make recommendations. He/she must also be able to communicate effectively across units within the Geographic Divisions and Policy Team to ensure that analysis feeds properly into joint processes. He/she may be called upon to revise or formulate new office level policies and provide leadership from a technical perspective in agency, interagency, and community of practice initiatives to develop new guidance, tools, and standards related to food security and market-based approaches.

The incumbent must demonstrate initiative and ability to manage competing work priorities and work independently when required.

**Scope and Effect:**

At the GS-12 and GS-13 equivalent levels, the incumbent provides technical program support to ensure that FFP's food security portfolios are sensitive to market conditions, strengthen local systems, and utilize appropriate modalities based on context and evidence.

At the GS-12 equivalent level, the incumbent participates in application review, interpretation and oversight of operational documents for ongoing programming. He/She is responsible for assessing and monitoring programs through technical data review, field visits, and communication with field staff and implementing partners. The incumbent also contributes when the Food Security Team updates FFP internal policies and external guidance related to food security approaches and market-based programming.

In addition to the scope of the GS-12 equivalent level, the GS-13 equivalent level incumbent is responsible for contributing to trend analysis, sharing evidence and learning across the office on food security and markets. He/She supports the development of new tools and guidance, while also managing processes to update FFP internal policies and external guidance related to food security approaches and market-based programming.

**Personal Contacts:**

At the GS-12 equivalent level, contacts are within FFP and USAID to provide recommendations to his/her supervisor on controversial issues among decision makers including USG agencies (Department of State, U.S. Department of Agriculture, the National Security Council, etc.). The incumbent is required to work with colleagues towards a common understanding among the various parties and propose satisfactory solutions to his/her supervisor that address various objectives regarding FFP priorities.

In addition to the scope of the GS-12 equivalent level, the GS-13 equivalent level contacts are with individuals and groups outside of USAID in a moderately unstructured setting. The incumbent is in contact with food security and markets points of contact of PVOs and public international organizations (PIOs). The purpose of contact is to influence and motivate persons or groups by persuasion or negotiation. Additionally, the incumbent communicates with

**Solicitation for a USPSC Food Security and Markets Advisor  
72DFFP19R00020**

academics and independent researchers to stay abreast of current evidence. The incumbent is responsible for providing technical advice to FFP staff, Missions, field staff, and to PVO and PIO staff receiving FFP funding.

**Purpose of Contacts:**

At the GS-12 equivalent level, the incumbent may be called upon to participate in activities with FFP staff from the Policy Team. The incumbent may also participate in meetings with external implementing partners, FFP Geographic Divisions, USAID Missions, other USAID/Washington bureaus, representatives of foreign governments, international and non-governmental organizations, and private sector companies.

At the GS-13 equivalent level, the incumbent must influence and motivate people or groups as it relates to food security and markets. The people contacted may be fearful, skeptical or uncooperative. The incumbent must be skillful in determining the appropriate approach in negotiating and persuading others, and in establishing rapport in order to gain and relay information as it applies to food security and markets in FFP programming.

**10. WORK ENVIRONMENT AND PHYSICAL DEMANDS:**

Work is primarily performed in an office setting. While on long-term travel for FFP, thirty (30) days or more in a calendar year, the work may additionally involve special safety and/or security precautions, wearing of protective equipment, and exposure to severe weather conditions.

The work is generally sedentary and does not pose undue physical demands. During deployment on Disaster Assistance Response Teams (DART) (if required), and during site visits, there may be some additional physical exertion including long periods of standing, walking over rough terrain, or carrying of moderate heavy items (less than 50 pounds).

**11. START DATE:** Immediately, once necessary clearances are obtained.

**12. POINT OF CONTACT:** See Cover Letter.



**Solicitation for a USPSC Food Security and Markets Advisor  
72DFFP19R00020**

**MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR THIS POSITION**

**EDUCATION/EXPERIENCE REQUIRED FOR THIS POSITION**

(Determines basic eligibility for the position. Offerors who do not meet all of the education and experience factors are considered NOT qualified for the position.)

***At the GS-12 Equivalent Level:***

Bachelor's degree from an accredited U.S. or internationally recognized institution, with significant study in, but not limited to, sociology, anthropology, public health, education, rural development, agriculture, conflict, international development, or a related field, plus minimum of five (5) years of progressively responsible experience in humanitarian assistance and/or international development, of which one (1) year must be related to international food aid.

**OR**

Master's degree from an accredited U.S. or internationally recognized institution, with significant study in, but not limited to, sociology, anthropology, public health, education, rural development, agriculture, conflict, gender, international development, or a related field, plus minimum of four (4) years of progressively responsible experience in humanitarian assistance and/or international development, of which one (1) year must be related to international food aid.

**AND**

A total of two (2) years of overseas professional experience implementing gender and youth program activities in a developing country setting, either through multiple short-term assignments or long-term residential postings.

***At the GS-13 Equivalent Level:***

Bachelor's degree from an accredited U.S. or internationally recognized institution, with significant study in, but not limited to, sociology, anthropology, public health, education, rural development, agriculture, conflict, international development, or a related field, plus minimum of seven (7) years of progressively responsible experience in humanitarian assistance and/or international development, of which two (2) years must be related to international food aid.

**OR**

Master's degree from an accredited U.S. or internationally recognized institution, with significant study in, but not limited to, sociology, anthropology, public health, education, rural development, agriculture, conflict, gender, international development, or a related field, plus minimum of five (5) years of progressively responsible experience in humanitarian assistance and/or international development, of which two (2) years must be related to international food aid.

**AND**

**Solicitation for a USPSC Food Security and Markets Advisor  
72DFFP19R00020**

A total of two (2) years of overseas professional experience implementing gender and youth program activities in a developing country setting, either through multiple short-term assignments or long-term residential postings.

**SELECTION FACTORS**

(Determines basic eligibility for the position. Offerors who do not meet all of the selection factors are considered NOT qualified for the position.)

- Offeror is a U.S. Citizen;
- Submission of a current resume, with complete contact information. See cover page for resume requirements;
- Supplemental document specifically addressing the QRFs;
- USPSC Application form AID 309-2. Offerors are required to complete sections A through I. This form must be physically signed and scanned. **Electronic signatures will not be accepted;**
- Ability to obtain and maintain a Secret level clearance up to Top Secret/Sensitive Compartmented Information level clearance within a nine month period after offer acceptance;
- Ability to obtain a Department of State medical clearance within a three month period after offer acceptance;
- Must not appear as an excluded party in the System for Award Management (SAM.gov); and
- Satisfactory verification of academic credentials.

Offerors not meeting minimum qualifications will not be evaluated further.

**QUALITY RANKING FACTORS (QRFs)**

Offerors who meet the Education/Experience requirements and Selection Factors will be further evaluated based on the QRFs listed below. In 500 words or less, the offeror will address each factor on a separate sheet describing specifically and accurately the experience, training, and/or education they have that is relevant to each factor. Please provide a word count after each response. Offerors must be sure to include their name and the announcement number at the top of each additional page.

- QRF 1: Ability to apply principles of market systems, economic policy, and resilience in imperfect markets to enhance the design and delivery of assistance to populations in crisis conditions and/or vulnerable populations exposed to chronic hunger and recurring shocks, in 500 words or less. (20 points)
- QRF 2: Demonstrated knowledge of the key issues and priorities in implementing international development and/or relief programs addressing food insecurity, in 500 words or less. (15 points)
- QRF 3: Demonstrated knowledge of the interaction and mode of operation among PVOs, UN agencies and USG agencies involved in development and/or humanitarian relief and demonstrated ability to work effectively across agencies on a range of issues related to

**Solicitation for a USPSC Food Security and Markets Advisor  
72DFFP19R00020**

coordination, funding, and program implementation, in 500 words or less. (15 points)

- QRF 4: Demonstrated knowledge of and application of market assessment tools, in 500 words or less. (10 points)
- QRF 5: Ability to communicate effectively both orally and in writing, including well developed social/interpersonal and problem solving skills, in 500 words or less. (10 points)

Total Possible QRF Points: 70 points

Total Possible Interview Points: 30 points

Satisfactory Professional Reference Checks: Pass/Fail

**Total Possible Points: 100**

**BASIS OF RATING:** Offerors who meet the Education/Experience requirements and Selection Factors will be further evaluated based on scoring of the QRF responses. Those offerors determined to be competitively ranked will be evaluated on interview performance and satisfactory professional reference checks.

Failure to address the selection factors and/or QRFs may result in not receiving credit for all pertinent experience, education, and/or training.

The most qualified candidates will be interviewed. Professional references and academic credentials will be evaluated for offerors being considered for selection. FFP will not pay for any expenses associated with the interviews. FFP reserves the right to select additional candidates to fill possible future vacant positions.

**NOTE:** Please be advised that references may be obtained independently from other sources in addition to the ones provided by an offeror.

**NOTE:** If the full security application package is not submitted within 30 days after the Office of Security determines eligibility, the offer may be rescinded. If a Secret security clearance is not obtained within nine months after offer acceptance, the offer may be rescinded.

**NOTE:** If the full medical clearance package is not submitted within one month after offer acceptance, the offer may be rescinded. If a Department of State medical clearance is not obtained within three months after offer acceptance, the offer may be rescinded.

**DOCUMENT SUBMITTALS:**

**Where and How to Apply**

Offers must be **received** by the closing date and time at the address specified in the cover letter.

Offerors are **required** to submit:

**Solicitation for a USPSC Food Security and Markets Advisor  
72DFFP19R00020**

- 1. Complete, current resume.** See cover page for resume requirements.
- 2. Supplemental document specifically addressing the QRFs** shown in the solicitation.
- 3. USPSC Application form AID 309-2.** Offerors are required to complete sections A through I. This form must be physically signed and scanned. **Electronic signatures will not be accepted.**

Additional documents submitted will not be accepted.

*By submitting your offer materials, you certify that all of the information on and attached to the offer is true, correct, complete, and made in good faith. You agree to allow all information on and attached to the offer to be investigated.*

False or fraudulent information on or attached to your offer may result in you being eliminated from consideration for this position, or being terminated after award, and may be punishable by fine or imprisonment.

To ensure consideration of offers for the intended position, please reference the solicitation number and the position you are applying for on your offer, and as the subject line in any email.

**NOTE REGARDING GOVERNMENT OBLIGATIONS FOR THIS SOLICITATION**

This solicitation in no way obligates USAID to award a PSC contract, nor does it commit USAID to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of the offer.

**NOTE REGARDING DATA UNIVERSAL NUMBERING SYSTEM (DUNS) NUMBERS AND THE SYSTEM FOR AWARD MANAGEMENT**

All USPSCs with a place of performance in the United States are required to have a Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number and be registered in the System for Award Management (SAM) database prior to receiving an offer. You will be disqualified if you either fail to comply with this requirement or if your name appears on the excluded parties list. The selectee will be provided with guidance regarding this registration.

**NOTE:** Registration for a DUNS number is **FREE**.

For general information about DUNS Numbers, please refer to Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Clause 52.204-6, Data Universal Numbering System Number at [https://www.acquisition.gov/far/current/html/52\\_200\\_206.html](https://www.acquisition.gov/far/current/html/52_200_206.html) and FAR 52.204-7, System for Award Management at [https://www.acquisition.gov/far/current/html/52\\_200\\_206.html](https://www.acquisition.gov/far/current/html/52_200_206.html) or [www.sam.gov](http://www.sam.gov).

Interested offerors are highly encouraged to initiate the registration process early in the offer stage to avoid any delays during contract award.

**Solicitation for a USPSC Food Security and Markets Advisor  
72DFFP19R00020**

**LIST OF REQUIRED FORMS FOR PSCs:**

Forms outlined below can found at:

<http://www.usaid.gov/forms/> or at <http://www.forms.gov/bgfPortal/main.do>

1. Complete, current resume.
2. Supplemental Document addressing QRFs.
3. USPSC Application Form (AID 309-2).
4. Medical History and Examination Form (DS-6561).
5. Questionnaire for Sensitive Positions (for National Security) (SF-86), or
6. Questionnaire for Non-Sensitive Positions (SF-85).
7. Finger Print Card (FD-258).
8. Employment Eligibility Verification (I-9 Form).

**\*\*Forms 4-8 shall be completed ONLY upon the advice of the Contracting Officer that an offeror is the successful candidate for the job.**

**CONTRACT INFORMATION BULLETINS (CIBs) and ACQUISITION & ASSISTANCE POLICY DIRECTIVES (AAPDs) PERTAINING TO PSCs**

CIBs and AAPDs contain changes to USAID policy and General Provisions in USAID regulations and contracts. Please refer to <https://www.usaid.gov/work-usaid/aapds-cibs> to determine which CIBs and AAPDs apply to this contract.

AIDAR Appendix D can be found at: <https://www.usaid.gov/ads/policy/300/aidar>

ADS 309 – Personal Services Contracts can be found at:

<https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1868/309.pdf>

**AAPD 06-10 – PSC MEDICAL PAYMENT RESPONSIBILITY**

AAPD No. 06-10 is hereby incorporated as Attachment 1 to the solicitation.

**AAPD 15-02 – Authorization of Family and Medical Leave for U.S. Personal Services Contractors (USPSCs)**

AAPD No. 15-02 is hereby incorporated as Attachment 2 to the solicitation.

**AAPD 18-02 - Medical Evacuation (MEDEVAC) Services**

AAPD No. 18-02 is hereby incorporated as Attachment 3 to the solicitation.

**FAR 52.222-50 – COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS**

FAR Clause 52.222-50 is hereby incorporated as Attachment 4 to the solicitation.

**BENEFITS/ALLOWANCES/TAXES:**

As a matter of policy, and as appropriate, a USPSC is normally authorized the following benefits and allowances:

**Solicitation for a USPSC Food Security and Markets Advisor  
72DFFP19R00020**

**BENEFITS**

- (a) Employer's FICA Contribution
- (b) Contribution toward Health & Life Insurance
- (c) Pay Comparability Adjustment
- (d) Annual Increase (pending a satisfactory performance evaluation)
- (e) Eligibility for Worker's Compensation
- (f) Annual & Sick Leave

**ALLOWANCES (if Applicable) \***

The following allowances may be provided for PSCs located in foreign countries using rates prescribed under the Department of State Standardized Regulations (Government Civilian Foreign areas) available at <https://aoprals.state.gov/>:

- (a) Temporary Quarter Subsistence Allowance (Section 120)
- (b) Living Quarters Allowance (Section 130)
- (c) Cost-of-Living Allowance (Chapter 210)
- (d) Post Allowance (Section 220)
- (e) Separate Maintenance Allowance (Section 260)
- (f) Education Allowance (Section 270)
- (g) Education Travel (Section 280)
- (h) Post Differential (Chapter 500)
- (i) Payments during Evacuation/Authorized Departure (Section 600)
- (j) Danger Pay Allowance (Section 650)

**TAXES:**

USPSCs are required to pay Federal income taxes, FICA, Medicare and applicable State Income taxes.

**USAID REGULATIONS, POLICIES AND CONTRACT CLAUSES PERTAINING TO PSCs:**

USAID regulations and policies governing USPSC awards are available at these sources:

1. **USAID Acquisition Regulation (AIDAR), Appendix D**, "Direct USAID Contracts with a U.S. Citizen or a U.S. Resident Alien for Personal Services Abroad," including **contract clause "General Provisions,"** available at [https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1868/aidar\\_0.pdf](https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1868/aidar_0.pdf).
2. **Contract Cover Page form AID 309-1** available at <https://www.usaid.gov/forms>.

**Solicitation for a USPSC Food Security and Markets Advisor  
72DFFP19R00020**

3. Acquisition and Assistance Policy Directives/Contract Information Bulletins (AAPDs/CIBs) for Personal Services Contracts with Individuals available at <http://www.usaid.gov/work-usaid/aapds-cibs>.

[The CO must check <http://www.usaid.gov/work-usaid/aapds-cibs> to determine which AAPDs/CIBs apply and insert the relevant text as required.]

4. **Ethical Conduct.** By the acceptance of a USAID personal services contract as an individual the contractor will be acknowledging receipt of the “**Standards of Ethical Conduct for Employees of the Executive Branch,**” available from the U.S. Office of Government Ethics, in accordance with **General Provision 2** and **5 CFR 2635**. See <https://www.oge.gov/web/oge.nsf/OGE%20Regulations>.

**ALL QUALIFIED OFFERORS WILL BE CONSIDERED REGARDLESS OF AGE, RACE, COLOR, SEX, CREED, NATIONAL ORIGIN, LAWFUL POLITICAL AFFILIATION, NON-DISQUALIFYING DISABILITY, MARITAL STATUS, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, AFFILIATION WITH AN EMPLOYEE ORGANIZATION, OR OTHER NON-MERIT FACTOR.**

**Solicitation for a USPSC Food Security and Markets Advisor  
72DFFP19R00020**

**ATTACHMENT 1**

**MEDICAL EXPENSE PAYMENT RESPONSIBILITY (OCTOBER 2006) (AAPD06-10)**

(a) Definitions. Terms used in this General Provision are defined in 16 FAM 116 (available at <http://www.foia.state.gov/REGS/fams.asp?level=2&id=59&fam=0>). Note: personal services contractors are not eligible to participate in the Federal Employees Health Programs.

(b) The regulations in the Foreign Affairs Manual, Volume 16, Chapter 520 (16 FAM 520), Responsibility for Payment of Medical Expenses, apply to this contract, except as stated below. The contractor and each eligible family member are strongly encouraged to obtain health insurance that covers this assignment. Nothing in this provision supersedes or contradicts any other term or provision in this contract that pertains to insurance or medical costs, except that section (e) supplements General Provision 25. "MEDICAL EVACUATION (MEDEVAC) SERVICES."

(c) When the contractor or eligible family member is covered by health insurance, that insurance is the primary payer for medical services provided to that contractor or eligible family member(s) both in the United States and abroad. The primary insurer's liability is determined by the terms, conditions, limitations, and exclusions of the insurance policy. When the contractor or eligible family member is not covered by health insurance, the contractor is the primary payer for the total amount of medical costs incurred and the U.S. Government has no payment obligation (see paragraph (f) of this provision).

(d) USAID serves as a secondary payer for medical expenses of the contractor and eligible family members who are covered by health insurance, where the following conditions are met:

- (1) The illness, injury, or medical condition giving rise to the expense is incurred, caused, or materially aggravated while the eligible individual is stationed or assigned abroad;
- (2) The illness, injury, or medical condition giving rise to the expense required or requires hospitalization and the expense is directly related to the treatment of such illness, injury, or medical condition, including obstetrical care; and
- (3) The Office of Medical Services (M/MED) or a Foreign Service medical provider (FSMP) determines that the treatment is appropriate for, and directly related to, the illness, injury, or medical condition.

(e) The Mission Director may, on the advice of M/MED or an FSMP at post, authorize medical travel for the contractor or an eligible family member in accordance with the General Provision 10, Travel and Transportation AAPD 06-10 PSC Medical Expense Payment Responsibility 6 Expenses (July 1993), section (i) entitled "Emergency and Irregular Travel and Transportation." In the event of a medical emergency, when time does not permit consultation, the Mission Director may issue a Travel Authorization Form or Medical Services Authorization Form DS-3067, provided that the FSMP or Post Medical Advisor (PMA) is notified as soon as possible following such an issuance. The contractor must promptly file a claim with his or her medevac



**Solicitation for a USPSC Food Security and Markets Advisor  
72DFFP19R00020**

insurance provider and repay to USAID any amount the medevac insurer pays for medical travel, up to the amount USAID paid under this section. The contractor must repay USAID for medical costs paid by the medevac insurer in accordance with sections (f) and (g) below. In order for medical travel to be an allowable cost under General Provision 10, the contractor must provide USAID written evidence that medevac insurance does not cover these medical travel costs.

(f) If the contractor or eligible family member is not covered by primary health insurance, the contractor is the primary payer for the total amount of medical costs incurred. In the event of a medical emergency, the Medical and Health Program may authorize issuance of Form DS-3067, Authorization for Medical Services for Employees and/or Dependents, to secure admission to a hospital located abroad for the uninsured contractor or eligible family member.

In that case, the contractor will be required to reimburse USAID in full for funds advanced by USAID pursuant to the issuance of the authorization. The contractor may reimburse USAID directly or USAID may offset the cost from the contractor's invoice payments under this contract, any other contract the individual has with the U.S. Government, or through any other available debt collection mechanism.

(g) When USAID pays medical expenses (e.g., pursuant to Form DS-3067, Authorization for Medical Services for Employees and/or Dependents), repayment must be made to USAID either by insurance payment or directly by the contractor, except for the amount of such expenses USAID is obligated to pay under this provision. The Contracting Officer will determine the repayment amount in accordance with the terms of this provision and the policies and procedures for employees contained in 16 FAM 521. When USAID pays the medical expenses, including medical travel costs (see section (e) above), of an individual (either the contractor or an eligible family member) who is covered by insurance, that individual promptly must claim his or her benefits under any applicable insurance policy or policies. As soon as the individual receives the insurance payment, the contractor must reimburse USAID for the full amount that USAID paid on the individual's behalf or the repayment amount determined by the Contracting Officer in accordance with this paragraph, whichever is less. If an individual is not covered by insurance, the contractor must reimburse USAID for the entire amount of all medical expenses and any travel costs the contractor receives from his/her medevac provider.

(h) In the event that the contractor or eligible family member fails to recover insurance payments or transfer the amount of such payments to USAID within 90 days, USAID will take appropriate action to collect the payments due, unless such failure is for reasons beyond the control of the USPSC/dependent. (i) Before departing post or terminating the contract, the contractor must settle all medical expense and medical travel costs. If the contractor is insured, he or she must provide proof to the Contracting AAPD 06-10 PSC Medical Expense Payment Responsibility 7 Officer that those insurance claims have been submitted to the insurance carrier(s) and sign a repayment agreement to repay to USAID any amounts paid by the insurance carrier(s).

(i) Before departing post or terminating the contract, the contractor must settle all medical expense and medical travel costs. If the contractor is insured, he or she must provide proof to the Contracting Officer that those insurance claims have been submitted to the insurance carrier(s)

**Solicitation for a USPSC Food Security and Markets Advisor  
72DFFP19R00020**

and sign a repayment agreement to repay to USAID any amounts paid by the insurance carrier(s).

[END PROVISION]

**Solicitation for a USPSC Food Security and Markets Advisor  
72DFFP19R00020**

**ATTACHMENT 2**

**AUTHORIZATION OF FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE FOR U.S. PERSONAL SERVICES CONTRACTORS (USPSCs)**

**GP 5. LEAVE AND HOLIDAYS (DEC 2017)  
(Pursuant to class deviation #M/OAA-DEV-AIDAR-18-1c)**

**(a) Annual Leave.**

(1) The contractor is not entitled to annual leave if the period of performance of this contract is 90 days or less. If the contract period of performance is more than 90 days, the contractor shall earn annual leave as of the start date of the contract period of performance as specified in paragraph (a)(2) below.

(2) The contractor shall accrue annual leave based on the contractor's time in service according to the following table:

Time in Service	Annual Leave (AL) Accrual Calculation
0 to 3 years	Four hours of leave for each two week period
over 3, and up to 15 years	Six hours of AL for each two week period (including 10 hours AL for the final pay period of a calendar year)
over 15 years	Eight hours of AL for each two week period

USAID will calculate the contractor's time in service based on all the previous service performed by the contractor as a: 1) USAID PSC (i.e., the contractor has served under any USAID personal services contracts of any duration covered by Sec. 636(a)(3) of the FAA or other statutory provision applicable to USAID); and/or 2) former U.S. Government (USG) direct-hire, under either civilian and/or military service.

(3)

(i) AL is provided under this contract for the purposes of affording necessary rest and recreation during the period of performance. The contractor, in consultation with the USAID Mission or USAID/Washington, as appropriate, shall develop an AL schedule early in the contractor's period of performance, taking into consideration project requirements, employee preference, and other factors. All AL earned by the contractor must be used during the contractor's period of performance. All AL earned by the contractor, but not taken by the end of the contract, will be forfeited. However, to prevent forfeiture of AL, the Contracting Officer may approve the contractor taking AL during the concluding weeks of the contractor's period of performance.

(ii) As an exception to 3(i) above, the contractor may receive a lump-sum payment for leave not taken. To approve this exception, the contractor's supervisor must provide the Contracting Officer with a signed, written Determination and Findings (D&F). The D&F must set out the facts and circumstances that prevented the contractor from taking AL, and the Contracting Officer must find that these facts and circumstances were not caused

**Solicitation for a USPSC Food Security and Markets Advisor  
72DFFP19R00020**

by, or were beyond the control of, the contractor. This leave payment must not exceed the number of days which could be earned by the contractor during a twelve-month period.

(4) With the approval of the Mission Director or cognizant AA, as appropriate, and if the circumstances warrant, a Contracting Officer may grant the contractor advance AL in excess of the amount earned, but in no case may the Contracting Officer grant advance AL in excess of the amount earned in one year or over the life of the contract, whichever is less. The contractor agrees to reimburse USAID for any outstanding balance of advance AL provided during the contractor's assignment under the contract.

(5) Offerors for PSC positions will provide evidence of their PSC and/or USG direct-hire service - civilian and/or military experience, as applicable, on their signed and dated application form required under USAID policy. By signing the appropriate form, the offeror attests to the accuracy of the information provided. Any offeror providing incorrect information is subject to the penalty provisions in the form. If required to satisfy due diligence requirements on behalf of the Contracting Officer, the contractor may be required to furnish evidence that verifies length of service, e.g., SF 50, DD Form 214, and/or signed contracts.

**(b) Sick Leave.**

The contractor may use sick leave on the same basis and for the same purposes as USAID U.S. direct hire employees. Sick leave is earned at a rate not to exceed four (4) hours every two (2) weeks for a total of 13 work-days per year. Unused sick leave may be carried over under an extension or renewal of this contract with the same individual for the same work. Otherwise, sick leave will not be carried over from one post to another or from one contract to another. The contractor will not be compensated for unused sick leave upon completion of this contract.

**(c) Home Leave.**

(1) Home leave is leave earned for service abroad for use only in the U.S., its commonwealths, possessions and territories.

(2) A USPSC who has served at least two years overseas at the same USAID Mission, under the same contract, as defined in paragraph (c)(4) below, and has not taken more than 30 work days leave (annual, sick or LWOP) in the U.S. may be granted home leave in accordance with the following:

- (i) if the USPSC returns to the same overseas post upon completion of home leave for an additional two (2) years under the same contract, the USPSC will receive home leave, to be taken at one time, for a period of 30 work days; or
- if the USPSC returns to the same overseas post upon completion of home leave for such shorter period of not less than one year, as approved in writing by the Mission Director prior to the USPSCs departure on home leave, the USPSC will receive home leave, to be taken at one time, for a period of 30 work days.

**Solicitation for a USPSC Food Security and Markets Advisor  
72DFFP19R00020**

(ii) if the USPSC is returning to a different USAID Mission under a USAID personal services contract immediately following completion of the USPSC's home leave, for an additional two (2) years under contract, or for such shorter period of not less than one (1) year, as approved by the Mission Directors of the "losing" and "gaining" Missions, the contractor will receive home leave, to be taken at one time, for a period of not more than 20 work days. When the PSC is returning to a different USAID Mission, the former Mission will pay for the home leave regardless of what country the PSC will be working in following the home leave;

(iii) if home leave eligibility is based on (c)(2)(ii) above, the USPSC must submit written verification to the losing Mission at the time home leave is requested that the USPSC has accepted a USAID personal services contract at another USAID Mission following completion of the home leave;

(iv) travel time by the most direct route is authorized in addition to the number of work days authorized for home leave;

(v) home leave must be taken in the U.S., its commonwealths, possessions or territories, and any days spent elsewhere will be charged to annual leave (AL.) If the PSC does not have accrued AL, the PSC will be placed on LWOP.

(vi) if the PSC does not complete the additional service required under (c)(2)(i) or (ii) (that the Contracting Officer finds are other than for reasons beyond the PSC's control), the cost of home leave, travel and transportation and any other related costs must be repaid by the PSC to the Government.

(3) Notwithstanding the requirement in paragraph (c)(2) above, that the USPSC must have served two (2) years overseas under personal services contract with the same Mission to be eligible for home leave, the USPSC may be granted advance home leave subject to all of the following conditions:

(i) Granting of advanced home leave would in each case serve to advance the attainment of the objectives of this contract; and

(ii) The USPSC has served a minimum of 18 months in the Cooperating Country under this contract; and

(iii) The USPSC agrees to return to the Cooperating Country to serve out the remaining time necessary to meet two (2) years of service overseas, plus an additional two (2) years under the current contract or under a new contract for the same or similar services at the same Mission. If approved in advance by the Mission Director, the USPSC may return to serve out any remainder of the two (2) year requirement for service overseas, plus an additional period of not less than one (1) year under the current contract or under a new contract for the same or similar services at the same Mission.

**Solicitation for a USPSC Food Security and Markets Advisor  
72DFFP19R00020**

(4) The period of service overseas required under paragraph (c)(2), or paragraph (c)(3) above, will include the actual days in orientation in the U.S. (less language training). The actual days overseas begin on the date of arrival in the cooperating country inclusive of authorized delays enroute. Allowable annual and sick leave taken while overseas, but not LWOP, shall be included in the required period of service overseas. An amount equal to the number of days of annual and sick leave taken in the U.S., its commonwealths, possessions or territories will be added to the required period of service overseas.

(5) Salary during the travel to and from the U.S., for home leave will be limited to the time required for travel by the most expeditious air route. Except for reasons beyond the USPSC's control as determined by the Contracting Officer, the USPSC must return to duty after home leave and complete the additional required service or be responsible for reimbursing USAID for payments made during home leave. Unused home leave is not reimbursable under this contract, nor can it be taken incrementally in separate time periods.

(6) Home leave must be taken at one time, and to the extent deemed necessary by the Contracting Officer, an USPSC in the U.S., on home leave may be authorized to spend not more than five (5) days in work status for consultation at USAID/Washington before returning to post. Consultation at locations other than USAID/Washington as well as any time in excess of five (5) days spent for consultation must be approved by the Mission Director or the Contracting Officer.

**(d) Home Leave for Qualifying Posts (HLQP).**

USPSCs who ordinarily qualify for home leave and have completed a 12-month assignment at one of the USAID qualifying posts (currently Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan) are entitled to take ten (10) workdays of leave in addition to the home leave an USPSCs is normally entitled to under the contract in accordance with sub-paragraphs (c)(1) - (6) above. This additional home leave is provided pursuant to an amendment to the Foreign Service Act of 1980 signed by the President on June 15, 2006.

There is no requirement that an eligible USPSC take this additional leave; it is for optional use by the USPSC. If an eligible USPSC elects to take HLQP, the USPSC must take ten (10) workdays of home leave. If the USPSC is returning to the United States and not returning overseas to the same or different USAID Mission, HLQP will not apply.

This new home leave policy is also extended to qualifying **Third-Country National PSCs (TCNPSCs)** who have an approved exception under AIDAR Appendix J, sec. 4(c)(2)(ii)(B), to apply specific provisions from AIDAR Appendix D, and whose contract includes this General Provision. However, TCNPSCs will be granted "country leave" vice home leave. The application, requirements, and restrictions will be the same as for USPSCs, but the time taken by a TCNPSC will be taken in the TCNPSC's home country or country of recruitment rather than in the United States, its commonwealths and territories.

**(e) Holidays and Excused Absences.**

**Solicitation for a USPSC Food Security and Markets Advisor  
72DFFP19R00020**

The contractor shall be entitled to all holidays and or excused absences granted by the USAID to U.S. direct-hire employees.

**(f) Military Leave.**

Military leave of not more than 15 calendar days in any calendar year may be granted to a contractor who is a reservist of the U.S. Armed Forces. The contractor must provide advance notice of the pending military leave to the Contracting Officer or the Mission Director as soon as known. A copy of any such notice must be part of the contract file.

**(g) Leave Without Pay (LWOP).**

LWOP may be granted only with the written approval of the Contracting Officer or Mission Director, unless a USPSC is requesting for such leave for family and leave purposes under paragraph (i) below.

**(h) Compensatory Time.**

Compensatory time leave may be granted only with the written approval of the Contracting Officer or Mission Director in rare instances when it has been determined absolutely essential and used under those guidelines which apply to USAID U.S. direct-hire employees.

**(i) Family and Medical Leave (FML)**

- (1) USAID provides family and medical leave (FML) for eligible USPSCs working within the U.S., or any Territories or possession of the United States, in accordance with Title I of the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993, as amended, and as administered by the Department of Labor under [29 CFR 825](#). USAID is also extending FML to eligible USPSCs working outside the U.S., or any Territories or possession of the U.S., in accordance with this paragraph (i) as a matter of policy discretion.
- (2) FML only applies to USPSCs, not any other type of PSC.
- (3) To be eligible for FML, a USPSC must have been employed (i) for at least 12 months by USAID; and (ii) for at least 1,250 hours of service with USAID during the previous 12-month period. The specific eligibility criteria and requirements are provided in USAID policy.
- (4) In accordance with [29 CFR 825.200\(a\)](#) and USAID policy, an eligible USPSC may take up to 12 workweeks of leave under FMLA, Title I, in any 12-month period for the following reasons:
  - (a) The care of the USPSC's newborn child.
  - (b) The care of the USPSC's newly placed adopted or foster care child.
  - (c) The care of the USPSC's spouse, child or parent with a serious health condition.
  - (d) The USPSC's own serious health condition.
  - (e) A qualifying exigency arising from the USPSC's spouse, child or parent in active duty military status.
  - (f) Other qualifying exigencies as determined by the Department of Labor.

**Solicitation for a USPSC Food Security and Markets Advisor  
72DFFP19R00020**

- (5) In accordance with 29 CFR Part 825.207, the USPSC may take LWOP for FML purposes. However, the USPSC may choose to substitute LWOP with accrued paid leave, including accrued annual or sick leave, or compensatory time earned under this contract. If the USPSC does not choose to substitute accrued paid leave, the CO, in consultation with the USPSC's supervisor, may require the USPSC to substitute accrued paid leave for LWOP. The CO must verify the accuracy of the USPSC's accrued paid leave request and obtain the required certifications for approval of FML in accordance with the stated USAID policy.
- (6) FML is not authorized for any period beyond the completion date of this contract.
- (7) When requesting FML, the USPSC must demonstrate eligibility to the USPSC's supervisor by completing USAID's FML request forms, including certifications and other supporting documents required by USAID policy.
- (8) The U.S. Department of Labor's (DOL's) [Wage and Hour Division \(WHD\) Publication 1420](#) explains the FMLA's provisions and provides information concerning procedures for filing complaints for violations of the Act.

**(j) Leave Records.**

The contractor shall maintain current leave records for himself/herself and make them available, as requested by the Mission Director or the Contracting Officer.

[END PROVISION]



**Solicitation for a USPSC Food Security and Markets Advisor  
72DFFP19R00020**

**ATTACHMENT 3**

**Title 48 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Chapter 7  
USAID Acquisition Regulation (AIDAR)**

**APPENDIX D--DIRECT USAID CONTRACTS WITH A U.S. CITIZEN OR A U.S.  
RESIDENT ALIEN FOR PERSONAL SERVICES ABROAD**

**GP 25. MEDICAL EVACUATION (MEDEVAC) SERVICES (MAY 2018)  
(Pursuant to class deviation #M/OAA-DEV-AIDAR-18-3c)**

USAID will provide Medevac services to the contractor and authorized dependents, through the Department of State's Bureau for Medical Services (MED), similar to those provided to U.S. Government employees in accordance with 16 FAM 300 Medical Travel. Medevac costs include travel and per diem, but do not include medical care costs. To be covered by the Medevac program, the contractor and authorized dependents must obtain and maintain international health insurance coverage that includes overseas hospitalization, and must provide proof of such insurance to the contracting officer prior to relocation abroad.

[END PROVISION]

**Solicitation for a USPSC Food Security and Markets Advisor  
72DFFP19R00020**

**ATTACHMENT 4**

**52.222-50 COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS (JAN 2019)**

(a) *Definitions.* As used in this clause—

“*Agent*” means any individual, including a director, an officer, an employee, or an independent contractor, authorized to act on behalf of the organization.

“*Coercion*” means—

(1) Threats of serious harm to or physical restraint against any person;

(2) Any scheme, plan, or pattern intended to cause a person to believe that failure to perform an act would result in serious harm to or physical restraint against any person; or

(3) The abuse or threatened abuse of the legal process.

“*Commercial sex act*” means any sex act on account of which anything of value is given to or received by any person.

“*Commercially available off-the-shelf (COTS) item*” means—

(1) Any item of supply (including construction material) that is—

(i) A commercial item (as defined in paragraph (1) of the definition at FAR 2.101);

(ii) Sold in substantial quantities in the commercial marketplace; and

(iii) Offered to the Government, under a contract or subcontract at any tier, without modification, in the same form in which it is sold in the commercial marketplace; and

(2) Does not include bulk cargo, as defined in 46 U.S.C. 40102(4), such as agricultural products and petroleum products.

“*Debt bondage*” means the status or condition of a debtor arising from a pledge by the debtor of his or her personal services or of those of a person under his or her control as a security for debt, if the value of those services as reasonably assessed is not applied toward the liquidation of the debt or the length and nature of those services are not respectively limited and defined.

“*Employee*” means an employee of the Contractor directly engaged in the performance of work under the contract who has other than a minimal impact or involvement in contract performance.

“*Forced Labor*” means knowingly providing or obtaining the labor or services of a person—

**Solicitation for a USPSC Food Security and Markets Advisor  
72DFFP19R00020**

(1) By threats of serious harm to, or physical restraint against, that person or another person;

(2) By means of any scheme, plan, or pattern intended to cause the person to believe that, if the person did not perform such labor or services, that person or another person would suffer serious harm or physical restraint; or

(3) By means of the abuse or threatened abuse of law or the legal process.

“*Involuntary servitude*” includes a condition of servitude induced by means of—

(1) Any scheme, plan, or pattern intended to cause a person to believe that, if the person did not enter into or continue in such conditions, that person or another person would suffer serious harm or physical restraint; or

(2) The abuse or threatened abuse of the legal process.

“*Recruitment fees*” means fees of any type, including charges, costs, assessments, or other financial obligations, that are associated with the recruiting process, regardless of the time, manner, or location of imposition or collection of the fee.

(1) Recruitment fees include, but are not limited to, the following fees (when they are associated with the recruiting process) for—

(i) Soliciting, identifying, considering, interviewing, referring, retaining, transferring, selecting, training, providing orientation to, skills testing, recommending, or placing employees or potential employees;

(ii) Advertising;

(iii) Obtaining permanent or temporary labor certification, including any associated fees;

(iv) Processing applications and petitions;

(v) Acquiring visas, including any associated fees;

(vi) Acquiring photographs and identity or immigration documents, such as passports, including any associated fees;

(vii) Accessing the job opportunity, including required medical examinations and immunizations; background, reference, and security clearance checks and examinations; and additional certifications;

(viii) An employer's recruiters, agents or attorneys, or other notary or legal fees;

**Solicitation for a USPSC Food Security and Markets Advisor  
72DFFP19R00020**

(ix) Language interpretation or translation, arranging for or accompanying on travel, or providing other advice to employees or potential employees;

(x) Government-mandated fees, such as border crossing fees, levies, or worker welfare funds;

(xi) Transportation and subsistence costs—

(A) While in transit, including, but not limited to, airfare or costs of other modes of transportation, terminal fees, and travel taxes associated with travel from the country of origin to the country of performance and the return journey upon the end of employment; and

(B) From the airport or disembarkation point to the worksite;

(xii) Security deposits, bonds, and insurance; and

(xiii) Equipment charges.

(2) A recruitment fee, as described in the introductory text of this definition, is a recruitment fee, regardless of whether the payment is—

(i) Paid in property or money;

(ii) Deducted from wages;

(iii) Paid back in wage or benefit concessions;

(iv) Paid back as a kickback, bribe, in-kind payment, free labor, tip, or tribute; or

(v) Collected by an employer or a third party, whether licensed or unlicensed, including, but not limited to—

(A) Agents;

(B) Labor brokers;

(C) Recruiters;

(D) Staffing firms (including private employment and placement firms);

(E) Subsidiaries/affiliates of the employer;

(F) Any agent or employee of such entities; and

(G) Subcontractors at all tiers.

**Solicitation for a USPSC Food Security and Markets Advisor  
72DFFP19R00020**

“*Severe forms of trafficking*” in persons means—

(1) Sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age; or

(2) The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.

“*Sex trafficking*” means the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act.

“*Subcontract*” means any contract entered into by a subcontractor to furnish supplies or services for performance of a prime contract or a subcontract.

“*Subcontractor*” means any supplier, distributor, vendor, or firm that furnishes supplies or services to or for a prime contractor or another subcontractor.

“*United States*” means the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and outlying areas.

(b) *Policy*. The United States Government has adopted a policy prohibiting trafficking in persons including the trafficking-related activities of this clause. Contractors, contractor employees, and their agents shall not—

(1) Engage in severe forms of trafficking in persons during the period of performance of the contract;

(2) Procure commercial sex acts during the period of performance of the contract;

(3) Use forced labor in the performance of the contract;

(4) Destroy, conceal, confiscate, or otherwise deny access by an employee to the employee's identity or immigration documents, such as passports or drivers' licenses, regardless of issuing authority;

(5) (i) Use misleading or fraudulent practices during the recruitment of employees or offering of employment, such as failing to disclose, in a format and language understood by the employee or potential employee, basic information or making material misrepresentations during the recruitment of employees regarding the key terms and conditions of employment, including wages and fringe benefits, the location of work, the living conditions, housing and associated costs (if employer or agent provided or arranged), any significant costs to be charged to the employee or potential employee, and, if applicable, the hazardous nature of the work;

(ii) Use recruiters that do not comply with local labor laws of the country in which the recruiting takes place;

**Solicitation for a USPSC Food Security and Markets Advisor  
72DFFP19R00020**

(6) Charge employees or potential employees recruitment fees;

(7) (i) Fail to provide return transportation or pay for the cost of return transportation upon the end of employment—

(A) For an employee who is not a national of the country in which the work is taking place and who was brought into that country for the purpose of working on a U.S. Government contract or subcontract (for portions of contracts performed outside the United States); or

(B) For an employee who is not a United States national and who was brought into the United States for the purpose of working on a U.S. Government contract or subcontract, if the payment of such costs is required under existing temporary worker programs or pursuant to a written agreement with the employee (for portions of contracts performed inside the United States); except that—

(ii) The requirements of paragraphs (b)(7)(i) of this clause shall not apply to an employee who is—

(A) Legally permitted to remain in the country of employment and who chooses to do so; or

(B) Exempted by an authorized official of the contracting agency from the requirement to provide return transportation or pay for the cost of return transportation;

(iii) The requirements of paragraph (b)(7)(i) of this clause are modified for a victim of trafficking in persons who is seeking victim services or legal redress in the country of employment, or for a witness in an enforcement action related to trafficking in persons. The contractor shall provide the return transportation or pay the cost of return transportation in a way that does not obstruct the victim services, legal redress, or witness activity. For example, the contractor shall not only offer return transportation to a witness at a time when the witness is still needed to testify. This paragraph does not apply when the exemptions at paragraph (b)(7)(ii) of this clause apply.

(8) Provide or arrange housing that fails to meet the host country housing and safety standards; or

(9) If required by law or contract, fail to provide an employment contract, recruitment agreement, or other required work document in writing. Such written work document shall be in a language the employee understands. If the employee must relocate to perform the work, the work document shall be provided to the employee at least five days prior to the employee relocating. The employee's work document shall include, but is not limited to, details about work description, wages, prohibition on charging recruitment fees, work location(s), living accommodations and associated costs, time off, roundtrip transportation arrangements, grievance process, and the content of applicable laws and regulations that prohibit trafficking in persons.

**Solicitation for a USPSC Food Security and Markets Advisor  
72DFFP19R00020**

(c) *Contractor requirements.* The Contractor shall—

(1) Notify its employees and agents of—

(i) The United States Government's policy prohibiting trafficking in persons, described in paragraph (b) of this clause; and

(ii) The actions that will be taken against employees or agents for violations of this policy. Such actions for employees may include, but are not limited to, removal from the contract, reduction in benefits, or termination of employment; and

(2) Take appropriate action, up to and including termination, against employees, agents, or subcontractors that violate the policy in paragraph (b) of this clause.

(d) *Notification.* The Contractor shall—

(1) Inform the Contracting Officer and the agency Inspector General immediately of—

(i) Any credible information it receives from any source (including host country law enforcement) that alleges a Contractor employee, subcontractor, subcontractor employee, or their agent has engaged in conduct that violates the policy in paragraph (b) of this clause (see also 18 U.S.C. 1351, Fraud in Foreign Labor Contracting, and 52.203-13(b)(3)(i)(A), if that clause is included in the solicitation or contract, which requires disclosure to the agency Office of the Inspector General when the Contractor has credible evidence of fraud); and

(ii) Any actions taken against a Contractor employee, subcontractor, subcontractor employee, or their agent pursuant to this clause.

(2) If the allegation may be associated with more than one contract, the Contractor shall inform the contracting officer for the contract with the highest dollar value.

(e) *Remedies.* In addition to other remedies available to the Government, the Contractor's failure to comply with the requirements of paragraphs (c), (d), (g), (h), or (i) of this clause may result in—

(1) Requiring the Contractor to remove a Contractor employee or employees from the performance of the contract;

(2) Requiring the Contractor to terminate a subcontract;

(3) Suspension of contract payments until the Contractor has taken appropriate remedial action;

(4) Loss of award fee, consistent with the award fee plan, for the performance period in which the Government determined Contractor non-compliance;

**Solicitation for a USPSC Food Security and Markets Advisor  
72DFFP19R00020**

(5) Declining to exercise available options under the contract;

(6) Termination of the contract for default or cause, in accordance with the termination clause of this contract; or

(7) Suspension or debarment.

(f) *Mitigating and aggravating factors.* When determining remedies, the Contracting Officer may consider the following:

(1) *Mitigating factors.* The Contractor had a Trafficking in Persons compliance plan or an awareness program at the time of the violation, was in compliance with the plan, and has taken appropriate remedial actions for the violation, that may include reparation to victims for such violations.

(2) *Aggravating factors.* The Contractor failed to abate an alleged violation or enforce the requirements of a compliance plan, when directed by the Contracting Officer to do so.

(g) *Full cooperation.* (1) The Contractor shall, at a minimum—

(i) Disclose to the agency Inspector General information sufficient to identify the nature and extent of an offense and the individuals responsible for the conduct;

(ii) Provide timely and complete responses to Government auditors' and investigators' requests for documents;

(iii) Cooperate fully in providing reasonable access to its facilities and staff (both inside and outside the U.S.) to allow contracting agencies and other responsible Federal agencies to conduct audits, investigations, or other actions to ascertain compliance with the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. chapter 78), E.O. 13627, or any other applicable law or regulation establishing restrictions on trafficking in persons, the procurement of commercial sex acts, or the use of forced labor; and

(iv) Protect all employees suspected of being victims of or witnesses to prohibited activities, prior to returning to the country from which the employee was recruited, and shall not prevent or hinder the ability of these employees from cooperating fully with Government authorities.

(2) The requirement for full cooperation does not foreclose any Contractor rights arising in law, the FAR, or the terms of the contract. It does not—

(i) Require the Contractor to waive its attorney-client privilege or the protections afforded by the attorney work product doctrine;

(ii) Require any officer, director, owner, employee, or agent of the Contractor, including a sole proprietor, to waive his or her attorney client privilege or Fifth Amendment rights; or



**Solicitation for a USPSC Food Security and Markets Advisor  
72DFFP19R00020**

(iii) Restrict the Contractor from—

(A) Conducting an internal investigation; or

(B) Defending a proceeding or dispute arising under the contract or related to a potential or disclosed violation.

(h) *Compliance plan.* (1) This paragraph (h) applies to any portion of the contract that—

(i) Is for supplies, other than commercially available off-the-shelf items, acquired outside the United States, or services to be performed outside the United States; and

(ii) Has an estimated value that exceeds \$500,000.

(2) The Contractor shall maintain a compliance plan during the performance of the contract that is appropriate—

(i) To the size and complexity of the contract; and

(ii) To the nature and scope of the activities to be performed for the Government, including the number of non-United States citizens expected to be employed and the risk that the contract or subcontract will involve services or supplies susceptible to trafficking in persons.

(3) *Minimum requirements.* The compliance plan must include, at a minimum, the following:

(i) An awareness program to inform contractor employees about the Government's policy prohibiting trafficking-related activities described in paragraph (b) of this clause, the activities prohibited, and the actions that will be taken against the employee for violations. Additional information about Trafficking in Persons and examples of awareness programs can be found at the Web site for the Department of State's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons at <http://www.state.gov/j/tip/>.

(ii) A process for employees to report, without fear of retaliation, activity inconsistent with the policy prohibiting trafficking in persons, including a means to make available to all employees the hotline phone number of the Global Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-844-888-FREE and its email address at [help@befree.org](mailto:help@befree.org).

(iii) A recruitment and wage plan that only permits the use of recruitment companies with trained employees, prohibits charging recruitment fees to the employee or potential employee, and ensures that wages meet applicable host-country legal requirements or explains any variance.

(iv) A housing plan, if the Contractor or subcontractor intends to provide or arrange housing, that ensures that the housing meets host-country housing and safety standards.

(v) Procedures to prevent agents and subcontractors at any tier and at any dollar value from engaging in trafficking in persons (including activities in paragraph (b) of this clause) and to

**Solicitation for a USPSC Food Security and Markets Advisor  
72DFFP19R00020**

monitor, detect, and terminate any agents, subcontracts, or subcontractor employees that have engaged in such activities.

(4) *Posting.* (i) The Contractor shall post the relevant contents of the compliance plan, no later than the initiation of contract performance, at the workplace (unless the work is to be performed in the field or not in a fixed location) and on the Contractor's Web site (if one is maintained). If posting at the workplace or on the Web site is impracticable, the Contractor shall provide the relevant contents of the compliance plan to each worker in writing.

(ii) The Contractor shall provide the compliance plan to the Contracting Officer upon request.

(5) *Certification.* Annually after receiving an award, the Contractor shall submit a certification to the Contracting Officer that—

(i) It has implemented a compliance plan to prevent any prohibited activities identified at paragraph (b) of this clause and to monitor, detect, and terminate any agent, subcontract or subcontractor employee engaging in prohibited activities; and

(ii) After having conducted due diligence, either—

(A) To the best of the Contractor's knowledge and belief, neither it nor any of its agents, subcontractors, or their agents is engaged in any such activities; or

(B) If abuses relating to any of the prohibited activities identified in paragraph (b) of this clause have been found, the Contractor or subcontractor has taken the appropriate remedial and referral actions.

(i) *Subcontracts.* (1) The Contractor shall include the substance of this clause, including this paragraph (i), in all subcontracts and in all contracts with agents. The requirements in paragraph (h) of this clause apply only to any portion of the subcontract that—

(A) Is for supplies, other than commercially available off-the-shelf items, acquired outside the United States, or services to be performed outside the United States; and

(B) Has an estimated value that exceeds \$500,000.

(2) If any subcontractor is required by this clause to submit a certification, the Contractor shall require submission prior to the award of the subcontract and annually thereafter. The certification shall cover the items in paragraph (h)(5) of this clause.

[END OF CLAUSE]