



December 6, 2022

VIA EMAIL: [FOIARequest@state.gov](mailto:FOIARequest@state.gov)

U.S. Department of State  
Office of Information Programs and Services  
2201 C Street N.W., Suite B266  
Washington, DC 20250-0000

**Freedom of Information Act Request: Records regarding Federal Award Identification Numbers (FAIN) SGECPD22CA0036, SLMAQM18GR2177, SLMAQM19CA2246, SMJ19019GR0016, SAS20022CA0050, SBE30019CA0012, SNL80021GR3024.**

Dear FOIA Officer:

America First Legal Foundation is a national, nonprofit organization working to promote the rule of law in the United States, prevent executive overreach, and ensure due process and equal protection for all Americans, all to promote public knowledge and understanding of the law and individual rights guaranteed under the Constitution and laws of the United States. To that end, we file Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests on issues of pressing public concern, then disseminate the information we obtain, making documents broadly available to the public, scholars, and the media. Using our editorial skills to turn raw materials into distinct work, we distribute that work to a national audience through traditional and social media platforms. AFL's email list contains over 33,500 unique addresses, our Facebook page has 86,000 followers, our Twitter page has 25,000 followers, the Twitter page of our Founder and President has over 336,000 followers, and we have another 31,500 followers on GETTR.

## **I. Requested Records**

- A. For the Federal Award Identification Numbers (FAIN) SGECPD22CA0036, SLMAQM18GR2177, SLMAQM19CA2246, SMJ19019GR0016, SAS20022CA0050, SBE30019CA0012, SNL80021GR3024:
1. All records of the Notice of Funding Opportunity;
  2. All records of the Notice of Award;
  3. All records of the Application submitted for which funding was awarded;

4. All records of grant agreements, cooperative agreements, other agreements for assistance covered in § 200.40 Federal financial assistance of the OMB Uniform Grant Guidance;
5. All records of Reporting received from the Recipient during the post award phase, including closeout; and
6. All records of Audits conducted during the post award phase.
7. All telegraphic communications related to the above rewards referencing:
  - i. Moonshot
  - ii. National Endowment for Democracy
  - iii. Digital Public Square
  - iv. Atlantski Savez
  - v. Atlantic Council
  - vi. Australian Strategic Policy Institute
  - vii. Stichting Sofisterij

B. All records relating to or regarding the processing of the above items.

## **II. Processing Requirements**

Processing should occur in strict compliance with the processing guidance in the Attorney General's Memorandum on Freedom of Information Act Guidelines.<sup>1</sup> If you have any questions about our request or believe further discussions regarding search and processing would facilitate a more efficient production of records of interest to AFL, then please contact me at FOIA@aflegal.org.

## **III. Fee Waiver Request**

Per 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii), AFL requests a waiver of all search and duplication fees associated with this request.

First, AFL is a qualified non-commercial public education and news media requester. AFL has demonstrated its commitment to the public disclosure of documents and creation of editorial content through regular substantive analyses posted to its website. For example, its officials routinely appear on national television and use social media platforms to disseminate the information it has obtained about federal government activities. In this case, AFL will make your records and your responses publicly available for the benefit of citizens, scholars, and others. The public's understanding of your policies and practices with respect to the important topic of the GEC's grant application and review process will be enhanced through AFL's analysis and publication of the requested records. As a nonprofit organization, AFL

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<sup>1</sup> U.S. DEP'T JUST. (Mar. 15, 2022), <https://bit.ly/3zvpxb6>.

does not have a commercial purpose and the release of the information requested is not in AFL's financial interest.

Second, waiver is proper as disclosure of the requested information is "in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of operations or activities of the government."

#### **IV. Production**

To accelerate your release of responsive records, AFL welcomes production on an agreed rolling basis. If possible, please provide responsive records in an electronic format by email. Alternatively, please provide responsive records in native format or in PDF format on a USB drive to America First Legal Foundation, 611 Pennsylvania Ave SE #231, Washington, DC 20003.

#### **V. Conclusion**

If you have any questions about how to construe this request or believe further discussions regarding search and processing would facilitate a more efficient production of records of interest to AFL, please do not hesitate to contact me at FOIA@aflegal.org. Finally, if AFL's request for a fee waiver is not granted in full, please contact us immediately upon making that determination.

Thank you,

/s/ Tyler J. Sanderson

Tyler J. Sanderson, Counsel  
America First Legal Foundation