KISSA KAHANI
SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
Operation Asha, in partnership with The Center for Interdisciplinary Inquiry and Innovation in Sexual and Reproductive Health (Ci3) at the University of Chicago, are pleased to announce this call for proposals for the Kissa Kahani Small Grants Program.

The Kissa Kahani Small Grants Program invites youth-led organizations to submit their ideas for improving sexual and reproductive health of adolescents. We define youth-led organizations as organizations that serve youth, whose work and programmatic activities are informed by youth, involve young people as part of the decision making process, and/or have youth as part of its staff and leadership.

Organizations are invited to apply for up to 6.71 Lakh Rs. to work with young people to pilot solutions to issues identified through our research.

**Deadline: September 30, 2016**

About Kissa Kahani

Kissa Kahani, conducted in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, uses storytelling, and innovative research techniques to understand youth’s perspectives and experience with issues of gender equity, sexual and reproductive health, and family planning.
What are we learning about the lives of youth ages 15-24 living in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh?

Through our research we have learned about the hopes and aspirations of young people. They describe their wish for a more equitable life where they have access to high quality education, know about their health and bodies, can build a career, walk to school safely and where they are free from violence within relationships. We have heard stories of early marriage, not having family planning, and being beaten over dowry.

How can youth solve these problems?

We are now looking for youth-led and youth-serving organizations to propose solutions. We welcome proposals that use Kissa Kahani digital stories that involve youth and, that can be scaled across India. The proposed projects can be pilot studies but must have measurable results.

The project should directly respond to one, or more, of the following topics:

- **Health Education**: How might we teach girls and boys about the physical, social and emotional changes that occur as they transition into adolescence?
- **Public Safety**: How might we help girls feel safe as they walk in public spaces?
- **Romantic Relationships**: How might we help young people set positive attitudes and behaviors for healthy relationships?
- **Gender Equality in School**: How might we promote gender equity in a classroom setting and in education in general? How might we keep girls in secondary education?
- **Employment**: How might we assist young women and men to enter into the workforce?
- **Young Men**: How might we support young men in addressing their sexual and reproductive health needs?
- **Gender Identity**: How might we encourage young people to feel more comfortable with their gender identity?
- **Social Media and Online Dating**: How might we deal with emerging challenges for youth sexual and reproductive health from use of online dating services and social media?
- **Self Acceptance**: How might we help young people accept differences in physical appearances and build greater self confidence?
- **Entrepreneurship**: How might we help young people achieve their entrepreneurship potential?
**Timeline**

- RFP is released: August 30, 2016
- Questions about the RFP sent by September 15th, 2016 to kissa.kahani@opasha.org
- Submissions deadline: September 30, 2016
- Awards announcement: October 15, 2016
- Interventions starting date: Between November 1, 2016 and January 31st, 2017 depending on the project.
- Project End: all projects must end by July 30th, 2017. No extensions allowed

Below are the criteria for grant selection:

1. Only not for profit organizations can apply. Applying organizations must be registered as NGOs or private firms under Section 25 of the Companies Act in India. The grant is not open to individuals.
2. Applicants should have a valid FCRA registration to receive grants from outside India. It must continue to be valid till the grant is fully exhausted.
3. Interventions must have a duration of 6 months.
4. Applying organizations can only submit one proposal.
5. Applying organizations must have demonstrated capacity to implement the proposed intervention.
6. Applying organizations must be willing to work with Operation ASHA and its partners like Ci3 in order to ensure proper evaluation of the intervention.
7. Applicants must obtain Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval in India for their interventions.
8. Decision of Operation ASHA will be final in all respects. No enquiries will be entertained in respect of the decision making process or outcomes.
Application Format

All applications must be submitted in English. Applications should comply with the following format. Please submit all applications to kissa.kahani@opasha.org.

Sections:

1. Background Information. *Maximum 1 page.*
   a. Name of Organization
   b. Contact person (email and phone number)
   c. Organization’s website
   d. Summary of organization (300 words)


   a. Concept and theory of change of the proposed Intervention
   b. Description of the expected results, outcomes of interest and their measurement.
   c. Project implementation: clear description of each step of the project implementation, timeline, estimated number of beneficiaries, materials needed, if any. etc. This section should include preparation of engaging with beneficiaries and proposed plan. Please describe how youth are involved, how youth will be consulted, how youth may make decisions with adults, etc. Applications with vague descriptions will not be funded.
   d. Bibliography and references, if needed

4. Budget and budget items justification

5. The applicant must submit the following documents along with the application. Applications without these documents will be considered incomplete and rejected without any further correspondence.
   a. Registration document
   b. FCRA Certificate
   c. Audited financials of the previous financial year

6. Certification: The following must be printed at the end of the application and signed by the CEO and head of finance department of the applicant: “All information given above is true and correct and all docs sent with the application are valid and current at the time of application and will remain so by the end of the Project.”

Formatting:
Font: Arial 12
Left and right margins 1.25”
Top and bottom margins 1”
Line spacing 1.5
Frequently Asked Questions
Q: Can individuals apply?
A: No, only registered organizations can apply.
Q: What kind of support will organizations receive?
A: Aside from financial support, projects will receive monitoring and evaluation support from Operation ASHA and its partners including Ci3 where necessary.
Q: Is there a minimum number of beneficiaries that the projects must reach?
A: No, but we expect that youth will be involved throughout the project.

Contact
Send additional questions to kissa.kahani@opasha.org no later than September 15th, 2016.

How will we choose?

The projects should have clear objectives and measurable outcomes. The theory of change should be clear and describe how the project relates to the issues we have identified in Kissa Kahani. The approach and plans should be clearly described and feasible. The project should be scalable. The most important is that youth will be involved.