



The Shlama Foundation – Concept Paper
Locally Sourced Solutions for Community Resilience (LSSCR)

1. **Proposed Activity Name/Title:**

Vocational Solar Training Program and Installation of Solar-Powered Equipment for Self-Reliance, Security and Agricultural Development

2. **Proposed Period of Performance:** August 2019-August 2021

3. **Total Program Amount** (in USDs): \$865,000

4. **Total Amount of Funding Requested from USAID and total amount leveraged (if applicable), including from what source(s):** \$860,000 from USAID and \$5,000 from The Shlama Foundation for preliminary work, including travel and assessments.

5. **Applicant Organization Name:** The Shlama Foundation

6. **Applicant Contact Person** (name, phone, e-mail):

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7. **Full Address for Applicant Organization:**

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8. **Type of Organization** (e.g., U.S., non-U.S., multilateral, private, for-profit, non-profit) date of incorporation, etc.):

The Shlama Foundation is based in Ankawa-Erbil, Iraq. It is registered in the KRG as a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO). It is also registered in the United States as a federal nonprofit with 501(c)3 status. EIN No: 47-1942727

9. **DUNS Number:** 080897992

(Narrative continued on Page 2)



B. Concept Introduction

Shlama Foundation proposes to procure basic equipment and supplies for light infrastructure. The solar power installations will be facilitated through a vocational job training program. Solar panels will be equipped onto 100 homes. Solar-powered water pumps will restore and improve agricultural productivity for 30 farms, and 40 solar-powered street lights will be installed. Our proposed activities meet the objectives outlined under “Livelihoods and economic opportunities”, such as: procurement of basic equipment/supplies for light infrastructure and restoring or improving agricultural productivity.

Without electricity, communities are unable to stabilize, prosper, or have a sense of security. Electricity is a fundamental requirement that can improve a community’s capabilities and government services. Electricity can carve out a multitude of improvements to advance a society’s redevelopment.

The proposed activities will empower unemployed electrical and mechanical engineers to use their education and skill sets to benefit impoverished, small farming communities in the Nineveh Plains. These engineers will execute the project milestones through the education gained from a vocational solar training program provided by a Shlama Foundation engineer.

Solar power will utilize the region’s abundant sun energy to eliminate power outages that have caused many hardships for many small farming communities, which impeded their growth. Solar power will also eliminate diesel generators that emit dangerous fumes and are extremely expensive, leading farmers to divert much needed funds from other life necessities, such as education for their children, to pay for the diesel fuel.

C. Beneficiaries

Due to the lack of economic stability, job opportunities are unavailable for the majority of civilians in the Nineveh Plains, many of whom are equipped with STEM degrees. Shlama Foundation is aware of the need for jobs and electricity. If this program is approved, it will provide job skills to unemployed, yet educated, civilians with engineering degrees. Then, they can apply these newly acquired skills for future solar installation projects in the region.

If solar equipment is installed and successful in the first village, the process can be repeated in nearby villages and businesses. Shlama Foundation’s project managers and engineers will estimate, plan, implement and maintain the installation of solar panels to create the following potential outcomes:

- **Economic growth:** *Solar water pumps create or improve agricultural development, which adds a food source and provides job opportunities. There will also be new jobs in renewable energy, as well as the potential opportunity to sell/distribute any excess power.*
- **Better Access to Education:** *Electricity improves internet connectivity for academic studies*
- **Security:** *Electricity increases access to Media to be informed of ISIS or other impending threats. Well-lit neighborhoods provide added daily safety. The added electricity will also cut disenfranchisement with local and central government actors due to faulty, electricity-related grievances.*



C. Beneficiaries (continued)

- **Greater Communication Opportunities:** *Improving Media Access i.e. Publications, Radio Stations, TV, Internet*
- **Self-Reliance:** *Families will save money and have an independent power source.*

D. Geographic Location

Shlama Foundation proposes to operate the first solar training and implementation project in the town of Tesqopa of the Telkaif District, which is located within the Nineveh Plains province.

Tesqopa is an Assyrian/Chaldean/Syriac town in northern Iraq located approximately 19 miles north of Mosul. In 2010, it had a population of 11,000 most of whom were ethnic Assyrian Chaldean Syriac belonging to the Chaldean Catholic Church. The town was held by ISIS between August 2014 and May 2016. There are now 4,635 people living in Tesqopa. If there is opportunity for redevelopment and stability, many former residents may return and resettle in Tesqopa.

E. Intervention Approach

A common issue faced in the Nineveh Plains is the availability of consistent and ample infrastructure, which is complicated by the fact that it falls in disputed territory. Villages and towns supplement government-provided electricity with personal generators or private suppliers. The generators typically have no filters and emit toxic, visibly dark fumes into the air. It is also expensive to continue purchasing fuel for daily use. The solar power installation project would exist complementary to the government-provided electricity and eliminate the need for generators. It would also provide additional power through solar-powered street lights, promoting security and community activity.

Implementing solar power is an innovative approach to self-reliance for vulnerable communities in the Nineveh Plains through the use of renewable energy. The area receives at least 3,000 sunlight hours per year, which makes it a great candidate for solar power. The solar power equipment will not only provide electricity, but it will power water pumps to distribute groundwater to farmed land to support agriculture.

Tesqopa is heavily reliant on agriculture, which is Iraq's third largest employer and economic contributor after oil and the government sector. Lack of affordable irrigation solutions has contributed to an irrigation crisis, particularly during years when water supply is scarce due to regular droughts and river dams cutting the flow from neighboring countries. For the villages and towns in the plains, groundwater is the major source of water for irrigation.

The Shlama Foundation's solar training program will sub-contract with local engineering graduates who struggle to find employment. After the recruitment and application process, training will be conducted. The engineers will be educated on the solar panels, equipment, installation and long-term maintenance to ensure project sustainability. The engineers will develop a new, unique skill and will be trained to continue providing maintenance services.

E. Intervention Approach (continued)

Considering that many towns and villages in the Nineveh Plains are in close proximity to one another, scaling the project throughout the region with the same workforce is entirely feasible. The engineers will have the opportunity to refine their knowledge and skills during training and side-by-side installations. In addition to maintenance work, the engineers could pursue solar pump sales via demonstrations after the initial project is complete.

Similarly, a USAID-funded organization called “Kenya Smallholder Solar Irrigation” (KSSI) conducted 16,000 demonstrations to small farms and sold 186 solar pumps. One of the best examples, however, is in India, where around 200 million people live off the grid. In 2012, the government announced a 30% subsidy for solar lanterns and lights. That year, 910,504 solar lanterns, 861,654 solar home lights and 7,771 solar water pumping systems were installed in the country. The country also approved the installation of a solar power plant that would power 4,115 schools. Today, India generates about 12 times as much solar power since then, which was all inspired by the rural villages and towns with little to no access to power.

A potential conflict could be getting the residents to initially warm up to the idea of implementing a project that is culturally different from their current way of life. However, many residents are in desperate need of opportunities to improve the quality of life for their family. The other challenge is that Shlama works in disputed territory. Security checkpoint issues can impact the timeline.

F. Intervention Results

We expect to measure four major outcomes from the implementation of solar power: (1) eliminate toxic generator fumes; (2) save struggling families money; (3) create jobs in the renewable energy field; and (4) develop agricultural systems.

During the preliminary phase, once the exact homes and farms are identified for the project, their supplemental electricity will be measured in multiple ways:

- Amount the project participants spend on generators or private electricity (day, month, year, lifetime)
- Amount the project participants are expected to save after project implementation (per day, month, year, lifetime)
- Amount of toxic fumes emitted by the current supplemental electricity
- Expected reduction of generator fumes after solar power is implemented
- The current irrigation status of each farming participant
- Number of jobs created by the project

During the implementation of the project, new impacts may be identified. After the implementation, the results will be measured over time:

- Amount the project participants save on generators or private electricity over time
- Amount of toxic fumes eliminated by the project
- Job impact during the project and over time
- Impact of the solar water pump installations of each farming participant
- Obstacles faced during implementation



F. Intervention Results (continued)

Shlama is known for valuing data and media and would be committed to collecting all measurement information comprehensively and sharing the productivity and outcome regularly.

Shlama is deeply committed to the well-being of people in the Nineveh Plains and surrounding areas. Renewable energy would be good for the community's economic growth, health, safety and re-habitation post-ISIS.

G. Capacity of the Applicant(s)

The Shlama Foundation is headquartered in Ankawa-Erbil, Iraq where all operations in the Nineveh Plains and surrounding regions are led by members from the Assyrian Chaldean Syriac community. This has helped Shlama establish a trusting relationship with the community when executing projects. In addition, Shlama is familiar with the local conflicts and accessibility of various towns and villages.

The organization has completed 178 projects totaling \$319,481 in the area to date, with five recent water restoration projects and one large irrigation expansion. Additionally, Shlama has worked with funding partners Raoul Follereau on economic development and L'Œuvre d'Orient on youth activities. Shlama has also rebuilt seven homes, six businesses and two roads construction projects along with a host of humanitarian efforts throughout the Nineveh Plains.

Shlama operational volunteers and contractors are local residents, who are familiar with the cultural obstacles and available resources. The organization also has many volunteers and resources outside Iraq available for administrative support and consultation.

Ranna Mikha (Abro)
Board Member
The Shlama Foundation



Nineveh Plains Solar Power Proposal

Item Description	Unit	Cost Per Unit	Total
Part A - Preliminary Work			
Preliminary work: recruitment, assessments, consulting, and additional travel expenses	LS	\$5,000	\$5,000
Part B - Solar Systems for Families			
Training of engineers (see note #1)	1	\$6,500	\$6,500
Design and engineer solar systems for 100 families (see note #2)	100	\$500	\$50,000
Project Management (see note #3)	100	\$250	\$25,000
Purchase solar systems	100	\$5,000	\$500,000
Install solar systems	100	\$1,700	\$170,000
Part C - Solar Powered Pumps			
Design and engineer solar pumps (see note #2)	30	\$200	\$6,000
Project Management (see note #3)	30	\$150	\$4,500
Purchase solar pump systems	30	\$1,400	\$42,000
Instal solar pump systems	30	\$600	\$18,000

Part D - Solar Powere Street Lighting			
Design and engineer solar street lighting (see note #2)	40	\$50	\$2,000
Project Management (see note #3)	40	\$50	\$2,000
Purchase solar street lights	40	\$600	\$24,000
Install solar street lights	40	\$250	\$10,000
Total			\$865,000

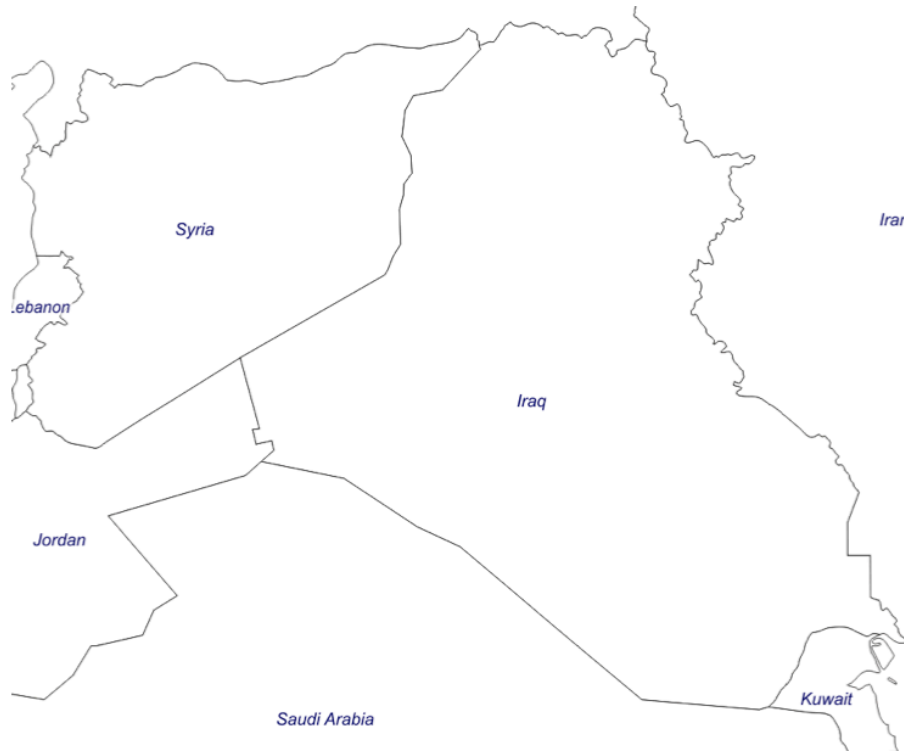
Note #1: This cost includes travel, room and board for the trainer; training material and place to train the engineers.

Note #2: This cost includes paying the engineers to work on the solar projects.

Note #3: This cost includes paying the engineers to supervise installation, and start-up of solar systems.

Iraq-Syria Border Deployments for the Nineveh Plain Protection Units

Statement of Interest and Capacity: Iraq Land Border Security Program



A Collaborative Grant Proposal of
**The Assyrian Democratic Movement,
The Nineveh Plain Protection Units,
The Nineveh Plain Defense Fund, and
Before There Were Borders**



Submitted to
The Bureau of Counterterrorism, US Department of State



Iraq-Syria Border Deployments for the Nineveh Plain Protection Units

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

We present the opportunity for the US Bureau of Counterterrorism to support the authorization, development, and implementation of a new regiment of the Nineveh Plain Protection Units, currently a 620 soldier Assyrian force authorized and operating in the southern Nineveh Plain. These new security units will be comprised of ten units of 30 soldiers each for a total of 300 men. These units shall be deployed to critical border checkpoints along the Syria-Iraq border and embedded with other Iraqi border security elements on a rotating basis. The Assyrian Democratic Movement (ADM), the largest, independent Assyrian political party in Iraq, will recruit these 300 men from Assyrian populations in Iraq. The men will receive training from the Nineveh Plain Protection Units at their primary base outside of Qaraqosh.

Once deployed to border checkpoints, the NPU will enhance border security in three ways. First, the NPU will provide an additional layer of interrogation of travelers crossing the border in coordination with current authorities by soldiers with a personal, vested interest in assuring the highest level of security. Second, by virtue of its very presence, the NPU will enhance compliance with proper security procedures as performed by the primary security forces. Third, the NPU will gather and share intelligence with the proper authorities, including any US authorities operating in the area, on unusual travel patterns or issues of concern.

Furthermore, the expansion of the NPU with deployment to the Iraq-Syria border achieves some important secondary goals beyond the general security of Iraq. In the immediate term, it will keep an additional 300 Assyrian families, perhaps 1200 people, in Iraq. Long-term, this border deployment will lead to greater confidence in the security of Iraq, particularly by Assyrians. As Assyrians see their own people intimately involved in Iraq's broader security, trust in the broader security of the country will grow. As trust increases, the door then opens for Assyrians to return in greater numbers not just to the Nineveh Plain but to Iraq's major cities of Baghdad, Mosul, and Basra. This return to Iraq's cities outside of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq is important if Assyrians are to enjoy economic opportunity as equal citizens in Iraq, and a broader vision of Iraq as a democratic, multi-ethnoreligious plurality is to be realized.

Currently, the long-term goal of the Assyrian Democratic Movement is to incorporate the NPU into the permanent security structure for Iraq. If the NPU is expanded to include border patrols, then the ADM will work with the Government of Iraq and Iraqi Security Forces to include border security into the NPU's permanent mission.

PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

Introduction

We propose the creation of a new regiment of the Nineveh Plain Protection Units (NPU) with expanded authorization to patrol at the Iraq-Syria border. These new units will embed within larger authorities to enhance border security with an additional layer of traveler evaluation as well as ensuring internal standard operating procedures are faithfully executed. Thus, the NPU accomplishes multiple goals: it prevents terrorist elements from entering and operating within the country, but also, by incorporating Assyrians directly into the vital security structure of Iraq, the NPU engenders trust of Assyrians in Iraq and increases the likelihood that Assyrians remain and invest in the future of the country, which inevitably helps stabilize the country itself.

Problem Statement and Rationale

For Assyrians, the terrorism perpetrated by the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) was but the latest example of recurring waves of persecution and genocide that have targeted Christians in the area throughout history. Two competing narratives have since emerged for Assyrian survival in Iraq. One narrative, most prominently articulated by Assyrian religious leaders and apparently embraced by US policymakers, has and continues to dominate since the fall of Saddam Hussein and the rise of terrorism leading to ISIS: the Government of Iraq, and consequently the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI), should protect its populations of Christians and other minorities.

We present the opportunity to pursue an alternative narrative: Assyrian survival in Iraq will only occur if Assyrians are empowered to engage in their own authorized security within Iraq. That is, Assyrian survival will not occur simply at the graces of other Iraqis or interested foreign parties. The experience of Assyrians is that distrust in Iraqi Security Forces and Kurdish Peshmerga, most dramatically illustrated by the abandonment of Assyrians by both forces as ISIS advanced into the Nineveh Plain, cannot be overcome without meaningful involvement by their own security elements. That is, Assyrians must be actively engaged in their own security if they are to rebuild the trust in national institutions that is a prerequisite to keep Assyrians from emigrating. However, a beneficial corollary to this narrative is that if Iraq incorporates Assyrians into the security structure of the country, the self-interest that Assyrians will bring to bear to prevent terrorism in the country for their own sake will naturally lead to downstream benefits improving the security for all Iraqis. Lastly, Iraq as a national but multi-ethnoreligious project further benefits as Assyrian survival in Iraq solidifies the rule of law and democracy.

By embracing an alternative narrative that reframes Assyrians not as victims but as agents of their own security, Assyrians will then play a larger role in the security of Iraq. Subsequently, as their own sense of agency in the affairs of Iraq and the KRI as free and equal citizens increases, Assyrians will be encouraged to stay and invest in the future of the country and continue a historical role in pluralizing Iraq. Thus, Assyrian survival is a marker of success of the emergence of Iraq as a democratic, multi-ethnoreligious plurality in which all peoples and communities can live freely with rights, safety, and opportunity. This vision of peace and stability would strongly support the growth of US policy in the region.

The Nineveh Plain Protection Units are already proving the alternative narrative has merit. The NPU currently operates checkpoints and provides general security in Qaraqosh and Karemles as well as the western border of Bartella. Of all the Assyrian villages in the Nineveh Plain, return rates of internally displaced are highest in Qaraqosh and Karemles where the NPU is the primary force providing security. In fact, about 25,000, or half of original population has returned to the

Qaraqosh, and life is normalizing. When crop fires (suspicious for arson) broke out around Karemles in May, 2019, the NPU responded despite a lack of formal training and equipment. But it is this dedication and commitment that has engendered the trust of local Assyrians. Obviously, many others, including efforts funded by the USAID and UNDP, have supported the rebuilding of homes and infrastructure. But the return on these investments is only effectively realized with security, and more importantly, security trusted by the local inhabitants.

With the support of the Bureau of Counterterrorism, we offer the opportunity to expand this trust by Assyrians to the broader security of Iraq. Long-term, this border deployment will lead to greater confidence in the security of Iraq. As Assyrians see their own people intimately involved in Iraq's broader security, trust in the security of the country will grow. As trust increases, the Assyrians will return in greater numbers not just to the Nineveh Plain but to Iraq's major cities of Baghdad, Mosul, and Basra. This return to Iraq's cities outside of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq is important if Assyrians are to enjoy economic opportunity as equal citizens in Iraq, and a broader vision of Iraq as a democratic, multi-ethno religious plurality is to be realized.

Planned Activities: Anticipated Outputs and Outcomes

Output 1: Authorization. With the support of the Bureau of Counterterrorism and other US officials, the ADM will seek authorization for an expansion of the NPU with expanded authority to patrol at the Iraq-Syria border as well as the Nineveh Plain.

Output 2: Recruitment. The ADM will recruit through an existing recruitment pool it currently maintains. All recruits must be fluent in Arabic and Sureth, the native Assyrian language.

Output 3: Training & Readiness. The NPU shall train recruits at their base outside of Qaraqosh on the use of light arms, safety procedures among civilians, and in-the-field training manning checkpoints in the Nineveh Plain. Ten units of 30 men each (4 officers and 26 privates) shall be organized and receive light arms from Iraqi Security Forces or other authorities. The NPU leadership shall identify recruits to serve as officers by the end of training.

Output 4: Implementation. The new NPU regiment will be stationed and operate in the Nineveh Plain. However, in coordination with the Iraqi authorities, the Bureau of Counterterrorism and other US officials, these units shall rotate to points-of-entry along the border. The NPU shall embed with appropriate authorities in a unified command structure. The NPU shall staff from two to six soldiers at assigned border sites at all times and will maintain a rotation schedule with authorities across border sites in three-month deployments to maximize their security impact. The NPU shall identify threats and gaps in coordination with appropriate authorities. The NPU shall manage all human resources issues and coordinate travel to the border. When not deployed at the border, these units may secure efforts of USAID and NGO's in the Nineveh Plain.

Outcome 1: Improved screening of travelers. NPU will screen all travelers. As Christians targeted by terrorism, Assyrians have a strong self-interest in identifying would-be terrorists.

Outcome 2: Adherence to standard operating procedures. Since NPU are motivated to prevent terrorism that would fall hardest on their community, they are not motivated by money and will not be bribed. Furthermore, they will deter corruption of other security elements at the border.

Outcome 3: Intelligence gathering. NPU will be monitoring for abnormal patterns of activity and identify emerging threats, such as attempts to reconstitute terrorist networks or corruption in border processes, and report such activities to proper authorities before a crisis emerges.

Outcome 4: Improving Assyrian repatriation. Implementation of the NPU will provide financial support for 300 families, about 1200 people, to remain in Iraq. But more importantly, Assyrians directly participating in security at the border shall increase the trust of Assyrians in their physical security and increase the likelihood of return to previously inhabited areas.

Outcome 5: Improving the rule of law and democratic pluralism. Assyrian participation in Iraqi security will increase their trust in the broader security of Iraq and thus the likelihood Assyrians will stay in Iraq and return home if displaced, thereby improving Iraq's multiethnic character.

Organizational Capacity, Key Personnel, and In-Country Experience

The Assyrian Democratic Movement (ADM)

- *Imad Youkhana:* Deputy Secretary; Advisor to the Speaker of the Iraqi Parliament; Political Chair for the NPU; former Iraqi MP
- *Yacob Yacoub:* Political Bureau member; NPDP Liaison to the NPU; former KRI MP
- *Susan Patto:* Chief of Staff, NPDP Board Member

The ADM is the largest, independent Assyrian political party in Iraq with demonstrated electoral, legislative, and judicial success. The ADM obtained authorization for the Nineveh Plain Protection Units under Iraqi Security Forces. Earlier in 2019, US military officials asked the ADM to prepare additional recruits for new security forces and so has recruits ready.

Nineveh Plain Protection Units (NPU)

- *NPU Military Committee,* led by Colonel Jawad Habib Aboush

The NPU currently consists of 620 men with a central operating committee of seven officers. The NPU operates under the command of Iraqi Security Forces, specifically under Major General Karim Maher Jabr al-Shuwaili and, ultimately, Major General Najem Abdullah al-Jubouri, commander of Nineveh Liberation Operations.

Nineveh Plain Defense Fund (NPDP)

- *Elmer Abbo, MD, JD:* President
- *Alex David:* Treasurer; ADM Illinois Sector Director
- *Michael Youash, PhD:* Secretary
- *Joseph E. Schmitz, esq.:* legal counsel available on retainer; in-house counsel for defense contractor Pacem Solutions; former Inspector General of the US Department of Defense

The NPDP is an Illinois 501(c)(3) non-profit founded in 2016 to provide charitable non-munitions support to the NPU. The NPDP is registered as an agent for the foreign principals of the NPU and ADM with the US Department of Justice. The NPDP will manage the grant application, provide implementation oversight, and communicate to US based officials.

Before There Were Borders

- *Josephine Attisha*

Before There Were Borders is a Michigan non-profit organization devoted to restoring Iraq and helping the victims of war in the country. The organization will assist with the grant application and implementation oversight and grant compliance.

Sustainability

Upon demonstration of our success, and presumably with US support, the ADM will work with Iraqi officials to incorporate the NPU with expanded border security authority into the permanent, national security structure of the country.

Chaldean Virtual Tour: From Mesopotamia to Modern Day

Mission and Record of Contribution:

The Chaldean Cultural Center (CCC) celebrates and explores the extraordinary history, arts, traditions, and contributions of the Chaldean people from ancient times to the present, serving as a repository of our collected history and stories. By forging relationships with other educational and cultural institutions, it not only nurtures pride within the Chaldean community, but also promotes greater understanding between communities as part of cultural diversity.

The CCC was formally established in February, 2003. A primary goal of the CCC was to build a boutique museum covering over 5,000 years of Chaldean history, as part of western civilization. The Chaldeans are Christians, specifically Eastern-rite Catholic, who come from ancient Mesopotamia and immigrated to the U. S. at the turn of the 20th century. The early immigrants came in search of better social and economic opportunities while later immigrants came to escape religious persecution. It is estimated that there are over 200,000 Chaldeans in Michigan, and the community continues to grow. The Chaldean Cultural Center Museum reinforces the entire communities' cultural identity, which is now endangered due to continuous cycles of genocide over the centuries.

The CCC Museum, which officially opened in September, 2017, is the first and only one in the world to tell the unique history and culture of the Chaldean people. The museum serves three purposes: 1.) To honor those Chaldean pioneers who were the first to come to America; 2.) To allow the Chaldean children, grandchildren, and future generations to understand and embrace their legacy; 3.) To share our history to the larger, non-Chaldean community through tours and presentations with schools, corporate and community groups, interfaith organizations, public officials, and to be open to the public at large.

The Chaldean Cultural Center is open to and welcomes everyone to attend our workshops, programs, and forums as well as take a tour of our museum. We have found that the majority of people who visit our museum and have particular interest in our programs are educators, students, artists, theologians, historians, scholars, delegates, and groups. These groups include public and private schools from various districts, colleges and universities such as Madonna University, the InterFaith Leadership Council of Metropolitan Detroit, Manresa Jesuit Retreat House, church summer camps, Temple Israel, archdiocese of Detroit, New Detroit, the Girl and Boy Scouts, and many other groups. We've also had families visit us from California, South Carolina, Mexico, Iraq, Canada, Israel, and other parts of the world.

The museum has five galleries for the public to visit. The first is the "Ancient Mesopotamia Gallery", which has artifacts, such as cylinder seals used as accounting tools and clay tablets showing cuneiform writing. An authentic replica of Hammurabi's Code of Laws stele is also on display, which was purchased from the Louvre Museum. The "Faith & Church Gallery" highlights the fact that the Chaldeans were converted to Christianity from its beginnings and they still speak the Aramaic language used in Christ's time. "The Village Gallery" has artifacts and costumes from the towns in the Nineveh Plain of northern Iraq where the Chaldeans lived. There are farming tools, cooking utensils, and clothing from the early 1900s. The Journey to America Gallery describes the Chaldeans' immigration to America and why they specifically settled in

the Detroit area. The last is “Chaldeans Today Gallery” showing the diaspora of Chaldeans throughout the world. Chaldeans’ immigration to America and why they specifically settled in the Detroit area. The last is “Chaldeans Today Gallery” showing the diaspora of Chaldeans throughout the world.

Since its inception in 2003, the CCC has provided various youth and adult programs such as public forums, lecture and discussion series, book and film discussion programs, exhibits, and publications. Some of these events have included Aramaic-speaking classes and Chaldean folklore dancing.

In November 2019, we started the mobile museum in an effort to do community outreach presentations to schools, organizations, and corporations. We’ve visited over a dozen schools and gave presentations to over 1,000 students. These presentations include a curriculum based on our five galleries and exhibits contained in the Museum. The curriculum aligns with the State of Michigan’s Grade Level Content Expectations in the various Social Studies fields, such as World History, Civics, Geography, and Contemporary World Issues. It also aligns with the 98th Legislative law, which mandates teaching of genocide in public schools for a total of 6 hours during grades 8 to 12.

Proposed Activities and Audience:

Before the COVID-19, we were preparing the following classes, workshops, and forums for the 2020/2021 schedule: art and sculpture classes; writing and publishing workshops with the collaboration of the Authors Guild of America [Detroit Chapter]; an educational four-part forum series; a forum on the history of powerful women in Ancient Mesopotamia; Aramaic classes for beginners. Now, we must provide alternative avenues to continue providing our tours, programs, classes, and presentations in order to support our mission of exploring the history, arts, traditions, and contributions of the Chaldeans. Therefore, we have planned to establish the “Virtual Museum” and “A Museum Minute”, which will allow anyone with internet access the ability to visit the museum from their home or mobile-device and have a more personalized experience. Teachers around the world, who are currently working to build a digital curriculum for students, can include this as virtual museum field trip experience.

We will need to hire professional consultants, such as a digital/web designer and film producer to develop and complete the Virtual Museum project. The virtual tour will consist of seven minutes for each of the five galleries for a total of a 35-minute long virtual presentation. This would help us create an online virtual museum tour that will showcase the various galleries and their exhibits. This project will ensure that the Chaldean Cultural Museum remains a relevant educational resource. We intend on meeting with the digital/web developers immediately after the award is received in June of 2020. We expect to work with them along with the film producer, who will meet with us to visualize our concept and set a timeline for pre-production, production, and post-production of the project, which is estimated to take four months and to be launched by January 2021. In addition, we will develop a concept called “A Museum Minute” which includes one-minute segments that highlight various artifacts and displays in our museum and create interest from our audience and the public. We intend on acquiring equipment to develop “A Museum Minute” by museum staff. The equipment includes a camera, tri-pod, lighting and computer software required to create, edit, and share the content.

We want to train our staff to use the camera equipment and engage with visitors virtually and, through “A Minute Museum,” make our collections more broadly available to the general public. Chaldeans around the world are currently in diaspora. For us to have an online presence would revitalize our heritage and history and bring awareness to our culture, stories, and ancient language not only in Michigan but around the world.

Jobs and Personnel:

There will be five main personnel working on the proposed virtual projects. The first two are retained positions, which are the Executive Director and Administrative Assistant, who will coordinate and manage the project development. The other three roles are created to conduct the proposed activities are the film producer and web developers. Their biographies contain more information, which can be found in the “Biography” attachment.

Institutional Capacity:

The organization has not laid off our staff. Our two staff members, a full-time executive director and a part-time administrative assistant, have reprioritized their roles and are working remotely from home. Rather than developing or coordinating tours, programs, and events, the staff is focusing on grant writing to make up for lost revenue. We’ve applied to several grant opportunities to pay their salaries, including Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs’ Emergency Relief (requesting \$5,000), Michigan Humanities HOPE (requesting \$8,000), the COVID-19 Arts and Creative Community Assistance Fund (\$10,000) and the Payroll Protection Program (\$10,500). The only application we’ve received funding for is the Payroll Protection Program. The staff is also updating the organizational website to improve our networking capabilities and internet presence.

Our organizational capacity to administer an award of federal emergency funds will be compliant with relevant regulations given the challenges related to COVID-19. Our strategy is to work remotely as we implement the work required to complete the virtual museum project. We will schedule conference calls and virtual meetings to ensure communication and performance for all parties. We will follow relevant social-distancing regulations during the filming stage as well.

In order for the CCC to sustain itself and grow during these changing times, we will have to expand our online presence amid closures and restrictions. There’s an opportunity for us now to provide distance learning through new and unique methodologies. It’s also a very cost-effective way to reach millions of people across the world. This is particularly significant for us given the destruction and theft of our cultural heritage that has been destroyed by ISIS since 2014 in Iraq. In order to do this, our staff and contractors need to continue to work, to research grant opportunities that would build an online presence, and execute our mission. .

The requested funding will help CCC pay our consultants, who will be teaming with the organizational staff, and acquiring equipment as we make the necessary transitions from where we were before to where we’re heading. The total operating costs for CCC in 2017 was \$185,382.00. In 2018, the total operating costs was \$72,807.00. In 2019 the total operating costs was \$69,250.00.

NEH CARES: CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS
CHALDEAN CULTURAL MUSEUM - VIRTUAL MUSEUM BUDGET

	BUDGET ITEMS & CALCULATIONS	TOTAL VALUE	MATCHING RESOURCES	GRANT RESOURCES
1	A. Employee Salaries:			
2	Executive Director (\$25x360 hrs)	\$9,000	\$9,000	\$0
3	Administrative Assistant (\$18x300 hrs)	\$5,400	\$5,400	\$0
4	B. Employee-related Expenses:			
5	Executive Director Payroll Taxes	\$720	\$720	\$0
6	Administrative Assistant Payroll Taxes	\$432	\$432	\$0
7	C. Consultant Services:			
8	Film Producer	\$30,000	\$9,000	\$21,000
9	Digital/Web Developer	\$7,000	\$2,000	\$5,000
10	D. Equipment and Software Purchases:			
11	Camera	\$3,000	\$0	\$3,000
12	Tripod, Lighting & Gear	\$650	\$0	\$650
13	Computer Software	\$350	\$0	\$350
14	E. Office Infrastructure and Supplies:			
15	Comcast (Internet)	\$560	\$560	\$0
16	IT Support	\$350	\$350	\$0
17	Office Supplies	\$175	\$175	\$0
18	Offsite Backup	\$175	\$175	\$0
19	F. Museum Space Costs:			
20	Utilities & Insurance Coverage	\$1,800	\$1,800	\$0
21	G. Domestic Travel:			
22	Executive Director Mileage	\$113	\$113	\$0
23	Administrative Assistant Mileage	\$21	\$21	\$0
24	TOTAL	\$59,746	\$29,746	\$30,000