The USAID Middle Corridor Transportation and Logistics Program is a five-year**USAID funded Program implemented**by Deloitte Consulting LLP in Georgia since February 2024.

The USAID Middle Corridor Transportation and Logistics Program goal is to enhance Georgia’s economic prosperity by strengthening the Middle Corridor, improving rural passenger transportation, and addressing climate impact of Georgia’s transport and logistics industry. The USAID Middle Corridor Transportation and Logistics Program seeks to transform Georgia into a globally competitive hub for transport and logistics, creating high-value jobs and boosting income from new trade activity generated by the increase in cargo flow.

The program will improve rural mobility and, thereby, access to social and market opportunities for women and marginalized populations. These actions will also bring Georgia closer to the European Union.

To achieve these goals, the program will focus on three key areas: (i) Enhancing Competitiveness in the Transport and Logistics Sector. (ii) Strengthening Georgia’s transport linkages to the Middle Corridor. (iii) Building Resilience to Climate Change.

The USAID Middle Corridor Transportation and Logistics Program is pleased to release a grant opportunity announcement: ***professional trainings in transport and logistics (RFA# MCTLP-2024-002)***

**RFA SUMMARY AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITY:**

The Road Cargo Transport Survey of 124 large, medium and small road transport companies and freight forwarders recently concluded by the Program confirms the concerns reflected in the National Transportation and Logistics Strategy 2023-2030 and noted by all of Georgia’s transport and logistics associations. The priority challenge of road freight transport and logistics operators is the lack of trained workers, particularly drivers.

This lack of skills undercuts Georgia’s competence and competitiveness in the transport and logistics (T&L) industry in local and international markets. The lack of accessibility to high-quality training is even more pronounced for women and youth, leading to the underrepresentation of these demographics in the sector. The Program will commence a comprehensive analysis of private sector demand for T&L competencies and the available supply of relevant training at the academic, vocational and short-term level.

This solicitation requests applications to provide the most urgent short-term training needs identified by the Survey and conversations with T&L-related associations in Georgia. The Program believes these trainings can be delivered sustainably and at relatively low cost within existing institutional arrangements. The training will be suitable for managers, supervisors, fieldworkers and front-line staff across all company functions and modes. The training needs analysis described above will review and recommend necessary reform of medium and long-term academic and vocational training arrangements.

The Program intends to award a maximum of seven (7) Small Grants under this Call for Concept Papers. The maximum funding for each grant is US $30,000 equivalent in local currency (GEL).

**ELIGIBLE ENTITIES:**

**General eligibility criteria:**

To be eligible to apply for and receive funding under the USAID Middle Corridor Transportation and Logistics Program, the Applicant must meet the following criteria:

A non-U.S. non-governmental organization, for-profit or nonprofit, registered in Georgia (*e.g.,* NGOs, professional organizations, research institutions, commercial organizations).

* Should not appear on the "List of Parties Excluded from Federal Procurement and Non-Procurement Programs".
* Should not be an individual, political party, governmental entity or official, whether at the national or municipal level.
* Should not be affiliated with the Program or any of its directors, officers or employees.

Organizations whose objectives are not consistent with the broad objectives of the USAID Middle Corridor Transportation and Logistics Program are also ineligible.

**Required Experience:** The organization and/or proposed staff must have demonstrated **two (2) years** of experience in technical areas relevant to the scope of work or grant focus.

**Cost-Share Requirement:** To be eligible for a grant award the Applicants are required to provide a minimum of 1:1 matching, this includes third party contributions.

**APPLICATION PROCESS:**

Interested and Eligible entities should complete the Concept Application Package via <https://dgrants.fluxx.io/> Grants Portal. Please, follow the above link and register for an account. In case of difficulty with registration and/or application, please, send us a request for assistance at [grants@mctlp.ge](mailto:grants@mctlp.ge).

USAID Middle Corridor Transportation and Logistics Program will conduct an **Informational Session** regarding this grant initiative for all interested parties that will be held at the Program’s office at 8a, Petre Melikishvili Avenue Tbilisi AND online, via Microsoft Teams on **January 30, 2025 from 16:00 to 17:30 Tbilisi time.**

All questions and requests for clarification must be received **before March 31, 2025** at [grants@mctlp.ge](mailto:grants@mctlp.ge). Only questions received by this date will receive a response. All interested parties will receive responses via email on a biweekly or monthly basis **ending on April 4, 2025.** In addition, all responses will be available at Grants Portal Fluxx for all interested applicants.

The final deadline is at **18:00 (Tbilisi Time) on April 22, 2025.**