

REF: Early Childhood Care and Education – India  
 Prime Contract Number: 7200AA19C00080  
 Subject: RFA CATALYZE-21772-ECCE INDIA-2024-0075 Questions & Answers

Dear Prospective Applicants,

Please see below answers to the questions submitted to [catalyze.procurements@thepalladiumgroup.com](mailto:catalyze.procurements@thepalladiumgroup.com) and the Bidder’s Conference on April 18, 2024.

No.	Question	Answer
<b>Geography/Location</b>		
1	Is the RFA geographically agnostic? Provided applicants apply solely for one geography, could they provide technical support/inputs in other states?	Yes, the RFA allows flexibility in geographical focus. Applicants can concentrate efforts in one state while offering technical support or inputs in other states if necessary.
2	Please confirm if Palladium has any preference for state selection.	There's no preference for state selection. Applicants may propose support to any state(s) where they can deliver significant, additional scale in ECE services and impact in line with the outcomes sought, as described in section 3.B of this RFA.
3	From USAID’s standpoint, what would constitute a more compelling proposal? Is it one that showcases broader geographical coverage across states and alignment with state and district government priorities, or one that emphasizes greater innovation and depth of impact in a concentrated geographical area?	Applicants should propose a design they feel most confident in. As stated in the RFA, developing pathways for sustainability is a priority. Therefore, deeper innovation in a more concentrated area that is conducted in alignment with state and district priorities, and which offers opportunity for lasting change, is the priority.
<b>Technical Partnerships/Grant Awards</b>		
4	Being an India based organization and as the lead agency can we forge technical partnerships?	Yes, forging technical partnerships is encouraged to enhance project implementation and impact.
5	Are there any specific requirements or expectations regarding collaboration and partnership development? E.g. must they be based in the operating country, and others?	There are no specific requirements or expectations regarding collaboration and partnership development beyond what is outlined in the RFA including objectives and outcomes.
6	Is there a preference for one cohesive program or multiple awards?	Either approach is acceptable, and the number of awards has not been determined.
7	In the event of more than one award, will future selected applicants work together towards a single impact or only with US Mission/India and Palladium?	Collaboration among selected applicants towards a unified impact is encouraged, fostering synergy and maximizing outcomes. However, engagement with USAID Mission/India and Palladium remains integral.
8	Is there any limit to the number of partners in a consortium for this application?	There is no specified limit. The emphasis is on the effectiveness and coherence of the

		proposed consortium in achieving the objectives.
9	How many collaborative partners can be co-applicants for the project?	There is no specified limit to the number of collaborative partners/co-applicants for the project.
10	Should private partner be from within the country specifically or can it be a foreign donor/philanthropic organization?	Private partners can be from within the country or foreign donor/philanthropic organizations. The emphasis is on engaging a diverse range of stakeholders to achieve project goals.
11	Please confirm if grantees are able to bring on a partner (in the form of a subcontractor, consultant or purchase order agreement) for the activity?	Yes, grantees can bring partners into the activity.
12	Also, it sounds like you're open for IPs to showcase PSE to be open to any ECCE projects running by us. Not necessarily this particular project, please help confirm?	Applicants can showcase PSE in other ECCE projects they run in their applications. However, they need to demonstrate how these initiatives will contribute to achieving the objectives and outcomes outlined in the RFA. If there isn't a clear connection between their existing PSE initiatives and the objectives of CATALYZE ECE India, it will not fulfill the requirements specified in the RFA.
<b>Period of Performance</b>		
13	What is the grant period - what is the estimated period for project implementation?	The grant period spans June 2024 to June 2026, with an anticipated duration of 24 months for project implementation.
14	What do you envisage being achieved in the 25 months - the design and structuring, full or partial roll out of the intervention and financial instrument?	We envisage that activity objectives and grantee-defined outcomes will be met in the 24-month period. [Note that the award date has shifted from May to June 2024.]
15	Please confirm if there can be any extension to the project timeline.	Project timeline extensions are not currently being considered during the application process. We envisage that activity objectives and grantee-defined outcomes will be met in the 24-month period.
16	With 2024 being an election year in India, it is expected that no state government would be ready for any new program collaboration at least till second quarter of the financial year. The grant starts from May 2024 itself. How would any grantee ensure the start of the project from May itself in such a scenario? How much flexibility would there be in terms of the time period, for maneuvering collaboration with the state government?	Grantees should ensure project commencement from June 2024 despite potential delays in state government collaborations due to the election year. Flexibility will be provided for collaboration timelines with state governments, allowing adjustments to accommodate any delays.
17	On timeline – in 2 years it is difficult to start an innovative programme and also see its impact. Hence, want to understand whether the 2-year period is only for implementation or for also for	During the implementation period, grantees are expected to meet activity objectives and grantee-defined outcomes. This would very likely include impact outcomes.

	showing impact. If latter, then is there any possibility for extension in timeline.	
	<b>Administration</b>	
18	How to access Attachments to the RFA, as we cannot find them in the RFA posted?	Applicants should follow the instructions provided in the RFA for accessing attachments. A complete list of Attachments can be found on the <a href="#">CATALYZE open opportunities page</a> If attachments are not found, they can reach out to the designated contact for assistance.
19	What is the frequency for this reporting or measurement of outcomes likely to be? Quarterly, Bi-annually or annually?	The reporting frequency for outcomes measurement will be established within the grant agreement. The grantee will be required to provide quarterly reports aligned with the USAID CATALYZE reporting schedule. These reports encompass reporting on PCM generated under the activity. While PCM reporting is a quarterly requirement, the frequency for reporting outcomes measurement may vary based on the terms outlined in the grant agreement.
20	Is there a standard template for reporting on financial and programmatic reports? Or would these be designed in consultation with the grantees post the process?	Grantees will be provided with report template examples, but they will be allowed to design their own to ensure that their templates cover all the necessary financial and program details.
21	p. 10 Organizational Information and Certifications: The RFA states that an organization must provide a “Copy of the organization’s legal registration under the laws of India.” Can Palladium please clarify under which law or laws the organization must be registered and which documents satisfy this requirement?	Section II of the RFA outlines the registration requirements for organizations. According to this section, grant applications will be accepted from organizations that are legally registered as not-for-profit or for-profit organizations in accordance with the laws of India, such as the Special Law for Promotion of Non-Governmental Development Organizations and its Regulations, and the Foreign Contributions Regulation Act.
22	p.9 Instructions for Preparation of the Technical Application: Can Palladium please clarify suggested page limits per section?	Refer to Attachment B in the RFA for guidance on page limits for each section of the Technical Application.
23	p.9 Instructions for Preparation of the Technical Application (iv): Can Palladium please specify whether team members’ technical resumes/CVs should be submitted as attachments to the proposal?	Section IV. Experience and Capacity of Attachment B outlines the requirement to describe the relevant experience of two key staff members. Therefore, team members' resumes/CVs should not be submitted as attachments to the application.
24	pp.13-14 Evaluation Criteria: The RFA states “The technical applications will be evaluated according to the following criteria, which are listed in order of importance, with the most important listed first.”	The percentage assigned to each evaluation category has not yet been determined.

	Can Palladium clarify quantitative percentages assigned to each of the categories?	
25	Please confirm if the “Experience and Capacity (1 page)” section is counted separately from the 8 pages allowed in the Project Description, or inclusive of the 8 pages?	Yes, the "Experience and Capacity (1 page)" section is counted separately from the 8 pages allowed in the Project Description.
26	Please confirm if submitting our FCRA registration is acceptable documentation to cover the registration requirement.	As per Section II of the subject RFA, the Applicant must be legally registered as a not-for-profit or for-profit organization in accordance with the laws of India, such as the Special Law for Promotion of Non-Governmental Development Organizations and its Regulations (registration documents required) and the Foreign Contributions Regulation Act.
27	Please confirm if there will be any extension of the due date.	The application due date has been extended to May 3, 2024.
28	For representations and certifications, it is a common practice to write “see budget” for procurement information/totals. Please confirm if this is an acceptable practice.	Applicants must fill out every section and provide all necessary information within 'Attachment D Certifications and Representations.'
29	For representations and certifications, item six requires Past Performance References. These are also required in the technical narrative. Please confirm if “see technical narrative” is an acceptable response here, or if more information is required than requested in the technical narrative capacity statements.	Applicants must fill out every section and provide all necessary information within 'Attachment D Certifications and Representations.'
30	Please confirm if applicants need to fill out 'Attachment A – FAA Template' for their submission?	Applicants are not required to complete 'Attachment A—FAA Template' when submitting their applications. The provided FAA template is intended solely as a reference.
31	Attachment B is multiple spaces at 1.5 spaces. Please confirm if applicants can use single space? Please also confirm any font or font size requirements.	Applicants may use single spacing. As for font requirements, Gill Sans font is acceptable.
32	Please clarify acceptable documents for proving registration in India. Please also clarify that this means that we do not need to be registered as an Indian NGO, but that we are legally operating in country.	Per Section II of the subject RFA, “To be considered eligible for any grant award, prospective grantees must: Be legally registered as a not-for-profit or for-profit organization in accordance with the laws of India.” Applicants must be registered in and legally operating in India to apply for this RFA.
33	Can you confirm that there is no requirement for prior registration (ie for 1 year)? Where does it say this in the RFA? If we say “no” to the registration question on the application, is that an automatic disqualification of the application?	See above.
	<b>Eligibility</b>	

34	Could you pls elaborate on the UEI number.	Applicants can obtain UEI number through SAM.gov.
35	For this assignment we need only the UEI number and not a registration?	Correct, for an award exceeding \$25,000, having or being able to obtain a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) number is required.
36	Need more clarity on this - Have or be able to obtain a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) Number for an award exceeding \$25,000 (or local equivalent).	Obtaining a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) Number is necessary for an award exceeding \$25,000, as stated in the eligibility requirements.
37	If we have DUNS number from before, what would the process for UEI be different?	Yes, applicants can obtain UEI number through SAM.gov.
38	I assume if UEI number is in process, we still apply? Please confirm.	Yes, applicants should confirm in their application if the UEI number is in process.
39	Why it is mandatory for an Indian nonprofit to acquire a UEI, as we would directly not be dealing with US federal government. The funds will be received by us from USAID.	In order to apply for this RFA, the applicant should obtain an UEI number. Compliance with USAID's regulations and requirements, including obtaining a UEI number, is necessary for all grant recipients, regardless of their direct interaction with the US federal government.
40	One of the eligibility requirements of a grantee is "Have previous experience implementing ECE programming in India". Please confirm if private sector ECE initiatives would qualify OR whether one of the organizations listed in the consortium that has experience working in this space is sufficient to qualify.	Yes, private sector ECE initiatives qualify as ECE experience. For consortium applications, one organization within the group having ECE experience is sufficient.
41	Is there a list of criteria that make third party players ineligible for being a part of the process?	Third party eligibility is determined by whether they meet the requirements specified in the RFA. For example, the eligibility criteria outlined in Section of the RFA apply to all organizations within the consortium.
42	Are there any minimum or ideal number of states to be considered to be eligible for the grant?	There are no minimum number of states.
43	Are there restrictions on the types of activities that the grant award can support? For instance, can the grant only be used for design and implementation/programmatic support, or can a part of the grant also be used for de-risking / outcome funding / concessional funding?	The grant award is primarily intended to support program implementation and programmatic activities. While the emphasis is on supporting programmatic activities, the grant award can also support incorporating additional elements that align with the project's goals and objectives.
44	Are only CSO's registered in India eligible to apply?	Section II of the RFA outlines the registration requirements for organizations. According to this section, grant applications will be accepted from organizations that are legally registered as not-for-profit or for-profit organizations in accordance with the laws of India, such as the Special Law for Promotion of Non-Governmental Development Organizations and its

		Regulations, and the Foreign Contributions Regulation Act.
	<b>Budget/Financial Proposals</b>	
45	Page 10 refers to “Foregone profit”, could you please explain the same in the context of this program budget?	"Foregone profit" means the profit intentionally not pursued or included. Palladium expects leverage costs in the budget, but "foregone profit" doesn't count as cost sharing. Applicants need to show private capital mobilization and other contributions totalling at least 25% in leverage. Palladium values high leverage commitments. The RFA lists examples of leveraged costs to include in proposed budgets.
46	How much can be the maximum ceiling for the salary component in the proposed budget?	The maximum ceiling for the salary component in the proposed budget is not explicitly stated. However, it should be reasonable and aligned with industry standards and project requirements.
47	Page 11 has this clause “A <i>de minimis</i> indirect rate of MTDC (modified total direct cost) may be approved for Fixed Amount Award grants in lieu of any indirect costs but <b>only up to \$25,000</b> . A <i>de minimis</i> rate is only available to nonprofit grantees, which have not previously had a negotiated indirect cost rate with any U.S. Federal Agency.” Does this mean that the indirect costs for the program cannot exceed \$25,000? Is this applicable for 1 year or for the entire grant period? Usually, our management costs are in the range of 10% of the direct costs – which includes cost of the support functions, management and leadership costs and other Admin overheads. We are a not-for-profit entity, with no current funding from any U.S. Federal Agency.	The RFA allows nonprofit grantees to apply a <i>de minimis</i> indirect rate of MTDC up to \$25,000 for Fixed Amount Award grants. This rate is for the entire grant period, not just one year. It means that indirect costs cannot exceed \$25,000, but it doesn't limit the overall budget. This provision is applicable to organizations without a negotiated indirect cost rate with any U.S. Federal Agency.
48	While we allocate appropriate budgets for the “Branding and marketing plan” will have to present the same only after successful applicants are notified of their selection. Please confirm.	A branding and marketing plan would be completed by successful applicant(s) at an agreed-upon time after the grant is awarded.
49	Will it be a single upfront grant payment once the contract is awarded or would the same be transferred in tranches?	The grant payment will be released in instalments over the project period, contingent upon meeting specified milestones or deliverables outlined in the FAA grant agreement.
50	What is the proposed disbursement schedule for the grant? Are these milestones based, and if so, can we get a broad indication of how USAID/ Palladium would allocate these?	The grants awarded in this RFA will be Fixed Amount Awards (FAA). In an FAA grant, milestones are pre-set achievements that mark progress toward project objectives. These milestones are agreed upon by the grantee and the funder and typically correspond to specific deliverables, like completing a training program or reaching

		a target number of beneficiaries. Grantees outline these milestones in their application, along with associated timelines. Once the FAA grant is awarded, funds are released based on milestone completion, not actual expenses. Grantees must provide evidence of milestone completion, such as reports or data, before receiving funds for that milestone.
51	p.3 The RFA states: "Palladium intends to make up to \$1,300,000 in total funding for activities to be implemented beginning in June 2024." Can Palladium please confirm if this is the expected ceiling per award or the ceiling for all expected awards together?	\$1,300,000 is the expected ceiling for all awards.
52	p.3 Can Palladium please clarify the number of awards available and the expected overall value and/or ceiling value per award?	As specified in the RFA, a total funding pool of USD 1,300,000 is available for all grants. One or more grants are anticipated to be awarded from this pool.
53	p.10 Budget Narrative and Detail: Can Palladium please clarify the definition of local currency by indicating the currency in which the budget should be developed? If the budget should be in anything other than USD, should there be a prevailing exchange rate used to USD?	The budget should be developed in United States Dollar (USD).
54	p.12 Budget Narrative and Detail: Can Palladium please clarify the de minimis rate given USAID's recent de minimis increase from 10% to 15%?	As of now, the de minimis rate remains at 10%. However, it's important to note that USAID has proposed an increase to 15%, which is set to take effect on October 1, 2024, as per the pre-publication version from the OMB.
<b>Leverage/PCM</b>		
55	Page 10 refers to " <i>Leverage costs shall be presented within the budget as a quantifiable column throughout all cost categories. Applicants must include private capital mobilization, <sup>(OB)</sup> other costed contributions and resources of at least 25% in leverage</i> ". Does this refer to details of the quantum funds / resources we could generate against each of the budget line items from other private sources during the course of the program duration in the identified geographies for this program? Or can we also include the fund raise and deployment we could do in other geographies, but in the ECE domain? We have ECE programs, supported by private sector CSR., which we launched in April 2024., which will supplement our learnings in the ECE domain and this program. While we budget, plan and work towards financial leverage from other private sector entities, could you please help us understand the bearing of	The RFA requires applicants to include private capital mobilization and other cost contributions amounting to at least 25% of the total budget as leverage costs. These leveraged funds need to be quantified across all budget categories. Funds raised and deployed in other geographies, particularly in the ECE domain through private sector CSR initiatives, can contribute to meeting these targets if they align with program goals. Demonstrating high levels of leverage is crucial for application evaluation.

	meeting these targets on the continued funding of the program?	
56	Can you elaborate on what 'generating leverage beyond 25%' means?	Generating leverage beyond 25% refers to leveraging additional resources beyond the initial 25% contribution to the grant amount. This could include private sector investments, philanthropic contributions, or other forms of external funding. The preference is for leverage that can be systematized rather than a one-off contribution.
57	Please confirm if applicants submitting with less than 25% leverage will be considered for award.	Applications must meet the minimum requirement of 25% leverage to be considered for the award as per the Evaluation Criteria of the RFA under Section IV: Application Review Information. Applications with proposed pathways for generating leverage beyond 25% will be preferred.
58	Please confirm if Palladium considers government printing of grantee materials generated for the activity as leverage.	No, government printing of grantee materials wouldn't qualify as leverage. Leverage involves resources from non-traditional partners not funded by USAID, like financial contributions or donated services.
59	We are working on few potential ideas involving investments from other private sector entities towards ECE programs in India. Can we mention the same in our proposals as "co-financing / leverage costs", though we are yet to receive firm commitments?	Applicants can mention potential co-financing/leverage costs in proposals, even if firm commitments have not been received yet.
60	To confirm definition of leverage as "25% of the USAID grant amount". I.e. if the USAID grant is USD 1,300,000, the leverage amount would be 25% of this, i.e. USD 325,000.	The leverage amount is calculated as 25% of the FAA grant amount. For example, if the FAA grant amount is \$500,000, the leverage amount would be 25% of \$500,000, which equals \$125,000. If the FAA grant is \$1,300,000, then the leverage amount would be 25% of this, which equals \$325,000.
61	Would financial rewards / incentives granted to AWCs for meeting or exceeding quality benchmarks qualify as leverage?	No, financial rewards or incentives granted to AWCs for meeting or exceeding quality benchmarks would not qualify as leverage according to the definition provided in the RFA. Leverage specifically refers to resources brought by non-traditional USAID partners that are not covered by USAID funds. These resources can take various forms, such as financial contributions, third-party contributions, donated services or property, or intellectual property.
62	pp.6 & 11 Private Sector Engagement Approach and Budget Narrative and Detail: Can Palladium please	The difference in the definition of leverage between the Private Sector Engagement



	clarify the difference, if any, in definition of leverage as defined in the private sector engagement approach (p.6) and as defined in Applicant Co-financing (p.11)?	Approach and Applicant Co-financing lies in their scopes. The Private Sector Engagement Approach focuses on private capital mobilized specifically for ECE services, while Applicant Co-financing broadens the definition to include any measurable contributions or resources of value brought by non-traditional partners to a public-private partnership, excluding those funded by USAID.
63	pp.6 & 11 Private Sector Engagement Approach and Budget Narrative and Detail: Can Palladium please clarify if the leverage referenced in the private sector engagement approach (p.6) would count towards the 25% leverage as defined in Applicant Co-financing (p.11)?	See above.
64	Is the Private Segment engagement approach like Private capital mobilized (PCM)? It is also part of the -Anticipated outcomes? Does that mean it is one of the outcomes or is it mandatory?	PCM is specified as one of the anticipated outcomes in the RFA, and its inclusion is mandatory.
65	Private sector capital mobilization means we must 'fund match' the 25% that Palladium contributes first, to then unlock the rest of the amount?	As the subject RFA outlines, 25% leverage is a minimum requirement. Applications with proposed pathways for generating leverage beyond 25% will be preferred. PCM is defined as private sector-based capital contributions including commercial bank loans, equity, and capital from philanthropic organizations such as foundations and family offices. PCM is closely related to and is part of leverage, the main difference being that leverage can also be non-capital contributions such as donations of office space for the activity, and volunteer staff time.
66	Contributions by high-net-worth individuals be accounted under Private capital leveraged?	Per the subject RFA, PCM is defined as private sector-based capital contributions including commercial bank loans, equity, and capital from philanthropic organizations such as foundations and family offices.
<b>Design/Outcome Questions</b>		
67	Indian government is already implementing Palna Scheme across the country and establishing Palna Ghars /Anganwadi-cum-creches (AWCCs) for providing childcare services to the 6 months-6 years old children. Would USAID consider proposals of ECE project in Palna Ghars/AWCCs for the wider age group- from 6 months to 6 years, in collaboration with a state government? Or a proposal with a target sample of Anganwadi centres and Anganwadi-cum-creches combined for the ECE project for 3-6 years old?	Activities that support 0 – 3 year old children or the whole 0 – 6 year range are not excluded, but the focus of this project is on 3 – 6-year-old children.

68	Each state implements specific early childhood curriculum in the AWCs. Would grantee be allowed to make modifications in the curriculum as per the need (for instance if the curriculum needs to be made inclusive), or would the project mandate that the grantee only ensure training of the AWWs, better implementation of the curriculum and assessment of learning outcomes of children?	Grantees may propose modifications to the curriculum, but CATALYZE would strongly encourage grantees to use the State curriculum and layer activities or supports to increase inclusive development and learning.
69	Would scaling be expected within the implementation period of the project, or the more focused intervention with 200 AWCs as model centres be desirable? Or the proposal may reflect scalability and the plan for sustainability of the intervention beyond the project implementation period?	While scaling within the implementation period is desirable, the proposal may also reflect scalability and sustainability plans beyond the project implementation period.
70	Can you expand upon the 4th point in anticipated outcomes - increased value of private capital mobilized. We would like to understand what the indicator is and also how we can demonstrate it.	This indicator quantifies the amount of private capital leveraged with USG assistance to support ECE initiatives. So, essentially, this point measures how much extra funding is brought in because of USAID's support for ECE, which is crucial for improving education outcomes for young learners in AWCs.
71	In India, and especially in districts with marginalised populations, access to optimal nutrition and maternal health are important considerations for the growth and cognitive development in subsequent years for the children in the age group of 0 – 6 years. Would like to understand your view on including these components in the budget and programmatic planning?	Successful applicants will focus on the objectives listed in the RFA.
72	AWCs in India report to local CDPOs (Community Development Program Officers) and CDPOs have significant autonomy in defining the way they operate and what is prioritized. Therefore, our past experience with some AWCs in some regions may not extend if the CDPOs priorities have changed. While the State in which our experience with AWCs is focused may stay the same, we may need to co-create the exact districts after the selection process. Would that be feasible?	This is feasible. Applicants are encouraged to be clear in their focus and strategy around engaging appropriate levels and departments of government.
73	AWCs have historically focused on a combination of early learning interventions, mid-day meals and health training for mother's (including expectant mothers). Is there a priority activity amongst these three?	Early learning is the priority for this intervention.
74	There is a strong case to link nutrition to child development. In this context, would there be scope to extend the objectives to also include grant to support this aspect, by adding a sixth objective, for example: <i>"In addition to improving access to high-quality early childhood education, grantees can also</i>	Applicants can propose additional objectives that align with the overall objective of the activity. However, additional objectives should not take away from those detailed in the RFA.

	<i>work towards enhancing nutritional support for children aged 3 - 6 attending AWCs</i> ". This objective aims to address the critical link between nutrition and child development by promoting the provision of nutritious meals, including leveraging some existing public and private sector programs such as the Mid-Day meal scheme	
75	What is the maximum number of AWCs that USAID would like to see positively impacted by this project? It is possible that some AWCs inherently focus on learning, others on nutrition and others on mothers and girl's needs (it is very common to see AWCs being an integral part of the community in the afternoon and focus on the needs of mothers and girls). Are impact metrics related to these initiatives to be included and counted towards targets achieved? Second question, given that this is such a cottage industry influenced by the local women, is whether impact metrics can be localized?	There is no maximum number of AWCs. Please see 4. Objectives section of the RFA. Strong proposals will clearly link indicators to objectives.
76	Are there any standard set of outcomes that are expected or can the intervention provider develop and present their own based on practical prior experience on the ground?	Please see anticipated outcomes in the RFA. Applicants are encouraged to bring their own local knowledge and experience when defining their outcomes.
77	One of the key priority areas for USAID as listed is "political will and clear policies to support pre-primary programs". As you may appreciate, this will need deep involvement of both governmental and non-governmental bodies. Can the grantee leverage USAID/ Palladium's references in the various government or non-governmental bodies and work with them?	Grantees are encouraged to demonstrate their ability to establish political will and clear policies, including engaging government and non-governmental bodies.
78	Local government role and involvement: would the USAID offices locally have access to local government officials? How closely involved should the implementers aim to be with the local government as AWCs report periodic progress to the local CDPOs periodically.	See above.
79	At the end of the period, would USAID/Palladium conduct evaluations of the project, and will the grantee be able to provide feedback on the entire process, which can then be used further to improve USAID's subsequent funding programs?	Any evaluations of the project have yet to be determined. The grantee(s) will be offered opportunities to provide feedback for subsequent programming and details will be defined later in the process.
80	Please confirm if the grantee must work with all ages (3-6) or can work with a subsection of those ages?	Grantees are welcome to propose a subset of ages.
81	Please confirm if Palladium expects both literacy and numeracy activities for this award or if only one or the other would be accepted.	The activity aims to support children's holistic school readiness. The award is open to focus on literacy, numeracy, and other combinations of skill areas.

82	Please confirm if there are specific ECE goals that CATALYZE has from a technical standpoint?	The ultimate goal of the activity is to support children's school readiness, especially those from historically marginalized groups.
83	Please confirm if Palladium has any preference for assessment tools that might have been used in other CATALYZE activities.	We would prefer tools with maximum relevance in India. Tools proposed should have literature supporting their rigor.