Request for Proposal (RFP) – Funding for 2027

"Support the Development and Deployment of AI Technology Tools that Directly Assist Law Enforcement Agencies in Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Investigations"

Background – World Childhood Foundation USA (Childhood USA) seeks to support projects that advance the development, validation, implementation, and/or evaluation of **digital forensic tools** -- hardware or software that enables law enforcement partners to extract, preserve, and analyze digital evidence from devices, cloud platforms, or communication networks in CSAM and child exploitation investigations. Funding may also be utilized for **Investigative Software** – tools supporting CSAM detection, open-source intelligence gathering, or victim identification including AI-assisted image/video analysis platforms and dark web monitoring capabilities.

Goal – Our goal is to accelerate the development and validation of innovative technologies that improve the identification of child victims, enhance detection of child sexual abuse material, reduce investigative burdens on law enforcement personnel, and strengthen national and global responses to online child sexual abuse and exploitation.

Project Scope – Childhood USA seeks to support three organizations up to $75,000 each in developing, piloting, validating or evaluating technologies that support law enforcement efforts to combat online child sexual abuse and exploitation.

Projects should focus on practical, scalable solutions that can be implemented by law enforcement agencies in the United States.

Priority Areas: Applicants may propose projects in one or more of the following areas:

- AI validation and performance assessment;
- video intelligence and victim identification;
- investigator wellness and exposure reduction; and
- operational deployment and field testing.

Projects that utilize promising technologies with HSI, ICAC Task Forces, Law Enforcement Agencies or Multidisciplinary investigative teams will be prioritized. The funding period is for 12-months - Jan.1, 2027 – Dec. 31, 2027.

Eligibility Requirements

- be a U.S.-based nonprofit organization with current 501(c)3 status in good standing with the IRS;

- have a documented, active partnership or formal MOU with a minimum of one law enforcement agency – local, county, state, or federal – engaged in child sexual abuse and exploitation investigations;
- demonstrate a clear and direct connection to combatting online child sexual abuse and exploitation. Projects devoted solely to public education, general awareness, or advocacy activities are not eligible;
- describe the technology or methodology being utilized;
- include measurable outcomes and evaluation plans;
- address privacy, ethical, and legal considerations;
- explain how findings can be scaled or replicated;
- have organizational capacity to manage, report on, and account for grant funds;
- not currently under Federal, State or Local investigation or sanctions; and
- partnerships and subcontracting arrangements with technology providers are permitted, but the lead applicant must be a qualifying nonprofit.

Evaluation and Measurement – Proposals should include measurable indicators such as:

- improvement in CSAM detection accuracy;
- reduction in investigative review time;
- number of potential victims identified;
- reduction in investigator exposure to harmful content;
- AI performance metrics (precision, recall, sensitivity, specificity);
- adoption and usability outcomes among law enforcement personnel; and
- evidence supporting scalability and replication.

A portion of the project budget should be allocated to data collection, evaluation, and dissemination of findings.

Selection Considerations

- relevance to the RFP's goals and priority areas;
- demonstrated law-enforcement need;
- technical feasibility and project readiness;
- strength of the law-enforcement partnership;
- quality of the evaluation plan;
- privacy, security, ethical, and legal safeguards;
- potential for measurable impact, scalability, and replication; and
- reasonableness of the proposed budget.

Desired Impact – Childhood USA seeks to contribute to building an evidence base for technologies that can strengthen efforts to identify victims, support investigations, and prevent the online sexual abuse and exploitation of children.

Findings from funded projects may inform future standards, technology investments, and collaborative initiatives among law enforcement agencies, researchers, and child protection agencies.

Proposal Instructions – All proposals must be submitted through Childhood USA's website under "Propose a Program." A Letter of Intent (LOI) must be submitted prior to accessing the full application. Please clearly indicate in your LOI title that you are applying for the "**RFP: Support the Development and Deployment of AI Technology Tools that Directly Assist Law Enforcement Agencies in Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Investigations"**.

Recommended LOI submission: by mid-August 2026

Deadline for full application: September 15, 2026

Submit your LOI and full application at: https://www.childhood-usa.org/propose-a-program/

Reporting Requirements – A mid-year progress report will be due in July 2027, followed by a progress review meeting with Childhood USA. A final narrative and financial report will be due following the conclusion of the grant period.

Contact Janet O'Connell, Director of Programs – Childhood USA
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