

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION,
611 Pennsylvania Avenue SE #231
Washington, D.C. 20003,

Plaintiff

v.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Harry S. Truman Federal Building
2201 C. Street NW
Washington, D.C 20520

Defendant.

Civil Action No.: 23-1939

COMPLAINT

1. The Plaintiff, America First Legal Foundation (“AFL”), brings this action against the United States Department of State (“State”) to compel compliance with the Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”), 5 U.S.C. § 552.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

2. The Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(B) and 28 U.S.C. § 1331. Additionally, it may grant declaratory relief pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2201, *et seq.*

3. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(B) and 28 U.S.C. § 1391(e).

PARTIES

4. The Plaintiff, AFL, is a nonprofit organization working to promote the rule of law in the United States, prevent executive overreach, ensure due process and

equal protection for all Americans, and encourage public knowledge and understanding of the law and individual rights guaranteed under the United States Constitution and the laws of the United States. AFL's mission includes promoting government transparency and accountability by gathering official information, analyzing it, and disseminating it through reports, press releases, and/or other media, including social media platforms, all to educate the public.

5. The Defendant, the United States Department of State, is an agency under 5 U.S.C. § 552(f), with its headquarters in the Harry S. Truman Federal Building, located at 2201 C. Street NW, Washington, D.C, 20520.

First FOIA

6. On December 6, 2022, AFL submitted a FOIA request to State, seeking records connected to Funding Opportunity Number S-NL800-20-GR-3011. Exhibit 1.

7. On December 12, 2022, State sent an acknowledgment email assigning the request tracking number F-2023-02502. Exhibit 2.

8. On March 14, 2023, AFL sent State an email requesting a status update. Exhibit 3.

9. On March 20, 2023, State replied to AFL's request for a status update, stating that there was a FOIA backlog and that the agency is "working through it as quickly as possible" but providing no estimate for the request. Exhibit 4.

Second FOIA

10. On December 6, 2022, AFL submitted a FOIA request to State, seeking records connected to Funding Opportunity Number DOS-USNATO-PAA-2022-002. Exhibit 5.

11. On December 7, 2022, State sent an acknowledgment email assigning the request tracking number F-2023-02475. Exhibit 6.

12. On March 14, 2023, AFL sent State an email requesting a status update. *Id.*

13. On March 20, 2023, State replied to AFL's request for a status update, stating that there was a FOIA backlog and that the agency is "working through it as quickly as possible" but providing no estimate for the request. *Id.*

Third FOIA

14. On December 6, 2022, AFL submitted a FOIA request to State, seeking records connected to Funding Opportunity Number DOS-USNATO-PAA-2021-001. Exhibit 7.

15. On December 7, 2022, State sent an acknowledgment email assigning the request tracking number F-2023-2023-02473. Exhibit 8.

16. On March 14, 2023, AFL sent State an email requesting a status update. *Id.*

17. On March 20, 2023, State replied to AFL's request for a status update, stating that there was a FOIA backlog and that the agency is "working through it as quickly as possible" but providing no estimate for the request. *Id.*

Fourth FOIA

18. On December 6, 2022, AFL submitted a FOIA request to State, seeking records connected to Funding Opportunity Number DOS-USNATO-PAA-2020-002. Exhibit 9.

19. On December 7, 2022, State sent an acknowledgment email assigning the request tracking number F-2023-02470. Exhibit 10.

20. On March 14, 2023, AFL sent State an email requesting a status update. *Id.*

21. On March 20, 2023, State replied to AFL's request for a status update, stating that there was a FOIA backlog and that the agency is "working through it as quickly as possible" but providing no estimate for the request. *Id.*

Fifth FOIA

22. On December 6, 2022, AFL submitted a FOIA request to State, seeking records connected to Funding Opportunity Number DOS-USNATO-PAA-2020-001. Exhibit 11.

23. On December 7, 2022, State sent an acknowledgment email assigning the request tracking number F-2023-02466. Exhibit 12.

24. On March 14, 2023, AFL sent State an email requesting a status update. *Id.*

25. On March 20, 2023, State replied to AFL's request for a status update, stating that there was a FOIA backlog and that the agency is "working through it as quickly as possible" but providing no estimate for the request. *Id.*

Sixth FOIA

26. On December 6, 2022, AFL submitted a FOIA request to State, seeking records connected to Federal Award Identification Numbers SGECPD22CA0036, SLMAQM18GR2177, SLMAQM19CA2246, SMJ19019GR0016, SAS20022CA0050, SBE30019CA0012, and SNL80021GR3024. Exhibit 13.

27. On December 7, 2022, State sent an acknowledgment email assigning the request tracking number F-2023-02500. Exhibit 14.

28. On March 14, 2023, AFL sent State an email requesting a status update. *Id.*

29. On March 20, 2023, State replied to AFL's request for a status update, stating that there was a FOIA backlog, and that the agency is "working through it as quickly as possible" but providing no estimate for the request. *Id.*

Seventh FOIA

30. On December 6, 2022, AFL submitted a FOIA request to State, seeking records connected to Funding Opportunity Number SGECPD22CA0036. Exhibit 15.

31. On December 7, 2022, State sent an acknowledgment email assigning the request tracking number F-2023-02499. Exhibit 16.

32. On March 14, 2023, AFL sent State an email requesting a status update. *Id.*

33. On March 20, 2023, State replied to AFL's request for a status update, stating that there was a FOIA backlog, and that the agency is "working through it as quickly as possible" but providing no estimate for the request. *Id.*

Eighth FOIA

34. On December 6, 2022, AFL submitted a FOIA request to State, seeking records connected to Funding Opportunity Number S-GECPD-17-001. Exhibit 17.

35. On December 7, 2022, State sent an acknowledgment email assigning the request tracking number F-2023-02498. Exhibit 18.

36. On March 14, 2023, AFL sent State an email requesting a status update. *Id.*

37. On March 21, 2023, State replied to AFL's request for a status update, stating that there was a FOIA backlog, and that the agency is "working through it as quickly as possible" but providing no estimate for the request. *Id.*

Ninth FOIA

38. On December 6, 2022, AFL submitted a FOIA request to State, seeking records connected to Funding Opportunity Number SFOP0008867. Exhibit 19.

39. On December 7, 2022, State sent an acknowledgment email assigning the request tracking number F-2023-02497.

40. On March 14, 2023, AFL sent State an email requesting a status update. Exhibit 20.

41. On March 21, 2023, State replied to AFL's request for a status update, stating that there was a FOIA backlog, and that the agency is "working through it as quickly as possible" but providing no estimate for the request.

CLAIM FOR RELIEF

Violation of FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552

42. AFL repeats paragraphs 1–41.

43. AFL properly requested records within the possession, custody, and control of the Defendant.

44. The Defendant has failed to conduct a reasonable search for responsive records.

45. Moreover, the Defendant failed to disclose any segregable, non-exempt portions of responsive records. *See* 5 U.S.C. § 552(b).

46. The Defendant failed to respond to AFL’s requests within the statutory time period. *See* 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6).

47. Accordingly, AFL has exhausted its administrative remedies. *See* 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(C).

48. The Defendant violated the FOIA by failing, within the prescribed time limit, to (i) reasonably search for records responsive to AFL’s FOIA requests; (ii) provide a lawful reason for the withholding of any responsive records; and (iii) segregate exempt information in otherwise non-exempt responsive records.

RELIEF REQUESTED

WHEREFORE, AFL respectfully requests this Court:

i. Declare that the records sought by these requests, as described in the foregoing paragraphs, must be disclosed pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552;

- ii. Order the Defendant to conduct searches immediately for all records responsive to AFL's FOIA requests and demonstrate that they employed search methods reasonably likely to lead to the discovery of responsive records;
- iii. Order the Defendant to produce by a date certain all non-exempt records responsive to AFL's FOIA requests;
- iv. Award AFL attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(E);
and
- v. Grant AFL such other and further relief as this Court deems proper.

July 5, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Jacob Meckler
Michael Ding D.C. Bar No. 1027252
Email: Michael.Ding@aflegal.org
Jacob Meckler D.C. Bar No. 90005210
America First Legal Foundation
611 Pennsylvania Avenue SE #231
Washington, D.C. 20003
Tel.: (972) 861-2132
E-mail: Jacob.Meckler@aflegal.org

*Counsel for the Plaintiff
America First Legal Foundation*



December 6, 2022

VIA EMAIL: FOIARequest@state.gov

U.S. Department of State
Office of Information Programs and Services
2201 C Street N.W., Suite B266
Washington, DC 20250-0000

Freedom of Information Act Request: Records regarding Funding Opportunity Number S-NL800-20-GR-3011.

Dear FOIA Officer:

America First Legal Foundation is a national, nonprofit organization working to promote the rule of law in the United States, prevent executive overreach, and ensure due process and equal protection for all Americans, all to promote public knowledge and understanding of the law and individual rights guaranteed under the Constitution and laws of the United States. To that end, we file Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests on issues of pressing public concern, then disseminate the information we obtain, making documents broadly available to the public, scholars, and the media. Using our editorial skills to turn raw materials into distinct work, we distribute that work to a national audience through traditional and social media platforms. AFL's email list contains over 33,500 unique addresses, our Facebook page has 86,000 followers, our Twitter page has 25,000 followers, the Twitter page of our Founder and President has over 336,000 followers, and we have another 31,500 followers on GETTR.

I. Requested Records

A. For Funding Opportunity Number S-NL800-20-GR-3011:

1. All records of the Notice of Funding Opportunity;
2. All records of Notices of Award;
3. All records of Applications submitted for which funding was awarded;
4. All records of grant agreements, cooperative agreements, other agreements for assistance covered in § 200.40 Federal financial assistance of the OMB Uniform Grant Guidance;
5. All records of Reporting received from Recipients during the post award phase, including closeout; and

611 Pennsylvania Ave SE #231

Washington, DC 20003

6. All records of Audits conducted during the post award phase.
- B. All records relating to or regarding the processing of the above items.

II. Processing Requirements

Processing should occur in strict compliance with the processing guidance in the Attorney General's Memorandum on Freedom of Information Act Guidelines.¹ If you have any questions about our request or believe further discussions regarding search and processing would facilitate a more efficient production of records of interest to AFL, then please contact me at FOIA@aflegal.org.

III. Fee Waiver Request

Per 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii), AFL requests a waiver of all search and duplication fees associated with this request.

First, AFL is a qualified non-commercial public education and news media requester. AFL has demonstrated its commitment to the public disclosure of documents and creation of editorial content through regular substantive analyses posted to its website. For example, its officials routinely appear on national television and use social media platforms to disseminate the information it has obtained about federal government activities. In this case, AFL will make your records and your responses publicly available for the benefit of citizens, scholars, and others. The public's understanding of your policies and practices with respect to the important topic of the GEC's grant application and review process will be enhanced through AFL's analysis and publication of the requested records. As a nonprofit organization, AFL does not have a commercial purpose and the release of the information requested is not in AFL's financial interest.

Second, waiver is proper as disclosure of the requested information is "in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of operations or activities of the government."

IV. Production

To accelerate your release of responsive records, AFL welcomes production on an agreed rolling basis. If possible, please provide responsive records in an electronic format by email. Alternatively, please provide responsive records in native format or in PDF format on a USB drive to America First Legal Foundation, 611 Pennsylvania Ave SE #231, Washington, DC 20003.

¹ U.S. DEP'T JUST. (Mar. 15, 2022), <https://bit.ly/3zvpxb6>.

V. Conclusion

If you have any questions about how to construe this request or believe further discussions regarding search and processing would facilitate a more efficient production of records of interest to AFL, please do not hesitate to contact me at FOIA@aflegal.org. Finally, if AFL's request for a fee waiver is not granted in full, please contact us immediately upon making that determination.

Thank you,

/s/ Tyler J. Sanderson

Tyler J. Sanderson, Counsel
America First Legal Foundation



AFL FOIA <foia@aflegal.org>

Ref: F-2023-02502, Freedom of Information Act Acknowledgement

A_FOIAacknowledgement@groups.state.gov <A_FOIAacknowledgement@groups.state.gov>

Mon, Dec 12, 2022 at
10:33 AM

To: FOIA@aflegal.org

****THIS EMAIL BOX IS NOT MONITORED, PLEASE DO NOT REPLY TO THIS EMAIL.****

Mr. Sanderson:

This email acknowledges receipt of your December 6, 2022, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) (5 U.S.C. § 552) request received by the U.S. Department of State, Office of Information Programs and Services on December 6, 2022, regarding records regarding Funding Opportunity Number S-NL800-20-GR-3011. Unless you advise otherwise, we will treat as non-responsive any compilations of publicly available news reports and any publicly available documents not created by the U.S. government, such as mass-distribution emails from news media. This Office assigned your request the subject reference number and placed it in the complex processing track where it will be processed as quickly as possible. See 22 CFR § 171.11(h). This Office grants your request for a fee waiver.

This Office will not be able to respond within the 20 days provided by the statute due to “unusual circumstances.” See 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(B)(i)-(iii). In this instance, the unusual circumstances include the need to search for and collect requested records from other Department offices or Foreign Service posts.

If you have any questions regarding your request, would like to narrow the scope or arrange an alternative time frame to speed its processing, or would like an estimated date of completion, please contact our FOIA Requester Service Center or our FOIA Public Liaison by email at FOIAstatus@state.gov or telephone at 202-261-8484. Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001, email at ogis@nara.gov; telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.

****THIS EMAIL BOX IS NOT MONITORED, PLEASE DO NOT REPLY TO THIS EMAIL.****



AFL FOIA <foia@aflegal.org>

Ref: F-2023-02502, Freedom of Information Act Acknowledgement

AFL FOIA <foia@aflegal.org>
To: FOIA Status <FOIAStatus@state.gov>

Tue, Mar 14, 2023 at 9:58 PM

Good evening,

May we please receive an update on the status of this request?

Thank you,

Michael Ding
America First Legal Foundation

----- Forwarded message -----

From: <A_FOIAacknowledgement@groups.state.gov>

Date: Mon, Dec 12, 2022 at 10:33 AM

Subject: Ref: F-2023-02502, Freedom of Information Act Acknowledgement

To: <FOIA@aflegal.org>

[Quoted text hidden]



AFL FOIA <foia@aflegal.org>

Ref: F-2023-02502, Freedom of Information Act Acknowledgement

FOIA Status <FOIAStatus@state.gov>
To: AFL FOIA <foia@aflegal.org>

Mon, Mar 20, 2023 at 3:21 PM

Mr. Ding,

This is in response to your email below regarding FOIA Case Control Number F-2023-02502.

The Office of Information Programs and Services' electronic records system indicates this request is still in process. Mr. Sanderson will be notified of the Department's search and review efforts in response to this request as soon as that information becomes available.

The Department currently has a backlog of FOIA requests and is working through it as quickly as possible. As the Department continues to work through its backlog of FOIA requests, it is mindful of its accountability to the public.

We appreciate your continued patience.

If you have further questions or any concerns regarding a FOIA-related matter, you may contact the FOIA Requester Service Center via email at FOIAStatus@state.gov.

Regards,

U.S. Department of State
FOIA Requester Service Center

[Quoted text hidden]



December 6, 2022

VIA EMAIL: FOIARequest@state.gov

U.S. Department of State
Office of Information Programs and Services
2201 C Street N.W., Suite B266
Washington, DC 20250-0000

Freedom of Information Act Request: Records regarding Funding Opportunity Number DOS-USNATO-PAA-2022-002.

Dear FOIA Officer:

America First Legal Foundation is a national, nonprofit organization working to promote the rule of law in the United States, prevent executive overreach, and ensure due process and equal protection for all Americans, all to promote public knowledge and understanding of the law and individual rights guaranteed under the Constitution and laws of the United States. To that end, we file Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests on issues of pressing public concern, then disseminate the information we obtain, making documents broadly available to the public, scholars, and the media. Using our editorial skills to turn raw materials into distinct work, we distribute that work to a national audience through traditional and social media platforms. AFL's email list contains over 33,500 unique addresses, our Facebook page has 86,000 followers, our Twitter page has 25,000 followers, the Twitter page of our Founder and President has over 336,000 followers, and we have another 31,500 followers on GETTR.

I. Requested Records

A. For Funding Opportunity Number DOS-USNATO-PAA-2022-002:

1. All records of the Notice of Funding Opportunity;
2. All records of Notices of Award for proposals relating to Countering dis and misinformation;
3. All records of Applications submitted for which funding was awarded for proposals relating to Countering dis and misinformation;
4. All records of grant agreements, cooperative agreements, other agreements for assistance covered in § 200.40 Federal financial

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Washington, DC 20003

assistance of the OMB Uniform Grant Guidance, for proposals relating to Countering dis and misinformation;

5. All records of Reporting received from Recipients during the post award phase, including closeout, for proposals relating to Countering dis and misinformation; and
6. All records of Audits conducted during the post award phase, for proposals relating to Countering dis and misinformation.

B. All records relating to or regarding the processing of the above items.

II. Processing Requirements

Processing should occur in strict compliance with the processing guidance in the Attorney General's Memorandum on Freedom of Information Act Guidelines.¹ If you have any questions about our request or believe further discussions regarding search and processing would facilitate a more efficient production of records of interest to AFL, then please contact me at FOIA@aflegal.org.

III. Fee Waiver Request

Per 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii), AFL requests a waiver of all search and duplication fees associated with this request.

First, AFL is a qualified non-commercial public education and news media requester. AFL has demonstrated its commitment to the public disclosure of documents and creation of editorial content through regular substantive analyses posted to its website. For example, its officials routinely appear on national television and use social media platforms to disseminate the information it has obtained about federal government activities. In this case, AFL will make your records and your responses publicly available for the benefit of citizens, scholars, and others. The public's understanding of your policies and practices with respect to the important topic of the GEC's grant application and review process will be enhanced through AFL's analysis and publication of the requested records. As a nonprofit organization, AFL does not have a commercial purpose and the release of the information requested is not in AFL's financial interest.

Second, waiver is proper as disclosure of the requested information is "in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of operations or activities of the government."

¹ U.S. DEP'T JUST. (Mar. 15, 2022), <https://bit.ly/3zvpxb6>.

IV. Production

To accelerate your release of responsive records, AFL welcomes production on an agreed rolling basis. If possible, please provide responsive records in an electronic format by email. Alternatively, please provide responsive records in native format or in PDF format on a USB drive to America First Legal Foundation, 611 Pennsylvania Ave SE #231, Washington, DC 20003.

V. Conclusion

If you have any questions about how to construe this request or believe further discussions regarding search and processing would facilitate a more efficient production of records of interest to AFL, please do not hesitate to contact me at FOIA@aflegal.org. Finally, if AFL's request for a fee waiver is not granted in full, please contact us immediately upon making that determination.

Thank you,

/s/ Tyler J. Sanderson

Tyler J. Sanderson, Counsel
America First Legal Foundation



AFL FOIA <foia@aflegal.org>

Ref: F-2023-02475, Freedom of Information Act Acknowledgement

3 messages

A_FOIAacknowledgement@groups.state.gov <A_FOIAacknowledgement@groups.state.gov>Wed, Dec 7, 2022 at
7:20 AM

To: FOIA@aflegal.org

****THIS EMAIL BOX IS NOT MONITORED, PLEASE DO NOT REPLY TO THIS EMAIL.****

Mr. Sanderson:

This email acknowledges receipt of your December 6, 2022, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) (5 U.S.C. § 552) request received by the U.S. Department of State, Office of Information Programs and Services on December 6, 2022, regarding "A. For Funding Opportunity Number DOS-USNATO-PAA-2022-002: 1. All records of the Notice of Funding Opportunity; 2. All records of Notices of Award for proposals relating to Countering dis and misinformation; 3. All records of Applications submitted for which funding was awarded for proposals relating to Countering dis and misinformation; 4. All records of grant agreements, cooperative agreements, other agreements for assistance covered in § 200.40 Federal financial assistance of the OMB Uniform Grant Guidance, for proposals relating to Countering dis and misinformation; 5. All records of Reporting received from Recipients during the post award phase, including closeout, for proposals relating to Countering dis and misinformation; and 6. All records of Audits conducted during the post award phase, for proposals relating to Countering dis and misinformation. B. All records relating to or regarding the processing of the above items". Unless you advise otherwise, we will treat as non-responsive any compilations of publicly available news reports and any publicly available documents not created by the U.S. government, such as mass-distribution emails from news media. This Office assigned your request the subject reference number and placed it in the complex processing track where it will be processed as quickly as possible. See 22 CFR § 171.11(h). This Office grants your request for a fee waiver.

This Office will not be able to respond within the 20 days provided by the statute due to "unusual circumstances." See 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(B)(i)-(iii). In this instance, the unusual circumstances include the need to search for and collect requested records from other Department offices or Foreign Service posts.

If you have any questions regarding your request, would like to narrow the scope or arrange an alternative time frame to speed its processing, or would like an estimated date of completion, please contact our FOIA Requester Service Center or our FOIA Public Liaison by email at FOIAstatus@state.gov or telephone at 202-261-8484. Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001, email at ogis@nara.gov; telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.

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AFL FOIA <foia@aflegal.org>
To: FOIA Status <FOIAStatus@state.gov>

Tue, Mar 14, 2023 at 9:59 PM

Good evening,

May we please receive an update on the status of this request?

Thank you,

Michael Ding
America First Legal Foundation

[Quoted text hidden]

FOIA Status <FOIAStatus@state.gov>

Mon, Mar 20, 2023 at 3:24 PM

To: AFL FOIA <foia@aflegal.org>

Mr. Ding,

This is in response to your email below regarding FOIA Case Control Number F-2023-02475.

The Office of Information Programs and Services' electronic records system indicates this request is still in process. Mr. Sanderson will be notified of the Department's search and review efforts in response to this request as soon as that information becomes available.

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We appreciate your continued patience.

If you have further questions or any concerns regarding a FOIA-related matter, you may contact the FOIA Requester Service Center via email at FOIAStatus@state.gov.

Regards,

U.S. Department of State
FOIA Requester Service Center

[Quoted text hidden]



December 6, 2022

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U.S. Department of State
Office of Information Programs and Services
2201 C Street N.W., Suite B266
Washington, DC 20250-0000

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Washington, DC 20003

6. All records of Audits conducted during the post award phase.
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¹ U.S. DEP'T JUST. (Mar. 15, 2022), <https://bit.ly/3zvpxb6>.

V. Conclusion

If you have any questions about how to construe this request or believe further discussions regarding search and processing would facilitate a more efficient production of records of interest to AFL, please do not hesitate to contact me at FOIA@aflegal.org. Finally, if AFL's request for a fee waiver is not granted in full, please contact us immediately upon making that determination.

Thank you,

/s/ Tyler J. Sanderson

Tyler J. Sanderson, Counsel
America First Legal Foundation



AFL FOIA <foia@aflegal.org>

Ref: F-2023-02473, Freedom of Information Act Acknowledgement

3 messages

A_FOIAacknowledgement@groups.state.gov <A_FOIAacknowledgement@groups.state.gov>Wed, Dec 7, 2022 at
7:25 AM

To: FOIA@aflegal.org

****THIS EMAIL BOX IS NOT MONITORED, PLEASE DO NOT REPLY TO THIS EMAIL.****

Mr. Sanderson:

This email acknowledges receipt of your December 6, 2022, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) (5 U.S.C. § 552) request received by the U.S. Department of State, Office of Information Programs and Services on December 6, 2022, regarding "A. For Funding Opportunity Number DOS-USNATO-PAA-2021-001: 1. All records of the Notice of Funding Opportunity; 2. All records of Notices of Award; 3. All records of Applications submitted for which funding was awarded; 4. All records of grant agreements, cooperative agreements, other agreements for assistance covered in § 200.40 Federal financial assistance of the OMB Uniform Grant Guidance; 5. All records of Reporting received from Recipients during the post award phase, including closeout; and 6. All records of Audits conducted during the post award phase. B. All records relating to or regarding the processing of the above items". Unless you advise otherwise, we will treat as non-responsive any compilations of publicly available news reports and any publicly available documents not created by the U.S. government, such as mass-distribution emails from news media. This Office assigned your request the subject reference number and placed it in the complex processing track where it will be processed as quickly as possible. See 22 CFR § 171.11(h). This Office grants your request for a fee waiver.

This Office will not be able to respond within the 20 days provided by the statute due to "unusual circumstances." See 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(B)(i)-(iii). In this instance, the unusual circumstances include the need to search for and collect requested records from other Department offices or Foreign Service posts.

If you have any questions regarding your request, would like to narrow the scope or arrange an alternative time frame to speed its processing, or would like an estimated date of completion, please contact our FOIA Requester Service Center or our FOIA Public Liaison by email at FOIAstatus@state.gov or telephone at 202-261-8484. Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001, email at ogis@nara.gov; telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.

****THIS EMAIL BOX IS NOT MONITORED, PLEASE DO NOT REPLY TO THIS EMAIL.****

AFL FOIA <foia@aflegal.org>
To: FOIA Status <FOIAstatus@state.gov>

Tue, Mar 14, 2023 at 10:01 PM

Good evening,

May we please receive an update on the status of this request?

Thank you,

Michael Ding
America First Legal Foundation
[Quoted text hidden]

FOIA Status <FOIAStatus@state.gov>
To: AFL FOIA <foia@aflegal.org>

Mon, Mar 20, 2023 at 3:26 PM

Mr. Ding,

This is in response to your email below regarding FOIA Case Control Number F-2023-02473.

The Office of Information Programs and Services' electronic records system indicates this request is still in process. Mr. Sanderson will be notified of the Department's search and review efforts in response to this request as soon as that information becomes available.

The Department currently has a backlog of FOIA requests and is working through it as quickly as possible. As the Department continues to work through its backlog of FOIA requests, it is mindful of its accountability to the public.

We appreciate your continued patience.

If you have further questions or any concerns regarding a FOIA-related matter, you may contact the FOIA Requester Service Center via email at FOIAStatus@state.gov.

Regards,

U.S. Department of State
FOIA Requester Service Center

[Quoted text hidden]



December 6, 2022

VIA EMAIL: FOIARequest@state.gov

U.S. Department of State
Office of Information Programs and Services
2201 C Street N.W., Suite B266
Washington, DC 20250-0000

Freedom of Information Act Request: Records regarding Funding Opportunity Number DOS-USNATO-PAA-2020-002.

Dear FOIA Officer:

America First Legal Foundation is a national, nonprofit organization working to promote the rule of law in the United States, prevent executive overreach, and ensure due process and equal protection for all Americans, all to promote public knowledge and understanding of the law and individual rights guaranteed under the Constitution and laws of the United States. To that end, we file Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests on issues of pressing public concern, then disseminate the information we obtain, making documents broadly available to the public, scholars, and the media. Using our editorial skills to turn raw materials into distinct work, we distribute that work to a national audience through traditional and social media platforms. AFL's email list contains over 33,500 unique addresses, our Facebook page has 86,000 followers, our Twitter page has 25,000 followers, the Twitter page of our Founder and President has over 336,000 followers, and we have another 31,500 followers on GETTR.

I. Requested Records

A. For Funding Opportunity Number DOS-USNATO-PAA-2020-002:

1. All records of the Notice of Funding Opportunity;
2. All records of Notices of Award for proposals relating to Countering dis and misinformation;
3. All records of Applications submitted for which funding was awarded for proposals relating to Countering dis and misinformation;
4. All records of grant agreements, cooperative agreements, other agreements for assistance covered in § 200.40 Federal financial

611 Pennsylvania Ave SE #231

Washington, DC 20003

assistance of the OMB Uniform Grant Guidance, for proposals relating to Countering dis and misinformation;

5. All records of Reporting received from Recipients during the post award phase, including closeout, for proposals relating to Countering dis and misinformation; and
6. All records of Audits conducted during the post award phase, for proposals relating to Countering dis and misinformation.

B. All records relating to or regarding the processing of the above items.

II. Processing Requirements

Processing should occur in strict compliance with the processing guidance in the Attorney General's Memorandum on Freedom of Information Act Guidelines.¹ If you have any questions about our request or believe further discussions regarding search and processing would facilitate a more efficient production of records of interest to AFL, then please contact me at FOIA@aflegal.org.

III. Fee Waiver Request

Per 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii), AFL requests a waiver of all search and duplication fees associated with this request.

First, AFL is a qualified non-commercial public education and news media requester. AFL has demonstrated its commitment to the public disclosure of documents and creation of editorial content through regular substantive analyses posted to its website. For example, its officials routinely appear on national television and use social media platforms to disseminate the information it has obtained about federal government activities. In this case, AFL will make your records and your responses publicly available for the benefit of citizens, scholars, and others. The public's understanding of your policies and practices with respect to the important topic of the GEC's grant application and review process will be enhanced through AFL's analysis and publication of the requested records. As a nonprofit organization, AFL does not have a commercial purpose and the release of the information requested is not in AFL's financial interest.

Second, waiver is proper as disclosure of the requested information is "in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of operations or activities of the government."

¹ U.S. DEP'T JUST. (Mar. 15, 2022), <https://bit.ly/3zvpxb6>.

IV. Production

To accelerate your release of responsive records, AFL welcomes production on an agreed rolling basis. If possible, please provide responsive records in an electronic format by email. Alternatively, please provide responsive records in native format or in PDF format on a USB drive to America First Legal Foundation, 611 Pennsylvania Ave SE #231, Washington, DC 20003.

V. Conclusion

If you have any questions about how to construe this request or believe further discussions regarding search and processing would facilitate a more efficient production of records of interest to AFL, please do not hesitate to contact me at FOIA@aflegal.org. Finally, if AFL's request for a fee waiver is not granted in full, please contact us immediately upon making that determination.

Thank you,

/s/ Tyler J. Sanderson

Tyler J. Sanderson, Counsel
America First Legal Foundation



AFL FOIA <foia@aflegal.org>

Ref: F-2023-02470, Freedom of Information Act Acknowledgement

3 messages

A_FOIAacknowledgement@groups.state.gov <A_FOIAacknowledgement@groups.state.gov>Wed, Dec 7, 2022 at
7:30 AM

To: FOIA@aflegal.org

****THIS EMAIL BOX IS NOT MONITORED, PLEASE DO NOT REPLY TO THIS EMAIL.****

Mr. Sanderson:

This email acknowledges receipt of your December 6, 2022, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) (5 U.S.C. § 552) request received by the U.S. Department of State, Office of Information Programs and Services on December 6, 2022, regarding "A. For Funding Opportunity Number DOS-USNATO-PAA-2020-002: 1. All records of the Notice of Funding Opportunity; 2. All records of Notices of Award for proposals relating to Countering dis and misinformation; 3. All records of Applications submitted for which funding was awarded for proposals relating to Countering dis and misinformation; 4. All records of grant agreements, cooperative agreements, other agreements for assistance covered in § 200.40 Federal financial assistance of the OMB Uniform Grant Guidance, for proposals relating to Countering dis and misinformation; 5. All records of Reporting received from Recipients during the post award phase, including closeout, for proposals relating to Countering dis and misinformation; and 6. All records of Audits conducted during the post award phase, for proposals relating to Countering dis and misinformation. B. All records relating to or regarding the processing of the above items". Unless you advise otherwise, we will treat as non-responsive any compilations of publicly available news reports and any publicly available documents not created by the U.S. government, such as mass-distribution emails from news media. This Office assigned your request the subject reference number and placed it in the complex processing track where it will be processed as quickly as possible. See 22 CFR § 171.11(h). This Office grants your request for a fee waiver.

This Office will not be able to respond within the 20 days provided by the statute due to "unusual circumstances." See 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(B)(i)-(iii). In this instance, the unusual circumstances include the need to search for and collect requested records from other Department offices or Foreign Service posts.

If you have any questions regarding your request, would like to narrow the scope or arrange an alternative time frame to speed its processing, or would like an estimated date of completion, please contact our FOIA Requester Service Center or our FOIA Public Liaison by email at FOIAstatus@state.gov or telephone at 202-261-8484. Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001, email at ogis@nara.gov; telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.

****THIS EMAIL BOX IS NOT MONITORED, PLEASE DO NOT REPLY TO THIS EMAIL.****

AFL FOIA <foia@aflegal.org>
To: FOIA Status <FOIAStatus@state.gov>

Tue, Mar 14, 2023 at 10:01 PM

Good evening,

May we please receive an update on the status of this request?

Thank you,

Michael Ding
America First Legal Foundation

[Quoted text hidden]

FOIA Status <FOIAStatus@state.gov>
To: AFL FOIA <foia@aflegal.org>

Mon, Mar 20, 2023 at 5:04 PM

Mr. Ding,

This is in response to your email below regarding FOIA Case Control Number F-2023-02470.

The Office of Information Programs and Services' electronic records system indicates this request is still in process. Mr. Sanderson will be notified of the Department's search and review efforts in response to this request as soon as that information becomes available.

The Department currently has a backlog of FOIA requests and is working through it as quickly as possible. As the Department continues to work through its backlog of FOIA requests, it is mindful of its accountability to the public.

We appreciate your continued patience.

If you have further questions or any concerns regarding a FOIA-related matter, you may contact the FOIA Requester Service Center via email at FOIAStatus@state.gov.

Regards,

U.S. Department of State
FOIA Requester Service Center

[Quoted text hidden]



December 6, 2022

VIA EMAIL: FOIARequest@state.gov

U.S. Department of State
Office of Information Programs and Services
2201 C Street N.W., Suite B266
Washington, DC 20250-0000

Freedom of Information Act Request: Records regarding Funding Opportunity Number DOS-USNATO-PAA-2020-001.

Dear FOIA Officer:

America First Legal Foundation is a national, nonprofit organization working to promote the rule of law in the United States, prevent executive overreach, and ensure due process and equal protection for all Americans, all to promote public knowledge and understanding of the law and individual rights guaranteed under the Constitution and laws of the United States. To that end, we file Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests on issues of pressing public concern, then disseminate the information we obtain, making documents broadly available to the public, scholars, and the media. Using our editorial skills to turn raw materials into distinct work, we distribute that work to a national audience through traditional and social media platforms. AFL's email list contains over 33,500 unique addresses, our Facebook page has 86,000 followers, our Twitter page has 25,000 followers, the Twitter page of our Founder and President has over 336,000 followers, and we have another 31,500 followers on GETTR.

I. Requested Records

A. For Funding Opportunity Number DOS-USNATO-PAA-2020-001:

1. All records of the Notice of Funding Opportunity;
2. All records of Notices of Award for proposals relating to Countering dis and misinformation;
3. All records of Applications submitted for which funding was awarded for proposals relating to Countering dis and misinformation;
4. All records of grant agreements, cooperative agreements, other agreements for assistance covered in § 200.40 Federal financial

611 Pennsylvania Ave SE #231

Washington, DC 20003

assistance of the OMB Uniform Grant Guidance, for proposals relating to Countering dis and misinformation;

5. All records of Reporting received from Recipients during the post award phase, including closeout, for proposals relating to Countering dis and misinformation; and
6. All records of Audits conducted during the post award phase, for proposals relating to Countering dis and misinformation.

B. All records relating to or regarding the processing of the above items.

II. Processing Requirements

Processing should occur in strict compliance with the processing guidance in the Attorney General's Memorandum on Freedom of Information Act Guidelines.¹ If you have any questions about our request or believe further discussions regarding search and processing would facilitate a more efficient production of records of interest to AFL, then please contact me at FOIA@aflegal.org.

III. Fee Waiver Request

Per 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii), AFL requests a waiver of all search and duplication fees associated with this request.

First, AFL is a qualified non-commercial public education and news media requester. AFL has demonstrated its commitment to the public disclosure of documents and creation of editorial content through regular substantive analyses posted to its website. For example, its officials routinely appear on national television and use social media platforms to disseminate the information it has obtained about federal government activities. In this case, AFL will make your records and your responses publicly available for the benefit of citizens, scholars, and others. The public's understanding of your policies and practices with respect to the important topic of the GEC's grant application and review process will be enhanced through AFL's analysis and publication of the requested records. As a nonprofit organization, AFL does not have a commercial purpose and the release of the information requested is not in AFL's financial interest.

Second, waiver is proper as disclosure of the requested information is "in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of operations or activities of the government."

¹ U.S. DEP'T JUST. (Mar. 15, 2022), <https://bit.ly/3zvpxb6>.

IV. Production

To accelerate your release of responsive records, AFL welcomes production on an agreed rolling basis. If possible, please provide responsive records in an electronic format by email. Alternatively, please provide responsive records in native format or in PDF format on a USB drive to America First Legal Foundation, 611 Pennsylvania Ave SE #231, Washington, DC 20003.

V. Conclusion

If you have any questions about how to construe this request or believe further discussions regarding search and processing would facilitate a more efficient production of records of interest to AFL, please do not hesitate to contact me at FOIA@aflegal.org. Finally, if AFL's request for a fee waiver is not granted in full, please contact us immediately upon making that determination.

Thank you,

/s/ Tyler J. Sanderson

Tyler J. Sanderson, Counsel
America First Legal Foundation



AFL FOIA <foia@aflegal.org>

Ref: F-2023-02466, Freedom of Information Act Acknowledgement

3 messages

A_FOIAacknowledgement@groups.state.gov <A_FOIAacknowledgement@groups.state.gov>Wed, Dec 7, 2022 at
7:36 AM

To: FOIA@aflegal.org

****THIS EMAIL BOX IS NOT MONITORED, PLEASE DO NOT REPLY TO THIS EMAIL.****

Mr. Sanderson:

This email acknowledges receipt of your December 6, 2022, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) (5 U.S.C. § 552) request received by the U.S. Department of State, Office of Information Programs and Services on December 6, 2022, regarding "A. For Funding Opportunity Number DOS-USNATO-PAA-2020-001: 1. All records of the Notice of Funding Opportunity; 2. All records of Notices of Award for proposals relating to Countering dis and misinformation; 3. All records of Applications submitted for which funding was awarded for proposals relating to Countering dis and misinformation; 4. All records of grant agreements, cooperative agreements, other agreements for assistance covered in § 200.40 Federal financial assistance of the OMB Uniform Grant Guidance, for proposals relating to Countering dis and misinformation; 5. All records of Reporting received from Recipients during the post award phase, including closeout, for proposals relating to Countering dis and misinformation; and 6. All records of Audits conducted during the post award phase, for proposals relating to Countering dis and misinformation; B. All records relating to or regarding the processing of the above items". Unless you advise otherwise, we will treat as non-responsive any compilations of publicly available news reports and any publicly available documents not created by the U.S. government, such as mass-distribution emails from news media. This Office assigned your request the subject reference number and placed it in the complex processing track where it will be processed as quickly as possible. See 22 CFR § 171.11(h). This Office grants your request for a fee waiver.

This Office will not be able to respond within the 20 days provided by the statute due to "unusual circumstances." See 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(B)(i)-(iii). In this instance, the unusual circumstances include the need to search for and collect requested records from other Department offices or Foreign Service posts.

If you have any questions regarding your request, would like to narrow the scope or arrange an alternative time frame to speed its processing, or would like an estimated date of completion, please contact our FOIA Requester Service Center or our FOIA Public Liaison by email at FOIAstatus@state.gov or telephone at 202-261-8484. Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001, email at ogis@nara.gov; telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.

****THIS EMAIL BOX IS NOT MONITORED, PLEASE DO NOT REPLY TO THIS EMAIL.****

AFL FOIA <foia@aflegal.org>
To: FOIA Status <FOIAStatus@state.gov>

Tue, Mar 14, 2023 at 10:02 PM

Good evening,

May we please receive an update on the status of this request?

Thank you,

Michael Ding
America First Legal Foundation

[Quoted text hidden]

FOIA Status <FOIAStatus@state.gov>
To: AFL FOIA <foia@aflegal.org>

Mon, Mar 20, 2023 at 5:05 PM

Mr. Ding,

This is in response to your email below regarding FOIA Case Control Number F-2023-02466.

The Office of Information Programs and Services' electronic records system indicates this request is still in process. Mr. Sanderson will be notified of the Department's search and review efforts in response to this request as soon as that information becomes available.

The Department currently has a backlog of FOIA requests and is working through it as quickly as possible. As the Department continues to work through its backlog of FOIA requests, it is mindful of its accountability to the public.

We appreciate your continued patience.

If you have further questions or any concerns regarding a FOIA-related matter, you may contact the FOIA Requester Service Center via email at FOIAStatus@state.gov.

Regards,

U.S. Department of State
FOIA Requester Service Center

[Quoted text hidden]



December 6, 2022

VIA EMAIL: FOIARequest@state.gov

U.S. Department of State
Office of Information Programs and Services
2201 C Street N.W., Suite B266
Washington, DC 20250-0000

Freedom of Information Act Request: Records regarding Federal Award Identification Numbers (FAIN) SGECPD22CA0036, SLMAQM18GR2177, SLMAQM19CA2246, SMJ19019GR0016, SAS20022CA0050, SBE30019CA0012, SNL80021GR3024.

Dear FOIA Officer:

America First Legal Foundation is a national, nonprofit organization working to promote the rule of law in the United States, prevent executive overreach, and ensure due process and equal protection for all Americans, all to promote public knowledge and understanding of the law and individual rights guaranteed under the Constitution and laws of the United States. To that end, we file Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests on issues of pressing public concern, then disseminate the information we obtain, making documents broadly available to the public, scholars, and the media. Using our editorial skills to turn raw materials into distinct work, we distribute that work to a national audience through traditional and social media platforms. AFL's email list contains over 33,500 unique addresses, our Facebook page has 86,000 followers, our Twitter page has 25,000 followers, the Twitter page of our Founder and President has over 336,000 followers, and we have another 31,500 followers on GETTR.

I. Requested Records

- A. For the Federal Award Identification Numbers (FAIN) SGECPD22CA0036, SLMAQM18GR2177, SLMAQM19CA2246, SMJ19019GR0016, SAS20022CA0050, SBE30019CA0012, SNL80021GR3024:
1. All records of the Notice of Funding Opportunity;
 2. All records of the Notice of Award;
 3. All records of the Application submitted for which funding was awarded;

4. All records of grant agreements, cooperative agreements, other agreements for assistance covered in § 200.40 Federal financial assistance of the OMB Uniform Grant Guidance;
5. All records of Reporting received from the Recipient during the post award phase, including closeout; and
6. All records of Audits conducted during the post award phase.
7. All telegraphic communications related to the above rewards referencing:
 - i. Moonshot
 - ii. National Endowment for Democracy
 - iii. Digital Public Square
 - iv. Atlantski Savez
 - v. Atlantic Council
 - vi. Australian Strategic Policy Institute
 - vii. Stichting Sofisterij

B. All records relating to or regarding the processing of the above items.

II. Processing Requirements

Processing should occur in strict compliance with the processing guidance in the Attorney General's Memorandum on Freedom of Information Act Guidelines.¹ If you have any questions about our request or believe further discussions regarding search and processing would facilitate a more efficient production of records of interest to AFL, then please contact me at FOIA@aflegal.org.

III. Fee Waiver Request

Per 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii), AFL requests a waiver of all search and duplication fees associated with this request.

First, AFL is a qualified non-commercial public education and news media requester. AFL has demonstrated its commitment to the public disclosure of documents and creation of editorial content through regular substantive analyses posted to its website. For example, its officials routinely appear on national television and use social media platforms to disseminate the information it has obtained about federal government activities. In this case, AFL will make your records and your responses publicly available for the benefit of citizens, scholars, and others. The public's understanding of your policies and practices with respect to the important topic of the GEC's grant application and review process will be enhanced through AFL's analysis and publication of the requested records. As a nonprofit organization, AFL

¹ U.S. DEP'T JUST. (Mar. 15, 2022), <https://bit.ly/3zvpxb6>.

does not have a commercial purpose and the release of the information requested is not in AFL's financial interest.

Second, waiver is proper as disclosure of the requested information is "in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of operations or activities of the government."

IV. Production

To accelerate your release of responsive records, AFL welcomes production on an agreed rolling basis. If possible, please provide responsive records in an electronic format by email. Alternatively, please provide responsive records in native format or in PDF format on a USB drive to America First Legal Foundation, 611 Pennsylvania Ave SE #231, Washington, DC 20003.

V. Conclusion

If you have any questions about how to construe this request or believe further discussions regarding search and processing would facilitate a more efficient production of records of interest to AFL, please do not hesitate to contact me at FOIA@aflegal.org. Finally, if AFL's request for a fee waiver is not granted in full, please contact us immediately upon making that determination.

Thank you,

/s/ Tyler J. Sanderson

Tyler J. Sanderson, Counsel
America First Legal Foundation



AFL FOIA <foia@aflegal.org>

Ref: F-2023-02500, Freedom of Information Act Acknowledgement

3 messages

A_FOIAacknowledgement@groups.state.gov <A_FOIAacknowledgement@groups.state.gov>Wed, Dec 7, 2022 at
10:53 AM

To: FOIA@aflegal.org

****THIS EMAIL BOX IS NOT MONITORED, PLEASE DO NOT REPLY TO THIS EMAIL.****

Mr. Sanderson:

This email acknowledges receipt of your December 6, 2022, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) (5 U.S.C. § 552) request received by the U.S. Department of State, Office of Information Programs and Services on December 6, 2022, regarding records regarding Federal Award Identification Numbers (FAIN) SGECPD22CA0036, SLMAQM18GR2177, SLMAQM19CA2246, SMJ19019GR0016, SAS20022CA0050, SBE30019CA0012, SNL80021GR3024. Unless you advise otherwise, we will treat as non-responsive any compilations of publicly available news reports and any publicly available documents not created by the U.S. government, such as mass-distribution emails from news media. This Office assigned your request the subject reference number and placed it in the complex processing track where it will be processed as quickly as possible. See 22 CFR § 171.11(h). This Office grants your request for a fee waiver.

This Office will not be able to respond within the 20 days provided by the statute due to “unusual circumstances.” See 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(B)(i)-(iii). In this instance, the unusual circumstances include the need to search for and collect requested records from other Department offices or Foreign Service posts.

If you have any questions regarding your request, would like to narrow the scope or arrange an alternative time frame to speed its processing, or would like an estimated date of completion, please contact our FOIA Requester Service Center or our FOIA Public Liaison by email at FOIAstatus@state.gov or telephone at 202-261-8484. Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001, email at ogis@nara.gov; telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.

****THIS EMAIL BOX IS NOT MONITORED, PLEASE DO NOT REPLY TO THIS EMAIL.****

AFL FOIA <foia@aflegal.org>

Tue, Mar 14, 2023 at 10:02 PM

To: FOIA Status <FOIAStatus@state.gov>

Good evening,

May we please receive an update on the status of this request?

Thank you,

Michael Ding

America First Legal Foundation

[Quoted text hidden]

FOIA Status <FOIAStatus@state.gov>

Mon, Mar 20, 2023 at 6:27 PM

To: AFL FOIA <foia@aflegal.org>

Mr. Ding,

This is in response to your email below regarding FOIA Case Control Number F-2023-02500.

The Office of Information Programs and Services' electronic records system indicates this request is still in process. Mr. Sanderson will be notified of the Department's search and review efforts in response to this request as soon as that information becomes available.

The Department currently has a backlog of FOIA requests and is working through it as quickly as possible. As the Department continues to work through its backlog of FOIA requests, it is mindful of its accountability to the public.

We appreciate your continued patience.

If you have further questions or any concerns regarding a FOIA-related matter, you may contact the FOIA Requester Service Center via email at FOIAStatus@state.gov.

Regards,

U.S. Department of State

FOIA Requester Service Center

[Quoted text hidden]



December 6, 2022

VIA EMAIL: FOIARequest@state.gov

U.S. Department of State
Office of Information Programs and Services
2201 C Street N.W., Suite B266
Washington, DC 20250-0000

Freedom of Information Act Request: Records regarding Funding Opportunity Number SGECPD22CA0036.

Dear FOIA Officer:

America First Legal Foundation is a national, nonprofit organization working to promote the rule of law in the United States, prevent executive overreach, and ensure due process and equal protection for all Americans, all to promote public knowledge and understanding of the law and individual rights guaranteed under the Constitution and laws of the United States. To that end, we file Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests on issues of pressing public concern, then disseminate the information we obtain, making documents broadly available to the public, scholars, and the media. Using our editorial skills to turn raw materials into distinct work, we distribute that work to a national audience through traditional and social media platforms. AFL's email list contains over 33,500 unique addresses, our Facebook page has 86,000 followers, our Twitter page has 25,000 followers, the Twitter page of our Founder and President has over 336,000 followers, and we have another 31,500 followers on GETTR.

I. Requested Records

A. For Federal Award Identification Number SGECPD22CA0036:

1. All records of the Notice of Funding Opportunity;
2. All records of the Notice of Award;
3. All records of Application submitted for which funding was awarded;
4. All records of grant agreements, cooperative agreements, other agreements for assistance covered in § 200.40 Federal financial assistance of the OMB Uniform Grant Guidance;
5. All records of Reporting received from Recipient during the post award phase, including closeout; and
6. All records of Audits conducted during the post award phase.

611 Pennsylvania Ave SE #231
Washington, DC 20003

B. All records relating to or regarding the processing of the above items.

II. Processing Requirements

Processing should occur in strict compliance with the processing guidance in the Attorney General's Memorandum on Freedom of Information Act Guidelines.¹ If you have any questions about our request or believe further discussions regarding search and processing would facilitate a more efficient production of records of interest to AFL, then please contact me at FOIA@aflegal.org.

III. Fee Waiver Request

Per 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii), AFL requests a waiver of all search and duplication fees associated with this request.

First, AFL is a qualified non-commercial public education and news media requester. AFL has demonstrated its commitment to the public disclosure of documents and creation of editorial content through regular substantive analyses posted to its website. For example, its officials routinely appear on national television and use social media platforms to disseminate the information it has obtained about federal government activities. In this case, AFL will make your records and your responses publicly available for the benefit of citizens, scholars, and others. The public's understanding of your policies and practices with respect to the important topic of the GEC's grant application and review process will be enhanced through AFL's analysis and publication of the requested records. As a nonprofit organization, AFL does not have a commercial purpose and the release of the information requested is not in AFL's financial interest.

Second, waiver is proper as disclosure of the requested information is "in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of operations or activities of the government."

IV. Production

To accelerate your release of responsive records, AFL welcomes production on an agreed rolling basis. If possible, please provide responsive records in an electronic format by email. Alternatively, please provide responsive records in native format or in PDF format on a USB drive to America First Legal Foundation, 611 Pennsylvania Ave SE #231, Washington, DC 20003.

¹ U.S. DEP'T JUST. (Mar. 15, 2022), <https://bit.ly/3zvp6b6>.

V. Conclusion

If you have any questions about how to construe this request or believe further discussions regarding search and processing would facilitate a more efficient production of records of interest to AFL, please do not hesitate to contact me at FOIA@aflegal.org. Finally, if AFL's request for a fee waiver is not granted in full, please contact us immediately upon making that determination.

Thank you,

/s/ Tyler J. Sanderson

Tyler J. Sanderson, Counsel
America First Legal Foundation



AFL FOIA <foia@aflegal.org>

Ref: F-2023-02499, Freedom of Information Act Acknowledgement

3 messages

A_FOIAacknowledgement@groups.state.gov <A_FOIAacknowledgement@groups.state.gov>

Wed, Dec 7, 2022 at
12:37 PM

To: FOIA@aflegal.org

****THIS EMAIL BOX IS NOT MONITORED, PLEASE DO NOT REPLY TO THIS EMAIL.****

Mr. Sanderson:

This email acknowledges receipt of your December 6, 2022, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) (5 U.S.C. § 552) request received by the U.S. Department of State, Office of Information Programs and Services on December 6, 2022, regarding records regarding Funding Opportunity Number SGECPD22CA0036. Unless you advise otherwise, we will treat as non-responsive any compilations of publicly available news reports and any publicly available documents not created by the U.S. government, such as mass-distribution emails from news media. This Office assigned your request the subject reference number and placed it in the complex processing track where it will be processed as quickly as possible. See 22 CFR § 171.11(h). This Office grants your request for a fee waiver.

This Office will not be able to respond within the 20 days provided by the statute due to “unusual circumstances.” See 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(B)(i)-(iii). In this instance, the unusual circumstances include the need to search for and collect requested records from other Department offices or Foreign Service posts.

If you have any questions regarding your request, would like to narrow the scope or arrange an alternative time frame to speed its processing, or would like an estimated date of completion, please contact our FOIA Requester Service Center or our FOIA Public Liaison by email at FOIAstatus@state.gov or telephone at 202-261-8484. Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001, email at ogis@nara.gov; telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.

****THIS EMAIL BOX IS NOT MONITORED, PLEASE DO NOT REPLY TO THIS EMAIL.****

AFL FOIA <foia@aflegal.org>

Tue, Mar 14, 2023 at 10:03 PM

To: FOIA Status <FOIAStatus@state.gov>

Good evening,

May we please receive an update on the status of this request?

Thank you,

Michael Ding
America First Legal Foundation

[Quoted text hidden]

FOIA Status <FOIAStatus@state.gov>
To: AFL FOIA <foia@aflegal.org>

Mon, Mar 20, 2023 at 7:02 PM

Mr. Ding,

This is in response to your email below regarding FOIA Case Control Number F-2023-02499.

The Office of Information Programs and Services' electronic records system indicates this request is still in process. Mr. Sanderson will be notified of the Department's search and review efforts in response to this request as soon as that information becomes available.

The Department currently has a backlog of FOIA requests and is working through it as quickly as possible. As the Department continues to work through its backlog of FOIA requests, it is mindful of its accountability to the public.

We appreciate your continued patience.

If you have further questions or any concerns regarding a FOIA-related matter, you may contact the FOIA Requester Service Center via email at FOIAStatus@state.gov.

Regards,

U.S. Department of State
FOIA Requester Service Center

[Quoted text hidden]



December 6, 2022

VIA EMAIL: FOIARequest@state.gov

U.S. Department of State
Office of Information Programs and Services
2201 C Street N.W., Suite B266
Washington, DC 20250-0000

Freedom of Information Act Request: Records regarding Funding Opportunity Number S-GECPD-17-001.

Dear FOIA Officer:

America First Legal Foundation is a national, nonprofit organization working to promote the rule of law in the United States, prevent executive overreach, and ensure due process and equal protection for all Americans, all to promote public knowledge and understanding of the law and individual rights guaranteed under the Constitution and laws of the United States. To that end, we file Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests on issues of pressing public concern, then disseminate the information we obtain, making documents broadly available to the public, scholars, and the media. Using our editorial skills to turn raw materials into distinct work, we distribute that work to a national audience through traditional and social media platforms. AFL's email list contains over 33,500 unique addresses, our Facebook page has 86,000 followers, our Twitter page has 25,000 followers, the Twitter page of our Founder and President has over 336,000 followers, and we have another 31,500 followers on GETTR.

I. Requested Records

A. For Funding Opportunity Number S-GECPD-17-001:

1. All records of the Notice of Funding Opportunity;
2. All records of Notices of Award;
3. All records of Applications submitted for which funding was awarded;
4. All records of grant agreements, cooperative agreements, other agreements for assistance covered in § 200.40 Federal financial assistance of the OMB Uniform Grant Guidance;
5. All records of Reporting received from Recipients during the post award phase, including closeout; and

611 Pennsylvania Ave SE #231

Washington, DC 20003

6. All records of Audits conducted during the post award phase.
- B. All records relating to or regarding the processing of the above items.

II. Processing Requirements

Processing should occur in strict compliance with the processing guidance in the Attorney General's Memorandum on Freedom of Information Act Guidelines.¹ If you have any questions about our request or believe further discussions regarding search and processing would facilitate a more efficient production of records of interest to AFL, then please contact me at FOIA@aflegal.org.

III. Fee Waiver Request

Per 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii), AFL requests a waiver of all search and duplication fees associated with this request.

First, AFL is a qualified non-commercial public education and news media requester. AFL has demonstrated its commitment to the public disclosure of documents and creation of editorial content through regular substantive analyses posted to its website. For example, its officials routinely appear on national television and use social media platforms to disseminate the information it has obtained about federal government activities. In this case, AFL will make your records and your responses publicly available for the benefit of citizens, scholars, and others. The public's understanding of your policies and practices with respect to the important topic of the GEC's grant application and review process will be enhanced through AFL's analysis and publication of the requested records. As a nonprofit organization, AFL does not have a commercial purpose and the release of the information requested is not in AFL's financial interest.

Second, waiver is proper as disclosure of the requested information is "in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of operations or activities of the government."

IV. Production

To accelerate your release of responsive records, AFL welcomes production on an agreed rolling basis. If possible, please provide responsive records in an electronic format by email. Alternatively, please provide responsive records in native format or in PDF format on a USB drive to America First Legal Foundation, 611 Pennsylvania Ave SE #231, Washington, DC 20003.

¹ U.S. DEP'T JUST. (Mar. 15, 2022), <https://bit.ly/3zvpxb6>.

V. Conclusion

If you have any questions about how to construe this request or believe further discussions regarding search and processing would facilitate a more efficient production of records of interest to AFL, please do not hesitate to contact me at FOIA@aflegal.org. Finally, if AFL's request for a fee waiver is not granted in full, please contact us immediately upon making that determination.

Thank you,

/s/ Tyler J. Sanderson

Tyler J. Sanderson, Counsel
America First Legal Foundation



AFL FOIA <foia@aflegal.org>

Ref: F-2023-02498, Freedom of Information Act Acknowledgement

3 messages

A_FOIAacknowledgement@groups.state.gov <A_FOIAacknowledgement@groups.state.gov>

Wed, Dec 7, 2022 at
12:46 PM

To: FOIA@aflegal.org

****THIS EMAIL BOX IS NOT MONITORED, PLEASE DO NOT REPLY TO THIS EMAIL.****

Mr. Sanderson:

This email acknowledges receipt of your December 6, 2022, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) (5 U.S.C. § 552) request received by the U.S. Department of State, Office of Information Programs and Services on December 6, 2022, regarding records regarding Funding Opportunity Number S-GECPD-17-001. Unless you advise otherwise, we will treat as non-responsive any compilations of publicly available news reports and any publicly available documents not created by the U.S. government, such as mass-distribution emails from news media. This Office assigned your request the subject reference number and placed it in the complex processing track where it will be processed as quickly as possible. See 22 CFR § 171.11(h). This Office grants your request for a fee waiver.

This Office will not be able to respond within the 20 days provided by the statute due to “unusual circumstances.” See 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(B)(i)-(iii). In this instance, the unusual circumstances include the need to search for and collect requested records from other Department offices or Foreign Service posts.

If you have any questions regarding your request, would like to narrow the scope or arrange an alternative time frame to speed its processing, or would like an estimated date of completion, please contact our FOIA Requester Service Center or our FOIA Public Liaison by email at FOIAstatus@state.gov or telephone at 202-261-8484. Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001, email at ogis@nara.gov; telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.

****THIS EMAIL BOX IS NOT MONITORED, PLEASE DO NOT REPLY TO THIS EMAIL.****

AFL FOIA <foia@aflegal.org>

Tue, Mar 14, 2023 at 10:03 PM

To: FOIA Status <FOIAStatus@state.gov>

Good evening,

May we please receive an update on the status of this request?

Thank you,

Michael Ding
America First Legal Foundation

[Quoted text hidden]

FOIA Status <FOIAStatus@state.gov>
To: AFL FOIA <foia@aflegal.org>

Tue, Mar 21, 2023 at 10:31 AM

Mr. Ding,

This is in response to your email below regarding FOIA Case Control Number F-2023-02498.

The Office of Information Programs and Services' electronic records system indicates this request is still in process. Mr. Sanderson will be notified of the Department's search and review efforts in response to this request as soon as that information becomes available.

The Department currently has a backlog of FOIA requests and is working through it as quickly as possible. As the Department continues to work through its backlog of FOIA requests, it is mindful of its accountability to the public.

We appreciate your continued patience.

If you have further questions or any concerns regarding a FOIA-related matter, you may contact the FOIA Requester Service Center via email at FOIAStatus@state.gov.

Regards,

U.S. Department of State
FOIA Requester Service Center

[Quoted text hidden]



December 6, 2022

VIA EMAIL: FOIARequest@state.gov

U.S. Department of State
Office of Information Programs and Services
2201 C Street N.W., Suite B266
Washington, DC 20250-0000

Freedom of Information Act Request: Records regarding Funding Opportunity Number SFOP0008867.

Dear FOIA Officer:

America First Legal Foundation is a national, nonprofit organization working to promote the rule of law in the United States, prevent executive overreach, and ensure due process and equal protection for all Americans, all to promote public knowledge and understanding of the law and individual rights guaranteed under the Constitution and laws of the United States. To that end, we file Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests on issues of pressing public concern, then disseminate the information we obtain, making documents broadly available to the public, scholars, and the media. Using our editorial skills to turn raw materials into distinct work, we distribute that work to a national audience through traditional and social media platforms. AFL's email list contains over 33,500 unique addresses, our Facebook page has 86,000 followers, our Twitter page has 25,000 followers, the Twitter page of our Founder and President has over 336,000 followers, and we have another 31,500 followers on GETTR.

I. Requested Records

A. For Funding Opportunity Number SFOP0008867:

1. All records of the Notice of Funding Opportunity;
2. All records of Notices of Award;
3. All records of Applications submitted for which funding was awarded;
4. All records of grant agreements, cooperative agreements, other agreements for assistance covered in § 200.40 Federal financial assistance of the OMB Uniform Grant Guidance;
5. All records of Reporting received from Recipients during the post award phase, including closeout; and
6. All records of Audits conducted during the post award phase.

611 Pennsylvania Ave SE #231
Washington, DC 20003

B. All records relating to or regarding the processing of the above items.

II. Processing Requirements

Processing should occur in strict compliance with the processing guidance in the Attorney General's Memorandum on Freedom of Information Act Guidelines.¹ If you have any questions about our request or believe further discussions regarding search and processing would facilitate a more efficient production of records of interest to AFL, then please contact me at FOIA@aflegal.org.

III. Fee Waiver Request

Per 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii), AFL requests a waiver of all search and duplication fees associated with this request.

First, AFL is a qualified non-commercial public education and news media requester. AFL has demonstrated its commitment to the public disclosure of documents and creation of editorial content through regular substantive analyses posted to its website. For example, its officials routinely appear on national television and use social media platforms to disseminate the information it has obtained about federal government activities. In this case, AFL will make your records and your responses publicly available for the benefit of citizens, scholars, and others. The public's understanding of your policies and practices with respect to the important topic of the GEC's grant application and review process will be enhanced through AFL's analysis and publication of the requested records. As a nonprofit organization, AFL does not have a commercial purpose and the release of the information requested is not in AFL's financial interest.

Second, waiver is proper as disclosure of the requested information is "in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of operations or activities of the government."

IV. Production

To accelerate your release of responsive records, AFL welcomes production on an agreed rolling basis. If possible, please provide responsive records in an electronic format by email. Alternatively, please provide responsive records in native format or in PDF format on a USB drive to America First Legal Foundation, 611 Pennsylvania Ave SE #231, Washington, DC 20003.

¹ U.S. DEP'T JUST. (Mar. 15, 2022), <https://bit.ly/3zvpxb6>.

V. Conclusion

If you have any questions about how to construe this request or believe further discussions regarding search and processing would facilitate a more efficient production of records of interest to AFL, please do not hesitate to contact me at FOIA@aflegal.org. Finally, if AFL's request for a fee waiver is not granted in full, please contact us immediately upon making that determination.

Thank you,

/s/ Tyler J. Sanderson

Tyler J. Sanderson, Counsel
America First Legal Foundation



AFL FOIA <foia@aflegal.org>

Ref: F-2023-02497, Freedom of Information Act Acknowledgement

3 messages

A_FOIAacknowledgement@groups.state.gov <A_FOIAacknowledgement@groups.state.gov>Wed, Dec 7, 2022 at
1:55 PM

To: FOIA@aflegal.org

****THIS EMAIL BOX IS NOT MONITORED, PLEASE DO NOT REPLY TO THIS EMAIL.****

Mr. Sanderson:

This email acknowledges receipt of your December 6, 2022, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) (5 U.S.C. § 552) request received by the U.S. Department of State, Office of Information Programs and Services on December 6, 2022, regarding for Funding Opportunity Number SFOP0008867: 1. All records of the Notice of Funding Opportunity; 2. All records of Notices of Award; 3. All records of Applications submitted for which funding was awarded; 4. All records of grant agreements, cooperative agreements, other agreements for assistance covered in § 200.40 Federal financial assistance of the OMB Uniform Grant Guidance; 5. All records of Reporting received from Recipients during the post award phase, including closeout; and 6. All records of Audits conducted during the post award phase. B. All records relating to or regarding the processing of the above items. Unless you advise otherwise, we will treat as non-responsive any compilations of publicly available news reports and any publicly available documents not created by the U.S. government, such as mass-distribution emails from news media. This Office assigned your request the subject reference number and placed it in the complex processing track where it will be processed as quickly as possible. See 22 CFR § 171.11(h). This Office grants your request for a fee waiver.

This Office will not be able to respond within the 20 days provided by the statute due to “unusual circumstances.” See 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(B)(i)-(iii). In this instance, the unusual circumstances include the need to search for and collect requested records from other Department offices or Foreign Service posts.

If you have any questions regarding your request, would like to narrow the scope or arrange an alternative time frame to speed its processing, or would like an estimated date of completion, please contact our FOIA Requester Service Center or our FOIA Public Liaison by email at FOIAstatus@state.gov or telephone at 202-261-8484. Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001, email at ogis@nara.gov; telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.

****THIS EMAIL BOX IS NOT MONITORED, PLEASE DO NOT REPLY TO THIS EMAIL.****

AFL FOIA <foia@aflegal.org>
To: FOIA Status <FOIAstatus@state.gov>

Tue, Mar 14, 2023 at 10:04 PM

Good evening,

May we please receive an update on the status of this request?

Thank you,

Michael Ding
America First Legal Foundation

[Quoted text hidden]

FOIA Status <FOIAStatus@state.gov>
To: AFL FOIA <foia@aflegal.org>

Tue, Mar 21, 2023 at 1:38 PM

Mr. Ding,

This is in response to your email below regarding FOIA Case Control Number F-2023-02497.

The Office of Information Programs and Services' electronic records system indicates this request is still in process. Mr. Sanderson will be notified of the Department's search and review efforts in response to this request as soon as that information becomes available.

The Department currently has a backlog of FOIA requests and is working through it as quickly as possible. As the Department continues to work through its backlog of FOIA requests, it is mindful of its accountability to the public.

We appreciate your continued patience.

If you have further questions or any concerns regarding a FOIA-related matter, you may contact the FOIA Requester Service Center via email at FOIAStatus@state.gov.

Regards,

U.S. Department of State
FOIA Requester Service Center

[Quoted text hidden]

Civil Action No. 23-1939

PROOF OF SERVICE

(This section should not be filed with the court unless required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 4 (l))

This summons for *(name of individual and title, if any)* _____
was received by me on *(date)* _____.

I personally served the summons on the individual at *(place)* _____
_____ on *(date)* _____; or

I left the summons at the individual's residence or usual place of abode with *(name)* _____
_____, a person of suitable age and discretion who resides there,
on *(date)* _____, and mailed a copy to the individual's last known address; or

I served the summons on *(name of individual)* _____, who is
designated by law to accept service of process on behalf of *(name of organization)* _____
_____ on *(date)* _____; or

I returned the summons unexecuted because _____; or

Other *(specify):* _____.

My fees are \$ _____ for travel and \$ _____ for services, for a total of \$ _____ 0.00 _____.

I declare under penalty of perjury that this information is true.

Date: _____

Server's signature

Printed name and title

Server's address

Additional information regarding attempted service, etc:

Civil Action No. 23-1939

PROOF OF SERVICE

(This section should not be filed with the court unless required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 4 (l))

This summons for *(name of individual and title, if any)* _____
was received by me on *(date)* _____.

I personally served the summons on the individual at *(place)* _____
_____ on *(date)* _____; or

I left the summons at the individual's residence or usual place of abode with *(name)* _____
_____, a person of suitable age and discretion who resides there,
on *(date)* _____, and mailed a copy to the individual's last known address; or

I served the summons on *(name of individual)* _____, who is
designated by law to accept service of process on behalf of *(name of organization)* _____
_____ on *(date)* _____; or

I returned the summons unexecuted because _____; or

Other *(specify):* _____.

My fees are \$ _____ for travel and \$ _____ for services, for a total of \$ _____ 0.00 _____.

I declare under penalty of perjury that this information is true.

Date: _____

Server's signature

Printed name and title

Server's address

Additional information regarding attempted service, etc:

Civil Action No. 23-1939

PROOF OF SERVICE

(This section should not be filed with the court unless required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 4 (l))

This summons for *(name of individual and title, if any)* _____
was received by me on *(date)* _____.

I personally served the summons on the individual at *(place)* _____
_____ on *(date)* _____; or

I left the summons at the individual's residence or usual place of abode with *(name)* _____
_____, a person of suitable age and discretion who resides there,
on *(date)* _____, and mailed a copy to the individual's last known address; or

I served the summons on *(name of individual)* _____, who is
designated by law to accept service of process on behalf of *(name of organization)* _____
_____ on *(date)* _____; or

I returned the summons unexecuted because _____; or

Other *(specify)*: _____

My fees are \$ _____ for travel and \$ _____ for services, for a total of \$ _____ 0.00.

I declare under penalty of perjury that this information is true.

Date: _____

Server's signature

Printed name and title

Server's address

Additional information regarding attempted service, etc:

CIVIL COVER SHEET

JS-44 (Rev. 11/2020 DC)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION (b) COUNTY OF RESIDENCE OF FIRST LISTED PLAINTIFF <u>11001</u> (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)	DEFENDANTS UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE COUNTY OF RESIDENCE OF FIRST LISTED DEFENDANT <u>11001</u> (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY) <small>NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED</small>
(c) ATTORNEYS (FIRMNAME, ADDRESS, AND TELEPHONE NUMBER) Jacob Meckler America First Legal Foundation 611 Pennsylvania Ave., SE #231 Washington, D.C. 20003	ATTORNEYS (IF KNOWN)

II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (PLACE AN x IN ONE BOX ONLY)	III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (PLACE AN x IN ONE BOX FOR PLAINTIFF AND ONE BOX FOR DEFENDANT) FOR DIVERSITY CASES ONLY!																								
<input type="radio"/> 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff <input checked="" type="radio"/> 2 U.S. Government Defendant <input type="radio"/> 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party) <input type="radio"/> 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in item III)	<table style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th style="text-align: center;">PTF</th> <th style="text-align: center;">DFT</th> <th></th> <th style="text-align: center;">PTF</th> <th style="text-align: center;">DFT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Citizen of this State</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="radio"/> 1</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="radio"/> 1</td> <td>Incorporated or Principal Place of Business in This State</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="radio"/> 4</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="radio"/> 4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Citizen of Another State</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="radio"/> 2</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="radio"/> 2</td> <td>Incorporated and Principal Place of Business in Another State</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="radio"/> 5</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="radio"/> 5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="radio"/> 3</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="radio"/> 3</td> <td>Foreign Nation</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="radio"/> 6</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="radio"/> 6</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		PTF	DFT		PTF	DFT	Citizen of this State	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 1	Incorporated or Principal Place of Business in This State	<input type="radio"/> 4	<input type="radio"/> 4	Citizen of Another State	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 2	Incorporated and Principal Place of Business in Another State	<input type="radio"/> 5	<input type="radio"/> 5	Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 3	Foreign Nation	<input type="radio"/> 6	<input type="radio"/> 6
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Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country	<input type="radio"/> 3	<input type="radio"/> 3	Foreign Nation	<input type="radio"/> 6	<input type="radio"/> 6																				

IV. CASE ASSIGNMENT AND NATURE OF SUIT

(Place an X in one category, A-N, that best represents your Cause of Action and one in a corresponding Nature of Suit)

<input type="radio"/> A. Antitrust <input type="checkbox"/> 410 Antitrust	<input type="radio"/> B. Personal Injury/Malpractice <input type="checkbox"/> 310 Airplane <input type="checkbox"/> 315 Airplane Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 320 Assault, Libel & Slander <input type="checkbox"/> 330 Federal Employers Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 340 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 345 Marine Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 350 Motor Vehicle <input type="checkbox"/> 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 360 Other Personal Injury <input type="checkbox"/> 362 Medical Malpractice <input type="checkbox"/> 365 Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 367 Health Care/Pharmaceutical Personal Injury Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 368 Asbestos Product Liability	<input type="radio"/> C. Administrative Agency Review <input type="checkbox"/> 151 Medicare Act <u>Social Security</u> <input type="checkbox"/> 861 HIA (1395ff) <input type="checkbox"/> 862 Black Lung (923) <input type="checkbox"/> 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) <input type="checkbox"/> 864 SSID Title XVI <input type="checkbox"/> 865 RSI (405(g)) <u>Other Statutes</u> <input type="checkbox"/> 891 Agricultural Acts <input type="checkbox"/> 893 Environmental Matters <input type="checkbox"/> 890 Other Statutory Actions (If Administrative Agency is Involved)	<input type="radio"/> D. Temporary Restraining Order/Preliminary Injunction Any nature of suit from any category may be selected for this category of case assignment. *(If Antitrust, then A governs)*
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<input type="radio"/> E. General Civil (Other)		OR	<input type="radio"/> F. Pro Se General Civil	
<u>Real Property</u> <input type="checkbox"/> 210 Land Condemnation <input type="checkbox"/> 220 Foreclosure <input type="checkbox"/> 230 Rent, Lease & Ejectment <input type="checkbox"/> 240 Torts to Land <input type="checkbox"/> 245 Tort Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 290 All Other Real Property <u>Personal Property</u> <input type="checkbox"/> 370 Other Fraud <input type="checkbox"/> 371 Truth in Lending <input type="checkbox"/> 380 Other Personal Property Damage <input type="checkbox"/> 385 Property Damage Product Liability	<u>Bankruptcy</u> <input type="checkbox"/> 422 Appeal 27 USC 158 <input type="checkbox"/> 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 <u>Prisoner Petitions</u> <input type="checkbox"/> 535 Death Penalty <input type="checkbox"/> 540 Mandamus & Other <input type="checkbox"/> 550 Civil Rights <input type="checkbox"/> 555 Prison Conditions <input type="checkbox"/> 560 Civil Detainee – Conditions of Confinement <u>Property Rights</u> <input type="checkbox"/> 820 Copyrights <input type="checkbox"/> 830 Patent <input type="checkbox"/> 835 Patent – Abbreviated New Drug Application <input type="checkbox"/> 840 Trademark <input type="checkbox"/> 880 Defend Trade Secrets Act of 2016 (DTSA)	<u>Federal Tax Suits</u> <input type="checkbox"/> 870 Taxes (US plaintiff or defendant) <input type="checkbox"/> 871 IRS-Third Party 26 USC 7609 <u>Forfeiture/Penalty</u> <input type="checkbox"/> 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 <input type="checkbox"/> 690 Other <u>Other Statutes</u> <input type="checkbox"/> 375 False Claims Act <input type="checkbox"/> 376 Qui Tam (31 USC 3729(a)) <input type="checkbox"/> 400 State Reapportionment <input type="checkbox"/> 430 Banks & Banking <input type="checkbox"/> 450 Commerce/ICC Rates/etc <input type="checkbox"/> 460 Deportation <input type="checkbox"/> 462 Naturalization Application	<input type="checkbox"/> 465 Other Immigration Actions <input type="checkbox"/> 470 Racketeer Influenced & Corrupt Organization <input type="checkbox"/> 480 Consumer Credit <input type="checkbox"/> 485 Telephone Consumer Protection Act (TCPA) <input type="checkbox"/> 490 Cable/Satellite TV <input type="checkbox"/> 850 Securities/Commodities/Exchange <input type="checkbox"/> 896 Arbitration <input type="checkbox"/> 899 Administrative Procedure Act/Review or Appeal of Agency Decision <input type="checkbox"/> 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes <input type="checkbox"/> 890 Other Statutory Actions (if not administrative agency review or Privacy Act)	

<input type="radio"/> G. Habeas Corpus/ 2255 <input type="checkbox"/> 530 Habeas Corpus – General <input type="checkbox"/> 510 Motion/Vacate Sentence <input type="checkbox"/> 463 Habeas Corpus – Alien Detainee	<input type="radio"/> H. Employment Discrimination <input type="checkbox"/> 442 Civil Rights – Employment (criteria: race, gender/sex, national origin, discrimination, disability, age, religion, retaliation) *(If pro se, select this deck)*	<input checked="" type="radio"/> I. FOIA/Privacy Act <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 895 Freedom of Information Act <input type="checkbox"/> 890 Other Statutory Actions (if Privacy Act) *(If pro se, select this deck)*	<input type="radio"/> J. Student Loan <input type="checkbox"/> 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loan (excluding veterans)
<input type="radio"/> K. Labor/ERISA (non-employment) <input type="checkbox"/> 710 Fair Labor Standards Act <input type="checkbox"/> 720 Labor/Mgmt. Relations <input type="checkbox"/> 740 Labor Railway Act <input type="checkbox"/> 751 Family and Medical Leave Act <input type="checkbox"/> 790 Other Labor Litigation <input type="checkbox"/> 791 Empl. Ret. Inc. Security Act	<input type="radio"/> L. Other Civil Rights (non-employment) <input type="checkbox"/> 441 Voting (if not Voting Rights Act) <input type="checkbox"/> 443 Housing/Accommodations <input type="checkbox"/> 440 Other Civil Rights <input type="checkbox"/> 445 Americans w/Disabilities – Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 446 Americans w/Disabilities – Other <input type="checkbox"/> 448 Education	<input type="radio"/> M. Contract <input type="checkbox"/> 110 Insurance <input type="checkbox"/> 120 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 130 Miller Act <input type="checkbox"/> 140 Negotiable Instrument <input type="checkbox"/> 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment <input type="checkbox"/> 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran’s Benefits <input type="checkbox"/> 160 Stockholder’s Suits <input type="checkbox"/> 190 Other Contracts <input type="checkbox"/> 195 Contract Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 196 Franchise	<input type="radio"/> N. Three-Judge Court <input type="checkbox"/> 441 Civil Rights – Voting (if Voting Rights Act)

V. ORIGIN
 1 Original Proceeding
 2 Removed from State Court
 3 Remanded from Appellate Court
 4 Reinstated or Reopened
 5 Transferred from another district (specify)
 6 Multi-district Litigation
 7 Appeal to District Judge from Mag. Judge
 8 Multi-district Litigation – Direct File

VI. CAUSE OF ACTION (CITE THE U.S. CIVIL STATUTE UNDER WHICH YOU ARE FILING AND WRITE A BRIEF STATEMENT OF CAUSE.)
 Suit against the Department of State to Compel compliance with the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552.

VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT	<input type="checkbox"/> CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER F.R.C.P. 23	DEMAND \$ JURY DEMAND:	Check YES only if demanded in complaint YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY	(See instruction)	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	If yes, please complete related case form

DATE: 07/05/2023	SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD /s/ Jacob Meckler
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INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING CIVIL COVER SHEET JS-44
 Authority for Civil Cover Sheet

The JS-44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replaces nor supplements the filings and services of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. Consequently, a civil cover sheet is submitted to the Clerk of Court for each civil complaint filed. Listed below are tips for completing the civil coversheet. These tips coincide with the Roman Numerals on the cover sheet.

- I.** COUNTY OF RESIDENCE OF FIRST LISTED PLAINTIFF/DEFENDANT (b) County of residence: Use 11001 to indicate plaintiff if resident of Washington, DC, 88888 if plaintiff is resident of United States but not Washington, DC, and 99999 if plaintiff is outside the United States.
- III.** CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES: This section is completed only if diversity of citizenship was selected as the Basis of Jurisdiction under Section II.
- IV.** CASE ASSIGNMENT AND NATURE OF SUIT: The assignment of a judge to your case will depend on the category you select that best represents the primary cause of action found in your complaint. You may select only one category. You must also select one corresponding nature of suit found under the category of the case.
- VI.** CAUSE OF ACTION: Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing and write a brief statement of the primary cause.
- VIII.** RELATED CASE(S), IF ANY: If you indicated that there is a related case, you must complete a related case form, which may be obtained from the Clerk’s Office.

Because of the need for accurate and complete information, you should ensure the accuracy of the information provided prior to signing the form.