



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

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APR 26 2012

CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION TRANSMITTAL SHEET

We wish to inform you of the Department of State's intent to obligate Economic Support Funds from Fiscal Year 2011 as described below. This notification is being submitted on behalf of the Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs.

- Department of State - \$20,000,000

These funds will be used to support human rights and civil society initiatives in Cuba.

The attached notification was sent to the Congress on
Obligations may be incurred in fifteen calendar days.

APR 26 2012

Sincerely,

David S. Adams
Assistant Secretary
Legislative Affairs

Enclosure:
As stated.

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION**

PROGRAM: Western Hemisphere

APPROPRIATION CATEGORY: Economic Support Funds (ESF)

PROJECT TITLE: Cuba

INTENDED 2012 OBLIGATION: \$20,000,000 FY 2011 ESF

The United States Department of State and USAID intend to obligate up to \$20,000,000 in FY 2011 Economic Support Funds (ESF) for human rights and civil society initiatives in support of the Cuban people. This funding has not been previously notified. This notification is being submitted pursuant to section 634(a) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, and sections 7015(c), 7015(f) and 7034(m)(3) of the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2010 (Div. F, P.L. 111-117) as carried forward by the Full Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2011 (Div. B, P.L. 112-10).

Of the \$20 million in FY 2011 ESF, \$4.7 million will be used to support human rights initiatives, \$12.43 million will be used for democracy, civil society and media programs, and \$2.87 million will be used for program support. USAID/LAC will administer \$8.9 million of these funds, State/DRL will administer \$9.5 million, and State/WHA will administer \$1.6 million.

State and USAID are committed to implementing these programs with all due oversight and appropriate mechanisms that will better help measure results in support of the Cuban people. State and USAID will ensure these funds are allocated on a competitive basis and reach a broad representation of Cuban civil society; that as few funds as possible are spent outside of Cuba; and that funds support the activities of Cubans on the island who are working for peaceful and positive change. We look forward to continuing to review these programs with Congress to ensure their efficacy.

Program Descriptions:

Program Area 2.1, Rule of Law and Human Rights (\$4,700,000 FY 2011 ESF):

Implementer TBD: Humanitarian Assistance

Amount: \$2,900,000 (USAID/LAC to administer)

These funds will provide humanitarian support, including food stuffs and over-the-counter medicines, to politically marginalized persons, including political prisoners and their families. The families of political prisoners experience great hardship and alienation due to their family member's association with political opposition. With the ongoing release of political prisoners, USAID anticipates humanitarian assistance will also be critical in mitigating some of the hardships brought on by the political marginalization of former prisoners and their families. Many of these individuals will continue to be heavily scrutinized by the Government of Cuba and will consequently experience difficulties in integrating back into society.

Implementer TBD: Human Rights Documentation

Amount: \$1,050,000 (State/DRL to administer)

These funds will provide professional support to human rights monitors in locations primarily outside of Havana, where many human rights abuses occur and where most monitors and investigators lack skills and training. The program will increase Cuban human rights monitors' understanding of domestic and international human rights law and mechanisms in order to improve documentation efforts. The end goal will be to enable Cuban human rights monitors to use the United Nations and Inter-American systems to address human rights violations. Illustrative training topics include providing Cuban human rights monitors with technological tools and software to facilitate human rights abuse reporting and providing Cuban human rights monitors with resources to collect, preserve, and strategically distribute the testimony of abuse victims.

Implementer TBD: Social Media Advocacy for Human Rights and Accountability

Amount: \$750,000 (State/DRL to administer)

These funds will provide technology based training (i.e., use of Internet, social media) appropriate for the Cuban environment to bolster engagement and relationships among the Cuban population, providing a framework to promote accountability. The end goal will be to stimulate new ideas and content on how to tackle pressing issues (such as human rights abuses, impunity, and corruption) by inviting trusted concern citizens sources to

will utilize adapted communications and media tools to strengthen the impact of advocacy efforts, further amplifying citizens' voices that press for an accountable Cuban government. The program implementer will be encouraged to leverage ongoing U.S. supported media and journalism programs.

Program Area 2.4, Civil Society (\$12,430,000 FY 2011 ESF):

Implementer TBD: Digital Democracy

Amount: \$4,000,000 (USAID/LAC to administer)

This program will encourage the application of innovative technology to increase the flow of uncensored information to, from, and within the island. Funding will promote the use of new media and social media tools and/or other appropriate technologies that promote the free and decentralized flow of uncensored information.

Implementer TBD: Youth and Technology

Amount: \$700,000 (State/DRL to administer)

These funds will be used to reach out to Cuban youth, many of whom are disengaged and disillusioned, to mobilize them to more actively participate in the future of Cuba. The communications needs, expectations, and patterns of youth vary substantially from the general population, and often incorporate technology in fundamental ways. The program will include innovative uses of technology, such as social media, appropriate for the Cuban environment, to engage youth and enable them to build links with one another, share experiences and information, and provide them with tools to build their capacity for grassroots organizing on themes of common interest.

Implementer TBD: Building Civil Society Ability to Advocate for Free Market Principles

Amount: \$700,000 (State/DRL to administer)

These funds will help educate members of the Cuban population about the economic aspects of democratic reform through the dissemination of information on market economies. This project will foster opportunities for Cubans to meet and discuss economic themes, and aim to produce Cuban-led ideas on alternatives to the current economic model. In addition, the program will organize and support an analysis and increased understanding of the Cuban economy by independent, nascent grassroots Cuban think tanks and other research based organizations. The project will include activities that enable civil society discussions, professionalize and increase the capacity of independent economists, disseminate educational materials on market economies and their benefits, and promote outreach to the general public in Cuba. Cubans will be able to analyze deficiencies and limitations

of their current economic system and propose alternatives and solutions based on free market principles, ultimately increasing demand for a market-based system and giving Cubans a stake in securing more independence from the state.

Implementer TBD: Freedom of Expression

Amount: \$1,000,000 (State/DRL to administer)

These funds will support greater freedom of expression on the island, especially among performing artists, visual artists, musicians, poets, and writers by encouraging them to use new opportunities for expressing opinions, sharing ideas, and disseminating information. The goal of this program is to increase the ability of Cuban citizens to exercise fundamental freedoms, especially freedom of thought and expression. Programs will particularly target regions of Cuba outside of Havana.

Implementer TBD: The Application of Technology in Democracy Promotion

Amount: \$500,000 (USAID/LAC to administer)

This program will seek to expand access to uncensored information by supporting research of the potential range of technology options for expanding communications among Cubans on the island and increase broad, free or low cost connectivity. The technology options to be explored should address immediate, medium- and long-term solutions for increasing the flow of information to and from the island as well as exploring the application of new technologies that are affordable to all citizens.

Implementer TBD: Increased Access to Information for Cubans

Amount: \$1,530,000 (State/WHA to administer)

These funds will support increasing access to uncensored information on the island by providing basic information technology skills and educational programs to Cubans via long-distance training administered in Cuba. Funds will also support capacity-building assistance for Cubans who provide and disseminate uncensored information, including journalists, bloggers, librarians and teachers. Additionally, funds will support the purchase of basic information technology supplies and provide material support for human rights activities, independent journalists, and independent libraries on the island.

Transfer to National Endowment for Democracy (NED)

Amount: \$4,000,000 (State/DRL to transfer)

NED will use these funds to make grants to 1) support independent, democratic civil society activists on the island, such as journalists, unionists, teachers, women, youth and Afro-Cubans, and freedom of association and unionization efforts; 2)

Amount: \$4,000,000 (State/DRL to transfer)

NED will use these funds to make grants to 1) support independent, democratic civil society activists on the island, such as journalists, unionists, teachers, women, youth and Afro-Cubans, and freedom of association and unionization efforts; 2) cultivate the analytical capacity of existing civil society actors, with an emphasis on fostering new academic and investigative reports; and 3) promote greater knowledge of and adherence to international norms laid out in regional and global multilateral institutions regarding political, civic and fundamental human rights, including freedoms of association and expression. NED works with a broad, bi-partisan coalition of partner organizations located in the United States, Europe, and Latin America that provide direct technical, material and financial support to independent activists in Cuba. NED also works to provide support directly to civil society partners on island, thus ensuring that the largest possible amount of NED assistance goes directly to democratic activists on the island.

Program Area 6.2, Administration and Oversight (\$2,870,000 FY 2011 ESF):

These funds will support program management and oversight to ensure program accountability and facilitate the implementation of Cuba programming. These amounts reflect necessary oversight funding proportional to the amount of program funds each office/agency will administer.

USAID/LAC:	\$1,500,000
State/DRL:	\$1,300,000
State/WHA:	\$ 70,000
Total:	\$2,870,000