



Higher Education for Leadership, Innovation, and Exchange Annual Program Statement

What is the HELIX APS?

The Higher Education for Leadership, Education, and Exchange (HELIX) Annual Program Statement (APS) is an unfunded umbrella APS designed to support the Agency's higher education programming, regardless of sector. The aim of this APS is to support solutions that will create meaningful change at the individual, institutional, and/or system level, with, in connection to, or through higher education, as a country moves forward in its journey to self-reliance. HELIX supports the Agency's [New Partnerships Initiative](#), by encouraging partnerships with new and underutilized partners, including U.S. higher education institutions.

Scope and Focus

The HELIX APS and addenda issued beneath it will contribute to USAID's mission and objectives by concentrating on the following outcomes and focal areas as leverage points in higher education programming across sectors:

- **Increase Capability, Contributions, and Quality of Individuals**
- **Enhance Sustainable and Self-Reliant Institutions of Higher Education**
- **Strengthen Higher Education Systems to Ensure Long-lasting Impact**
- **Advance the Higher Education Evidence Base for Learning**

What does HELIX mean by “Higher Education”?

USAID's work in higher education strengthening stretches across technical sectors and geographic regions taking many forms. Activities that can be done under HELIX include, but are not limited to: partnerships, scholarships, exchanges, fellowships, internships, apprenticeships, work-based learning, research, communities of practice, and other relevant forms of capacity development and change management.

As defined by the 2018 USAID Education Policy, a higher education institution (HEI) is an organization that provides educational opportunities that build on secondary education, providing learning activities in specialized fields. HEIs aim for learning at a high level of complexity and specialization. Higher/tertiary education includes what is commonly understood as academic education but also includes advanced vocational or professional education. This may include public or private universities, colleges, community colleges, academically affiliated research institutes, and training institutes, including teacher training institutes.

**The HELIX APS is now available on [grants.gov](#)
Addenda to the HELIX APS will be posted on [grants.gov](#)**