

Calibration Co

Calibration-co.com – 732-666-0496 – 471 Mantoloking Rd Brick, NJ 08723

Grant Proposal

Funding Opportunity Number: ROMENOFO002DOSEUR

Funding Opportunity Title: Annual Program Statement – Public Affairs Italy

Applicant: Calibration Centers of America, LLC (Calibration Co.)

Requested Amount: \$100,000

Executive Summary

Calibration Centers of America, LLC (“Calibration Co.”), a Delaware-registered, member-managed company headquartered in Brick, New Jersey, seeks \$100,000 under the U.S. Mission to Italy’s Public Diplomacy Grants Program. Founded and owned by Italian-American entrepreneur **Lucian DeMarco**, Calibration Co. embodies a legacy of transatlantic resilience and service. Lucian’s great-grandfather was the only passenger on the Ellis Island registry noted for having a trade and speaking English, a testament to the immigrant spirit of skill and adaptation. His grandfather later served honorably as a U.S. Army officer in the Medical Corps, strengthening ties between American service and humanitarian values.

This proposal builds on that heritage to create a **U.S.-Italy cultural and educational exchange initiative** that promotes innovation, entrepreneurship, and STEM education while highlighting shared values of resilience, service, and inclusion.

Statement of Need

The U.S. Mission to Italy emphasizes strengthening cultural ties, promoting diversity, and empowering prosperity through STEM education and entrepreneurship. Italy and the United States share deep historical connections through immigration, military cooperation, and cultural exchange. Yet, misinformation, economic challenges, and limited access to entrepreneurial training continue to hinder opportunities for young innovators.

Calibration Co. is uniquely positioned to address these challenges by leveraging its technical expertise in calibration sciences and its Italian-American heritage to foster **cross-cultural STEM entrepreneurship programs**.

Project Goals and Objectives

1. **Promote Transatlantic Innovation:** Establish collaborative workshops between U.S. and Italian students, entrepreneurs, and educators focused on STEM problem-solving.
 2. **Highlight Shared Heritage:** Use the DeMarco family's Ellis Island and military legacy as a narrative framework to inspire resilience and cooperation.
 3. **Empower Diversity and Inclusion:** Provide opportunities for underrepresented groups in both countries to access STEM education and entrepreneurial training.
 4. **Strengthen Bilateral Relations:** Create sustainable partnerships between U.S. and Italian institutions, fostering long-term cultural and educational exchange.
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Project Activities

- **STEM & Entrepreneurship Exchange Program:**
 - Host joint workshops in Rome and New Jersey featuring American and Italian experts in calibration sciences, engineering, and entrepreneurship.
 - Provide mentorship programs pairing U.S. and Italian students with industry professionals.
 - **Heritage & Service Storytelling Initiative:**
 - Develop multimedia presentations highlighting the DeMarco family's immigrant and military legacy as a symbol of shared U.S.-Italy values.
 - Incorporate American English language study modules tied to immigrant narratives and professional development.
 - **Media Literacy & Innovation Labs:**
 - Train participants in critical thinking and media literacy to counter misinformation.
 - Encourage creative problem-solving through hands-on STEM projects.
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Expected Outcomes

- Strengthened cultural ties between U.S. and Italy through shared heritage and collaborative innovation.
 - Increased STEM and entrepreneurial capacity among Italian and American youth.
 - Enhanced appreciation of American history, values, and perspectives through storytelling and exchange.
 - Sustainable partnerships between educational institutions and civil society organizations in both countries.
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Budget Request (\$100,000)

- Program Development & Curriculum Design: \$25,000
 - Workshops & Exchange Activities (Rome & NJ): \$35,000
 - Multimedia Heritage Storytelling Initiative: \$15,000
 - Media Literacy & Innovation Labs: \$15,000
 - Administration & Reporting: \$10,000
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Organizational Capacity

Calibration Co. is a multi-member, member-managed LLC with expertise in calibration sciences and technical education. The company maintains strong community ties and a commitment to cultural exchange, diversity, and innovation. Its leadership, rooted in Italian-American heritage and military service, ensures credibility and dedication to advancing U.S.-Italy relations.

Conclusion

Calibration Co. respectfully requests \$100,000 to implement a program that embodies the immigrant resilience of Ellis Island, the service legacy of the U.S. Army Medical Corps, and the innovation of modern STEM entrepreneurship. This initiative will strengthen cultural ties, promote diversity, and empower prosperity through education and exchange, directly aligning with the priorities of the U.S. Mission to Italy's Public Diplomacy Grants Program.

-Sincerely
Lucian M DeMarco (COO)