

Agricultural Development Strategy Specialist

USAID Serbia Big Small Businesses (BSB) activity

(Short-term, part-time)

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Big Small Businesses project (BSB) seeks a consultant to develop an Agricultural Development Strategy for Novi Pazar. BSB is a five-year activity implemented in partnership with ACDI/VOCA, J.E. Austin Associates (JAA), CEVES, and the Ana and Vlade Divac Foundation.

In recent years, the City of Novi Pazar has significantly increased its budget allocation to support the agricultural sector. The City and BSB established a local revolving fund dedicated to agricultural producers, providing 23 farmers with interest-free loans, repayable over three years. Additionally, through RDA SEDA, the City of Novi Pazar participated in the "Digitalization of Agriculture in Novi Pazar" project, supported by Big Small Businesses, which developed a cutting-edge analytical database on the region's agricultural potential.

Given the importance and potential of agricultural development, it is essential to allocate budget funds strategically to sectors with the greatest promise. This approach will secure a stable source of income and improve the quality of life for those primarily engaged in agriculture. However, the lack of a comprehensive strategy for defining clear directions in agricultural development challenges key actors within the Local Self-Government.

Agricultural Development Strategy Specialist Assignment:

JAA is seeking an Agricultural Development Strategy Specialist for the BSB project funded by USAID. **This is a short-term position for up to 30 days of effort between February 1 and August 31, 2025.**

The Specialist will, in close collaboration with BSB staff, create an Agricultural Development Strategy for Novi Pazar, incorporating an investment matrix for the next 3–5 years. This strategic document should be grounded in analytical data from the "Digitalization of Agriculture in Novi Pazar" project and align with the "Guidelines for the Preparation, Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting on the Implementation of the Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development of Local Self-Government Units," prepared by the SCCM. The Agricultural Strategy of the City of Novi Pazar should include: the vision; an overview and analysis of the existing situation; general and special goals to be achieved; measures to achieve the goals; an analysis of the intended effects of these measures; key performance indicators; and a logical and institutional framework along with a monitoring plan, evaluating, and reporting on implementation, including institutional responsibilities.

Qualifications:

- Master's or bachelor's degree in agro-economics, business, or related fields with expertise in business analytics and/or economic and strategy analysis.
- Minimum five years of prior work experience in business analytics, document management systems, and other analytical tools.
- Experience in USAID projects, project management, monitoring and evaluation, and reporting.
- Experience working with large datasets and databases, identifying patterns, and deriving strategic insights.

- Strong analytical and problem-solving skills. Familiarity with strategy data and statistical analysis concepts is preferred.
- Relevant experience in donor-supported SME and economic development initiatives
- Strong communication skills, including report writing.
- Experience in Serbia and the region, including in relevant economic and subject matter areas and understanding of Serbia's agriculture sector and market systems stakeholders.
- Strong interpersonal skills with the ability to build personal relationships with staff, partners, business, and government leaders at all levels in a culturally sensitive manner.
- High independence, flexibility, and ability to meet strict deadlines.
- Fluent in spoken and written English.

Application instructions:

Please apply online by attaching your CV with the subject line “Agricultural Development Strategy Specialist” to tstojkovic@jeaustin.com by 5:00 pm U.S. EST on Friday, January 20th, 2025. No telephone inquiries, please. The applications will be reviewed promptly upon receipt; only finalists will be contacted. JAA is an equal-opportunity employer. Women, minorities, and people from diverse groups are encouraged to apply. JAA will never request payment or charge a fee to apply for any position. JAA values the protection of your data.