COVID-19 Update: NED is continuing to operate during this worldwide health emergency, and to make grants in support of democracy. However, our office is closed to the public and all in-person events and meetings have been postponed, cancelled or are occurring virtually.

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## **BELARUS 2018**

Broadening Understanding of National Security Issues

Freedom of Information

\$15,200

To increase access to quality information and analysis on national and regional security issues. Project activities include the production of original analytical materials on, reports of, and translations regarding security sector related issues and events. In addition, the project will broaden the website's audience through a focus on the regions, as well as increase engagement with security experts throughout Europe and Eurasia. Finally, the program will convene a regional conference on hybrid and information warfare.

Defending Human Rights and Civic Activism

Human Rights

\$134,520

To monitor, promote, and defend human rights. The project will track, document, and publicize human rights abuses, as well as provide assistance to victims of human rights abuses. It will also collect and disseminate information on human rights abuses, making the information available to a wider national and international audience.

Developing Civil Society in the Gomel Region

NGO Strengthening

\$45,000

To strengthen regional civic initiatives. Coordination meetings will be held to identify local problems and develop joint civic activism and advocacy strategies to address them. The program will also inform and mobilize local citizens to pursue greater government accountability and transparency, and engage in broader debates on improving local governance.

Disseminating Independent Political News

Freedom of Information

\$24,840

To provide access to independent political news and information. The project will support a website that informs the public of major issues facing Belarus, including domestic and international developments, local news, and the economy. To broaden its audience and serve as a counterweight to foreign propaganda, the project will continue to develop the site's content and capacity, create more accessible news formats, and boost its social media presence.

Expanding Access to Independent Media

Freedom of Information

\$84,880

To expand freedom of information. The project will publish unique materials on key historical and contemporary figures and political developments, including interviews with well-known figures of international and national importance. The project will distribute these materials, as well as others on international broadcasting, during public events held across the country.

Expanding Freedom of Information and the Internet

Freedom of Information

\$34,957

To expand freedom of information and the Internet. The project will maintain and expand an online library of independent publications not readily available in the country. The library will offer objective news, analysis, and information on key national and international developments, making them accessible to domestic and international audiences via its website.

Fostering Free and Fair Elections

**Political Processes** 

\$49,400

To foster free and fair elections. Ahead of major parliamentary and presidential contests, the nonpartisan program will carry out informational campaigns to inform and educate citizens about their electoral rights. During the election campaigns, the program will monitor and document violations and inform the public about them in a regular and timely manner.

Fostering Freedom of the Media

Freedom of Information

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## BELARUS 2019 >

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