

Routes 54, 19 and 107 in Audrain, Monroe, Pike, and Ralls counties, Missouri, a distance of approximately 113 kilometers (70 miles). The study area is roughly bounded by Bowling Green, New London, Mark Twain Lake and Mexico.

The expansion of Routes 54, 19, and 107 is being considered to provide additional capacity for future traffic volumes, preserve land for a future transportation corridor, and meet the state's commitment to connect communities of at least 5,000 population with a four-lane roadway.

Alternatives under consideration include (1) no build, (2) widen Routes 54 and 19 to four lanes along their present alignments and new alignment, (3) extend Route 107 to the south as a two-lane roadway, and (4) bypass the cities of Perry, Curryville, Center, Vandalia, Laddonia, and Farber.

Information describing the proposed action and soliciting comments will be sent to appropriate federal, state and local agencies, and to private organizations and citizens who have previously expressed, or would have an interest in the proposal. As part of the scoping process, an interagency coordination meeting will be held. A series of public meetings and workshops will be held throughout project development. In addition, a public hearing will be held. Public notices will be issued to notify citizens of the public meetings and hearing. The Draft EIS will be available for public and agency review and comment prior to the public hearing.

To ensure that the full range of issues related to this proposed action are addressed and all significant issues are identified, comments and suggestions are invited from all interested parties. Comments and questions concerning this proposed action and the EIS should be directed to the FHWA or the MHTD at the addresses provided above.

Issued on: August 24, 1995.

Donald L. Neumann,

Programs Engineer, Jefferson City.

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UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY

Educational Advising Program for International Students and Scholars From the Middle East and North Africa

ACTION: Notice—Request for Proposals.

SUMMARY: The Advising and Student Services Branch of the United States Information Agency's Bureau of

Educational and Cultural Affairs announces an open competition for an assistance award. Public and private non-profit organizations meeting the provisions described in IRS regulation 26 CFR 1.501(c)(3)-1 may apply to develop educational advising centers in the following locations in the Middle East and North Africa: Cairo and Alexandria, Egypt; Amman, Jordan; Antelias and Ras Beirut, Lebanon; Rabat, Morocco; Damascus, Syria; Tunis, Tunisia; Sana'a, Yemen; East Jerusalem, and Jabriya, Kuwait. These centers will facilitate international educational exchange through overseas educational advising, orientation, and information services for foreign students and scholars seeking information on opportunities in U.S. higher education. The assistance award will also include the provision of regional educational advising consultancy services, to be based in an appropriate location within the region.

Overview

The purpose of this grant is to provide overseas educational advising, orientation and information services for foreign students and scholars in the Middle East and North Africa concerning opportunities in U.S. higher education, and to coordinate services to advising centers through a regional consultancy. This program supports international educational exchange between countries of these regions and the U.S. through direct, field-based services. Consistent with the Agency's interest in reducing administrative layers and hierarchical structure, this program should primarily focus on providing advising services abroad.

Guidelines

Proposals should be presented in four parts. The first should contain a brief overview of the organization, its history and purpose. Evidence of previous experience with advising or educational exchange of international students and scholars should also be included. The overview should indicate the total amount of funding requested and a justification for the request as well as a budget presentation outlining the total project costs.

A listing of names, titles, addresses, and telephone number of the executive officer(s) of the organization and of the person(s) ultimately responsible for the project must be included in the proposal. Resumes or vitae of key personnel must be provided. USIA also recommends the inclusion of brochures and general information concerning the organization, e.g., organization charts, job descriptions, the names of board

members (or similar group), the number of employees, etc.

The second part of the proposal should contain individual subsections that describe in detail each advising center, its proposed location and hours of operation, a proposed staffing pattern (including the percentage of time each employee will devote to advising activities and a description of their functions and responsibilities), an estimated budget for each office, and information delineating the services that will be provided by each center. A resume or brief narrative explaining the qualifications of the person or persons who would have primary responsibility for conducting advising and/or providing oversight of the advising center should also be included. Each appropriate subsection should describe any special language capability or area expertise possessed by potential advising center staff. Proposals should demonstrate each center's ability to provide the following educational advising services to international students and scholars:

1. Information and guidance on U.S. educational institutions, systems, tuition and related costs, fields of study, specialized training, etc.;

2. Information and advising on U.S. standardized tests, e.g., TOEFL, GRE, GMAT, USMLE, etc., to include the provision of registration application forms, bulletins and testing schedules;

3. Information and research on short-term institutional training in technical and professional fields;

4. Information on English language training programs in the U.S.;

5. Group and individual advising sessions, pre-departure orientation and re-entry programs, as appropriate for the location.

6. Student access to comprehensive university catalogs in print, microfiche and/or electronic format and current references on U.S. educational institutions and programs.

7. To the extent possible, each advising center should be equipped with equipment for students' use, such as videocassette players with appropriate videotapes and computers with appropriate software.

USIA expects the recipient organization to provide appropriate supervision of and administrative support to its advisers and staff in the field. The third part of the proposal should address the extent to which the headquarters office will support its advising centers abroad. This support may include financial and administrative oversight and direction, and where appropriate, resources development to support the work of the

regional educational advising consultancy.

The fourth part of the proposal should demonstrate how the applicant organization plans to implement the Regional Educational Advising Consultancy (REAC). This consultancy will provide support, training, and regional coordination among advising centers located throughout the Middle East and North African region. Responsibilities of the REAC include: Responding to individual queries from advisers; developing a regional newsletter; coordinating regional professional development activities such as workshops; facilitating communication between advising centers, posts, and USIA offices; sharing of information including materials developed by centers within the region, outside of the region, and other REACs; following trends in U.S.-Middle East/North African exchange; disseminating information on the latest developments in technology; and providing direct guidance to advisers through site visits, internships, training and in-country workshops. The REAC should serve as an expert resource for other advisers to locate information that is not easily accessible, and should have the capability to secure such information from sources available within the REAC office as well as from other appropriate sources, e.g., academic institutions and professional organizations. The REAC should place special emphasis on training advisers to seek a variety of sources of funding to support their centers. The REAC position must be held by one person only, and should serve advising centers in the following countries and areas: Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, West Bank, and Yemen. A more complete description of the duties and responsibilities of the REAC is available upon request from the USIA program office.

Proposed Budget

Applicants must submit a comprehensive budget for the entire program. There must be a summary budget as well as a break-down reflecting both the administrative budget and the program budget. For better understanding or further clarification, applicants should provide separate sub-budgets for each program component, phase, location, or activity in order to facilitate USIA decisions on funding. Applicants must submit a comprehensive line item budget at two funding levels, based on the specific guidance in the Solicitation Package. At

the first level, USIA grant assistance will not exceed \$570,000. Of this amount, not more than \$180,000 may be attributed to overhead expenses. The overall and overhead amounts for the second level are \$510,000 and \$160,000 respectively. At the second level, the recipient organization will not be required to provide advising services in Rabat, Morocco and Tunis, Tunisia. At either level, funding for the Regional Educational Advising Consultancy should not exceed \$50,000 and funding for headquarters support should not exceed \$60,000. The total award amount is expected to constitute only a portion of total project funding. Because cost sharing is required, proposals should list other anticipated sources of support. USIA encourages charging reasonable fees for services; consult the Program Specific Guidelines for further information. All grant applications should demonstrate financial and in-kind support. Grants awarded to eligible organizations with less than four years of experience in conducting international exchange programs will be limited to \$60,000.

Proposals must include:

1. A budget outlining the total project costs;
2. A budget for each of the eleven centers;
3. A budget reflecting the costs for headquarters research and resource support;
4. A budget for the Regional Educational Advising Consultancy; and
5. A listing of advising center locations, if any, that would not be operated at the second level of funding.

Each budget should be presented in a multi-column format that clearly identified the following categories: Line item, amount of USIA support, amount of in-kind support/amount provided by other funding sources. Any relevant budgetary notes or explanations should be included.

Allowable costs for the program include the following:

- (1) Salaries and fringe benefits; travel and per diem;
- (2) Other direct costs, inclusive of rent, utilities, etc.;
- (3) Overhead expenses, auditing costs, subject to limits outlined above.

Please refer to the Solicitation Package for complete budget guidelines and formatting instructions.

Review Process

USIA will acknowledge receipt of all proposals and will review them for technical eligibility. Proposals will be deemed ineligible if they do not fully adhere to the guidelines stated herein and in the Solicitation Package. Eligible

proposals will be forwarded to panels of USIA officers for advisory review. All eligible proposals will be reviewed by the Agency contracts office, as well as the USIA Office of North African, Near Eastern, and South Asian Affairs and the USIA posts overseas, where appropriate. Proposals may also be reviewed by the Office of the General Counsel or by other Agency elements. Funding decisions are at the discretion of the USIA Associate Director for Educational and Cultural Affairs. Final technical authority for assistance awards (grants or cooperative agreements) resides with the USIA grants officer.

Review Criteria

Technically eligible applications will be competitively reviewed according to the criteria stated below. These criteria are not rank ordered and all carry equal weight in the proposal evaluation:

1. *Program planning:* Detailed agenda and relevant work plan should demonstrate substantive undertakings and logistical capacity. Agenda and plan should adhere to the program overview and guidelines described above.

2. *Institutional Capacity and Record:* Proposed personnel and institutional resources should be adequate and appropriate to achieve the program or project's goals, including responsible fiscal management and full compliance with all reporting requirements. The Agency will consider the past performance of prior recipients and the demonstrated potential of new applicants.

3. *Project Monitoring and Evaluation:* Proposals should include a plan to monitor the program and to evaluate its achievements. USIA recommends that the proposal include a draft survey questionnaire or other technique plus description of a methodology to use to link outcomes to original project objectives. The recipient organization will be expected to submit intermediate reports after each project component is concluded or quarterly, whichever is less frequent.

4. *Cost-effectiveness:* The overhead and administrative components of the proposal, including salaries and honoraria, should be kept as low as possible. The program should emphasize field-based services.

5. *Cost-sharing:* Proposals should maximize cost-sharing through other private sector support, as well as through institutional direct funding contributions, including charging fees for services.

6. *Demonstrated ability* to work with foreign educational institutions and governmental entities as well as with

other sponsors of education and training programs. Ability to operate advising centers and a Regional Educational Advising Consultancy in each of the aforementioned locations as of the starting date of the grant. This includes demonstration of ability to acquire any and all legal documentation permitting the organization to function in countries mentioned above by the starting date of the grant.

7. Support of Diversity: Proposals should demonstrate substantive support of the Bureau's policy on diversity. Achievable and relevant features should be cited in both program administration (selection of participants, program venue and program evaluation) and program content (orientation and wrap-up sessions, program meetings, resource materials and follow-up activities).

Authorization

Overall grant making authority for this program is contained in the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961, Pub. L. 87-256, as amended, also known as the Fulbright-Hays Act. The purpose of the Act is "to enable the Government of the United States to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries * * *; to strengthen the ties which unite us with other nations by demonstrating the educational and cultural interests, developments, and achievements of the people of the United States and other nations * * * and thus to assist in the development of friendly, sympathetic and peaceful relations between the United States and the other countries of the world." Programs and projects must conform with Agency requirements and guidelines outlined in the Solicitation Package. USIA projects and programs are subject to the availability of funds.

Announcement Title and Number

All communications with USIA concerning this announcement should refer to the above title and reference number E/ASA-96-06.

Deadline for Proposals

All copies must be received at the U.S. Information Agency by 5 p.m. Washington, DC time on Monday, October 16, 1995. Faxed documents will not be accepted, nor will documents postmarked October 16, 1995 but received at a later date. It is the responsibility of each applicant to ensure that proposals are received by the above deadline. Grants should begin no earlier than January 1, 1996 and end no later than December 31, 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Advising and Student Services Branch,

E/ASA, Room 349, Office of Academic Programs, U.S. Information Agency, 301 4th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20547, telephone 202-619-5434, fax 202-401-1433, e-mail advise@usia.gov. Potential applicants are encouraged to contact the program office and confirm understanding of the terms of this Request for Proposals before requesting a Solicitation Package, which includes more detailed award criteria; all application forms; and guidelines for preparing proposals, including specific criteria for preparation of the proposal budget. Please specify USIA Program Officer Amy Forest on all inquiries and correspondences. Interested applicants should read the complete **Federal Register** announcement before addressing inquiries to the Advising and Student Services Branch or submitting their proposals. Once the RFP deadline has passed, the Advising and Student Services Branch may not discuss this competition in any way with applicants until the Bureau proposal review process has been completed.

Submissions

Applicants must follow all instructions given in the Solicitation Package. The original and ten copies of the complete application, plus one extra copy of the cover sheet, should be sent to: U.S. Information Agency, Ref.: E/ASA-96-06, Office of Grants Management, E/XE, Room 326, 301 4th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20547.

Applicants must also submit the "Executive Summary" and "Proposal Narrative" sections of the proposal on a 3.5" diskette, formatted for DOS. This material must be provided in ASCII text (DOS) format with a maximum line length of 65 characters. USIA will transmit these files electronically to USIS posts overseas for their review, with the goal of reducing the time it takes to get overseas posts' comments for the Agency's grants review process.

Diversity Guidelines

Pursuant to the Bureau's authorizing legislation, programs must maintain a non-political character and should be balanced and representative of the diversity of American political, social, and cultural life. "Diversity" should be interpreted in the broadest sense and encompass differences including but not limited to ethnicity, race, gender, religion, geographic location, socio-economic status, and physical challenges. Applicants are strongly encouraged to adhere to the advancement of this principle, both in program administration and in program content. Please refer to the review criteria under the "Support for

Diversity" section for specific suggestions on incorporating diversity into the overall proposal.

Notice

The terms and conditions published in this RFP are binding and may not be modified by any USIA representative. Explanatory information provided by the Agency that contradicts published language will not be binding. Issuance of the RFP does not constitute an award commitment on the part of the Government. The Agency reserves the right to reduce, revise, or increase proposal budgets in accordance with the needs of the program. Final awards cannot be made until funds have been appropriated by Congress, allocated and committed through internal USIA procedures.

Notification

All applicants will be notified of the results of the review process on or about December 11, 1995. Awards made will be subject to periodic reporting and evaluation requirements.

Dated: August 18, 1995.

Dell Pendergrast,

Deputy Associate Director, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

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Winter Institute for the Study of the U.S.: Focus on American Literature

ACTION: Notice—Request for proposals.

SUMMARY: The Branch of the Study of the U.S. of the Office of Academic Programs of the United States Information Agency's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs announces an open competition for an assistance award program for the Winter Institute for the Study of the U.S.: Focus on American Literature. Public and private non-profit organizations meeting the provisions described in IRS regulation 26 CFR 1.501(c)(3)-1 may apply to develop a six-week graduate-level program designed for a group of 18 foreign university educators from around the world, in order to deepen their understanding of the United States and to give them further grounding in the field of American literature so that curricula and courses in foreign universities will benefit.

USIA is seeking detailed proposals from colleges, universities, consortia of colleges and universities, and other not-for-profit academic organizations that have an established reputation in the discipline of American Studies and/or American Literature and the related