

Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20552, and the Midwest Regional Office, Office of Thrift Supervision, 122 W. John Carpenter Freeway, Suite 600, Dallas, Texas 75039-2010.

Dated: January 23, 1996.

By the Office of Thrift Supervision.

Nadine Y. Washington,

Corporate Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96-1354 Filed 1-25-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6720-01-P

[AC-04; OTS No. 2715]

Washington Federal Savings Bank, Washington, IA; Approval of Conversion Application

Notice is hereby given that on January 16, 1996, the Director, Corporate Activities, Office of Thrift Supervision, or her designee, acting pursuant to delegated authority, approved the application of Washington Federal Savings Bank, Washington, Iowa, to convert to the stock form of organization. Copies of the application are available for inspection at the Dissemination Branch, Office of Thrift Supervision, 1700 G Street, NW., Washington, DC 20552, and the Midwest Regional Office, Office of Thrift Supervision, 122 W. John Carpenter Freeway, Suite 600, Dallas, Texas 75039-2010.

Dated: January 23, 1996.

By the Office of Thrift Supervision.

Nadine Y. Washington,

Corporate Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96-1355 Filed 1-25-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6720-01-P

[AC-05; OTS No. 4226]

The Citizens Loan and Savings Company, London, OH; Approval of Conversion Application

Notice is hereby given that on January 19, 1996, the Director, Corporate Activities, Office of Thrift Supervision, or her designee, acting pursuant to delegated authority, approved the application of The Citizens Loan and Savings Company, London, Ohio, to convert to the stock form of organization. Copies of the application are available for inspection at the Dissemination Branch, Office of Thrift Supervision, 1700 G Street, NW., Washington, DC 20552, and the Central Regional Office, Office of Thrift Supervision, 200 West Madison Street, Suite 1300, Chicago, Illinois 60606.

Dated: January 23, 1996.

By the Office of Thrift Supervision.

Nadine Y. Washington,

Corporate Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96-1356 Filed 1-25-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6720-01-P

[AC-06; OTS Nos. H-1935 and 00602]

Fidelity Federal, M.H.C., Cincinnati, OH, Approval of Conversion Application

Notice is hereby given that on January 5, 1996, the Director, Corporate Activities, Office of Thrift Supervision, or her designee, acting pursuant to delegated authority, approved the application of Fidelity Federal, M.H.C., Cincinnati, Ohio, to convert to the stock form of organization. Copies of the application are available for inspection at the Dissemination Branch, Office of Thrift Supervision, 1700 G Street, NW., Washington, DC 20552, and the Central Regional Office, Office of Thrift Supervision, 200 West Madison Street, Suite 1300, Chicago, Illinois 60606.

Dated: January 23, 1996.

By the Office of Thrift Supervision.

Nadine Y. Washington,

Corporate Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96-1357 Filed 1-25-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6720-01-P

UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY

Russian Civic Education: Curriculum Development and Teacher Training

ACTION: Notice—Request for Proposals.

SUMMARY: The Office of Academic Programs of the United States Information Agency's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs announces an open competition for up to two assistance awards. Public and private non-profit organizations meeting the provisions described in IRS regulation 26 CFR 1.501(c)(3)-1 may apply to cooperate in the planning and implementation of up to two curriculum development and teacher training projects for civic education in Russia. The recipient organization(s) will work with Russian partner organizations to be selected by USIS Moscow to assist Russian educators to draft, review, and field-test new teacher and student materials for secondary-level civic education. The grant(s), to be carried out over approximately eighteen months, will consist of three stages: (1) preliminary assessment and preparation, (2) a U.S.-based curriculum development workshop for a Russian

materials development team, and (3) post-workshop review and field-testing of materials. The cooperation with USIA will include regular consultation with USIA officers in Russia with regard to program development, implementation, and assessment. Applicant organizations may propose to cooperate with USIA on either one or both of these projects. Proposals should demonstrate expert knowledge of Russia and Russian education, as well as significant experience in civic education and curriculum development as practiced in the U.S.

Overall grant making authority for this program is contained in the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961, Public Law 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."

The funding authority for the program cited above is provided through the Freedom Support Act legislation (FSA). 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/AS-96-04.

DEADLINE FOR PROPOSALS: All copies must be received at the U.S. Information Agency by 5 p.m. Washington, D.C. time on Monday, April 1, 1996. Faxed documents will not be accepted, nor will documents postmarked April 1 but received at a later date. It is the responsibility of each applicant to ensure that proposals are received by the above deadline. Proposals should plan for grant activities to begin approximately by June 1996 and to be completed approximately by December 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: The Advising, Teaching, and Specialized Programs Division, E/AS Room 256, U.S. Information Agency, 301 4th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20547, telephone number 202/619-6038, fax

number 202/619-6790, Internet address "skux@usia.gov", to request a Solicitation Package containing more detailed award criteria, required application forms, and standard guidelines for preparing proposals, including specific criteria for preparation of the proposal budget.

TO DOWNLOAD A SOLICITATION PACKAGE VIA INTERNET: The Solicitation Package may also be downloaded from USIA's website at <http://www.usia.gov/> or from the Internet Gopher at gopher.usia.gov, under "New RFPs on Educational and Cultural Exchanges."

Please specify USIA Program Specialist Sally Kux on all inquiries and correspondences. Interested applicants should read the complete Federal Register announcement before sending inquiries or submitting proposals. Once the RFP deadline has passed, Agency staff 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 10 copies of the application should be sent to: U.S. Information Agency, Ref.: E/AS-96-04, Office of grants Management, E/XE, Room 326, 301 4th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20547.

Applicants must also submit the "Executive Summary" and "Proposal Narrative" sections of the proposal on a 3.4" 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 Moscow for review, in order to reduce the time of 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 to 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 total proposal.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Overview

The goal of these projects is to build on current Russian efforts to develop appropriate and up-to-date citizenship education programs for use in Russian secondary schools. The project will assist educators with the development and implementation of new civics materials in Russian regions in which education officials have demonstrated a commitment to civic education. The project's rationale is that improving citizenship education at the secondary school level will better prepare Russian students to participate actively in building a pluralistic, democratic society, and will promote democratic relations among members of the school community, including students, teachers, school administrators, and parents. The recipient organization(s) will work in partnership with the selected Russian organization(s) and must be willing and able to respond to the needs of the Russian partner(s).

Program Description

Phase I

Representatives of the U.S. grantee organization(s) will make a preliminary assessment visit to Russia. This trip will enable the U.S. partner(s) to consult with their Russian counterpart(s) to identify project objectives and the scope and themes of materials to be developed. This visit will also enable them to become acquainted with the local educational system through site visits to schools and appointments with education officials. The Russian partner organization(s) will select a curriculum development team of approximately five practitioners (e.g., classroom teachers, curriculum specialists, and/or educational officials) in consultation with the recipient organization and USIS Moscow, and will undertake preliminary work in Russia over a period of 3-6 months. During this time members of the curriculum development team(s) will familiarize themselves with issues and materials relevant to the project and will finalize the choice of topics to be explored in the draft materials.

Phase II

Members of the curriculum development team(s) will spend approximately two months in a highly structured U.S.-based workshop sponsored and organized by the U.S. grantee organization(s). During the workshop(s) the Russian team(s) will complete draft teacher and student materials. Within the framework of the workshop, the grantee organization(s)

will be responsible for allowing adequate time for participants to work individually and collectively on the materials. The Russian team(s) should be provided access to leading U.S. civic educators and a broad range of relevant resources to stimulate the work of the team(s) on materials oriented toward the Russian situation. The workshop(s) should include focused seminars on topics related to the teaching of civics and such relevant field experiences as visits to schools and professional associations.

Phase III

Upon completion, the draft materials will be reviewed by Russian and American experts. In Russia, the curriculum development team(s) will work with local teachers and, as appropriate, with U.S. specialists to provide training for a group of practitioners in methods for implementing and reviewing the draft materials on a pilot basis in selected schools in each region.

Guidelines

Programs must comply with J-1 visa regulations. Please refer to program specific guidelines (POGI) in the Solicitation Package for further details.

Budget

Applicants must submit a comprehensive as well as a summary budget for each project. The award for each of the two projects will not exceed \$225,000. Budget submissions should delineate separately administrative and program costs. For further clarification, applicants may provide separate sub-budgets for each program component, phase, location, or activity. Budgets should be presented in a multi-column format that clearly identifies the following categories: line item, amount of USIA support, and amount of cost-shared support. Any relevant calculations or explanations that do not appear in the budget should be included in budgetary notes. USIA is committed to containment of administrative expenses consistent with overall program objectives and sound management principles; total USIA-funded administrative expenses for this project should not exceed 25% of the total USIA-funded budget. Additional budget guidelines are provided in the Solicitation Package.

Grants awarded to eligible organizations with less than four years of experience in conducting international exchange programs will be limited to \$60,000. 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 EEN and USIS Moscow. For the review of a proposal to be successful, it will need to receive positive assessments by USIA's geographic desk officers and overseas officers. Proposals may also be reviewed by the Office of the General Counsel or by other Agency elements. Final funding decisions rest with the USIA Associate Director for Educational and Cultural Affairs. Final technical authority for assistance awards (grants or cooperative agreements) resides with an Agency grants officer.

Review Criteria

Technically eligible applications will be competitively reviewed according to the criteria stated below.

1. Quality of the program idea: Proposals should exhibit originality, substance, precision, relevance to Agency mission, and responsiveness to the objectives and guidelines stated in this solicitation. Proposals should demonstrate geographic and substantive expertise.

2. Program planning: Detailed agenda and relevant work plan should demonstrate substantive undertakings and logistical capacity and should adhere to the program overview and guidelines described above. Proposals should include a plan for continuous and summative evaluations.

3. Ability to achieve program objectives: Objectives should be reasonable, feasible, and flexible. Proposals should clearly demonstrate how the institution will meet program objectives and how continuous evaluation will be used to adjust program plans.

4. Multiplier effect/impact: Proposed programs should strengthen long-term mutual understanding, including maximum sharing of information and establishment of long-term institutional and individual linkages.

5. Support of Diversity: Proposals should demonstrate a commitment to promoting the awareness and understanding of diversity with regard to both program content and program administration.

6. Institutional Capacity: Proposed personnel and institutional resources should be adequate and appropriate to achieve the program or project's goals.

7. Institutional's Record/Ability: Proposals should demonstrate an institutional record of successful exchange programs, including responsible fiscal management and full compliance with all reporting requirements for past Agency grants as determined by USIA's Office of Contracts. The Agency will consider the past performance of prior recipients and the demonstrated potential of new applicants.

8. Follow-on Activities: Proposals should provide a plan for continued follow-on activity (without USIA support) which ensures that USIA supported programs are not isolated events.

9. Cost-effectiveness: The overhead and administrative components of the proposal, including salaries and honoraria, should be kept as low as possible. All other items should be necessary and appropriate.

10. Cost-sharing: Proposals should maximize cost-sharing through other private sector support as well as institutional direct funding contributions.

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 and the availability of funds. Awards made will be subject to periodic reporting and evaluation requirements.

Notification: Final awards cannot be made until funds have been appropriated by Congress, allocated and committed through internal USIA procedures.

Dated: January 19, 1996.

John P. Loiello,

Associate Director, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

[FR Doc. 96-1290 Filed 1-25-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8230-01-M

UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY

Summer Institute for Russian University Educators on International Politics

ACTION: Notice—Request for Proposals.

SUMMARY: The Advising, Teaching, and Specialized Programs Division of the Office of Academic Programs in 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 regulations 26 CFR 1.501(c)(3)-1 may apply to develop a six-week graduate level program designed for a group of ten Russian university educators on the subject of contemporary international politics. The primary purpose of the institute is to provide participants with a frame work for an understanding of the field that will in turn enable them to develop programs and courses in their home institutions.

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 fields directly related to the study of international relations and can demonstrate expertise in conducting graduate-level programs for foreign educators. Applicant institutions must have a minimum of four years' experience in conducting international exchange programs. The project director or one of the key program staff responsible for the academic program must have an advanced degree in the field related to the topic of the institute. Staff escorts traveling under the USIA cooperative agreement must be U.S. citizens with demonstrated qualifications for this service.

Overall grant making authority for this program is contained in the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961, Public Law 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."

The funding authority for the program cited above is provided through the Freedom Support Act (FSA). 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.