

The following paragraph applies to all of the collections of information covered by this notice:

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a valid OMB control number. Books or records relating to a collection of information must be retained as long as their contents may become material in the administration of any internal revenue law. Generally, tax returns and tax return information are confidential, as required by 26 U.S.C. 6103.

Request for Comments: Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record. Comments are invited on: (a) whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology; and (e) estimates of capital or start-up costs and costs of operation, maintenance, and purchase of services to provide information.

Approved: October 17, 1997.

Garrick R. Shear,

IRS Reports Clearance Officer.

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UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY

College and University Affiliations Program (CUAP)

NOTICE—Revised Request for Proposals (RFP). This notice amends the RFP published on October 2, 1997, providing for assistance awards by the Office of Academic Programs of the United States Information Agency to support free trade and market economies, and/or the environment and sustainable development. The RFP is amended to include Israel as an eligible country for proposed bilateral and trilateral projects. The RFP's closing date remains January 16, 1998. Potential applicants should refer to the RFP published on October 2, 1997 for full details about

applying for assistance awards under this RFP.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Office of Academic Programs; Advising, Teaching, and Specialized Programs Division; College and University Affiliations Program (CUAP), (E/ASU), Room 349, U.S. Information Agency, 301 4th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20547, phone: (202) 619-5289, fax: (202) 401-1433. Send a message via Internet to: affiliat@usia.gov to request a Solicitation Package. The Solicitation Package includes more detailed award criteria; all application forms; and guidelines for preparing proposals, including specific criteria for preparation of the proposal budget.

To download a solicitation package via Internet: The entire Solicitation Package may be downloaded from USIA's website at <http://www.usia.gov/education/rfps>. Please read all information before downloading.

To receive a solicitation package via fax on demand: The entire Solicitation Package may be received via the Bureau's "Grants Information Fax on Demand System," which is accessed by calling 202/401-7616. Please request a "Catalog" of available documents and order numbers when first entering the system.

Please specify "College and University Affiliations Program Officer" on all inquiries and correspondence. Prospective applicants should read the complete **Federal Register** announcement before addressing inquiries to the College and University Affiliations Program staff or submitting their 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.

Notification

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

Dated: October 15, 1997.

Robert L. Earle,

Deputy Associate Director for Educational and Cultural Affairs.

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UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY

Freedom Support Act Junior Faculty Development Program

ACTION: Request for proposals.

SUMMARY: The Academic Exchanges Division, European 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) may apply to develop and administer a comprehensive faculty and curriculum development program for 82 young faculty from Russia, Ukraine and Kazakhstan who will be affiliated at accredited colleges and universities throughout the United States in the following fields: business administration, economics, educational administration, environmental studies, journalism, law, library science, political science, psychology, public policy, public administration, sociology, architecture and urban planning, cultural anthropology, history, linguistics, philosophy, literature, and American studies.

It is the intent of USIA to provide participants with high quality programs designed to meet their specific academic and professional needs, within the parameters of the JFDP, and to promote long-term sustained interaction between and among participants, U.S. faculty and their home and host institutions.

USIA anticipates awarding one grant for this program. Should an applicant organization prefer to work with other organizations in the implementation of this program, USIA prefers that a subcontract arrangement be developed. USIA will entertain separately submitted proposals for joint program management, but the proposals must demonstrate a value-added relationship, and must clearly delineate responsibilities so as not to duplicate efforts.

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." The funding authority for the program cited above is provided through the Freedom Support Act.

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 RFP should refer to the announcement's title and reference number *E/AEE-98-04*.

Deadline for Proposals

All copies must be received at the U.S. Information Agency by 5 p.m. Washington, D.C. time on *Thursday, January 8, 1998*. Faxed documents will not be accepted at any time. Documents postmarked by the due date but received at a later date will not be accepted. Grants should begin in March 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: The Academic Exchanges Division, European Branch, E/AEE, Room 248, U.S. Information Agency, 301 4th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20547, Telephone: (202) 205-0525, Fax: (202) 260-7985, E-mail: treed@usia.gov, to request a Solicitation Package containing more detailed information. Please request 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 entire Solicitation Package may be downloaded from USIA's website at <http://www.usia.gov/education/rfps>. Please read all information before downloading.

To Receive a Solicitation Package Via Fax on Demand

The entire Solicitation Package may be received via the Bureau's "Grants Information Fax on Demand System", which is accessed by calling 202/401-7616. Please request a "Catalog" of available documents and order numbers when first entering the system.

Please specify USIA Program Officer *Jill Jarvi* 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 *nine* copies of

the application should be sent to: U.S. Information Agency, Ref.: *E/AEE-98-04*, 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 3.5" 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 posts' comments for the Agency's grants review process.

Diversity, Freedom and Democracy 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 total proposal. Public Law 104-319 provides that "in carrying out programs of educational and cultural exchange in countries whose people do not fully enjoy freedom and democracy", USIA "shall take appropriate steps to provide opportunities for participation in such programs to human rights and democracy leaders of such countries." Proposals should account for advancement of this goal in their program contents, to the full extent deemed feasible.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Overview

The Freedom Support Act Junior Faculty Development Program will provide a one-year, non-degree program of guided research, curriculum development, course auditing, course instruction and practical internships for approximately 47 Russian, 25 Ukrainian and 10 Kazakh young faculty. All participants are expected to be placed at U.S. host institutions under the mentorship of American faculty members in their respective academic disciplines. The Junior Faculty

Development Program (JFDP) is intended to provide opportunities for young faculty with great potential as scholars and instructors in their disciplines to: (1) upgrade their knowledge of the subjects they teach; (2) acquire new teaching skills and methodologies; (3) produce new curricula; and (4) develop professional contacts and initiate institutional linkages for their home institutions.

The selected organization will administer the U.S. components of the Junior Faculty Development Program (JFDP). Overseas components, such as recruitment and selection of JFDP participants, will be facilitated in Russia by the Moscow Fulbright Representative Office, in Ukraine by USIS Kyiv's Exchanges Office and in Kazakhstan by USIS Almaty.

Guidelines

Programs must comply with J-1 visa regulations. Please refer to program specific guidelines (POGI) in the Solicitation Package for further details. Administration of the program must be in compliance with reporting and withholding regulations for federal, state, and local taxes as applicable. Recipient organizations should demonstrate tax regulation adherence in the proposal narrative and budget.

Drafts of all printed materials developed for this program should be submitted to the Agency for review and approval. All official documents should highlight the U.S. government's role as program sponsor and funding source. The USIA requests that it receive the copyright use and be allowed to distribute the material as it sees fit.

Proposed Budget

Organizations must submit a comprehensive line item budget based on the specific guidance in the Solicitation Package. Awards may not exceed \$2,133,000. Administrative and indirect cost should not exceed 20% of the total grant award. Grants awarded to eligible organizations with less than four years of experience in conducting international exchange programs will be limited to \$60,000.

Applicants must submit a comprehensive budget for the entire program. There must be a summary budget as well as a breakdown reflecting both the administrative budget and the program budget. For further clarification, applicants may provide separate sub-budgets for each program component, phase, location, or activity in order to facilitate USIA decisions on funding.

Allowable costs for the program include the following:

- (1) General Program Costs.
- (2) Participant Costs.
- (3) Administrative Costs.

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

Review Process

USIA will acknowledge receipts 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 program office, as well as the USIA Office of Eastern Europe and NIS Affairs and USIA post overseas, where appropriate. Proposals may 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 Development and Management:* Proposals should exhibit, originality, substance, precision, innovation, and relevance to Agency mission. Objectives should be reasonable, feasible, and flexible. Proposals should clearly demonstrate how the organization will meet the program's objectives. A 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. *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. Proposals should also include creative ways to involve students in their U.S. communities.

3. *Support of Diversity:* Proposals should demonstrate the recipient's commitment to promoting the awareness and understanding of diversity.

4. *Institution'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. Proposed personnel and institutional resources should be adequate and appropriate to achieve the program or project's goals.

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

6. *Project Evaluation:* Proposals should include a plan to evaluate the program's success, both during the after the program. USIA recommends that the proposal include a draft survey questionnaire or other technique, plus a description of methodologies that can be used to link outcomes to original project objectives. Award-receiving organizations/institutions will be expected to submit intermediate reports after each project component is concluded or quarterly, whichever is less frequent.

7. *Cost-effectiveness and Cost Sharing:* 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. 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 an 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.

Option for Renewals

Subject to the availability of funding for FY 1999 and FY 2000, and the satisfactory performance of grant programs, USIA may invite grantee organizations to submit proposals for renewals of awards.

Dated: October 15, 1997.

Robert L. Earle,

Deputy Associate Director for Educational and Cultural Affairs.

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