

and Title 8, Section 101(a)(15) of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

DATES: Comments are due on or before December 9, 1996.

COPIES: Copies of the Request for Clearance (OMB 83-I), supporting statement, and other documents that will be submitted to OMB for approval may be obtained from the USIA Clearance Officer. Comments should be submitted to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs of OMB, Attention: Desk Officer for USIA, and also to the USIA Clearance Officer.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Agency Clearance Officer, Ms. Jeannette Giovetti, United States Information Agency, M/ADD, 301 Fourth Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20547, telephone (202) 619-4408; and OMB representative: Ms. Victoria Wassmer, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, New Executive Office Building, Docket Library, Room 10202, NEOB, Washington, D.C. 20503, Telephone (202) 395-3176.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Public reporting burden for this collection of information (Paper Work Reduction Project: OMB No. 3116-0008) is estimated to average 15 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Comments are requested on the proposed information collection concerning (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the agency, including whether the information has practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the Agency's burden estimates; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on the respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information to the United States Information Agency, M/ADD, 301 Fourth Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20547; and to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, New Executive Office Building, Docket Library, Room 10202, NEOB, Washington, D.C. 20503.

Current Actions: This information collection will be submitted to OMB for the purpose of renewal, extending the

expiration date and requesting approval of revisions made to the IAP-66.

Title: "Certificate of Eligibility for Exchange Visitor Status", (J-1 Visa).

Form Number: IAP-66.

Abstract: This information collection is used by Exchange Visitor sponsors to appropriately identify an individual seeking to enter the U.S. as an exchange visitor. The completed form is sent to the prospective exchange visitor abroad, who takes it to the U.S. Consulate (Embassy) to secure an exchange visitor (J-1) visa.

Proposed Frequency of Responses:
No. of Respondents—200,000;
Recordkeeping Hours—.15; Total Annual Burden—50,000.

Dated: October 7, 1996.

Rose Royal,

Federal Register Liaison.

[FR Doc. 96-26081 Filed 10-9-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8230-01-M

Multi-Regional Projects for International Visitors; Notice; Request for Proposals

Summary: The Office of International Visitors (IV) of the United States Information Agency's (USIA) Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs announces an open competition for 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 develop projects for Multi-Regional Groups of International Visitors traveling in the United States for periods of 24 to 30 days. Groups will be comprised of from 12 to 30 American Embassy contacts in the fields of government, politics, economics, journalism and the media, social processes, and business.

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 to 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. The U.S. Information Agency projects, programs and assistance awards are subject to the availability of funds and sufficient number of participant nominations.

Announcement Title and Number: All communications with USIA concerning this announcement should refer to the above title and reference number E/VP-97-1.

To Download a Solicitation Package Via Internet: Information about USIA's IV Program is available via Internet at website: <http://www.usia.gov/education/ivp/usintiv.htm>. The entire Solicitation Package may be downloaded from USIA's website at <http://www.usia.gov/> or from the Internet Gopher at [gopher://gopher.usia.gov/](http://gopher.usia.gov/). Under the heading "International Exchanges/Training," select "Request for Proposals (RFPs)." Potential applicants should read "About the Following RFPs" before downloading.

Deadline for Proposals: All copies must be received at the U.S. Information Agency by 5 p.m. Washington, D.C., time on the due date indicated for submission of proposals for each project described below. Faxed documents will not be accepted, nor will documents postmarked on the proposal due date but received at a later date. It is the responsibility of each applicant to ensure that proposals are received by the due date which has been established for each available project, as follows:

Grassroots Democracy in the U.S.
Federal System

Proposal Due Date: January 7, 1997.

Project Dates: 04/03/97-04/24/97.

Contacts: Susan Lockwood, Gail Curtis.

The democratic system of government is predicated on an informed and involved citizenry which interacts with elected officials who in turn are responsive to the views and interests represented throughout society. The aim of this project is to demonstrate that citizen participation in the political process is a means of harnessing the power of constructive criticism to effect change and to ensure checks on government. The project will incorporate an examination of the decentralized structure of the U.S. government, the interrelationships among the national, state, and local levels, and how citizens communicate with each level. The visitors—civic and community leaders, political party leaders, government officials, educators and journalists—will observe firsthand how grassroots organizations allow citizens to contribute to the debate on

critical issues ranging from foreign policy initiatives to local community efforts. The various processes essential to successful advocacy efforts, such as fund-raising, coalition building, lobbying elected officials, publicity campaigns and volunteer recruitment will be thoroughly explored during community visits around the country. Case studies in direct citizen legislative efforts will be based on initiative or referendum questions decided in the recent elections.

Drug Abuse Prevention and Education Programs

Proposal Due Date: January 7, 1997.

Project Dates: 04/10/97–05/01/97.

Contact: Azza Zaki.

Drug abuse has proven to be an intractable problem in the entire world. A whole new generation is now showing signs of falling into the habits of their elders regarding use, both recreational and hard-core, of illicit substances. This project, designed for drug rehabilitation professionals and educators directly involved in halting drug abuse, will provide an overview of the U.S. response to drug abuse by surveying education strategies and discussing treatment and interdiction methods. Emphasis will be placed on programs successfully developed to help schools and communities eliminate the use of alcohol and drugs by young people. Strategies will be discussed for assessing drug and alcohol problems as well as for long-term ways of alleviating them. The role which the media can play in discouraging young people from embracing a drug-influenced lifestyle by conveying the hazards of substance abuse and by deglamorizing the drug culture will be explored. Visitors will visit schools, local community organizations and treatment centers as well as federal and local law enforcement representatives, and will be encouraged to share perspectives gained through efforts in their own countries to stamp out the use of debilitating drugs.

The Role of Congress in the U.S. Political System

Proposal Due Date: January 7, 1997.

Project Dates: 04/24/97–05/15/97

Contacts: Janet Beard, Azza Zaki.

Of all American national institutions, the Congress presents perhaps the prime example of representative democracy at work, affording as it does day-to-day evidence of the efficacy of this form of government as it engages in making legislation and appropriating money. This project will provide visitors with a good understanding of the American political process and the role of Congress in that process. It will provide an opportunity to assess the impact of

the 1996 election on the makeup of the legislative branch of the U.S. government, and to examine the extent to which newly elected members of Congress, and the loss of many retired veterans in both houses, will affect the direction the U.S. takes in both its foreign and domestic policies. Through this examination, visitors will learn about the complexity of the system, its strengths and weaknesses, its checks and balances, and the forces that drive it for better or for worse. The project is designed for politicians, academics, government officials, journalists, and labor leaders who have a background or special interest in American politics.

The Globalization of Business and Markets

Proposal Due Date: February 4, 1997.

Project Dates: 05/01/97–05/22/97.

Contacts: Paul Kreutzer, Colleen Fowler.

International trade and worldwide instantaneous communications have created a world in which much of local economic and financial enterprise is inextricably linked to conditions and influences which prevail in many far-flung parts of the world. This project will examine the evolving impact of this globalization on various levels of business, markets and communities. Meetings with large and small businesses and finance companies will allow visitors to review the breadth of economic globalization, from instantaneous worldwide capital flows for business to global sourcing of common consumer goods in markets. Global or regional multilateral institutions will lend their perspectives on the integration of developing countries into both global and regional trade and finance flows. Visits with local community leaders will review public-private responses to the challenges of globalization, including community efforts to attract foreign investment to support economic diversification, retain workers, and sustain a high quality of life in a post-industrial economy. Experts will address critical questions about the potentially negative effects of globalization, such as corporate downsizing, worker displacement, divergence of education and income classes, and rise of anti-trade sentiment. This project is designed for international business leaders; finance, trade, and development officials; community and labor leaders; and academics and journalists concerned with business issues.

Entrepreneurship in the U.S.

Proposal Due Date: February 4, 1997.

Project Dates: 05/08/97–05/29/97.

Contacts: Susan Lockwood, Gail Curtis.

Small business has often been referred to as the engine of economic expansion and job creation. The "entrepreneurial spirit" has been a driving force in the prior success of the U.S. economy and is being looked to as the best hope for reviving economic vitality in regions and industries that have been hard hit in recent years. This project, designed for private business persons, government officials, academics and journalists with an interest in the American free market system, will provide both a theoretical and practical overview of entrepreneurship in the United States. Visitors will study the factors which affect and stimulate private enterprise including prevailing U.S. economic conditions, current Administration policy, the influence of labor, and the impact of immigration, expanding global markets, increasing liberalization of trade, and public/private cooperation. Techniques employed to keep the U.S. competitive in a global economy, including government programs on both the federal and state levels to foster and incubate small business enterprises, will be featured. Visits to one-stop centers for government permits and licenses will showcase the efforts local authorities are making to streamline and untangle the excessive paperwork which frequently confronts the independent business person. Through visits with American entrepreneurs in various economically-endowed regions of the country, visitors will gain an understanding of the opportunities and challenges they face.

International Security and U.S. Defense Policies

Proposal Due Date: February 4, 1997.

Project Dates: 05/15/97–06/05/97.

Contacts: Janet Beard, Azza Zaki.

With the post-Cold War period well underway, U.S. defense and strategic policies are moving beyond the traditional security concerns which dominated the era of superpower competition. Forces re-alignment, counter-proliferation, domestic and international economic security, peacekeeping and humanitarian missions now form major components of U.S. security and defense policies. This project will examine American defense and international security decision-making from the perspective of government officials and resources and will incorporate the views of interested foreign policy advocacy organizations. The project will review the long-term interests, threat analyses, and force structure considerations which motivate

U.S. security policies, and study the decision-making process with officials and analysts of international security affairs. Visitors will study U.S. defense resources and capabilities, as well as the interaction of defense and foreign policy institutions at the Executive and Congressional level. Leading analysts and critics of U.S. policy will present their views on current international and regional security questions, including multilateral peacekeeping, the role of NGOs, and examples of recent crisis management. This project is designed for mid-level defense and security government officials, military officials and analysts, and scholars concerned with security, strategic, and foreign policy issues.

Independent Judiciary

Proposal Due Date: February 4, 1997.
Project Dates: 05/29/97–06/19/97.
Contact: Colleen Fowler.

An independent judiciary is one of the preeminent requirements for a flourishing democracy, providing as it does protection against arbitrary action by authorities and a credible avenue for redress of grievances and enforcement of contracts. This project is intended for members of the judiciary or their staffs who would benefit from enhanced understanding of the American judicial and legal systems as well as community leaders, law professors, constitutional scholars, and justice ministry officials. In meetings with sitting judges and other authorities, visitors will discuss the principles underlying American jurisprudence such as federalism and the separation of powers, constitutionalism, guarantees of due process, and the Bill of Rights. Visitors will observe courtroom proceedings and meet with prosecutors, public defenders, and court administrators. International rule of law and human rights questions will be addressed by informed experts. Visitors will discuss with legal, political, and academic specialists the variety of means utilized in this country for the selection of judges at the federal, state, and local levels. Current issues in legal reform, the administration of justice, and court management will be identified.

Investigative Reporting in the U.S.

Proposal Due Date: March 4, 1997.
Project Dates: 06/05/97–06/26/97.
Contacts: Margery Benson, Gail Curtis.

As public officials and businesses rely increasingly on public relations professionals to aid in the packaging of news and opinion conveyed to and by the media, journalists have become increasingly sophisticated in

documenting information published as fact for the American public. With the increasing complexity of financial and political transactions, reporters are challenged to document paper trails, check and recheck obscure information, and even to question the fallibility of authoritative sources. This project will provide reporters, journalists, and editors with an overview of the current trends in American investigative reporting regarding ethics and legal concerns, confidentiality of sources, censorship, methodologies for acquiring and confirming statistics, freedom of information procedures and privacy concerns. Efforts to protect investigative journalists whose personal safety is endangered by their efforts to expose corruption and malfeasance will be reviewed. The role which computer-assisted journalism can serve in advancing investigative reporting will also be discussed. The project will include attendance at the annual meeting of Investigative Reporters and Editors to be held in Phoenix, Arizona, June 12–15.

International Environmental Issues

Proposal Due Date: March 4, 1997.
Project Dates: 06/19/97–07/10/97.
Contact: Azza Zaki.

Environmental concerns have come to play an increasingly important role in all aspects of U.S. foreign policy making, including defense and security policies as well as trade negotiations. This project will demonstrate that the United States recognizes the tremendous impact environmental problems have on quality of life for people around the world dealing with the transborder challenges presented by global climate change, pollution, overpopulation, deforestation, and competition for dwindling resources. Appreciation of the role that preservation of the global environment plays in maintaining national security and well-being has led both the State and Defense Departments to create special offices focusing on the need for sensitivity to environmental questions in conducting foreign relations. In this project, which will feature environmental problems and solutions that are international in scope, visitors will look at the unilateral, bilateral, and multilateral efforts in which the United States has been involved and discuss the various levels of success these approaches have had. It will include a serious examination of the political and economic implications of environmental policies and behaviors. Visitors will also discuss environmental regulations, cooperative efforts among businesses, governments, and environmentalists,

sustainable development issues, transnational disputes over resources and pollution, and the role of international science and policy symposia in achieving cooperative solutions. The expected visitors will be decision-makers in government, industry, environmental organizations, academia, and the media.

The U.S. Financial System

Proposal Due Date: March 4, 1997.
Project Dates: 06/26/97–07/23/97.
Contacts: Paul Kreutzer, Colleen Fowler.

The U.S. financial system is becoming ever more intertwined with the global marketplace as it continues to experience growth in its financial market activity in which investors seek the riskier, higher yield capital markets. Consequently, the U.S. financial market serves as both a model and a funding source for emerging markets. Visitors in this project will study the U.S. financial system in its global and domestic context and will look at transferable experiences in market development. The program will present both U.S. and multilateral perspectives and policies and will discuss project finance, structural adjustment mechanisms, privatization, and provisions to assist and reform developing country markets. The group will visit regional finance centers across the country for discussions of lending practices and other developments in financial products. A principal goal of the project is to provide visitors with practical information on confidence-building measures they can implement aimed at attracting foreign capital and investment for the advancement of economic development objectives in their home countries. The project is designed for finance and trade ministry officials, private entrepreneurs, investment analysts, bankers, Chamber of Commerce officials, scholars, and journalists concerned with finance, business, public policy and economics.

International Crime Issues

Proposal Due Date: April 1, 1997.
Project Dates: 07/10/97–07/31/97.
Contacts: Janet Beard, Azza Zaki.

Mounting concerns about international terrorism and drug trafficking on U.S. soil have made American citizens and law enforcement officials aware of the need to increase international cooperative efforts to counter these threats to civil society. This program will examine the structure of the U.S. criminal justice system and how its principles are applied to international crime issues. It will present the Constitutional and historic

basis for the structures, functions, limitations and obligations of the system. U.S. efforts—unilaterally, bilaterally, and multi-laterally—to combat international crime will be examined by looking at new ideas and procedures currently being considered and developed to address specific international crime problems. Critical issues such as those raised by extradition and extraterritoriality in the pursuit and prosecution of international criminals will be addressed. Through team split programming, visitors will be able to pursue subjects of more individualized interest ranging from terrorism or narcotics interdiction, to money laundering or pirating of intellectual property. This project is intended for government officials, law enforcement officials and criminologists, prosecuting and private attorneys, academicians, journalists, and other professionals who deal with international crime.

Civic Journalism: Informing the Public Debate in a Democracy

Proposal Due Date: April 1, 1997.

Project Dates: 07/24/97–08/14/97.

Contacts: Janet Beard, Colleen Fowler.

Civic journalism, the involvement of news outlets in the reporting of news in the name of civic improvement, is a concept that has been in use for less than a decade, but that is garnering a great deal of support and attention across the country. As newsrooms become more involved in not only reporting the news but actually shaping it—by gathering citizen focus groups to ask what they want to read, by sponsoring town meetings to address local concerns, or by soliciting public comments from the voters as well as the candidates—the hope is that citizens will become better informed and more interested as well as involved in politics and community affairs. Visitors will talk with the Pew Center for Civic Journalism to explore their role in sponsoring this work. They will also meet with the newspaper editorial staffs, radio and television managers, and community activists who have led this initiative and the citizens who have been its beneficiaries. Analysis of the impact of civic journalism on “getting out the vote” and in countering negative campaigning in the previous year’s election will be provided. This project will provide journalists and editors, civic educators, community leaders, and government officials with an introduction to civic journalism and with ideas they can implement at home to foster an informed public debate on civic issues.

U.S. Trade Policies

Proposal Due Date: April 1, 1997.

Project Dates: 07/31/97–08/21/97.

Contacts: Susan Lockwood, Gail Curtis.

With the initial stages of the World Trade Organization underway, the United States, along with its world trading partners, is now looking to maintain the hard-won gains toward establishing an international system of free trade. Additionally, regional trade organizations, as represented in the Western Hemisphere by the North American Free Trade Agreement [NAFTA], have presented a further consideration to both business and labor in their relationship to the international marketplace. Intended for trade, commerce, and business professionals, this project will explore the U.S. experience and policies in the post-GATT era and address key issues related to free trade such as non-tariff barriers, agricultural subsidies, environmental regulations, regional trade pacts, and the prospects for expanding cooperative trade arrangements in a free trade and investment climate. The program will provide opportunities to meet with key policy makers in U.S. government economic and trade sectors, and to survey the existing climate in the U.S. for international trade and investment in the private commercial and financial sectors. Visitors will explore the gamut of U.S. perspectives on trade from ardent protectionists to free traders by meeting with labor, business, industry, academic, banking, federal and local government representatives.

The Global Information Highway

Proposal Due Date: May 7, 1997.

Project Dates: 08/07/97–08/28/97.

Contacts: Paul Kreutzer, Colleen Fowler.

The last decade of the 20th century will likely be remembered as the era of global linkage through information technology. This project will introduce visitors to that technology, including the corporate players who created it, the government players wanting to regulate it, and the consumers who are making increasing use of the evolving Internet, telecommunications, and information superhighway. The project will review the activities of major contributors to the information revolution, including software companies, telecommunications conglomerates and entrepreneurs, entertainment companies, and consumer and public interest groups. Issues studied will include uses of the information highway by educational institutions to promote access to learning and by businesses to

facilitate communication as well as sales. Debates such as those over the conflict between the free flow of information and a need to control undesirable information will be highlighted. Implications of national interest in and attempts to regulate an increasingly borderless information flow will be examined by experts and advocates on both sides of the issue. This project is intended for technology industry businesspeople, managers, engineers, regulators, educators, academic and journalist observers of technology and culture, as well as entrepreneurs active in developing information resources.

Building Democracy In Diverse Communities

Proposal Due Date: May 7, 1997.

Project Dates: 08/14/97–09/04/97.

Contacts: Janet Beard, Gail Curtis.

As an increasingly multi-ethnic and even multi-lingual society, the United States faces challenges in absorbing newly-arrived immigrant communities as well as in ameliorating relationships between groups where deep-rooted bitterness still exists. Intended for civic and community leaders, local government officials, social workers, educators, sociologists, cultural historians, and journalists with a substantive interest in the government and culture of the U.S., this project will emphasize the strengths which cultural diversity brings to American society and its government. By illustrating the broad range of opinions and viewpoints held by Americans and how these are distilled through the democratic process, the program will provide a greater understanding of the democratic form of government in the U.S. and how it fosters common values across ethnically and racially diverse communities. Examples of programs which strive to foster understanding and improved relations between the races and ethnic groups which comprise the fabric of U.S. society will be highlighted. By visiting cities and small towns located in diverse economic regions of the country, visitors will also meet with a wide variety of grassroots organizations to observe the extensive range of ways in which American citizens can become involved in the political process and advocate their particular cause or viewpoint.

Radio Broadcasting in the U.S.

Proposal Due Date: June 3, 1997.

Project Dates: 09/11/97–10/08/97.

Contacts: Margery Benson, Azza Zaki.

While frequently overshadowed by its visual sister medium, radio broadcasting continues to play a pivotal role in

providing information and entertainment to its American audience and has received renewed interest to the extent that "talk radio" has assumed an elevated position in American political discourse. This project, designed for mid-level radio producers, programmers, editors, writers, announcers and administrative personnel, will address the principles of responsible and independent journalism while providing an opportunity to upgrade technological knowledge and journalistic skills. It will consist of visits to a wide variety of radio stations representing the spectrum of outlets in the U.S., including commercial, public, religious, national, and local stations. Visitors will hear discussions of broadcasting regulations and journalism ethics, observe programming, news gathering, interviewing and production techniques, and learn about the impact of technology on radio broadcasting in the U.S. Additional topics for discussion will include programming and production of news, radio stations as a business, fundraising for non-profit stations, current affairs and features programs, sports coverage, radio talk shows, cultural and music programs, religious programs, public service and community outreach, and programs for children. The project is timed to coincide with the National Association of Broadcasters' annual "Radio Show" in New Orleans, Louisiana, September 17-20.

Decision-Making in U.S. Foreign Policy

Proposal Due Date: June 3, 1997

Project Dates: 09/18/97-10/09/97.

Contacts: Susan Lockwood, Azza Zaki.

The way in which the U.S. arrives at decisions with respect to its relations with other nations of the world is complex and difficult to comprehend from distant shores. Even within the nation, the process is perceived by some to be mercurial at best and subject to frequent reversals. With the U.S. emerging from the Cold War as the sole remaining superpower, the process of foreign policy formulation has, if anything, become more complex as the nation wrestles with the implications of its world leadership. This project will expose visitors to the vigorous and open public debate which forms the basis for decision-making in the U.S. foreign policy process, and will provide them the opportunity to meet with foreign policy practitioners and with citizens nationwide attempting to influence the process. Foreign affairs professionals will gain an awareness of the multiplicity of factors which influence and mold U.S. foreign policy and how

philosophical ideals and national interests are reconciled in policy formulation. Special attention will be given to the role of the media in establishing the foreign policy agenda and informing the debate. Case studies based on the U.S. reaction to current trouble spots around the world will provide visitors with insight as to how policy evolves. This project is designed for government officials, politicians, academics and journalists interested in strengthening their understanding of the decision-making process in U.S. foreign policy.

International Conflict Resolution and Preventive Diplomacy

Proposal Due Date: June 3, 1997.

Project Dates: 09/25/97-10/16/97.

Contacts: Paul Kreutzer, Gail Curtis.

In the post-Cold War era, international security concerns have revolved less around large scale superpower encounters and increasingly around ways to resolve often intractable regional conflicts and ethnic wars. This project will familiarize visitors with the activities of U.S. governmental, multi-lateral, and non-governmental organizations active in preventive diplomacy and conflict resolution at the international level. Through case studies in preventive diplomacy, visitors will examine the role of U.S., U.N., and third-party attempts to settle differences before violent crises erupt. Multi-track diplomacy, mediation, and post-conflict rebuilding and conciliation issues will be covered in meetings with organizations involved in both the theory and practice of conflict resolution. Visitors will learn about diplomatic, military, and humanitarian U.S. resources. Academic meetings will describe conflict prevention and resolution curricula and training workshops. This project is designed for conflict resolution and peace studies practitioners and analysts, diplomats, military and defense officials as well as scholars, researchers, and journalists concerned with international affairs.

To Receive a Solicitation Package by Mail, Contact: The Office of International Visitors, Group Projects Division (E/VP), Room 255, U.S. Information Agency, 301 4th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20547, telephone 202/205-3058, fax 202/205-0792. The Solicitation Package contains more detailed award criteria, required application forms, project concept papers, and guidelines for preparing proposals, including specific criteria for preparation of the proposal and budget.

On all inquiries and correspondence, please specify the names of the USIA Program Officer/Specialist as they

appear on the "Contacts" line for each of the above projects. 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 15 copies of the application should be sent to: U.S. Information Agency, Ref.: E/VP-97-1, Office of Grants Management, E/XE, 301 4th Street, SW., Room 336, Washington, DC 20547. Applicants must also submit the "Executive Summary" and "Proposal Narrative" sections of the proposals on a 3.5-inch diskette. This material must be provided in ASCII text (DOS) format with a maximum line length of 65 characters. USIA will transmit proposals recommended for funding electronically to USIS posts overseas in order that they may share the information with prospective project participants.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Overview: Programs must maintain a non-partisan character. Programs and awards must conform to all Agency requirements and guidelines and are subject to final review by the USIA contracting officer.

Guidelines: USIA seeks separate proposals from non-profit organizations for development and implementation of professional programs for USIA-sponsored International Visitors to the U.S. who will participate in eighteen Multi-Regional Group Projects (MRPs). A separate proposal is required for each project. Each project is focussed on a substantive theme. Participants in the

projects will be foreign leaders or potential leaders selected by U.S. embassy committees abroad. Each group will typically consist of from 12 to 30 foreign visitors in addition to the two to three American escort officers, selected by USIA, who accompany them. Subject to approval by USIA, applicants may propose substitution for one of these escort officers by a representative of the applicant, provided the representative agrees to assume all responsibilities of the escort officer. Projects will be 24 to 30 days in length. Many programs begin in Washington, D.C., with an orientation and overview of the issues and a central examination of federal policies regarding these issues. Openings in cities other than Washington, D.C., may be proposed for substantive reasons. If Washington, D.C., is not the opening site, it should be included on the itinerary. Well-paced project itineraries often include programs in four or five communities, including the opening site. Project itineraries should include urban and rural small communities in distinctive geographical and cultural regions of the U.S. The programs should provide numerous opportunities for project participants to experience the diversity of American society and culture. At appropriate points in the project, the visitors should be divided into smaller sub-groups for simultaneous visits to different communities, with subsequent opportunities to share their experiences with the full group once it is reunited. There should be numerous opportunities for the visitors to share a meal or similar experience in the home of Americans of diverse occupational, age, gender, and ethnic groups ("home/family hospitality"). Some projects should include at least one opportunity for an overnight stay in an American home ("homestay"). The visitors should be provided opportunities to address student, civic and professional groups in relaxed and informal settings. "Shadowing" experiences with American professional colleagues may be proposed. Visitors should have numerous opportunities for site visits and hands-on experiences that are relevant to project themes. Proposals should also allow time for visitors to reflect on their experiences, share observations with project colleagues and visit cultural and touristic sites. In cities where such councils exist, arrangements for community visits must be made through the national network of affiliates of the National Council for International Visitors [NCIV].

Program participants will travel on J-1 visas arranged by USIA.

Organizations are required to submit a comprehensive line-item budget in accordance with the instructions in the Solicitation Package. Cost items must be clearly categorized as administrative costs, group project costs, or program costs. Applicants must use the budget format presented in the "1997 Guidelines for Proposals Submitted to the USIA Office of International Visitor Group Projects Division" for all budget submissions. There must be a summary budget as well as a breakdown showing detail for the administrative budget, group project budget and program budget. Proposed staffing and costs associated with staffing must be appropriate to fulfillment of all project requirements, which will include close consultation with the responsible USIA staff officer throughout development and implementation of the program. Program costs proposed may not exceed the guideline amounts. Combined administrative and indirect costs proposed should be controlled and are subject to negotiation. Cost sharing is encouraged and, if applicable, must be shown in your budget presentation. The Agency anticipates that awards to cover administrative and indirect costs (where applicable) will be less than \$20,400.

Organizations that have received a renewal assistance award from the Agency for the Office of International Visitors must submit a budget showing all administrative costs associated with the project for which application is made. Any award to such an organization pursuant to this announcement may be adjusted to reflect the status of the renewal award. Renewal award recipients must identify individuals or organizations to whom they have already paid honoraria in FY1997 if they propose to pay an additional honorarium for any project included in this announcement.

The Agency welcomes proposals from organizations that have not received USIA grants or assistance awards in the past. Agency requirements stipulate that "Grants awarded to eligible organizations with less than four years of experience in conducting international exchange programs will be limited to \$60,000." It is not expected that any of the projects in this announcement will cost \$60,000 or less. It is therefore incumbent on organizations to demonstrate four years of successful experience in conducting international exchange programs to be eligible for an assistance award.

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 program office, as well as USIA's Geographic Area Offices. 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 Education and Cultural Affairs. Final technical authority for assistance awards (grants or cooperative agreements) resides with the USIA Office of Contracts.

Review Criteria

Technically eligible applications will be competitively reviewed according to the criteria stated below. These criteria are not rank ordered:

1. Quality of program idea: Proposals should exhibit originality, substance, precision, and relevance to Agency mission, and be responsive to all goals and requirements stated in the RFP, project concept papers and the "1997 Guidelines for Proposals Submitted to the United States Information Agency Office of International Visitors Group Projects Division."

2. Program planning: The proposed program and work plan should include a planning and implementation timeline, describe any preliminary planning undertaken, and demonstrate logistical capability to implement the program as described.

3. Ability to achieve project objectives: Objectives should be well designed, reasonable, feasible, and flexible. Proposals should clearly demonstrate how the institution will meet the project's objectives.

4. Multiplier effect/impact: Proposed projects 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 substantive support of the Bureau's policy on diversity. Achievable and relevant features should be cited in both program administration (program venue and project evaluation) and program content (orientation and wrap-up sessions, program meetings, resource materials and follow-up activities).

6. Institutional capacity: Proposed personnel and institutional resources should be adequate and appropriate to achieve effective implementation and fulfillment of the project's goals.

7. 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 Federal assistance awards, if any. The Agency will consider the past performance of prior USIA award recipients and the demonstrated potential of new applicants. All applicants must demonstrate a minimum of four years of successful experience in conducting international exchange programs.

8. Cost-effectiveness: The administrative and indirect cost components of the proposal, including salaries, should be kept as low as possible and should not exceed the amount stated above.

9. Cost-sharing: Consideration will be given to proposed cost-sharing through other private sector support as well as institutional 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 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: October 1, 1996.

Dell Pendergrast,

Deputy Associate Director for Educational and Cultural Affairs.

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BILLING CODE 8230-01-M

Exchanges and Training Program With Russia, Ukraine and Uzbekistan

ACTION: Notice—Request for Proposals.

SUMMARY: The Office of Citizen Exchanges, Russia/Eurasia Division, of the United States Information Agency's Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs, announces a competitive institutional grants program. Public or private non-profit organizations meeting the provisions described in 26 CFR 1.501(c)(3) may apply to develop training programs for Russia, Ukraine,

and Uzbekistan. Diminished resources have forced USIA to limit the scope of this announcement; regrettably, proposals for other NIS countries will not be considered. Grant awards are subject to availability of funds.

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 Fulbright-Hays Act and 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 announcement should refer to the above title and reference number E/PN-97-10.

DEADLINE FOR PROPOSALS: All copies must be received at the U.S. Information Agency by 5 p.m. Washington, D.C. time on Monday, December 2, 1996. Faxed documents will not be accepted, nor will documents postmarked December 2, 1996 but received at a later date. It is the responsibility of each applicant to ensure that proposals are received by the above deadline.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Office of Citizen Exchanges, Russia Eurasia Division, E/PN, Room 220, U.S. Information Agency, 301 4th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20547, tel: 202-260-6230, fax: 202-619-4350, to request a Solicitation Package, which includes: proposal and budget guidelines and all application forms. Please specify USIA Program Coordinator Cassandra Barber on all inquiries and correspondence. Ms. Barber may also be reached at the following e-mail address: cbarber@usia.gov. Interested applicants should read the complete Federal Register announcement before making inquiries to the Office of Citizen Exchanges, Russia/Eurasia Division, or submitting their proposals. Once the

RFP deadline has passed, the Office of Citizen Exchanges, Russia/Eurasia Division may not discuss this competition in any way with applicants until after the Bureau proposal review process has been completed.

SUBMISSIONS: Applicants must follow instructions given in the Solicitation Package and send an original and ten copies of completed applications to: U.S. Information Agency, Ref.: E/PN-97-10, Office of Grants Management, E/XE, Room 336, 301 4th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20547.

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 total proposal.

Content of Proposals

Overview: USIA is interested in proposals that encourage the growth of democratic institutions in Russia, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan. Exchange and training programs supported by institutional grants should operate at two levels: they should enhance institutional relationships; and they should offer practical and comparative information to individuals to assist them with their professional responsibilities. Strong proposals usually have the following characteristics: an existing partner relationship between an American organization and a host-country institution; proven track record of conducting program activity; cost-sharing from American or in-country sources, including donations of air fares, hotel and housing costs; experienced staff with language facility; and a clear, convincing plan showing how permanent results will be accomplished as a result of the activity funded by the grant. USIA wants to see tangible forms of time and money contributed to the project by the prospective grantee institution, as well as funding from third party sources.