

to 26 U.S.C. 482 (60 FR 64470 and 60 FR 46141).

The Account-based Declaration Prototype (62 FR 14731, published 3/27/97), which includes a reconciliation component, is currently being designed under the Automated Commercial Environment.

Customs is also currently designing the ACS Reconciliation Prototype and published a notice in the **Federal Register** (62 FR 51181) on September 30, 1997, announcing plans to conduct a test of this prototype. The testing period of this prototype is scheduled to be implemented in October, 1998.

The importing community has raised concerns to Customs that reconciliation, as is currently envisioned, is overly burdensome in the data required. Customs and the trade are working together in an attempt to provide a series of options for reconciliation, which will provide the controls and information needed by the government and a practical mechanism which accommodates various business situations.

This document announces that a public meeting will be held to discuss issues related to the development of reconciliation by Customs. At this meeting, Customs and the trade participants will address reconciliation under the current legal structure, and analyze a menu-approach to reconciliation. The goal will be to secure a definition of the various business problems for which reconciliation does not fit, analyze a series of options under which to design reconciliation, and finalize a joint Customs/Industry proposal. Customs will discuss with the trade participants whether any statutory, regulatory or policy changes are required before reconciliation can be best implemented.

The meeting will be held in Hearing Room A of the Interstate Commerce Commission Building in Washington, DC., commencing at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, November 12, 1997. Because seating is limited, reservations are required.

The morning session of this meeting will be devoted to a discussion of transfer pricing, including the issues companies face in working under both the Customs and IRS statutes and transfer pricing situations in need of a reconciliation reporting mechanism. The afternoon session will be devoted to government/industry analysis of a menu-approach to reconciliation. The menu-approach is intended to provide a series of options which address various business needs, including the entire range of value issues (e.g., assists, indirect payments, transfer pricing, etc.)

Dated: October 27, 1997.

John Durant.

Director, Mod Act Task Force.

[FR Doc. 97-28779 Filed 10-29-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4820-02-P

UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY

Multi-Regional and Regional Projects for International Visitors

ACTION: Notice; request for proposals.

SUMMARY: The Office of International Visitors (E/V) 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 and Regional Groups of International Visitors nominated by U.S. embassies abroad.

The objective of the International Visitor Program is to increase mutual understanding through communication and collaboration with professional counterparts in the U.S. Participants are current or potential foreign leaders in government, politics, media, education, science, labor relations, and other key fields. They are selected by American embassies abroad and approved by USIA in Washington, DC. Since the program's earliest inception in 1941, more than 120,000 distinguished visitors have participated in the program, and over 155 program alumni have subsequently become heads of state or government in their home countries.

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 assistance awards 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/V-98-02.

DEADLINE FOR PROPOSALS: All copies must be received at the U.S. Information Agency by 5 p.m. Washington, DC, time on the due date indicated for submission of proposals for each project described below. Faxed or e-mailed documents will not be accepted at any time. Documents postmarked by the due date but received at a later date will not be accepted.

TO REQUEST A SOLICITATION PACKAGE, CONTACT:

For Multi-Regional Projects (MRPs): The Office of International Visitors, Group Projects Division (E/VP), Room 255, U.S. Information Agency, 301 4th Street SW., Washington, DC 20547; Tel: (202) 205-3058; Fax: (202) 205-0792.

For Regional Projects (RPs): The Office of International Visitors, Grants Division (E/VG), Room 255, U.S. Information Agency, 301 4th Street SW., Washington, DC 20547, Tel: (202) 205-9596; Fax: (202) 205-7974.

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: Information about USIA's IV Program is available via Internet at website: <http://www.usia.gov>. The entire Solicitation Package may be downloaded from USIA's website at <http://www.usia.gov/education/rfps>.

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.

SUBMISSIONS: Applications 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/V-98-02, Project Title: Contact Officer: Office of Grants Management, E/XE, Room 326, 301 4th Street SW., Washington, DC 20547. Applicants must also submit the proposal on a 3.5" diskette, formatted for WordPerfect.

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.

Title: U.S.-European Security Issues.

Type: European Regional (English-Speaking).

Proposal Due Date: January 13, 1998.

Project Dates: April 13-May 2, 1998.

Contact: Tim Moore.

Telephone: (202) 205-9596 FAX: (202) 205-2983. The security challenges facing the U.S. and Europe today are in many ways more complex than those that existed during the Cold War. With the breakup of the Soviet Union and the fall of the Berlin Wall, regional conflicts have arisen with no effective means of response. No clear consensus has emerged on how countries and multilateral organizations will confront and resolve turmoil in different parts of the world. De-nuclearization agreements, non-proliferation treaties and the role of NATO are being hotly debated.

This three-week project is designed for European government officials, politicians and academics in the security and defense field, and is intended to provide the participants with American perspectives on mutual security issues. The group should meet with a range of key experts and players in the defense and security policymaking process, including government officials, Congressional

staff, military personnel, academics and journalists. Topics should include: NATO enlargement; nuclear-proliferation and arms-control policies; regional and ethnic conflicts; the effect of budget reductions on American defense and security policymaking; UN peacekeeping efforts; and international terrorism.

The project will begin in Washington, DC, where the meetings should provide the groundwork for subsequent discussions throughout the country. The national itinerary will include the Norfolk (Va.) Naval Air Station and meetings with the U.S. Atlantic Command, a visit to a military base specializing in rapid deployment, and meetings in local communities with significant resources in the security/defense field. The program should also include a seminar at a major university with a prominent foreign-policy/security department.

Title: Privatization and Economic Reform.

Type: African Regional (French-Speaking).

Proposal Due Date: January 13, 1998.

Project Dates: April 20-May 8, 1998.

Contact: Mary Jeffers.

Telephone: (202) 205-9596 FAX: (202) 205-7974. Privatization in the U.S. context generally involves increasing the efficiency and lowering the cost of government by contracting certain services to the private sector. This concept differs in important respects from the idea of simply selling off state-owned enterprises, which is often understood to define privatization in many of the African countries now tackling the difficult task of basic structural adjustment. Furthermore, privatization may often be viewed in Africa as imposed from outside (by the IMF, World Bank, or USAID) rather than as most Americans see it, i.e. as a real, necessary condition for economic growth.

Visitors on this project will have the chance to look at multiple aspects of privatization in the U.S., focusing on the central themes of government responsiveness, efficiency, and accountability. The project will review government privatization at the city/county, state, and federal levels, including private-sector contracting to provide basic services such as transportation, garbage collection, or prison management. Other aspects of privatization will include government and NGO efforts to promote private sector development, as well as links between business and academia designed to harness private-sector support for academic research and development.

Finally, meetings with key policymakers in both the U.S. government and multi-lateral institutions will enable the visitors to make comparisons between U.S. privatization practices and the changes and developments taking place in their home countries, and perhaps to establish models for application in the future.

Title: Women in Political and Social Activism.

Type: American Republics Regional (Spanish-Speaking).

Proposal Due Date: February 3, 1998.

Project Dates: May 4-22, 1998.

Contact: Essie Wilkes-Scott.

Telephone: (202) 205-9596 FAX: (202) 205-7974.

In the past few decades the role of women in the United States has expanded more rapidly and dramatically than ever before in our history. From many points on the political and social spectrum, women are more visible, powerful, and vocal. These changes have taken place at every level of American life: In politics and government, in the workplace, in popular culture, in academia, in the home, and in the social service and community leadership roles that women play in rural and urban areas throughout the United States. This project will introduce Latin American women leaders to the United States' women's campaign for equal rights and the societal changes that this campaign has effected. It will examine the social, economic and educational inequities and issues women have championed at the grassroots levels. The program will provide a better understanding of U.S. values and experiences in social and political change by observing the contributions of women to citizen advocacy at the grassroots level; political leadership and the national level; equal employment access and workplace equity; available affordable quality child care; full access to education and training programs; comprehensive health care; and equal access to business opportunities. A variety of meetings and seminars with national, state and local elected and appointed officials and staff, political activists, public and private-sector health and social service program operators, women in the military, employment specialists and business persons, homemakers, educators, and women in voluntary advocacy and aid organizations, will highlight the societal challenges that spur women's increased activism. Political diversity will also be emphasized in this program to ensure that the wide range of perspectives that women bring to their activism are heard.

Title: Independent Judiciary and the Rule of Law.

Type: Near East and South Asian Regional (Arabic-Speaking).

Proposal Due Date: February 3, 1998.

Project Dates: May 11–29, 1998.

Contact: Alice Shifflett.

Telephone: (202) 205–9596 FAX: (202) 205–7974.

By focussing on the independent judiciary and the rule of law, this 21-day project will familiarize Arab jurists with U.S. concepts of judicial independence and the federal, state and municipal court systems, underlining the judiciary's role in preserving and strengthening democratic concepts such as government accountability and individual rights.

It will also illustrate the judiciary's importance for political stability, individual rights and harmony between ethnic and other communities as well as for business confidence and economic growth. The project will provide concrete ideas about improving court management and other administrative aspects of the civil and criminal legal systems of the participants' countries. It would examine potentially useful approaches to legal education and develop linkages between the visitors and U.S. judicial scholars and practitioners.

Title: Immigration, Citizenship and Assimilation in a Democratic Society.

Type: Multi-Regional (English-Speaking).

Proposal Due Date: February 3, 1998.

Project Dates: May 14–June 4, 1998.

Contact: Susan Lockwood.

Telephone: (202) 205–3058 FAX: (202) 205–0792.

E-MAIL Address: slockwoo@usia.gov.

The project will examine the fundamental nature of the immigrant experience to American political culture. U.S. government officials (Congress, State, AID, INS), representatives from non-governmental organizations and experts from academia and think-tanks will discuss U.S. immigration policies—from historical perspectives to current issues. Participants will observe problems which confront long-established citizens and new immigrants alike, as well as examples of assimilation, cultural preservation, and cross-cultural education.

Title: International Crime Issues.

Type: Multi-Regional (English-Speaking).

Proposal Due Date: March 31, 1998.

Project Dates: July 23–August 13, 1998.

Contact: Lesley Marcus.

Telephone: (202) 205–3058 FAX: (202) 205–0792.

E-Mail Address: lmarcus@usia.gov

This project will look at international terrorism, drug trafficking and other transnational crimes and will examine the structure of the U.S. criminal justice system and how it applies to international issues. As international cooperation is required to prevent and control transnational crime, the participants in this project will have numerous occasions to address the most pressing international crime issues and the United States' unilateral, bilateral, and multi-lateral approaches to dealing with them.

Title: Accountability and Transparency in Government: Improving Results and Increasing Public Access.

Type: African Regional (English-Speaking).

Proposal Due Date: June 2, 1998.

Project Dates: August 31–September 19, 1998.

Contact: Maggie McFarland.

Telephone: (202) 205–9596 FAX: (202) 205–7974.

In an environment of downsizing and streamlining much attention has been directed towards making government in the U.S. more responsive, more productive and more accessible.

This project will introduce African visitors to the U.S. experience of holding public officials accountable. The project will review the complexities of U.S. government at the federal, state, and local levels. It will acquaint the visitors with techniques designed by the founding fathers to hold government accountable as well as those systems and mechanisms in place today. The role of private citizens and the media in reporting abuses which undermine public trust will be emphasized throughout this project. The project will give visitors an idea of the challenges facing state and local governments in improving performance and responsiveness. It will review formal and informal efforts to educate citizens about their civil rights and civic responsibilities. Participants will meet with representatives of local government, business, and community institutions to discuss current cooperative efforts. Enforcement of laws and the independence of the judiciary will be examined in this project. Corruption in American public service and measures of redress will also be reviewed. Lastly, foreign visitors will have an opportunity to consider which mechanisms observed in the U.S. might be applicable in the visitors' countries.

Title: U.S. Financial System.

Type: Multi-Regional (English-Speaking).

Proposal Due Date: June 2, 1998.

Project Dates: September 10–October 1, 1998.

Contacts: Janet Beard.

Telephone: (202) 205–3058 FAX: (202) 205–0792.

E-Mail Address: jbeard@usia.gov.

This project reviews the U.S. banking and financial system, including industry regulation, trends in domestic and foreign investment, and the roles and differences between different players in the financial marketplace. Domestic and international finance issues studied will include changing global finance flows, small community banking, project finance, stock exchanges, and economic trends analysis.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Overview

Programs must maintain a non-partisan character. Programs and awards must conform to all Agency requirements and guidelines.

Guidelines

USIA seeks 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 three Multi-Regional Group Projects (MRPs) and five Regional projects (RPs). A separate proposal is required for each project. Each project will be focussed on a substantive theme. More detailed descriptions of the MRPs and RPs will be included in the Solicitation Package under "Preliminary Project Summaries".

Most projects will be 21 to 30 days in length. Most projects begin in Washington, DC, with an orientation and overview of the issues and a central examination of federal policies regarding these issues. Well-paced project itineraries include programs in four or five communities. Project itineraries will ideally include urban and rural small communities in diverse geographical and cultural regions of the U.S., as appropriate to the project theme. Projects should provide opportunities for participants to experience the diversity of American society and culture. Depending on the size and theme of the project, the participants in Multi-Regional or Regional group projects can be divided into smaller sub-groups for simultaneous visits to different communities, with subsequent opportunities for the visitors to share their experiences with the full group once it is reunited. Project may provide opportunities for the visitors to share a meal or similar experience (home

hospitality) in the home of Americans of diverse occupational, age, gender, and ethnic groups. Some projects might include an opportunity for an overnight stay (home stay) in an American home. The visitors may be provided opportunities to address student, civic, and professional groups on relaxed and informal settings. For some projects, "shadowing" experiences with American professional colleagues may be proposed. As appropriate, opportunities for site visits and hands-on experiences that are relevant to project themes may be included. Projects should also allow time for participants to reflect on their experiences and to share observations with project colleagues. Visitors should have opportunities to visit cultural and tourist sites. Arrangements for community visits must be made through affiliates of the National Council for International Visitors (NCIV). (The NCIV is a national network of private citizen organizations located in more than one hundred U.S. communities, which arrange local programs for International Visitors). In cities where there is no such council, the applicant organization will arrange for coordination of local programs.

The applicant should demonstrate the potential to develop projects, as described above, on a variety of program themes. The applicant is expected to have e-mail capability to consult with USIA Program Officers, and access to internet resources. USIA will provide close coordination and guidance through the duration of the award.

Visa Requirements

Participants in group projects will travel on J-1 visas arranged by USIA. Projects must comply with J-1 visa regulations. Please refer to program specific guidelines in the Solicitation Package for further details.

Tax Requirements

Administration of the projects must be in compliance with reporting and withholding regulations for federal, state, and local taxes as applicable. Applicant organizations should demonstrate tax regulation adherence in the proposal narrative and budget.

Budget

Applicant organizations are required to submit a comprehensive line-item administrative budget in accordance with the instructions in the Solicitation Package. A summary budget as well as a detailed budget showing all administrative costs is required. Proposed staffing and costs associated with staffing must be appropriate to the

requirements outline in the RFP and the remaining portion of the Solicitation Package.

The selected applicant will enter into close consultation on budgetary matters with the responsible USIA Program Officer throughout the implementation of projects, each one of which will have a separate budget. Combined administrative and indirect costs proposed should be reasonable. Cost sharing is encouraged.

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 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 E/V Program Officer, as well as one or more of 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 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. *Quality of program design:* Proposals should exhibit originality, substance, precision, and be responsive to requirements stated in the Request for Proposals (RFP) and the 1998 Solicitation Package.

2. *Program planning:* A detailed and relevant work plan should demonstrate substantive intent and logistical capacity. Agenda and plan should

adhere to the program overview and guidelines.

3. *Ability to achieve program objectives:* Proposals should clearly demonstrate how the institution will meet the goals of the International Visitor Program.

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 (selection of resources, program venue and program 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 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 any past Agency grants as determined by USIA's Office of Contracts. The Agency will consider the past performance of prior recipients and the potential of new applicants for effective program administration. All applicants must demonstrate a minimum of four years in existence, with proven project management ability and demonstrated fiscal soundness and accountability and a potential for programming visitors from all geographic regions of the world.

8. *Cost-effectiveness:* The administrative and indirect cost components of the proposal, including salaries, should be kept as low as possible.

9. *Cost-sharing:* Consideration will be given to proposed 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 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 22, 1997.

Robert Earle,

Deputy Associate Director for Educational and Cultural Affairs.

[FR Doc. 97-28563 Filed 10-29-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8230-01-M

UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY

Summer Institute for Foreign Policy Officials: The United States Today

ACTION: Notice—Request for Proposals (RFP).

SUMMARY: The U.S. Information Agency's Branch for the Study of the United States announces an open competition for an assistance award program entitled: "Summer Institute for Foreign Policy Officials: The United States Today." Public and private non-profit organizations meeting the provisions described in IRS regulation 26 CFR 1.501(c) may apply to develop and implement a three-week post-graduate level program designed for a multinational group of 18 experienced mid-level foreign affairs professionals. *The program is intended to provide participants with a deeper understanding of American life and institutions through an examination of contemporary political, economic, social and cultural issues, with special reference to domestic trends and issues in American life and their relationship to U.S. policies and actions in the international arena. Tentative program dates are any three week period between May 15 and July 31, 1998.*

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 a scholarly discipline related to the subject of the institute and that can demonstrate expertise in conducting post-graduate 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 a

relevant discipline. 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, 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 Name and Number: All communications with USIA concerning this announcement should refer to the above title and reference number E/AAS-98-04.

Deadline for Proposals: All copies must be received at the U.S. Information Agency by 5:00 p.m. Washington D.C. time on Friday, January 16, 1998. Faxed documents will not be accepted, nor will documents postmarked by the due date but received at a later date. It is the responsibility of each applicant to ensure that proposal submissions arrive by the deadline.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: U.S. Information Agency, Office of Academic Programs, Branch of the Study of the United States, E/AAS—Room 252, 301 4th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20547, Attention: William Bate, Telephone number: (202) 619-4557, Fax number: (202) 619-6790, Internet address: wbate@usia.gov.

Please use the above information to request a Solicitation Package containing more detailed award criteria, required application forms, and standard guidelines for preparing proposals (including specific information on budget preparation).

Please specify USIA Program Officer William Bate on all inquiries and correspondence. Interested applicants should read the complete **Federal Register** announcement before addressing inquiries to the office listed above or submitting proposals. Once the

RFP deadline has passed, USIA staff may not discuss this competition in any way with applicants until after the Bureau proposal review process has been completed.

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.

Submissions

Applicants must follow all instructions given in the Solicitation Package. The original and 13 copies of the complete application should be sent to: U.S. Information Agency, Ref.: E/AAS-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.

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. Pub. L. 104-319 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