

informed the public of the new procedure and eligibility requirements for participation in the test. The goals of the quota preprocessing prototype being tested, as set forth in the July 24, 1998 **Federal Register** notice are:

- (1) To reduce the processing time of quota entries;
- (2) To process quota entries submitted as part of the preprocessing program in the same amount of time as non-quota entries;
- (3) To increase the quantity of quota entries released within one calendar day of the arrival of the carrier; and
- (4) To equalize the submission of quota entries over the five-day work week.

The quota preprocessing test began on September 15, 1998; the six-month time period of the original test expires on March 14, 1999. Approximately 400 brokers and importers have participated in the test so far, and Customs has received 84 evaluations: 22 from brokers and 62 from importers. The initial test evaluations were positive, showing general acceptance of the program. However, Customs would have liked greater participation. In fact, the biggest complaint contained in the evaluations received to date is that the preprocessing test occurred at the end of the year when many of the quotas were filled 85% or more. Many participants felt that had the test been conducted at the beginning of the year, it would have received greater participation.

Because of this complaint that conducting the test so near to the end of the year was an unfair measure of the prototype, Customs is extending the prototype testing period through the end of this calendar year. This will enable the importing community to more fully participate in the quota preprocessing test and allow Customs to more fully explore the benefits and drawbacks of the program.

Accordingly, this document announces that Customs is extending the test of the quota preprocessing prototype at the ports where testing is already underway until the end of 1999. Those ports are: the port of Los Angeles; the port of New York/Newark; JFK Airport; and Los Angeles International Airport. Anyone interested in participating in the test should refer to the test notice published in the July 24, 1998 **Federal Register** for eligibility and application information. Any expansion of the test to other ports will be the subject of another **Federal Register** notice.

Dated: March 19, 1999.

Charles W. Winwood,

Assistant Commissioner, Office of Field Operations.

[FR Doc. 99-7238 Filed 3-24-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4820-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Customs Service

Privacy Act of 1974, as Amended; System of Records

AGENCY: Customs Service, Treasury.

ACTION: Notice of altered system of records.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, 5 U.S.C. 552a, the Customs Service gives notice of an altered Privacy Act system of records, Treasury/Customs .244—Treasury Enforcement Communications System.

DATES: Comments must be received no later than April 26, 1999. The proposed alteration to the system of records will be effective May 4, 1999, unless comments are received which would result in a contrary determination.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be sent to the Disclosure Law Staff, Office of Regulations and Rulings, Room 3.4C, Ronald Reagan Building, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20229.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Frederica H. Gries, Disclosure Law Staff, U.S. Customs Service, Room 3.4C, Ronald Reagan Building, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20229, (202) 927-2333.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This report is to give notice of an altered U.S. Customs Service system of records entitled, "Treasury/Customs .244—Treasury Enforcement Communications System" which is subject to the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, 5 U.S.C. 552a. The Privacy Act notice for Treasury/Customs .244 was last published in its entirety on December 17, 1998, at 63 FR 69809. The Customs Service is altering its present system of records regarding routine uses by adding another routine use which would permit Treasury law enforcement officers to release TECS information directly to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). The addition of this routine use reflects Customs' desire to assist NCMEC in its work coordinating information on the investigation and recovery of missing children.

The altered system of records report, as required by 5 U.S.C. 552a(r) of the Privacy Act, has been submitted to the

Committee on Government Reform and Oversight of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Governmental Affairs of the Senate, and the Office of Management and Budget, pursuant to Appendix I to OMB Circular A-130, Federal Agency Responsibilities for Maintaining Records About Individuals, dated February 8, 1996. The proposed additional routine use to Treasury/Customs .244 Treasury Enforcement Communications System is published below.

Dated: March 17, 1999.

Shelia Y. McCann,

Deputy Assistant Secretary (Administration).

TREASURY/CUSTOMS .244

SYSTEM NAME:

Treasury Enforcement Communications System (TECS)-Treasury/Customs.

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ROUTINE USES OF RECORDS MAINTAINED IN THE SYSTEM, INCLUDING CATEGORIES OF USERS AND THE PURPOSES OF SUCH USE:

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Description of change: The period at the end of routine use (5) is replaced with a semicolon ";", and the following routine use is added: (6) Provide certain information through Department of the Treasury law enforcement officers to personnel of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) who are employed by a law enforcement agency when it is consistent with the purposes of the NCMEC.

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[FR Doc. 99-7244 Filed 3-24-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4820-02-P

UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY

English Language Enrichment Program; Notice: Request for Proposals

SUMMARY This NIS Secondary School Initiative division, Office of Citizen Exchanges of the United States Information Agency's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs announces an open competition for an English Language Enrichment Program. Public and private non-profit organizations meeting the provisions described in IRS regulation 26 CFR 1.501(c) may submit proposals to conduct a four-week homestay-based, English language enrichment and cultural orientation program in July 1999 for 25 students from the New Independent States (NIS) of the former

Soviet Union selected for the Freedom Support Act Future Leaders Exchange (FLEX) program. Approximately 15 of the participants will be students with physical disabilities who were specially recruited and selected. The other 10 will be students from more isolated regions of the NIS. The purpose is to raise the English capability of these students to the level where they are able to attend regular classes when their academic program starts in the fall. Funds requested for this project may not exceed \$50,000.

Program Information

OBJECTIVES: To prepare a select group of students with special needs to attend school in the fall and perform at a level closer to that of these FSA FLEX students that make up the majority of the program finalists.

BACKGROUND: Academic year 1999/2000 will be the seventh year of the FSA/FLEX program, which now includes over 7000 alumni. This component of the NIS Secondary School Initiative was originally authorized under the FREEDOM Support Act of 1992 and is funded by annual allocations from the Foreign Operations and USIA appropriations. The goals of the program are to promote mutual understanding and foster a relationship between the people of the NIS and the U.S.; assist the successor generation of the NIS to develop the qualities it will need to lead in the transformation of those countries in the 21st Century; and to promote democratic values and civil responsibility by giving NIS youth the opportunity to live in American society for an academic year. During the program's early year, there was concern that students from the more remote regions of the NIS might be underrepresented because the lack of English competence in those regions could prevent applicants from meeting the rigorous English language requirements of the FLEX recruitment process (including attaining a reasonable score on the Secondary Level English Proficiency—or SLEP—examination). To address this concern, a pre-academic year English language enrichment program was developed so that some students from the remote areas could be selected whose SLEP score was slightly lower than average. In subsequent years, lack of English competence in the remote regions of the NIS has become less of a problem. However, USIA has added a component focusing on students with disabilities, who do have a need for some special training before initiating their academic year program. The enrichment program

for which proposals are being solicited here are in support of both groups of students. The essential components of the enrichment program are:

1. A four-week course of study in English, approximately 5.5 hours per day.
2. Lodging with volunteer host families.
3. Orientation programming that addresses the special needs of the students with disabilities and their unique adjustment issues.
4. Programming that builds on adjustment issues that will have been introduced at the pre-departure orientation for all FSA FLEX students.
5. The student's transition to their year-long host family and community.

OTHER COMPONENTS: Two organizations have already been awarded grants to perform the following functions: Recruitment and selection of students; targeted recruitment for students with disabilities; assistance in documentation and preparation of IAP-66 forms; preparation of cross-cultural materials; pre-departure orientation; international travel from home to host community and return; facilitation of ongoing communication between the natural parents and placement organizations, as needed; maintenance of a student database and provision of data to USIA; and ongoing follow-up with alumni following their return to the NIS. Additionally, 12 organizations have been selected through a grants competition to place the 930 1999–2000 FSA FLEX students in schools and homestays for the academic year, to monitor their progress, and to conduct cultural enrichment activities. The organization selected for the English Enrichment Program will be asked to interact with the organizations described above to ensure a smooth transition from the pre-academic training to their permanent placements. **GUIDELINES:** Applicants should consult the Project Objectives Goals and Implementation (POGI) guidelines for a detailed statement of work. (See "For Further Information" below.) The program must take place from mid-July to mid-August, 1999. The venue for the program should be one that enables the students to focus on the coursework, experience life in a typical American family and community, and is conducive to a smooth transition into their permanent placement. An optimal site will have resources that can be drawn upon for cultural enrichment but will have minimal distractions.

Participants will travel on J-1 visas issued by USIA using a government program number.

The students will be covered by the health and accident insurance policies used by their placement organizations. The grantee organization will acknowledge its responsibility to coordinate with the appropriate organization(s) any time treatment is needed for the duration of the students' participation in the Enrichment Program.

Applicants may assume that grant activity may begin by June 1, 1999. Programs must comply with J-1 visa regulations. Please refer to Solicitation Package for further information.

Budget Guidelines: Applicants must submit a comprehensive budget for the entire program. There must be a summary budget as well as breakdowns reflecting both administrative and program costs. Applicants may provide separate sub-budgets for each program component, phase, location, or activity to provide clarification. See POGI for allowable costs for the program. Please refer to the Solicitation Package for complete budget guidelines and formatting instructions.

Announcement Title and Number: All correspondence with USIA concerning this RFP should reference the above title and number E/PY-99-44.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: The Office of Youth Program, E/PY, Rm 568, U.S. Information Agency, 301 4th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20547, tel. (202) 619-6299, fax (202) 619-5311, e-mail daronson@usia.gov to request a Solicitation Package. The Solicitation Package contains detailed award criteria, required application forms, specific budget instructions, and standard guidelines for proposal preparation. Please specify USIA Program Officer Diana Aronson on all other inquiries and correspondence.

Please 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 with applicants until the 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://e.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 requested from the Bureau's "Grants Information Fax on Demand System," which is accessed by calling 202/401-7616. The "Table of Contents" listing

available documents and order numbers should be the first order when entering the system.

Deadline for Proposals

All proposal copies must be received at the U.S. Information Agency by 5 p.m. Washington, DC time on Monday, April 26, 1999. Faxed documents will not be accepted at any time. Documents postmarked the due date but received on a later date will not be accepted. Each applicant must ensure that the proposals are received by the above deadline.

Applicants must follow all instructions in the Solicitation Package. The original and six copies of the application should be sent to:

U.S. Information Agency, Ref.: *E/PY-99-44*, Office of Grants Management, E/XE, Room 568, 301 4th Street, SW, Washington, DC 20547.

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.

Year 2000 Compliance Requirement (Y2K Requirement)

The Year 2000 (Y2K) issue is a broad operational and accounting problem that could potentially prohibit organizations from processing information in accordance with Federal management and program specific requirements including data exchange with USIA. The inability to process information in accordance with Federal requirements could result in grantees' being required to return funds that have not been accounted for properly.

USIA therefore requires all organizations use Y2K compliant systems including hardware, software, and firmware. Systems must accurately process data and dates (calculating, comparing and sequencing) both before and after the beginning of the year 2000 and correctly adjust for leap years.

Additional information addressing the Y2K issue may be found at the General Services Administration's Office of Information Technology website at <http://www.itpolicy.gsa.gov>.

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. All eligible proposals will be reviewed by the program office, as well as the USIA's Office of East European and NIS Affairs. Eligible proposals will be forwarded to panels of USIA officers for advisory review. Proposals may also be reviewed by the Office of the General Counsel or by other Agency elements. Final funding decisions are at the discretion of USIA's 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 the program idea: Proposals should exhibit originality, substance, precision, and relevance to the Agency's mission and the stated objective of this project.
2. Program planning: Detailed agenda and relevant work plan should demonstrate substantive undertakings and logistical capacity. Agenda and plan should adhere to the program overview and guidelines described above.
3. Ability to achieve program objectives: Objectives should be concrete, feasible, and measurable. Proposals should clearly demonstrate how the institution will meet the program's objectives and plan and correlate with USIA's goals.
4. Multiplier effect/impact: Proposed programs should strengthen long-term mutual understanding, including maximum sharing of information.
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 speakers, program review and program evaluation) and program content (orientation and wrap-up sessions, program meetings, and resource materials).
6. Institutional Capacity: Proposed personnel and institutional resources

should be adequate and appropriate to achieve the program or 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 Agency grants as determined by USIA's Office of Contracts. The Agency will consider the past performance of prior recipients and the demonstrated potential of new applicants.

8. Project Evaluation: Proposals should include a plan to evaluate the activity's success, both as the activities unfold and at the end of the program. A draft survey questionnaire, tests, or other technique plus description of a methodology to use to link outcomes to original project objectives is recommended.

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

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

Authority

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 this project is provided through legislation appropriating funds annually for USIA's exchange programs.

Notice

The terms and conditions published in this RFP are binding and may not be modified by any USIA representative. Explanatory information provided by the Agency that contradicts published language will not be binding. Issuance of the RFP does not constitute an award commitment on the part of the

Government. The Agency reserves the right to reduce, revise, or increase proposal budgets in accordance with the needs of the program and the availability of Funds. Awards made will be subject to periodic reporting and evaluation requirements.

Notification

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

Dated: March 18, 1999.

Judith S. Siegel,

Deputy Associate Director for Educational and Cultural Affairs.

[FR Doc. 99-7269 Filed 3-24-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8230-01-M

UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY

Legislature Development Program for Nigeria

ACTION: Request for proposals.

SUMMARY: The Africa/Near East/South Asia Division of the Office of Citizen Exchanges of the United States Information Agency's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs announces an open competition for an assistance award. U.S. public and private non-profit organizations meeting the provisions described in IRS regulation 26 CFR 1.501(c) may submit proposals to develop training programs. Grants are subject to the availability of funds.

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 above is provided through the Fulbright-Hays Act.

Programs and projects must conform with Agency requirements and guidelines outlined in the Solicitation Package.

Announcement Title and Number: All correspondence with USIA concerning this RFP should reference the above title and number E/P-99-42.

Deadline for Proposals: All proposal copies must be received at the U.S. Information Agency by 5 p.m. Washington, DC time on April 26, 1999. Faxed documents will not be accepted at any time. Documents postmarked the due date but received on a later date will *not* be accepted.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: The Africa/Near East/South Asia Division, Office of Citizen Exchanges, (E/PS), Room 216, U.S. Information Agency, 301 Fourth Street, SW, Washington, DC 20547, attn: Carol Jean Locke, tel: 202-205-0535; fax 202-619-4350 or Internet address: clocke@usia.gov, to request a Solicitation Package. The Solicitation Package contains detailed award criteria, required application forms, specific budget instructions and standard guidelines for proposal preparation.

To Download a Solicitation Package via Internet: The entire Solicitation Package may be downloaded from USIA's website at <http://e/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 requested from the Bureau's "Grants Information Fax on Demand System," which is accessed by calling 202/401-7616. The "Table of Contents" listing available documents and order numbers should be the first order when entering the system.

Please specify USIA Program Officer Carol Jean Locke on all inquiries and correspondence. Please 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 with applicants until the proposal review process has been completed.

Submissions: Applicants must follow all instructions in the Solicitation Package. The original and ten (10) copies of the application should be sent to: U.S. Information Agency, Ref.: T3E/P-99-42, Office of Grants Management, E/XE, Room 326, 301 Fourth Street, SW., Washington, DC 20547.

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 of Diversity" section for specific suggestions on incorporating diversity into the total proposal. Pub. L. 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 reflect advancement of this goal in their program contents, to the full extent deemed feasible.

Program Information

Overview: USIA is interested in proposals which will assist in the development of staff and their services in the National Legislature of Nigeria. Exchanges and training programs supported by Office of Citizen Exchanges institutional grants should operate at two levels: they should promote institutional relationships; and they should offer practical information to individuals to assist them with their professional responsibilities. Strong proposals usually have the following characteristics: an existing or likely partner relationship between an American organization and a counterpart institution overseas; a proven track record of conducting program activity; cost-sharing from American and/or in-country sources, including donations of air fares, hotel and/or housing costs, experienced staff with language facility, or other resources valuable to the program; and a clear, convincing plan showing how permanent results and continuing activity will be implemented 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 American and grantee institutions, as well as funding from third-party sources.

Unless otherwise specified below, project activity may include: Study tours; short-term training; consultations; and extended, intensive workshops taking place as elements in a two-way exchange in the United States and in Nigeria. Proposals should reflect the applicant's understanding of the political, economic, and social