0001. In addition, one copy of each pleading must be served on Joseph D. Anthofer, Esq., 1416 Dodge Street, #830, Omaha, NE 68179.

Board decisions and notices are available on our website at ''WWW.STB.DOT.GOV.''

Decided: February 4, 1999.

By the Board, David M. Konschnik, Director, Office of Proceedings.

Vernon A. Williams,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99–3265 Filed 2–10–99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915–00–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

February 4, 1999.

The Department of Treasury has submitted the following public information collection requirement(s) to OMB for review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104–13. Copies of the submission(s) may be obtained by calling the Treasury Bureau Clearance Officer listed. Comments regarding this information collection should be addressed to the OMB reviewer listed and to the Treasury Department Clearance Officer, Department of the Treasury, Room 2110, 1425 New York Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20220.

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before March 15, 1999 to be assured of consideration.

Internal Revenue Service (IRS)

OMB Number: 1545–1626.

Form Number: IRS Forms 1065–B and Schedule K–1.

Type of Review: Extension.

Title: U.S. Return of Income for Electing Large Partnerships (Form 1065–B); and Partner's Share of Income (Loss) From an Electing Large Partnership (Schedule K–1).

Description: Code sections 771–777 allow large partnerships to elect to file a simplified return which requires fewer items to be reported to partners.

Respondents: Business or other for-profit, Farms.

Estimated Number of Respondents/Recordkeepers: 100.

Estimated Burden Hours Per Respondent/Recordkeeper:

	Form 1065–B	Schedule K–1
Recordkeeping	43 hr., 46 min	9 hr., 5 min.
Learning about the law or the form	17 hr., 50 min	7 hr., 20 min.
Preparing the form	28 hr., 48 min	11 hr., 31 min.
Copying, assembling and sending the form to the IRS	2 hr., 41 min.	

Frequency of Response: Annually.

Estimated Total Reporting/Recordkeeping Burden: 448,637 hours.

Clearance Officer: Garrick Shear, Internal Revenue Service, Room 5571, 1111 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20224.

OMB Reviewer: Alexander T. Hunt, (202) 395–7860, Office of Management and Budget, Room 10202, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503.

Lois K. Holland,

Departmental Reports Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 99–3371 Filed 2–10–99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4830–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

February 4, 1999.

The Department of the Treasury has submitted the following public information collection requirement(s) to OMB for review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104–13. Copies of the submission(s) may be obtained by calling the Treasury Bureau Clearance Officer listed. Comments regarding this information collection should be addressed to the OMB reviewer listed and to the Treasury Department Clearance Officer, Department of the Treasury, Room 2110, 1425 New York Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20220.

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before March 15, 1999 to be assured of consideration.

Customs Service (CUS)

OMB Number: 1515–0106.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Extension.

Title: Entry of Articles for Exportation.

Description: This information is used by Customs to substantiate that the goods imported for exhibit have been approved for entry by the Department of Commerce.

Respondents: Business or other for-profit, Individuals or households. Not-for-profit institutions, Federal Government.

Estimated Number of Respondents/Recordkeepers: 40.

Estimated Burden Hours Per Respondent/Recordkeeper: 20 minutes.

Frequency of Response: On occasion.

Estimated Total Reporting/Recordkeeping Burden: 530 hours.

OMB Number: 1515–0209.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Extension.

Title: Certificate of Compliance for Turbine Fuel Withdrawals.

Description: This information is collected to ensure regulatory compliance for Turbine Fuel Withdrawals to protect revenue collections.

Respondents: Business or other for-profit, Not-for-profit institutions

Estimated Number of Respondents: 240.

Estimated Burden Hours Per Respondent: 1 hour.

Frequency of Response: On occasion.

Estimated Total Reporting Burden: 240 hours.

Clearance Officer: J. Edgar Nichols, (202) 927–1426, U.S. Customs Service, Printing and Records Management Branch, Ronald Reagan Building, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Room 3.2.C, Washington, DC 20229.

OMB Reviewer: Alexander T. Hunt, (202) 395–7860, Office of Management and Budget, Room 10202, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503.

Lois K. Holland,

Departmental Reports Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 99–3372 Filed 2–10–99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4820–02–P

UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY

International Visitor Program

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 a competition for two assistance awards, Award A (to program between 100 and 250 participants) and Award B (to program between 750 and 1,000 participants). International Visitor (IV) program participants are current or potential foreign leaders. Each award is to develop and implement IV programs over the course of fiscal year 2000 (October 1, 1999—September 30, 2000). USIA is seeking proposals from public and private nonprofit organizations that are not already in communication with USIA regarding an FY–2000 assistance award from E/V. These organizations must meet the provisions described in IRS regulation 26 CFR 1.501 © to apply for these awards. *[See Project Objectives, Goals, and Implementation (POGI) for definitions of program-related terminology].

The intent of this announcement is to provide the opportunity for two organizations to develop and implement a variety of IV program models. The winning applicants will function as national program agencies (NPA)* and work closely with USIA staff, who will guide the applicants through the variety of procedural, budgetary and/or programmatic issues that arise.

An organization can only win one award. Applicants should indicate on the proposal cover sheet after the reference number if they are bidding on Award A, Award B, or both. If bidding on both, two separate budgets must be submitted with the proposal.

IV program objectives are based on U.S. foreign policy and are designed to: (1) increase mutual understanding between the people of the U.S. and the people of other countries; and (2) provide substantive professional exchange between the foreign participants and their U.S. counterparts. Participants are current or potential foreign leaders in government, politics, media, education, science, labor relations, and other key fields. They are selected by officers of U.S. embassies overseas and approved by USIA staff in Washington, DC. Since the program's earliest inception in 1940, there have been more than 140,000 distinguished participants in the program. Almost 200 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, 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.''

IV programs must conform with USIA requirements and guidelines outlined in the Solicitation Package. USIA programs are subject to the availability of funds.

Announcement Title and Number: All communications with USIA concerning this RFP should refer to the announcement's title and reference number E/V–99–02.

To Request a Solicitation Package, Contact: The Office of International Visitors, Community Relations Division, E/VC, Room 266, U.S. Information Agency, 301 4th St., S.W., Washington, D.C. 20547, Tel: (202) 619–5234, 1–800–827–0804; Fax: (202) 619–4655, e-mail address: rfp@usia.gov

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 received via USIA'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. Interested applicants should read the complete **Federal Register** announcement before sending inquiries or submitting proposals.

Bidders' Conference: USIA will host a Bidders' Conference on Thursday, March 4, 1999, at the USIA headquarters building in Washington, D.C., 301 4th St., S.W., from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Substantive questions about this RFP will be addressed at the conference. Interested applicants are asked to RSVP and submit questions by mail, fax, or e-mail to: The Office of International Visitors, Community Relations Division, E/VC, Room 266, U.S. Information Agency, 301 4th St., SW, Washington, D.C. 20547, Tel: (202) 619–5234; 1–800–827–0804; Fax: (202) 619–4655, e-mail address: rfp@usia.gov

Questions must be received by close of business Friday, February 19, 1999. To request a copy of written details of the Bidders' Conference, please contact the above address.

Submissions: Applicants must follow all instructions given in the Solicitation Package. The original and 10 copies of the proposal submission should be sent to: U.S. Information Agency, Ref.: E/V–99–02, Office of Grants Management, E/XE, Room 326, 301 4th Street, SW, Washington, DC 20547.

Deadline For Proposals: All copies must be received at the U.S. Information Agency by 5 p.m. Washington, D.C. time on Thursday, April 1, 1999. 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. Assistance awards will be effective on or about October 1, 1999.

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.

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 reflect advancement of this goal in their program contents, to the full extent deemed feasible.

Year 2000 Issue

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 that all organizations use Y2K compliant systems including hardward, 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.

Qualification and Guidelines

Qualifications

1. Applicants must demonstrate four years of successful programming experience.

2. Applicants must demonstrate the ability to develop and administer IV programs.

3. Applicants must have a broad knowledge of international relations and U.S. foreign policy issues.

4. Applicants must have a broad knowledge of the United States and U.S. domestic issues.

5. Applicants must have an established resource base of programming contacts and the ability to keep the base continuously updated. This resource base should include speakers, thematic specialists, or practitioners in a wide range of professional fields in both the private and public sectors.

6. Applicants must demonstrate sound financial management.

7. Applicants must have a sound management plan to carry out the volume of work outlined in the POGI. This plan should include an appropriate staffing pattern and a work plan/time frame.

Requirement for Past Performance References

Instead of Letters of Endorsement, USIA will use past performance as an indicator of an applicant's ability to successfully perform the work. Tab E of the proposal must contain between three and five references from recently completed or ongoing work performed for professional exchange programs (may include the IV program). The references must contain the information outlined below. Please note that the requirements for submission of past performance information also apply to all proposed subcontractors when the total estimated cost of the subcontract is over $100,000.

At a minimum, the applicant will provide the following information for each reference:
• Name of the referenced organization
• Project name
• Project description
• Performance period of the contract/grant

• Amount of the contract/grant
• Technical contact person and telephone number for referenced organization
• Administrative contact person and telephone number for referenced organization

USIA may contact representatives from the organizations cited in the examples to obtain information on the applicant's past performance. USIA also may obtain past performance information from sources other than those identified by the applicant.

Personnel

Applicants must include complete and current resumes of the key personnel who will be involved in the program management, design and implementation of IV programs. Each resume is limited to two pages per person.

Guidelines

IV programs must maintain a non-partisan character.

Programs and awards must conform to all USIA requirements and guidelines. Once the awards are made, USIA requires separate proposals for each group program [Single Country (SCP)*, Regional (RP)*, and Multi-Regional (MRP)*] as well as less formal proposals for Individual* and Individuals Traveling Together (ITT)* programs. At this time proposals are not required for Voluntary Visitor (VolVis)* programs. *(See POGI for program descriptions).

Each program will focus on a substantive theme. Some broad IV program themes include: (1) U.S. government systems; (2) U.S. political system; (3) U.S. foreign policy; (4) economic development; (5) education and training; (6) media; (7) information technology; and (8) U.S. social concerns.

Applicants should demonstrate the potential to develop the type of programs described below:
• Programs must contain substantive meetings that focus on foreign policy goals and program objectives and are presented by experts. Meetings, site visits, and other program activities should promote dialogue between participants and their U.S. professional counterparts. Programs must be balanced to show different sides of an issue;
• Most programs are 21 days in length and begin in Washington, DC, with an orientation and overview of the issues and a central examination of federal policies regarding these issues;
• Well-paced program itineraries usually include visits to four or five other communities. Program itineraries ideally include urban and rural

communities in diverse geographical and cultural regions of the U.S., as appropriate to the program theme;
• Programs should provide opportunities for participants to experience the diversity of American society and culture. Depending on the size and theme of a large group program, the NPA can divide the participants 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;
• Programs may provide opportunities for the participants to share a meal or similar experience (home hospitality) in the homes of Americans of diverse occupational, age, gender and ethnic groups. Some individual and group programs might include an opportunity for an overnight stay (home stay) in an American home;
• Programs should provide opportunities for participants to address student, civic and professional groups in relaxed and informal settings;
• Participants should have appropriate opportunities for site visits and hands-on experiences that are relevant to program themes. The NPA may propose "shadowing" experiences with U.S. professional colleagues for some programs;

Programs should also allow time for participants to reflect on their experiences and, in group programs, to share observations with program colleagues. Participants should have opportunities to visit cultural and tourist sites; and
• The NPA must make arrangements for community visits through affiliates of the NCIV. In cities where there is no such Council, the applicant organizations will arrange for coordination of local programs.

The applicants are expected to have a Washington, D.C. presence, e-mail capability, and access to Internet resources. USIA will provide close coordination and guidance throughout the duration of the awards.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Visa Requirements

Participants in IV programs travel on J–1 visas arranged by USIA. Programs must comply with J–1 visa regulations. Please refer to program-specific guidelines in the Solicitation Package for further details.

Budget

Applicants are required to submit a comprehensive line-item administrative budget in accordance with the instructions in the Solicitation Package. The submission must include a

summary budget as well as a detailed budget showing all administrative costs. If an organization wishes to bid on both Awards A and B, two separate budgets must be submitted with this proposal. Proposed staffing and costs associated with staffing must be appropriate to the requirements outlined in the RFP and in the Solicitation Package.

Selected applicants will enter into close consultation on individual program budgets with the responsible E/ V Program Officer. Cost sharing is encouraged.

The Agency is seeking proposals from public and private nonprofit organizations that are not already in communication with USIA regarding an FY–2000 assistance award from E/V. All applicants must have four years of experience as stated. It is incumbent on organizations to demonstrate a capacity for programming participants from all geographical regions of the world; proven fiscal management integrity; and an ability to have close consultation with USIA staff throughout program administration.

Review Process

USIA will acknowledge receipt of all proposals and 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 a panel of USIA officers for advisory review. In addition, 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. Evidence of Understanding: The proposal should convey that the applicant has a good understanding of the overall goals and objectives of the IV program. It should exhibit originality, substance, precision, and be responsive to requirements stated in the RFP and the Solicitation Package.

2. Program Planning: A detailed and relevant work plan should demonstrate substantive intent and logistical capacity. The plan should adhere to the guidelines cited in the RFP.

3. Ability to Achieve Program Objectives: The proposal should clearly demonstrate how the institution will meet the goals of the IV program.

4. Support of Diversity: The proposal 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 evaluation sessions, program meetings, resource materials and follow-up activities).

5. Institutional Capacity: The proposal should demonstrate the applicant's capability for performing the type of work required by the IV program. It should reflect the applicant's ability to design and implement, in a timely and creative manner, professional exchange programs which encompass a variety of project themes. Proposed personnel and institutional resources should be adequate and appropriate to achieve the program goals. Finally, the proposal must demonstrate that the applicant has or can recruit adequate and well-trained staff.

6. Institution's Record/Ability: The proposal should demonstrate an institutional record of a minimum of four years of successful experience in conducting IV or other professional exchange programs which are similar in nature and magnitude to the scope of work outlined in this solicitation. Note that evidence of success includes responsible fiscal management and full compliance with reporting requirements such as those set out for Agency grants. The applicant must have a Washington, D.C. presence and demonstrate the potential for programming participants from all geographic regions of the world.

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

8. 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 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.

Government Reporting Requirements

In order to account better for the spending of public funds, the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 (GPRA) requires federal agencies and departments to establish standards for measuring their performance and effectiveness. Each Executive Branch Agency and Department must develop a strategic plan describing its overall goals and objectives, annual performance plans containing quantifiable measures of its progress, and performance reports describing its success in meeting these goals and measures. USIA will be looking to our partner organizations to measure and report in three areas: (1) Program efficiency (resource costs versus outputs); (2) program effectiveness (degree to which program goals are achieved); and (3) program impact (outcomes).

For general administrative assistance awards such as this, specific program results will be worked out on an individual project basis. USIA will work closely with its partner organizations to define specific project results, coordinate the gathering of information, and evaluate the projects according to the three areas listed above. Please note that USIA advances six strategic goals (national security, economic prosperity, democracy, law enforcement, foundation of trust, and free exchange of information) and you may be asked to administer projects and measure outcomes for each. Project outcomes will be based on country or region goals as well as the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs' goals to expose foreign leaders (participants) to American ideas, values, and society; increase Americans' understanding of foreign cultures and society; foster linkages between U.S. and foreign individuals and institutions; and generate cost sharing and other forms of financial leveraging for programs.

Notification

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

Dated: February 6, 1999.

William B. Bader,
Associate Director for
Educational and Cultural Affairs.
[FR Doc. 99–3423 Filed 2–10–99; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 8230–01–M