

366-5763, Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. Office hours are from 7:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m., e.t., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Driver Qualification Files.

OMB Number: 2125-0065.

Background: The authority for driver qualification files is contained in 49 U.S.C. 504, 31133, 31136, and 31502, and 49 CFR 1.48, with penalty provisions in 49 U.S.C. 521 and 522. 49 CFR 391.51 requires a motor carrier to maintain a driver qualification file for each regularly employed driver and each intermittent, casual, and occasional driver. The file contains the minimum amount of information necessary to document that a driver is qualified to drive a commercial motor vehicle in interstate commerce. A driver qualification file is used by the FHWA and motor carrier to ensure that a driver who operates a commercial motor vehicle in interstate commerce, can by reason of experience and/or training, safely operate a type of commercial motor vehicle; has been issued an appropriate driver's license; and has not been disqualified to operate a commercial motor vehicle. Public demand for highway safety requires that the hiring of commercial motor vehicle drivers be restricted to those drivers with records which prove their ability to safely operate a commercial motor vehicle.

Respondents: Motor Carriers.

Estimated Annual Burden on Respondents: 34 minutes for newly hired drivers; 8 minutes for drivers employed longer than one year; 1 minute for intermittent, casual, and occasional drivers.

Estimated Total Annual Burden: 1,047,749 hours.

Frequency: The requirements pertaining to driver qualification files are recordkeeping requirements. A driver qualification file must be kept by a motor carrier as long as the driver is employed by such motor carrier and for 3 years thereafter.

Title: Motor Carrier Identification Report.

OMB Number: 2125-0544.

Background: Section 206 of the Motor Carrier Safety Act of 1984 requires the Secretary of Transportation to establish minimum safety standards for commercial motor vehicle safety. 49 U.S.C. 504 provides the Secretary of Transportation authority to require special reports containing answers to questions asked by the Secretary and to

prescribe the form of records. Authority pertaining to commercial motor vehicle safety has been delegated to the FHWA. In order to administer its safety standards, the FHWA needs to possess a database of entities that are subject to the agency's standards. A database necessitates that entities subject to the FHWA's standards notify the agency of their existence. Therefore, 49 CFR 385.21 requires all motor carriers beginning operations to file the Motor Carrier Identification Report, Form MCS-150, within 90 days of beginning operations.

Respondents: Motor Carriers.

Average Burden per Response: 5 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden: 2,917 hours.

Frequency: One-time reporting requirement.

Authority: 23 U.S.C. 315; sec. 3506(c)(2)(A) of Pub.L. 104-13; 49 CFR 1.48.

Issued on: April 8, 1996.

Rodney E. Slater,

Federal Highway Administrator.

[FR Doc. 96-9562 Filed 4-17-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-22-P

**Environmental Impact Statement:
Anchorage, AK**

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Cancellation of Notice of Intent to prepare an environmental impact statement; Reference: Federal Register, 59 FR 46879, 9/12/94, 95 lines.

SUMMARY: The FHWA is issuing this notice to inform the public that an environmental impact statement (EIS) will not be prepared for the proposed upgrading and extension of Dowling Road from the Raspberry Road Interchange at Minnesota Drive eastward to Lake Otis Parkway. The scope of the proposed project has been reduced and there should be no significant environmental impacts as a result of this project.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

James Bryson, Right-of-Way/Environmental Engineer, Federal Highway Administration, P.O. Box 021648, Juneau, AK 99802-1648 or; Steven R. Horn, Preliminary Design & Environmental Supervisor, Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (ADOT&PF), P.O. Box 196900, Anchorage, AK 99519-6900.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The new project scope considers the upgrading of Dowling Road between the Old Seward Highway and Lake Otis Parkway, a

distance approximately 1.7 km (1 mi.). The revised proposal would widen this segment of Dowling Road to a four-lane urban arterial with auxiliary lanes. Any consideration of the upgrading or extension of Dowling Road as defined by the original project scope will be deferred until a Major Investment Study (MIS) is performed for the area.

The adoption of this proposal is supported by written and oral comments gathered during the public scoping process that commenced in August 1994. Public comments favored the early upgrading of the most heavily travelled portion of the existing roadway, but questioned the need for extending Dowling Road to Minnesota Drive. Since the shortened project would relieve traffic congestion and have independent utility, it was decided to reduce the project scope and defer action on the remainder of the route until the MIS is completed.

Issued on April 8, 1996.

Robert E. Ruby,

Division Administrator, Federal Highway Administration, Juneau, Alaska.

[FR Doc. 96-9533 Filed 4-17-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-22-M

**UNITED STATES INFORMATION
AGENCY**

**Curriculum Consultants Exchange
Program with the New Independent
States**

ACTION: Notice; request for proposals.

SUMMARY: The Office of Academic Programs, Academic Exchange Programs Division, European Programs Branch of the United States Information Agency's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs announces an open competition for an assistance award program. Applications from U.S. educational, cultural, and other nonprofit organizations meeting the provisions described in IRS regulation 26 CFR 1.501(c)(3)-1 may apply for assistance to exchange qualified educators or advanced graduate students from the United States, Armenia, Azerbaijan*, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, the Russian Federation, Ukraine and Uzbekistan for up to one academic year for the purposes of curriculum consultations and development in the fields of the humanities and social sciences.

*Please note: Programs with Azerbaijan are subject to restrictions of Section 907 of the Freedom Support Act: Employees of the Government of Azerbaijan or any of its instrumentalities are excluded from participation, and no U.S. participant

overseas may work for the Government of Azerbaijan or any of its instrumentalities. In addition, the Government of Azerbaijan or any of its instrumentalities will have no control in the actual selection of participants.

The administering organization for the Curriculum Consultants Exchange Program will be responsible for recruiting, selecting, placing, monitoring and evaluating participants. Applicants should have the capability to recruit foreign participants from and place U.S. participants in all NIS countries. It is expected that USIA funding will contribute to the exchange, but not entirely support it. Due to budgetary considerations, and to encourage broad participation, on the cost per participant to USIA will weigh heavily in the consideration of organizational applications.

PROGRAM DATES: *Deadline for Proposals:* All copies must be received at the U.S. Information Agency by 5:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time on Friday, May 31, 1996. Faxed documents will not be accepted, nor will documents postmarked May 31, 1996 but received at a later date. It is the responsibility of each applicant to ensure that proposals are received by the above deadline.

DURATION: Preference for the duration of Curriculum Consultant Exchanges is one academic semester, but proposals up to one academic year will also be considered. Programs may not start before August 31, 1996. It is estimated that the majority of programs will begin Spring semester, 1997, with a minimal number of placements in Fall semester, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Contact the Office of Academic Programs, Academic Exchange Programs Division, European Programs Branch, E/AEE Room 246, U.S. Information Agency, 301 4th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20547, (202) 205-0525, (202) 260-7985 (fax), to request a Solicitation Package, which includes more detailed award criteria, all applications forms, and guidelines for preparing proposals, including specific criteria for preparation of the proposal budget.

To Download a Solicitation Package Via Internet

The Solicitation Package maybe downloaded from USIA's website at <http://www.usia.gov/> or from the Internet Gopher at <gopher://gopher.usia.gov>. Select "Education and Cultural Exchanges", then select "Current Request for Proposals (RFPs)." Please read "About the Following RFPs" before beginning to download.

Please specify the Curriculum Consultants Exchange Program—E/AEE, on all inquiries and correspondences. Interested applicants should read the complete Federal Register announcement before sending inquiries or submitting proposals. Once the RFP deadline has passed, Agency staff may not discuss this competition in any way with applicants until after the Bureau proposal review process has been completed.

Program Authorization

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."

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.

Submissions

Applicants must follow all instructions given in the Solicitation Package. The original and 7 copies of the application, as well as a disk submission (outlined below) should be sent to U.S. Information Agency, Ref.: E/AEE-96-05, Office of Grants Management, E/XE, Room 326, 301 4th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20547.

Disk Submission: Applicants must also submit to E/XE the "Executive Summary" and "Proposal Narrative" sections of each proposal on a 3.5" diskette, formatted for DOS. This material must be provided in ASCII text (DOS) format with a maximum line length of 65 characters. USIA will transmit these files electronically to USIS posts overseas for their review, with the goal of reducing the time it takes to get posts' comments for the Agency's grants review process.

Announcement Name and Number

All communications with USIA concerning this announcement should refer to the above title and reference number E/AEE-96-05.

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' and 'Geographic Diversity' sections for specific suggestions on incorporating diversity into the total proposal. Please note that in order to increase the geographical and ethnic diversity of the Curriculum Consultants Exchange Program, not more than ten percent of the total participants exchanged can be from or placed in Moscow or St. Petersburg.

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

Proposed Budget

Applicants must submit a comprehensive line item budget based on the budget guidelines in the Proposal Submission Instructions (PSI). Budget award may not exceed \$250,000. The Agency reserves the right to reduce, increase or revise programs and budgets in accordance with the needs of the program. It is required that requested administrative funds not exceed twenty percent of the total amount requested, including administrative expenses for orientation. Cost-sharing and matching are expected from the administering organization and should be detailed in the proposed budget. Host and sponsor institutions are strongly encouraged to provide cost-sharing toward stipends and/or room and board expenses so that more may participate. Cost-sharing may also be in the form of direct program and participant costs.

The basis for determining the value of cash and in-kind contributions must be in accordance with OMB Circular A-110 (Revised), Subpart C.23. Grants will

only be awarded to eligible organizations with four years or more experience in conducting international exchange programs.

Applicants must submit a comprehensive budget for the entire program. There must be a summary budget as well as a break-down reflecting both the administrative budget and the program budget. Please refer to the Solicitation Package for complete formatting instructions. For better understanding or further clarification, applicants may provide separate sub-budgets for each program component, phase, location, or activity in order to facilitate USIA decisions on funding.

Allowable costs for the program include the following:

- (1) International travel (via American flag carrier);
- (2) Domestic travel for foreign participants only;
- (3) Travel and lodging for academic or professional meetings (not to exceed \$700 per participant);
- (4) Stipend/Maintenance costs;
- (5) Housing;
- (6) Materials allowance/curriculum translation (not interpretation);
- (7) Orientation costs;
- (8) Insurance;

Please refer to the Solicitation Package for complete budget guidelines.

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 also be reviewed by the program office, the appropriate geographic area office, the USIA post overseas, and the budget and contracts office. Proposals may also 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 the program idea—Proposals should reflect academic rigor and excellence, thorough conception of project, demonstration of meeting

participants' needs, contributions to partner country, proposed follow-up, and qualifications of program staff and participants.

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 reasonable, feasible, and flexible. Proposals should clearly demonstrate how the organization will meet the program's objectives and plan.

4. Multiplier effect/impact—Proposed programs should strengthen long-term mutual understanding, including maximum sharing of information and establishment of long-term institutional and individual linkages.

5. Support of diversity—Proposals should demonstrate the substantive support of the Bureau's policy on diversity. Achievable and relevant features should be cited in both program administration (selection of participants, program venue and program evaluation) and program content (orientation, program meetings, resource materials and follow-up activities). Proposals should demonstrate organizational capacity to recruit from and place program participants in areas outside Moscow and St. Petersburg and countries in the NIS outside the Russian Federation.

6. Organizational capacity—Proposed personnel and organizational resources should be adequate and appropriate to achieve the program or project's goals.

7. Organization's record/ability—Proposals should demonstrate an organizational 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. Follow-on activities—Proposals should provide a plan for continued follow-on activity (without USIA support) which insures that USIA supported programs are not isolated events.

9. 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 or other technique plus description of a methodology to use to link outcomes to original project objectives is recommended. Award-receiving

organizations/institutions will be expected to submit intermediate reports after each project component is concluded or quarterly, whichever is less frequent.

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

11. Cost-sharing—Proposals should maximize cost-sharing through other private sector support as well as organizational direct funding contributions.

12. Value to U.S.-partner country relations—Proposed programs should receive positive assessments by USIA's geographic area desk and overseas officers of program need, potential impact, and significance in the partner country(ies).

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 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: April 12, 1996.

Dell Pendergrast,

Deputy Associate Director for Educational and Cultural Affairs.

[FR Doc. 96-9597 Filed 4-17-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8230-01-M

Foreign Language and Area Studies—U.S. Students and Scholars; Request for Proposals

ACTION: Notice—Request for Proposals.

SUMMARY: The Office of Academic Programs of the United States Information Agency's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs announces an open competition for an assistance award. Public and private non-profit organizations meeting the provisions described in IRS regulation 26 CFR 1.501(c)(3)-1 may apply to develop and administer programs in