

clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Issued at Washington, D.C. on November 3, 1997.

Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation.

**David G. Sanders,**

*Acting Administrator.*

[FR Doc. 97-29384 Filed 11-5-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-61-U

## DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

### Submission to OMB for Review; Comment Request

October 23, 1997.

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, Pub. L. 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.

#### Internal Revenue Service (IRS)

*OMB Number:* 1545-0794.

*Form Number:* IRS Form 8554.

*Type of Review:* Revision.

*Title:* Application for Renewal of Enrollment to Practice Before the Internal Revenue Service.

*Description:* This information related to the approval of continuing professional education programs and the renewal of the enrollment status for those individuals admitted (enrolled) by the Internal Revenue Service.

*Respondents:* Individuals or households.

*Estimated Number of Respondents/Recordkeepers:* 39,500.

*Estimated Burden Hours Per Respondent/Recordkeeper:* 1 hour, 12 minutes.

*Frequency of Response:* Other (One-time filing).

*Estimated Total Reporting/Recordkeeping Burden:* 47,400 hours.

*OMB Number:* 1545-1096.

*Form Number:* Form 9117.

*Type of Review:* Revision.

*Title:* Excise Tax Program Order Blank for Forms and Publications.

*Description:* Form 9117 allows taxpayers who must file Form 720 returns a systemic way to order additional tax forms and informational publications.

*Respondents:* Business or other for-profit.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 15,000.

*Estimated Burden Hours Per*

*Respondent:* 3 minutes.

*Frequency of Response:* Annually.

*Estimated Total Reporting Burden:* 500 hours.

*OMB Number:* 1545-1271.

*Regulation Project Number:* REG-208165 (formerly INTL-54-91) and REG-209035-86 (formerly INTL-178-86) NPRM.

*Type of Review:* Extension.

*Title:* Transfers of Stock or Securities by U.S. Persons to Foreign Corporations, and Foreign Liquidations and Reorganizations.

*Description:* A U.S. person must generally file a gain recognition agreement with the Service in order to defer gain on a section 367(a) transfer of stock to a foreign corporation, and must file a notice with the Service if it realizes any income in a section 367(b) exchange. These requirements ensure compliance with the respective sections.

*Respondents:* Business or other for-profit.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 600.

*Estimated Burden Hours Per*

*Respondent:* 4 hours.

*Frequency of Response:* Annually.

*Estimated Total Reporting Burden:* 2,400 hours.

*Clearance Officer:* Garrick Shear (202) 622-3869, 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 10226, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503.

**Lois K. Holland,**

*Departmental Reports Management Officer.*

[FR Doc. 97-29313 Filed 11-5-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4830-01-P

## UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY

### Summer Institute for the Study of the United States for Foreign Secondary School Teachers and Teacher Trainers

**ACTION:** Notice—Request for Proposals.

**SUMMARY:** The Branch for the Study of the U.S. of 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 program entitled "Summer Institute for the Study of the United States for Foreign Secondary School Teachers and Teacher Trainers." Public and private non-profit organizations meeting the provisions described in IRS regulation 26 CFR 1.501(c) may apply to develop a six-week graduate-level program designed for a multinational group of up to 30 secondary school teachers and teacher trainers. The program is intended to provide participants with a deeper understanding of the United States so that textbooks, curricula and teaching about U.S. society, culture and institutions in foreign secondary schools and teacher training institutions will be improved. Tentative program dates are June 20 through 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 the disciplines and sub-disciplines that comprise American Studies, and that can demonstrate expertise in conducting graduate-level 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 a doctoral degree in American studies or a related discipline. Staff escorts traveling under the USIA cooperative agreement support 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-98-10.

**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 January 16, 1998 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), 301 4th Street, S.W., Room 256, Washington, D.C. 20547, Attn: Program Officer Susan Zapotoczny, Telephone number (202) 619-4557, Fax number (202) 619-6790, Email address: szapotoc@usia.gov.

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

Please specify USIA Program Officer Susan Zapotoczny on all inquiries and correspondence. Interested applicants should read the complete **Federal Register** announcement before addressing inquiries to the office listed above or submitting their 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 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 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-98-10, 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" section of the proposal on a 3.5 inch 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 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.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Overview

The Summer Institute for the Study of the U.S. for Foreign Secondary School Teachers and Teacher Trainers aims to provide a deeper understanding of U.S. civilization among foreign educators who are concerned professionally with teaching about the United States. It is further intended to encourage and support their efforts to improve the quality of teaching, textbooks, and curricular materials about the United States at secondary schools and teacher training institutions abroad.

The program should offer participants a specially-designed series of lectures, presentations, discussions, site visits, and curricular research opportunities. All activities should be related to a central theme in U.S. civilization, and the program as a whole should examine various aspects of U.S. society, culture, values and institutions, past and present, providing a good overview for participants.

The program should be six weeks in length, including a residency segment at a U.S. college or university campus (a minimum of four weeks in length), and a study tour segment (a maximum of two weeks in length) to up to three additional regions of the U.S., including a visit to Washington, D.C. at the conclusion of the program.

##### Institute Objectives

- to present an intensive, academically stimulating program that presents a multi-dimensional view of the United States through an integrated series of lectures, readings, interactive discussions, individual research and study opportunities, and site visits.
- to draw from a variety of academic disciplines in order to deepen the participants' understanding of the unity, diversity, and complexity of U.S. society, culture, and institutions. Major issues, debates, and conflicts in U.S. society, past and present, including their origins and the role they have played in the development of U.S. civilization, should also be examined.
- to enhance teaching about the U.S. in foreign secondary schools and teacher training institutions by making appropriate scholarly resources, pedagogical materials and ideas available to participants. Participants should return home with an ability to communicate a deeper and more informed view of the U.S. to students and colleagues.

##### Program Dates

Tentative program dates are June 20 through July 31, 1998. Participants would arrive on June 19 and depart August 1. USIA will make every effort to award the grant by March 1, 1998.

##### Participants

The program should be designed for a total of 30 highly-motivated foreign secondary school teacher trainers, textbook writers, curriculum developers, education ministry officials and classroom teachers, whose professional assignments require significant knowledge of U.S. civilization, and who have broad responsibility for curriculum design and improvement. Participants will be involved in the teaching of English language, American literature, U.S. government, history, geography, social studies, or other courses that include U.S. studies content. Participants will be drawn from all regions of the world, and will be fluent in the English language.

Participants will be nominated by Fulbright Commissions abroad, and

selected by the staff of USIA's Branch of the Study of the United States in Washington, D.C. USIA and the Commissions will cover all international travel costs directly.

#### Guidelines

The conception, design, structure, and, ultimately, the content of the institute program is entirely the responsibility of the organizers. However, given the many possible approaches to a program on U.S. civilization, organizers are expected to submit proposals that articulate in concrete detail how they intend to organize and implement the institute.

Consistent with the institute's overall thematic organization, the program should engage the constituent disciplines that make up American studies (e.g., literature, history, political science, economics, geography, sociology, etc.) as vehicles for helping foreign educators understand, teach, and write about the United States.

The selected grant organizations will be responsible for most arrangements associated with this program. This includes the organization and implementation of all presentations and program activities, arrangement of all domestic travel, provision of appropriate lodging, subsistence, and ground transportation for participants, orientation and briefing of participants, preparation of any necessary support materials (including a pre-program mailing to participants), and working with program presenters to achieve maximum program coordination and effectiveness.

Please refer to the Solicitation Package for further details on program design and implementation, as well as additional information on all other requirements.

#### Proposed Budget

Unless special circumstances warrant, based on a group of 30 participants, the total USIA-funded budget (program and administrative) should not exceed \$236,000, and USIA-funded administrative costs as defined in the budget details section of the solicitation package should not exceed \$56,000. Justification for any costs above these amounts must be clearly indicated in the proposal submission. Any grants awarded to eligible organizations will less than four years of experience in conducting international exchange programs will be limited to \$60,000. Applicant proposals should try to maximize cost-sharing in all facets of the program and to stimulate U.S. private sector, including foundation and corporate, support. Applicants must submit a comprehensive line item

budget for the entire program, based on the specific guidance provided in the Solicitation Package. The Agency reserves the right to reduce, revise, or increase proposal budgets in accordance with the needs of the program, and availability of U.S. Government funding.

Please refer to the "POGI" in the Solicitation Package for complete budget guidelines and formatting instructions for the institute program.

#### 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, as well as the USIA Geographic Area Offices. 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. *Overall Quality:* Proposals should exhibit originality and substance, consonant with the highest standards of American teaching and scholarship. Program should reflect an overall design whose various elements are coherently and thoughtfully integrated. Lectures, panels, field visits and readings, taken as a whole, should offer a balanced presentation of issues, reflecting both the continuity of the American experience as well as the diversity and dynamism inherent in it.

2. *Program Planning:* Proposals should demonstrate careful and detailed planning. The organization and structure of the Institute should be clearly delineated and be fully responsive to all program objectives. The travel component should not simply be a tour, but should be an integral and substantive part of the program, reinforcing and complementing the academic segment.

3. *Institutional Capacity:* Proposed personnel, including faculty and administrative staff as well as outside presenters, should be fully qualified to achieve the project's goals. Library and

media resources should be accessible to participants; housing, transportation and other logistical arrangements should be fully adequate to the needs of participants and should be conducive to a collegial atmosphere.

4. *Diversity:* Proposals should demonstrate the recipient's commitment to promoting the awareness and understanding of diversity throughout the program. This can be accomplished through documentation, such as a written statement, summarizing past and/or on-going activities and efforts that further the principle of diversity within the organization and its activities. Program activities that address this issue should be highlighted.

5. *Experience:* The proposal should demonstrate an institutional record of successful exchange program activity, indicating the experience that the organization and its professional staff have had in working with foreign educators.

6. *Evaluation and Follow-up:* The proposal should include a plan for evaluating activities during the Institute and at its conclusion. Proposals should detail the provisions made for follow-up with returned grantees as a means of establishing longer-term individual and institutional linkages.

7. *Administration and Management:* The proposals should indicate evidence of continuous on-site administrative and managerial capacity as well as the means by which program activities will be implemented.

8. *Cost Effectiveness:* The proposals should maximize cost-sharing through direct institutional contributions, in-kind support, and other private sector support. Overhead and administrative components of the proposal, including salaries and honoraria, should be kept as low as possible.

#### Notice

The terms and conditions published in this RFP are binding and may not be modified by an 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 funding. Final awards cannot be made until funds have been appropriated by Congress, allocated and committed through internal USIA procedures.

**Notification**

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

Dated: October 31, 1997.

**Robert L. Earle,**

*Deputy Associate Director for Educational and Cultural Affairs.*

[FR Doc. 97-29373 Filed 11-5-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8230-01-M

**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

[OMB Control No. 2900-0396]

**Proposed Information Collection  
Activity: Proposed Collection;  
Comment Request; Extension**

**AGENCY:** Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) is announcing an opportunity for public comment on the proposed collection of certain information by the agency. Under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, Federal agencies are required to publish notice in the **Federal Register** concerning each proposed collection of information, including each proposed extension of a currently approved collection, and allow 60 days for public comment in response to the notice. This notice solicits comments on certification of training under the Service Members Occupational Conversion and Training Act.

**DATES:** Written comments and recommendations on the proposed

collection of information should be received on or before January 5, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit written comments on the collection of information to Nancy J. Kessinger, Veterans Benefits Administration (20S52), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420. Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0396" in any correspondence.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Nancy J. Kessinger at (202) 273-8310 or FAX (202) 273-5981.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Under the PRA of 1995 (Public Law 104-13; 44 U.S.C., 3501-3520), Federal agencies must obtain approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for each collection of information they conduct or sponsor. This request for comment is being made pursuant to Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the PRA.

With respect to the following collection of information, VBA invites comments on: (1) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of VBA's functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of VBA's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or the use of other forms of information technology.

**Title and Form Number:** Certification of Training (Under the Service Members Occupational Conversion and Training Act), VA Form 22-8929.

**OMB Control Number:** 2900-0396.

**Type of Review:** Reinstatement, without change, of a previously

approved collection for which approval has expired.

**Abstract:** Public Law 102-484 established the Service Members Occupational Conversion and Training Act (SMOCTA). Section 4467 requires monthly or quarterly certification of training under SMOCTA. An employer uses VA Form 22-8929 to advise VA of: (1) the number of hours a veteran has worked in an approved program during each month; (2) the amount and date of payment the employer has made to the veteran for the purchase of any tools and work-related equipment; and (3) the training status of the veteran (e.g., currently training, satisfactorily completed training, quit, laid off, etc.). Continued use of VA Form 22-8829 is necessary to authorize reimbursement to an employer.

**Affected Public:** Business or other for-profit, Individuals or households, State, Local or Tribal Government, and Not-for-profit institutions.

**Estimated Annual Burden:** 500 hours.

**Estimated Average Burden Per Respondent:** 30 minutes per application.

**Estimated Annual Recordkeeping Burden:** 85 hours.

**Estimated Average Burden Per Recordkeeper:** 1 hour.

**Frequency of Response:** Monthly or Quarterly.

**Estimated Number of Respondents:** 1,000.

**Estimated Number of Recordkeepers:** 85.

Dated: October 27, 1997.

By direction of the Secretary.

**Donald L. Neilson,**

*Director, Information Management Service.*

[FR Doc. 97-29310 Filed 11-5-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8320-01-M