

UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY

International Education and Cultural Activities; Open Grant Program

ACTION: Notice—Request for proposals.

SUMMARY: The Office of Citizen Exchanges (E/P) of the United States Information Agency's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs announces an open competition for an assistance award program. Public or private non-profit organizations meeting the provisions described in IRS regulation 26 CFR 1.501(c) may apply to develop projects that link their international exchange interests with counterpart institutions/groups in ways supportive of the aims of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Overall grant making authority for this program is contained in the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961, as amended, Public Law 87-256, 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 Application Package. USIA projects and programs are subject to the availability of funds.

Interested applicants should read the complete **Federal Register** announcement before addressing inquiries to the Office of Citizen Exchanges or submitting their proposals. Once the RFP deadline has passed, the Office of Citizen Exchanges may not discuss this competition in any way with applicants until after the Bureau program and project review process has been completed.

Announcement Name and Number: All communications concerning this announcement should refer to the Annual Open Grant Program. The announcement number is E/P-99-1. Please refer to title and number in all correspondence or telephone calls to USIA.

Deadline for Proposals: All copies must be received at the U.S. Information Agency by 5 p.m. Washington, DC. time

on Friday, October 2, 1998. Faxed documents will not be accepted at any time. Documents postmarked by the due date but received at a later date will not be accepted. It is the responsibility of each grant applicant to ensure that proposals are received by the above deadline. This action is effective from the publication date of this notice through October 2, 1998, for projects where activities will begin between January 1, 1999 and December 31, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Interested organizations/institutions must contact the Office of Citizen Exchanges, E/PL, Room 216, United States Information Agency, 301 4th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20547, (202) 619-5326, to request detailed application packets which include award criteria; all application 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 may be downloaded from USIA's website at <http://www.usia.gov/education/rfps>. Please read all information before beginning to download.

ADDRESSES: Applicants must follow all instructions given in the Application Package and send only complete applications with 15 copies to: U.S. Information Agency, REF: E/P-99-1 Annual Open Grant Competition, Grants Management Division (E/XE), 301-4th Street, SW., Room 336, Washington, DC 20547.

Applicants must also submit to E/XE the "Executive Summary" and "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 54 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.

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, socioeconomic status, and physical challenges. Applicants are strongly encouraged to adhere to the

advancement of this principle both in program administration and in program content. Please refer to the review criteria under the "Support for Diversity" section for specific suggestions on incorporating diversity into the total proposal. Public Law 104-319 provides that "in carrying out programs of educational and cultural exchange in countries whose people do not fully enjoy freedom and democracy," USIA "shall take appropriate steps to provide opportunities for participation in such programs to human rights and democracy leaders of such countries." Proposals should account for advancement of this goal in their program contents, to the full extent deemed feasible.

Overview

The Office of Citizen Exchanges works with U.S. private sector, non-profit organizations on cooperative international group projects that introduce American and foreign participants to each others' social, economic, and political structures, and international interests. The Office supports international projects in the United States or overseas involving leaders or potential leaders in the following fields and professions: urban planners, jurists, specialized journalists (specialists in economics, business, political analysis, international affairs), business professionals, NGO leaders, environmental specialist, parliamentarians, educators, economists, and other government officials.

Guidelines

Applicants should carefully note the following restrictions/recommendations for proposals in specific geographical areas:

Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) and the Newly Independent States (NIS): Requests for proposals involving the following countries will be announced in separate competitions: CEE—Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Slovak Republic, and Slovenia; NIS—Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan. Proposals involving these regions will not be accepted under this competition.

Western Europe (WEU): Proposals involving this region will not be accepted under this competition.

East Asia and the Pacific (EA): Priority consideration will be given to proposals focused on the following

countries: China, Korea, and Vietnam and the following themes: Rule of Law, especially the enforcement of intellectual property rights, judicial reform and court administration; Third Sector Development with emphasis on citizens groups, grassroots/community organizations, and professional associations; Market Economics/Reform stressing the relationship between government regulation and private enterprise; and Local Government focusing on practical approaches to streamlining government and increasing government's accountability, transparency, and responsiveness.

E/P contact for EA programs: Bill Dawson, 202/260-5485; E-Mail {WDawson@USIA.GOV}

American Republics (AR): Only those proposals will be considered that evidence the applicant's substantial knowledge of both the proposed theme and the country/countries where the project is to take place. Preference will be given to proposals on the following themes and for the following eligible countries:

Rule of Law/Administration of Justice: Proposals should focus on professional working level exchanges for prosecuting attorneys, district attorneys, paralegals, justices of the peace, mediators, arbitrators and/or judges. Preferred topics: judicial reform, case management, administration of justice, judicial independence and alternative dispute resolution. Eligible countries: Venezuela, Brazil, the Dominican Republic, Costa Rica, and Panama; other countries as appropriate.

Rule of Law/Civil Society: Proposals should support ongoing efforts in the field of conflict resolution in Argentina which include ongoing support for a national conflict resolution center, and developing an indigenous trainer capacity, including a training program on how to develop courses in conflict resolution for the governmental and non-governmental sectors. Eligible countries: Argentina.

Democratic Institution Building: Proposals should focus on ethics in government, good governance, transparency, the fight against corruption, decentralization, local/municipal government, grassroots democracy and citizen participation. Exchanges should target local government officials, city managers and administrators, and NGO leaders. Eligible countries: Bolivia, Peru, Colombia, Ecuador, Chile, Mexico; other countries as appropriate.

Reporting on Democratic Institutions: Proposals should focus on professional, working level exchanges for reporters, editors and managers in the news

business. Exchanges should include workshops that would explore how journalists cover and relate to democratic institutions such as local government agencies, legislatures, and the courts. Workshops could include advanced skills such as investigative reporting and business journalism and how those skills can be applied to covering government agencies. Eligible countries: Any in the region.

Education: Proposals should focus on implementation of the Summit of the Americas Action Plan for Education, details of which can be found on the Summit internet web site, reachable through the USIA site at www.usia.gov. Exchanges should be in the fields of technology in education (including distance learning), educational administration, and professional development for teachers and other educators. Eligible countries: Any in the region. E/P contact for AR programs: Laverne Johnson, 202/619-5337; E-Mail {LJohnson@USIA.GOV}

Africa (AF): Proposals are requested for projects which would advance sustainable democracy by building human capital in Africa and strengthening partnership between the United States and Africa in the thematic categories delineated below. In addition to promoting democratic values, projects should enhance policy and operational skills and foster networking across political as well as government-civil society divisions.

Civic Education—Proposals should encourage the effective engagement of citizens in their country's political life. Preference will be given to projects that focus on organizations whose aim is to educate citizens about their democratic rights and responsibilities, or through projects that assist key institutions of civil society (e.g., women's groups, grassroots/community organizations, professional associations, other NGOs) in contributing to democracy. Related themes might include building values of tolerance, pragmatism, cooperation and compromise, building skills and institutions for constructive non-violent change; addressing cultural and other obstacles to civic education; inculcating a commitment to rule of law; and teaching and encouraging citizens to participate fully in community and national development.

Democratic Governance—Proposals should work to strengthen institutions of government whose work has a direct impact on the quality of a country's democracy and to increase their transparency, accountability, responsiveness, and effectiveness of operations. Especially welcome would be proposals dealing with local

government and decentralization, but projects might also be focused on other elements of executive branches, legislatures, or judicial systems. Use of alternate dispute resolution methods and protection of human rights are welcome themes.

Trade and Investment—Proposals should foster an understanding of and commitment to policies and practices that support economic growth in a democratic framework through the private sector and international trade. Especially encouraged are proposals that focus on creating an "enabling environment" supportive of these goals. Issues addressed might include intellectual property rights, trade liberalization (e.g., tax and investment laws, along with other incentives), mechanisms of transparency and accountability, the role of business associations, and regional economic cooperation/integration.

Electronic Connectivity—Proposals should promote information sharing and network building between Americans and Africans as well as among Africans themselves. Preference will be given to projects that address one of the thematic categories listed above for Africa. African participants might include government institutions (e.g., parliaments or trade policy departments within ministries); educational institutions; professional associations (e.g., bar, business, or journalism associations); and civic organizations (e.g., women's, human rights or environmental groups). USIA funds should not be used for the purchase of equipment. Proposals must demonstrate a commitment to use and a capacity to maintain the necessary equipment. Other themes may be proposed, but strong preference will be given to proposals that follow the thematic guidelines above and to proposals that include programming in at least three countries.

E/P contact for AF programs: Stephen Taylor, 202/205-0535; E-Mail (Staylor@USIA.GOV)

Near East, North Africa and South Asia (NEA): Proposals which respond to the following suggested themes and organizational approaches will receive priority consideration in the awarding of grants for exchange activity in the Near East, North Africa, and South Asia. While not all countries suggested as participants for each project must be included in the exchange, projects which bring together representatives from three or more countries will be given preference. Proposals for exchange projects which address issues of crucial importance to the United States and to proposed partner countries

but which do not respond specifically to the themes included below will also be considered.

The countries/entities comprising the NEA AREA are listed below. Currently there is no USIA presence in Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Libya, or Mauritania. Under each theme, the countries appearing in parentheses are those which have indicated a particular interest in the theme or which appear to be appropriate exchange partners in projects addressing the theme.

Countries/Entities of the Near East, North Africa, and South Asia—Afghanistan; Algeria; Bahrain; Bangladesh; Egypt; India; Iran; Iraq; Israel; Jordan; Kuwait; Lebanon; Libya; Mauritania; Morocco; Nepal; Oman; Pakistan; the Palestinian Authority; Qatar; Saudi Arabia; Sri Lanka; Sudan; Syria; Tunisia; the United Arab Emirates (UAE); Yemen.

Strengthening Non-governmental Organizations: Political and Social Activism in Support of Democracy (India; Nepal; Pakistan; Egypt; Morocco; Jordan; the Palestinian Authority; Lebanon).

Social and political activism, encouraged, focussed, and channeled through non-governmental organizations, is a basic underpinning of democratic society. Strengthening NGO advocacy skills, management, grassroots support, fundraising, networking for mutual support and reinforcement, and cultivating media relations will reinforce democratic trends in the region. In addition to providing existing and newly established NGOs clear guidance and training in the above-listed operational skills, issues to be considered in developing an exchange are: training people to use dissent and advocacy effectively to produce peaceful social change; educating citizens and disseminating information on the role of non-governmental organizations in a civil society; and emphasizing the role of NGOs can play in ensuring that the workings of government are open and transparent, in strengthening the rule of law, in supporting human and civil rights, and in improving the status of women in both society and government.

Developing Content-based Teaching English as a Second Language (TESL) Programs (Israel; Egypt; Jordan).

There is a strong desire throughout the Middle East for enhanced capacity in the English language. A proposal is sought that will combine high-level, substantive professional development for ESL curriculum developers and teachers from the Peach Process countries with a strong social and cultural content base emphasizing the

principles of conflict resolution and civic education, with a possible additional emphasis on environmental issues.

Administration of Justice: Strengthening the Independence of the Judiciary (Jordan (proposed as a single-country project); Morocco; India (proposed with emphasis on the need to address equal treatment of women under the law); Nepal; Bangladesh).

A strong, independent judiciary is a fundamental pillar of democracy. The integrity of the judicial process and, by extrapolation, public confidence in the ability of the judicial process to deliver justice, is threatened in diverse countries by political interference and by public perception of the unequal and, by extrapolation, unfair treatment before the bench of women and members of ethnic minority communities. It is important that judges of both lower and higher courts be introduced to the principles and practices of U.S. jurisprudence and that such fundamental procedural innovations as alternative dispute resolution, early neutral evaluation, case management, and arbitration/mediation be familiar to them.

Combating Narcotics Abuse and Developing Positive Approaches to Rehabilitation and Re-integration (Israel; Jordan; India).

Narcotics trafficking and abuse is an increasing problem for countries in the Near East and South Asia. There is a need for a regional project, to include educators, community leaders, medical practitioners and drug rehabilitation experts, to work with American counterparts in building a strategy to contain the spread of drug use. Emphasis should be placed on dealing with the issue on a community level, and there should be a focus on rehabilitation and the reintegration into society of former addicts through such undertakings as job skills training programs and family and community support efforts.

Women in Politics (Israel; Oman, Yemen; the United Arab Emirates; the Palestinian Authority).

While women's groups have organized themselves and actively campaign for equal rights and a greater say in local politics, they are ready and eager to learn more about advocacy, election campaigning, grassroots educational efforts, lobbying, and meeting the challenges and responsibilities of leadership once elected. Both women in municipal leadership roles and those hoping to expand the franchise and strengthen the role of women in politics could benefit from learning about the American

experience and from establishing linkages with American and Middle Eastern women's political groups which share their aspirations.

Federalism: Center-State Relations and the Sharing of Power (India; Bangladesh).

The American experience with federalism is becoming more and more relevant to the states of South Asia as the complexity of governing requires that power devolve from the center to the regions and states. Regional parties have emerged in several states and are demanding increasing autonomy. A project to demonstrate how federalism functions in the United States, particularly its constitutional, legal and practical bases, would be very useful. Potential participants are political leaders, NGO leaders, party operatives, and political scientists who are studying democratic patterns and whose thinking will have a multiplier effect in society.

Civic Education (Egypt; the Palestinian Authority).

Promoting the development of civic education, both in terms of curriculum development and in terms of teacher training, parent-teacher coordination, and other aspects of primary and secondary education aimed at increasing citizen awareness and participation, is a high priority. Middle Eastern groups are particularly interested in learning about American school systems that have incorporated community service, environmental campaigns, and other activities that involve students in the larger society in their curricula.

Economic Reform (Egypt; Tunisia).

A proposal is sought that would link North African business groups with American counterparts and would demonstrate the system and the efficacy of lobbying, public education campaigns, and media relations in support of privatization, competitiveness, decentralization of commercial regulation, and regional economic integration.

Ethnic Tolerance (India; Sri Lanka; Pakistan; Lebanon).

Communal and ethnic tolerance have been difficult objectives to achieve in South Asia, and the problem has worsened with the rise of community-based political groupings. There are numerous community groups working to bring about resolution to the challenge posed by ethnic nationalism, and the American experience of absorbing, integrating, and accommodating diverse communities from various parts of the world into civil, as opposed to an ethnically defined, polity would be useful to these groups. Of particular relevance would

be the experience of programs that teach tolerance in either a formal educational setting or in novel, arts/media-based contexts.

E/P contact for NEA programs: Tom Johnston, 202/619-5325; E-Mail {TJohnston@USIA.GOV}

The Office of Citizen Exchanges strongly encourages the coordination of activities with respected universities, professional associations, and major cultural institutions in the U.S. and abroad, but particularly in the U.S. Projects should be intellectual and cultural, not technical. Vocational training (an occupation other than one requiring a baccalaureate or higher academic degree; i.e., clerical work, auto maintenance, etc., and other occupations requiring less than two years of higher education) and technical training (special and practical knowledge of a mechanical or a scientific subject which enhances mechanical, narrowly scientific, or semi-skilled capabilities) are ineligible for support. In addition, scholarship programs are ineligible for support. The Office does not support proposal limited to conference or seminars (i.e., one to fourteen-day programs with plenary sessions, main speakers, panels, and a passive audience). It will support conference only insofar as they are part of a larger project in duration and scope which is receiving USIA funding from this competition. USIA-supported projects may include internships; study tours; short-term, non-technical training; and extended, intensive workshops taking place in the United States or overseas. The themes addressed in exchange programs must be of long-term importance rather than focused exclusively on current events or short-term issues. In every case, a substantial rationale must be presented as part of the proposal, one that clearly indicates the distinctive and important contribution of the overall project, including, where applicable, the expected yield of any associated conference. No funding is available exclusively to send U.S. citizens to conferences or conference-type seminars overseas; nor is funding available for bringing foreign nationals to conferences or to routine professional association meetings in the United States. Projects that duplicate what is routinely carried out by private sector and/or public sector operations will not be considered. The Office of Citizen Exchanges strongly recommends that applicants consult with host country USIS posts *prior* to submitting proposals.

Selection of Participants: All grants proposals should clearly describe the

type of persons who will participate in the program as well as the process by which participants will be selected. It is recommended that programs in support of U.S. internships include letters tentatively committing host institutions to support the internships. In the selection of foreign participants, USIA and USIS posts abroad retain the right to nominate all participants and to accept or deny participants recommended by grantee institutions. However, grantee institutions are often asked by USIA to suggest names of potential participants. The grantee institution will also provide the names of American participants and brief (two pages) biographical data on each American participant to the Office of Citizen Exchanges for information purposes. Priority will be given to foreign participants who have not previously travelled to the United States.

Additional Guidance: The Office of Citizen Exchanges offers the following additional guidance to prospective applicants:

1. The Office of Citizen Exchanges encourages project proposal involving more than one country. Pertinent rationale which links countries in multi-country projects should be included in the submission. Single-country projects that are clearly defined and possess the potential for creating and strengthening continuing linkages between foreign and U.S. institutions are also welcome.

2. Proposals for bilateral programs are subject to review and comment by the USIS post in the relevant country, and pre-selected participants will also be subject to USIS post review.

3. Bilateral programs should clearly identify the counterpart organization and provide evidence of the organization's participation.

4. The Office of Citizen Exchanges will consider proposals for activities which take place exclusively in other countries when USIS posts are consulted in the design of the proposed program and in the choice of the most suitable venues for such programs.

5. Office of Citizen Exchanges grants are not given to support projects whose focus is limited to technical or vocational subjects, or for research projects, for publications funding, for student and/or teacher/faculty exchanges, for sports and/or sports related programs. Nor does this office provide scholarships or support for long-term (a semester or more) academic studies. Competitions sponsored by other Bureau offices are also announced in the **Federal Register**.

For projects that would begin after December 31, 1999, competition details

will be announced in the **Federal Register** on or June 1, 1999. Inquiries concerning technical requirements are welcome prior to submission of applications.

Funding: Although no set funding limit exists, proposals for less than \$135,000 will receive preference. Organizations with less than four years of successful experience in managing international exchange programs are limited to \$60,000. Applicants are invited to provide both an all-inclusive budget as well as separate sub-budgets for each program component, phase, location, or activity in order to facilitate USIA decisions on funding. While an all-inclusive budget must be provided with each proposal, separate component budgets are optional. Competition for USIA funding support is keen.

The selection of grantee institutions will depend on program substance, cross-cultural sensitivity, and ability to carry out the program successfully. Since USIA grant assistance constitutes only a portion of total project funding, proposals should list and provide evidence of other anticipated sources of financial and in-kind support. Proposals with substantial private sector support from foundations, corporations, other institutions, et al. will be deemed highly competitive. The Recipient must provide a minimum of 33 percent cost sharing of the total project cost.

The following project costs are eligible for consideration for funding:

1. International and domestic air fares; visas; transit costs; ground transportation costs.

2. Per Diem. For the U.S. program, organizations have the option of using a flat \$160/day for program participants or the published U.S. Federal per diem rates for individual American cities. For activities outside the U.S., the published Federal per diem rates must be used. NOTE: U.S. escorting staff must use the published Federal per diem rates, not the flat rate. Per diem rates may be accessed at [www.usia.gov/agency/ebur-ref.html].

3. Interpreters: If needed, interpreters for the U.S. program are provided by the U.S. State Department Language Services Division. Typically, a pair of simultaneous interpreters is provided for every four visitors who need interpretation. USIA grants do not pay for foreign interpreters to accompany delegations from their home country. Grant proposal budgets should contain a flat \$160/day per diem for each Department of State interpreter, as well as home-program-home air transportation of \$400 per interpreter plus any U.S. travel expenses during the program. Salary expenses are covered

centrally and should not be part of an applicant's proposed budget.

4. Book and cultural allowance:

Participants are entitled to and escorts are reimbursed a one-time cultural allowance of \$150 per person, plus a participant book allowance of \$50. U.S. staff do not get these benefits.

5. Consultants. May be used to provide specialized expertise or to make presentations. Daily honoraria generally do not exceed \$250 per day.

Subcontracting organizations may also be used, in which case the written agreement between the prospective grantee and subcontractor should be included in the proposal.

6. Room rental, which generally should not exceed \$250 per day.

7. Materials development. Proposals may contain costs to purchase, develop, and translate materials for participants.

8. One working meal per project. Per capita costs may not exceed \$5–8 for a lunch and \$14–20 for a dinner, excluding room rental. The number of invited guests may not exceed participants by more than a factor of two-to-one.

9. A return travel allowance of \$70 for each participant which is to be used for incidental expenditures incurred during international travel.

10. All USIA-funded delegates will be covered under the terms of a USIA-sponsored health insurance policy. The premium is paid by USIA directly to the insurance company.

11. Other costs necessary for the effective administration of the program, including salaries for grant organization employees, benefits, and other direct and indirect costs per detailed instructions in the application package. Note: the 20 percent limitation of "administrative costs" included in previous announcements does not apply to this RFP. Please refer to the Application 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 established herein and in the Application Packet. 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 regional office and the USIS post overseas, where appropriate. Proposals may also be reviewed by the USIA's Office of General Counsel by other Agency elements. Funding decisions are at the discretion of the USIA Associate Director for Education and Cultural Affairs. Final technical

authority for assistance awards (grants or cooperative agreements) resides with USIA's grants officer.

Review Criteria: USIA will consider proposals based on their conformance with the objectives and considerations already stated in the RFP, as well as the following criteria:

1. Quality of Program Idea: Proposals should exhibit originality, substance, precision, and relevance to the Agency mission.

2. Program Planning/Ability to Achieve Program Objectives: 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. Objectives should be reasonable, feasible, and flexible. Proposals should clearly demonstrate how the institution will meet the program objectives and plan.

3. 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.

4. 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 and wrap-up sessions, program meetings, resource materials, and follow-up activities).

5. Institutional Capacity/Reputation/Ability: Proposed personnel and institutional resources should be adequate and appropriate to achieve the program's or project's goal. 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.

6. Follow-on Activities: Proposals should provide a plan for continued follow-up activity (without USIA support) which ensures that USIA-supported programs are not isolated events.

7. Evaluation Plan: Proposals should provide a plan for a thorough and objective evaluation of the program/project by the grantee institution.

8. Cost-Effectiveness/Cost Sharing: 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. Proposals should maximize 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 USIA 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 need of the program and the availability of funds. Organizations will be expected to cooperate with USIA in evaluating their programs under the principles of the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993, which requires federal agencies to measure and report on the results of their programs and activities.

Notification

Final awards cannot be made until funds have been fully appropriated by the Congress, allocated, and committed through internal USIA procedures. Awarded grants will be subject to periodic reporting and evaluation requirements.

Dated: June 23, 1998.

John P. Loiello,

Associate Director for the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

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UNITED STATES INSTITUTE OF PEACE

Announcement of the 1998 Unsolicited Fall Grant Program

AGENCY: United States Institute of Peace.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Agency announces its Upcoming Deadline for the 1998 Unsolicited Grant Fall Competition, which offers support for research, education and training, and the dissemination of information on international peace and conflict resolution.

Deadline: October 1, 1998.

DATES: Application Material Available Upon Request, Receipt Date for Return of Application: October 1, 1998, Notification of Awards: Late January 1999.