

## 7. Printed Materials

Drafts of all printed material developed for this program should be submitted to E/ASA for review and approval. All official documents should highlight the U.S. government's role as program sponsor and funding source. USIA requests that it receive the copyright use and be allowed to distribute any of this material if it sees fit to do so.

## Proposed Budget

Applicants must submit a comprehensive line item budget based on the budget guidelines in the PSI for the entire program. USIA's grant assistance, up to \$150,000 in total, is expected to constitute only a portion of the total project funding. Cost sharing is required and the proposal should list other anticipated sources of support. Grants awarded to eligible organizations with less than four years of experience in conducting international exchange programs will be limited to \$60,000.

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 clarification, applicants should provide separate sub-budgets for each training component.

Allowable costs for the program include the following:

- (1) Salaries and fringe benefits; travel and per diem;
- (2) Other direct costs, inclusive of rent, utilities, etc.;
- (3) Indirect expenses, auditing costs;
- (4) Participant program costs; i.e. international/domestic travel, per diem, conference attendance, resource materials.

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 be reviewed by the program office, as well as the USIA 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. *Quality of the program idea:* Proposals should exhibit a thorough knowledge and understanding of current issues facing international educators and display originality, substance, precision, and relevance to Agency mission.
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 institution will meet the program's objectives and plan for the professional development of overseas educational advisers.
4. *Multiplier effect/impact:* Proposed programs should strengthen long-term mutual understanding, including maximum sharing of educational information issues and establishment of long-term institutional and individual linkages.
5. *Support of Diversity:* Proposals should demonstrate substantive support of the Bureau's policy on diversity. Achievable and relevant features should be cited in both program administration (program venue and program evaluation) and program content (orientation and wrap-up sessions, program meetings, resource materials and follow-up activities).
6. *Institutional Capacity:* Proposed personnel and institutional resources should be adequate and appropriate to achieve the program or project's goals.
7. *Institution's Record/Ability:* Proposals should demonstrate an institutional record of successful exchange programs, including responsible fiscal management and full compliance with all reporting requirements for past Agency grants as determined by USIA's Office of Contracts. The Agency will consider the past performance of prior recipients and the demonstrated potential of new applicants.
8. *Project Evaluation:* Proposals should include a plan to evaluate the activity's success, both as the activities unfold and at the end of the program. A

draft survey questionnaire or other technique plus description of a methodology to use to link outcomes to original project objectives is recommended. Successful applicants will be expected to submit intermediate reports after each project component is concluded or quarterly, whichever is less frequent.

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

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

## Notice

The terms and conditions published in the RFP are binding and may not be modified by any USIA representative. Explanatory information provided by the Agency that contradicts published language will not be binding. Issuance of the RFP does not constitute an award commitment on the part of the Government. The Agency reserves the right to reduce, revise, or increase proposal budgets in accordance with the needs of the program and the availability of funds. Awards made will be subject to periodic reporting and evaluation requirements.

## Notification

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

Dated: December 9, 1996.

Dell Pendergrast,

*Deputy Associate Director for Educational and Cultural Affairs.*

[FR Doc. 96-31552 Filed 12-11-96; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

### Proposed Information Collection Activity; Public Comment Request

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** As part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) invites the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on this information collection. This request for

comment is being made pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13; 44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). Comments should address the accuracy of the burden estimates and ways to minimize the burden including the use of automated collection techniques or the use of other forms of information technology, as well as other relevant aspects of the information collection.

**DATES:** Written comments and recommendations on the proposal for the collection of information should be on or before February 10, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to Nancy J. Kessinger, Veterans Benefits Administration (20S52), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420. All comments will become a matter of public record and will be summarized in the VBA request for Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval. In this document VBA is soliciting comments concerning the following information collection:

*OMB Control Number:* 2900-0002.

*Title and Form Number:* Income-Net Worth and Employment Statement, VA Form 21-527.

*Type of Review:* Revision of a currently approved collection.

*Need and Uses:* The form is used by the claimant to submit a supplemental claim for disability pension or disability compensation based on individual unemployability. The information is necessary to determine eligibility to these benefits. The form is being revised to request additional information for purposes of Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT).

*Current Actions:* The information is used by the VBA to determine eligibility and benefit rates for veterans' disability pension and compensation based on individual unemployability.

*Affected Public:* Individuals or households.

*Estimated Annual Burden:* 104,440 hours.

*Estimated Average Burden Per Respondent:* 60 minutes.

*Frequency of Response:* On occasion.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 104,440.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information or copies of the form should be directed to Department of Veterans Affairs, Attn: Nancy J. Kessinger, Veterans Benefits Administration (20S52), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420, Telephone (202) 273-7079 or FAX (202) 275-4884.

Dated: November 26, 1996.

By direction of the Secretary.

Donald L. Neilson,

*Director, Information Management Service.*

[FR Doc. 96-31506 Filed 12-11-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8320-01-P

### **Proposed Information Collection Activity; Public Comment Request**

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** As part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) invites the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on this information collection. This request for comment is being made pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13; 44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). Comments should address the accuracy of the burden estimates and ways to minimize the burden including the use of automated collection techniques or the use of other forms of information technology, as well as other relevant aspects of the information collection.

**DATES:** Written comments and recommendations on the proposal for the collection of information should be received on or before February 10, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to Nancy J. Kessinger, Veterans Benefits Administration (20S52), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420. All comments will become a matter of public record and will be summarized in the VBA request for Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval. In this document VBA is soliciting comments concerning the following information collection:

*OMB Control Number:* 2900-0209.

*Title and Form Number:* Application for Work-Study Allowance, VA Form 22-8691.

*Type of Review:* Revision of a currently approved collection.

*Need and Uses:* The form is needed to identify those veteran-students who wish to apply for the supplemental VA work-study allowance and to assist VA in selecting eligible applicants.

*Current Actions:* The information solicited on the form is necessary to identify and select eligible veterans, selected reservists, and survivors or dependents to receive work-study benefits.

*Affected Public:* Individuals or households.

*Estimated Annual Burden:* 4,641 hours.

*Estimated Average Burden Per Respondent:* 15 minutes.

*Frequency of Response:* On occasion.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 27,848.

### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Requests for additional information or copies of the form should be directed to Department of Veterans Affairs, Attn: Nancy J. Kessinger, Veterans Benefits Administration (20S52), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420, Telephone (202) 273-7079 or FAX (202) 275-4884.

Dated: November 26, 1996.

By direction of the Secretary.

Donald L. Neilson,

*Director, Information Management Service.*

[FR Doc. 96-31507 Filed 12-11-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8320-01-P

### **Agency Information Collection: Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request**

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), Department of Veterans Affairs, has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) the following proposal for the collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35).

*OMB Control Number:* 2900-0086.

*Title and Form Number:* Request for Determination of Eligibility and Available Loan Guaranty Entitlement, VA Form 26-1880.

*Type of Review:* Reinstatement, without change, of a previously approved collection for which approval has expired.

*Need and Uses:* The form is completed by an applicant to establish eligibility for Loan Guaranty benefits, request restoration of entitlement previously used, or request a duplicate Certificate of Eligibility due to the original being lost or stolen. The information furnished on the form is necessary for the VBA to make a determination on whether or not the applicant is eligible for Loan Guaranty benefits.

*Affected Public:* Individuals or households.

*Estimated Annual Burden:* 117,093 hours.

*Estimated Average Burden Per Respondent:* 15 minutes.

*Frequency of Response:* On occasion.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 468,372.