

It is therefore ordered, pursuant to Rule 9b-1 under the Act,¹⁸ that definitive copies of the proposed supplement to the ODD (SR-ODD-2007-02), reflecting these changes to disclosure, may be furnished to customers as of the date of this order.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.¹⁹

Florence E. Harmon,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. E7-8959 Filed 5-9-07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010-01-P

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

[Document No. SSA-2007-0034]

The Ticket To Work and Work Incentives Advisory Panel Meeting

AGENCY: Social Security Administration (SSA).

ACTION: Notice of teleconference.

DATES: June 13, 2007—2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Eastern Daylight Savings Time. Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Advisory Panel Conference Call. Call-in number: 1-888-790-4158. Pass code: PANEL TELECONFERENCE. Leader/Host: Berthy De la Rosa-Aponte.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Type of meeting: On June 13, 2007, the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Advisory Panel (the "Panel") will hold a teleconference. This teleconference meeting is open to the public.

Purpose: In accordance with section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, the Social Security Administration (SSA) announces this teleconference meeting of the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Advisory Panel. Section 101(f) of Public Law 106-170 establishes the Panel to advise the President, the Congress, and the Commissioner of SSA on issues related to work incentive programs, planning, and assistance for individuals with disabilities as provided under section 101(f)(2)(A) of the Act. The Panel is also to advise the Commissioner on matters specified in section 101(f)(2)(B) of that Act, including certain issues related to the Ticket to Work and Self-Sufficiency Program established under section 101(a).

The interested public is invited to listen to the teleconference by calling the phone number listed above. Public testimony will be taken from 3:30 p.m. until 4 p.m. Eastern Daylight Savings Time. You must be registered to give

public comment. Contact information is given at the end of this notice.

Agenda: The full agenda for the meeting will be posted on the Internet at http://www.ssa.gov/work/panel/meeting_information/agendas.html at least one week before the starting date or can be received, in advance, electronically or by fax upon request.

Contact Information: Records are kept of all proceedings and will be available for public inspection by appointment at the Panel office. Anyone requiring information regarding the Panel should contact the staff by:

- Mail addressed to the Social Security Administration, Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Advisory Panel Staff, 400 Virginia Avenue, SW., Suite 700, Washington, DC 20024. Telephone contact with Tinya White-Taylor at (202) 358-6120.

- Fax at (202) 358-6440.
- E-mail to TWWIAPanel@ssa.gov.
- To register for the public comment portion of the meeting please contact Tinya White-Taylor by calling (202) 358-6120 or by e-mail to tinya.white-taylor@ssa.gov.

Dated: May 3, 2007.

Chris Silanskis,

Designated Federal Officer.

[FR Doc. E7-9018 Filed 5-9-07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4191-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 5793]

Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) Request for Grant Proposals: Educational Adviser Training and Support Services

Announcement Type: New Cooperative Agreement.

Funding Opportunity Number: ECA/A/S/A-08-05.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number: 00.000.

Key Dates: October 1, 2007 to December 31, 2008.

Application Deadline: Friday, July 13, 2007.

Executive Summary: The Educational Information and Resources Branch of the Office of Global Educational Programs in the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs announces an open competition for a program of Educational Adviser Training and Support Services. Public and private non-profit organizations meeting the provisions described in Internal Revenue Code Section 26 U.S.C. 501(c)(3) may submit proposals to develop training programs and provide support services for Department of

State-affiliated overseas educational advisers.

Overseas educational advisers are part of the Department of State's network of over 450 EducationUSA centers that promote U.S. higher education in 170 countries around the world. Centers exist in a variety of locations including: U.S. embassies and consulates, Fulbright Commissions, Binational Centers, Non-governmental organizations, universities and libraries. A complete list of centers is located at <http://www.educationusa.state.gov>.

Overseas educational advisers provide timely and objective information to foreign audiences on U.S. study opportunities at accredited academic institutions and guide students and professionals in selecting programs appropriate to their needs.

Project proposals should be structured to focus on the following:

1. Short-term training in the U.S. for mid- and senior-level advisers.
2. Web-based training for beginning level advisers.
3. Adviser project development.
4. Logistical support for adviser attendance at international education conferences and workshops including the NAFSA: Association of International Educators conference to be held in Washington DC in May/June 2008.
5. Fiscal Management: sub-contractors
6. Insurance—Funded programs should normally use Bureau insurance

The training component of the proposal should include two U.S.-Based Training program (USBT) sessions for mid-level advisers and one Professional Advising Leadership (PAL) program for senior-level advisers. The USBT for mid-level educational advisers should be approximately three weeks in duration and must include workshops on advising issues of concern, visits to a variety of U.S. academic institutions outside of the Washington, DC metropolitan area and attendance at a national or regional NAFSA: Association of International Educators Conference or similar professional development opportunity.

The Professional Advising Leadership (PAL) program should be designed for senior-level advisers. Advisers applying for a PAL fellowship will have at least four years of advising experience. Applicants will formulate a proposal outlining a project that will be of benefit to the adviser's center, region and the profession as a whole. Proposals may fall into these four broad areas: short-term training, conference attendance, specific individualized research, on-site shadowing/internship, or a combination of two or more (based on time and logistics requirements). The Bureau

¹⁸ 17 CFR 240.9b-1.

¹⁹ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(39).

anticipates awarding one grant to administer this program.

I. Funding Opportunity Description

Authority

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."

Purpose: The program's objectives are threefold:

(1) To strengthen the professional development of overseas educational advisers;

(2) To sustain a corps of knowledgeable advisers that will continue to improve the quality and effectiveness of educational advising in their home on topics including:

- Standardized testing
- Admissions
- Scholarships and financial aid
- Student mobility/U.S. student visas
- Relevant technology

(3) To strengthen the cooperation between overseas educational advisers and U.S. college and university-based education professionals.

Guidelines

1. Participants

For the purposes of this RFGP, eligible advisers are defined as those who are currently working at a State Department-affiliated advising center and who have demonstrated the skills associated with the four major components of overseas educational advising: (1) Knowledge of the U.S. and home country educational systems; (2) knowledge of the application process for individuals to enroll in U.S. higher educational institutions; (3) demonstrated educational advising and cross-cultural communication skills; and (4) demonstrated office management skills as they relate to an overseas advising center. In addition, each participant must demonstrate leadership and a commitment to the profession.

Approximately forty participants are expected for two USBT programs and eleven for the PAL program.

Participants will be selected by ECA/A/S/A based on nominations from overseas posts.

2. Program Design

The Bureau invites organizations to submit creative and flexible program plans which can be tailored, in close consultation with ECA/A/S/A, to the selected advisers' individual needs. However, the proposal should still include an overall project framework which identifies objectives, an implementation plan and measurable, expected outcomes.

Possible topics to incorporate for the USBT portion of the program include: degree equivalency and accreditation; international student admissions; financial aid; standardized testing; ESL programs; immigration and visa issues; fields of study; cultural adjustment; U.S. societal diversity; specialized Internet usage; distance learning; proposal writing; fundraising; public relations and marketing; determining appropriate fees for advising services for students and others, given each host country's environment; trends in advising center cost-sharing and training and management of volunteer staff.

For the PAL component, advisers, in consultation with ECA/A/S/A and the grantee organization, will develop a research or training project to be carried out in the United States that will have a formative impact on advising in their countries and regions. For 2008, PAL projects will focus on the following topics: financial aid for underprivileged international students; financial aid for international graduate applicants; campus internationalization; credit transfer for foreign credentials; advising on short-term training; international marketing strategies for U.S. higher education; and medical school admissions.

3. Timing/Program Phases

The USBT and PAL components should provide for the possibility of attendance at, and active participation in, an appropriate national or regional conference where workshops and seminars address issues of current interest to international educators and overseas advisers and where the opportunity to brainstorm and to share information plays an important part. Advisers should have opportunities to present and/or participate in panels and pre-conference/conference workshops. In addition, the USBT portion of the program should include internship experiences and visits to a four-year

public university, a private college or university, a community college, an Historically Black College or University (HBCU) or other minority-serving institution, and a graduate or research institution. Ideally, USBT participants should visit campuses while classes are in session to optimize their experience through interaction with students.

4. Logistics

The grantee organization will be responsible for all arrangements associated with this program. For the USBT and PAL components, these include organizing a coherent progression of activities, providing international and domestic travel arrangements for all advisers, making lodging and local transportation arrangements, orienting and debriefing advisers, preparing support material, and recruiting host campuses. The organization should work with host campuses and experts in the field of higher education and overseas advising to achieve maximum program effectiveness, by providing participants with hands-on training and direct involvement in the administration of practices and policies of higher education institutions.

5. Evaluation/Follow-Up

The proposal must include a detailed evaluation and follow-up plan. Special emphasis should be given to designing a program which incorporates outcome measurement strategies that assess ultimate effectiveness.

6. Visa/Insurance/Tax Requirements

The program must comply with applicable visa regulations. Participant health and accident insurance will be provided to the overseas advisers by the Bureau; the recipient organization will be responsible for enrolling participants in the Bureau's insurance program and providing any necessary assistance should medical care be needed. 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.

7. Printed Materials

Drafts of all printed materials developed for this program should be submitted to ECA/A/S/A for review and approval. All official documents should highlight the U.S. government's role as program sponsor and funding source. The Bureau requires that it receive the copyright use and be allowed to distribute this material as it sees fit.

In a cooperative agreement, The Educational Information and Resources Branch (ECA/A/S/A) is substantially involved in program activities above and beyond routine grant monitoring. ECA/A/S/A activities and responsibilities for this program are as follows:

- Selection of program participants in coordination with Public Affairs Sections at U.S. embassies and consulates overseas
- Participation in the development of program sessions and speaking at opening and closing events
- Organization of meetings with Department of State representatives
- Review and approval of program plans and agendas
- Selection of alumni projects

II. Award Information

Type of Award: Cooperative Agreement. ECA's level of involvement in this program is listed under number I above.

Fiscal Year Funds: FY2008.

Approximate Total Funding:

\$1,000,000.

Approximate Number of Awards: 1.

Approximate Average Award:

\$1,000,000.

Anticipated Award Date: Pending availability of funds, October 1, 2007.

Anticipated Project Completion Date: December 31, 2008.

Additional Information:

Pending successful implementation of this program and the availability of funds in subsequent fiscal years, it is ECA's intent to renew this grant for two additional fiscal years, before openly competing it again.

III. Eligibility Information:

III.1. Eligible applicants: Applications may be submitted by public and private non-profit organizations meeting the provisions described in Internal Revenue Code section 26 U.S.C. 501(c)(3).

III.2. Cost Sharing or Matching Funds: There is no minimum or maximum percentage required for this competition. However, the Bureau encourages applicants to provide maximum levels of cost sharing and funding in support of its programs.

When cost sharing is offered, it is understood and agreed that the applicant must provide the amount of cost sharing as stipulated in its proposal and later included in an approved grant agreement. Cost sharing may be in the form of allowable direct or indirect costs. For accountability, you must maintain written records to support all costs which are claimed as your contribution, as well as costs to be paid

by the Federal government. Such records are subject to audit. 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—Cost Sharing and Matching. In the event you do not provide the minimum amount of cost sharing as stipulated in the approved budget, ECA's contribution will be reduced in like proportion.

III.3. Other Eligibility Requirements: Bureau grant guidelines require that organizations with less than four years experience in conducting international exchanges be limited to \$60,000 in Bureau funding. ECA anticipates awarding one grant, in an amount up to \$1,000,000 to support program and administrative costs required to implement this exchange program. Therefore, organizations with less than four years experience in conducting international exchanges are ineligible to apply under this competition. The Bureau encourages applicants to provide maximum levels of cost sharing and funding in support of its programs.

IV. Application and Submission Information

Note: Please read the complete announcement before sending inquiries or submitting proposals. Once the RFGP deadline has passed, Bureau staff may not discuss this competition with applicants until the proposal review process has been completed.

IV.1 Contact Information to Request an Application Package: Please contact the Educational Information and Resources Branch, ECA/A/S/A, Room 349, U.S. Department of State, SA-44, 301 4th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20547, telephone: 202-453-8868, fax: 202-453-8890, e-mail:

MoraDD@state.gov to request a Solicitation Package. Please refer to the Funding Opportunity Number ECA/A/S/A-08-05 located at the top of this announcement when making your request. Alternatively, an electronic application package may be obtained from grants.gov. Please see section IV.3f for further information.

The Solicitation Package contains the Proposal Submission Instruction (PSI) document which consists of required application forms, and standard guidelines for proposal preparation.

It also contains the Project Objectives, Goals and Implementation (POGI) document, which provides specific information, award criteria and budget instructions tailored to this competition.

Please specify Bureau Program Officer Dorothy Mora and refer to the Funding Opportunity Number ECA/A/S/A-08-05 located at the top of this

announcement on all other inquiries and correspondence.

IV.2. To Download a Solicitation Package Via Internet: The entire Solicitation Package may be downloaded from the Bureau's Web site at <http://exchanges.state.gov/education/rfgps/menu.htm>, or from the Grants.gov Web site at <http://www.grants.gov>.

Please read all information before downloading.

IV.3. Content and Form of Submission: Applicants must follow all instructions in the Solicitation Package. The application should be submitted per the instructions under IV.3f. "Application Deadline and Methods of Submission" section below.

IV.3a. You are required to have a Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number to apply for a grant or cooperative agreement from the U.S. Government. This number is a nine-digit identification number, which uniquely identifies business entities. Obtaining a DUNS number is easy and there is no charge. To obtain a DUNS number, access <http://www.dunandbradstreet.com> or call 1-866-705-5711. Please ensure that your DUNS number is included in the appropriate box of the SF-424 which is part of the formal application package.

IV.3b. All proposals must contain an executive summary, proposal narrative and budget.

Please Refer to the Solicitation Package. It contains the mandatory Proposal Submission Instructions (PSI) document and the Project Objectives, Goals and Implementation (POGI) document for additional formatting and technical requirements.

IV.3c. You must have nonprofit status with the IRS at the time of application. If your organization is a private nonprofit which has not received a grant or cooperative agreement from ECA in the past three years, or if your organization received nonprofit status from the IRS within the past four years, you must submit the necessary documentation to verify nonprofit status as directed in the PSI document. Failure to do so will cause your proposal to be declared technically ineligible.

IV.3d. Please take into consideration the following information when preparing your proposal narrative:

The following is included for informational purposes only: IV.3d.1 *Adherence to All Regulations Governing the J Visa.* The following visa language is included for informational purposes only: The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs places critically important emphasis on the secure and proper administration of Exchange

Visitor (J visa) Programs and adherence by grantees and sponsors to all regulations governing the J visa. Therefore, proposals should demonstrate the applicant's capacity to meet all requirements governing the administration of Exchange Visitor Programs as set forth in 22 CFR 62, including the oversight of Responsible Officers and Alternate Responsible Officers, screening and selection of program participants, provision of pre-arrival information and orientation to participants, monitoring of participants, proper maintenance and security of forms, record-keeping, reporting and other requirements. ECA will be responsible for issuing DS-2019 forms to participants in this program.

A copy of the complete regulations governing the administration of Exchange Visitor (J) programs is available at <http://exchanges.state.gov> or from: United States Department of State, Office of Exchange Coordination and Designation, ECA/EC/ECD—SA-44, Room 734, 301 4th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20547, Telephone: (202) 203-5029, FAX: (202) 453-8640.

Please refer to Solicitation Package for further information.

IV.3d.2 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 disabilities. 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 your 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," the Bureau "shall take appropriate steps to provide opportunities for participation in such programs to human rights and democracy leaders of such countries." Public Law 106-113 requires that the governments of the countries described above do not have inappropriate influence in the selection process. Proposals should reflect advancement of these goals in their program contents, to the full extent deemed feasible.

IV.3d.3. Program Monitoring and Evaluation. Proposals must include a

plan to monitor and evaluate the project's success, both as the activities unfold and at the end of the program. The Bureau recommends that your proposal include a draft survey questionnaire or other technique plus a description of a methodology to use to link outcomes to original project objectives. The Bureau expects that the grantee will track participants or partners and be able to respond to key evaluation questions, including satisfaction with the program, learning as a result of the program, changes in behavior as a result of the program, and effects of the program on institutions (institutions in which participants work or partner institutions). The evaluation plan should include indicators that measure gains in mutual understanding as well as substantive knowledge.

Successful monitoring and evaluation depend heavily on setting clear goals and outcomes at the outset of a program. Your evaluation plan should include a description of your project's objectives, your anticipated project outcomes, and how and when you intend to measure these outcomes (performance indicators). The more that outcomes are "smart" (specific, measurable, attainable, results-oriented, and placed in a reasonable time frame), the easier it will be to conduct the evaluation. You should also show how your project objectives link to the goals of the program described in this RFGP.

Your monitoring and evaluation plan should clearly distinguish between program *outputs* and *outcomes*. *Outputs* are products and services delivered, often stated as an amount. Output information is important to show the scope or size of project activities, but it cannot substitute for information about progress towards outcomes or the results achieved. Examples of outputs include the number of people trained or the number of seminars conducted. *Outcomes*, in contrast, represent specific results a project is intended to achieve and is usually measured as an extent of change. Findings on outputs and outcomes should both be reported, but the focus should be on outcomes.

We encourage you to assess the following four levels of outcomes, as they relate to the program goals set out in the RFGP (listed here in increasing order of importance):

1. *Participant satisfaction* with the program and exchange experience.

2. *Participant learning*, such as increased knowledge, aptitude, skills, and changed understanding and attitude. Learning includes both substantive (subject-specific) learning and mutual understanding.

3. *Participant behavior*, concrete actions to apply knowledge in work or community; greater participation and responsibility in civic organizations; interpretation and explanation of experiences and new knowledge gained; continued contacts between participants, community members, and others.

4. *Institutional changes*, such as increased collaboration and partnerships, policy reforms, new programming, and organizational improvements.

Please note: Consideration should be given to the appropriate timing of data collection for each level of outcome. For example, satisfaction is usually captured as a short-term outcome, whereas behavior and institutional changes are normally considered longer-term outcomes.

Overall, the quality of your monitoring and evaluation plan will be judged on how well it (1) Specifies intended outcomes; (2) gives clear descriptions of how each outcome will be measured; (3) identifies when particular outcomes will be measured; and (4) provides a clear description of the data collection strategies for each outcome (*i.e.*, surveys, interviews, or focus groups). (Please note that evaluation plans that deal only with the first level of outcomes [satisfaction] will be deemed less competitive under the present evaluation criteria.)

Grantees will be required to provide reports analyzing their evaluation findings to the Bureau in their regular program reports. All data collected, including survey responses and contact information, must be maintained for a minimum of three years and provided to the Bureau upon request.

IV.3d.4. Describe your plans for: *i.e.* sustainability, overall program management, staffing, coordination with ECA and PAS or any other requirements etc.

IV.3e. Please take the following information into consideration when preparing your budget:

IV.3e.1. Applicants must submit a comprehensive budget for the entire program. There must be a summary budget as well as breakdowns reflecting both administrative and program budgets. Applicants may provide separate sub-budgets for each program component, phase, location, or activity to provide clarification.

IV.3e.2. 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 (except against participant program expenses), auditing costs;

(4) Participant program costs; *i.e.*, international/domestic travel, visas, per diem, conference attendance;

(5) Alumni Web site and alumni support activities;

(6) Advising coordinator expenses for pre-conference campus visits;

(7) Campus coordinator costs for advising center visits; *i.e.*, international/domestic travel, visas, per diem Please refer to the Solicitation Package for complete budget guidelines and formatting instructions.

IV.3f. Application Deadline and Methods of Submission:

Application Deadline Date: Friday, July 13, 2007.

Reference Number: ECA/A/S/A-08-05.

Methods of Submission:

Applications may be submitted in one of two ways:

1. In hard-copy, via a nationally recognized overnight delivery service (*i.e.*, DHL, Federal Express, UPS, Airborne Express, or U.S. Postal Service Express Overnight Mail, etc.), or

2. Electronically through <http://www.grants.gov>. Along with the Project Title, all applicants must enter the above Reference Number in Box 11 on the SF-424 contained in the mandatory Proposal Submission Instructions (PSI) of the solicitation document.

IV.3f.1 Submitting Printed Applications: Applications must be shipped no later than the above deadline. Delivery services used by applicants must have in-place, centralized shipping identification and tracking systems that may be accessed via the Internet and delivery people who are identifiable by commonly recognized uniforms and delivery vehicles. Proposals shipped on or before the above deadline but received at ECA more than seven days after the deadline will be ineligible for further consideration under this competition. Proposals shipped after the established deadlines are ineligible for consideration under this competition. ECA will *not* notify you upon receipt of application. It is each applicant's responsibility to ensure that each package is marked with a legible tracking number and to monitor/confirm delivery to ECA via the Internet. Delivery of proposal packages *may not* be made via local courier service or in person for this competition. Faxed documents will not be accepted at any time. Only proposals submitted as stated above will be considered.

Important note: When preparing your submission please make sure to include one

extra copy of the completed SF-424 form and place it in an envelope addressed to "ECA/EX/PM".

The original and eight copies of the application should be sent to: U.S. Department of State, SA-44, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, Ref.: ECA/A/S/A-08-05, Program Management, ECA/EX/PM, Room 534, 301 4th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20547.

IV.3f.2—Submitting Electronic Applications

Applicants have the option of submitting proposals electronically through Grants.gov (<http://www.grants.gov>). Complete solicitation packages are available at Grants.gov in the "Find" portion of the system. Please follow the instructions available in the "Get Started" portion of the site (<http://www.grants.gov/GetStarted>).

Several of the steps in the Grants.gov registration process could take several weeks. Therefore, applicants should check with appropriate staff within their organizations immediately after reviewing this RFGP to confirm or determine their registration status with Grants.gov. Once registered, the amount of time it can take to upload an application will vary depending on a variety of factors including the size of the application and the speed of your internet connection. Therefore, we strongly recommend that you not wait until the application deadline to begin the submission process through Grants.gov.

Direct all questions regarding Grants.gov registration and submission to: Grants.gov Customer Support.

Contact Center Phone: 800-518-4726.

Business Hours: Monday–Friday, 7 a.m.–9 p.m. Eastern Time.

E-mail: support@grants.gov.

Applicants have until midnight (12 a.m.), Washington, DC time of the closing date to ensure that their entire application has been uploaded to the Grants.gov site. There are no exceptions to the above deadline. Applications uploaded to the site after midnight of the application deadline date will be automatically rejected by the grants.gov system, and will be technically ineligible.

Applicants will receive a confirmation e-mail from grants.gov upon the successful submission of an application. ECA will *not* notify you upon receipt of electronic applications.

It is the responsibility of all applicants submitting proposals via the Grants.gov web portal to ensure that proposals have been received by Grants.gov in their entirety, and ECA bears no responsibility for data errors

resulting from transmission or conversion processes.

Optional—IV.3f.3 You may also state here any limitations on the number of applications that an applicant may submit and make it clear whether the limitation is on the submitting organization, individual program director or both.

IV.3g. Intergovernmental Review of Applications: Executive Order 12372 does not apply to this program.

V. Application Review Information

V.1. Review Process

The Bureau will review all proposals for technical eligibility. Proposals will be deemed ineligible if they do not fully adhere to the guidelines stated herein and in the Solicitation Package. All eligible proposals will be reviewed by the program office, as well as the Public Diplomacy section overseas, where appropriate. Eligible proposals will be subject to compliance with Federal and Bureau regulations and guidelines and forwarded to Bureau grant panels for advisory review. Proposals may also be reviewed by the Office of the Legal Adviser or by other Department elements. Final funding decisions are at the discretion of the Department of State's Assistant Secretary for Educational and Cultural Affairs. Final technical authority for cooperative agreements resides with the Bureau's 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 originality, substance, precision, and relevance to the Bureau's 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.

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 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).

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 Bureau grants as determined by Bureau Grants Staff. The Bureau 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 Bureau support) ensuring that Bureau 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.

10. *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.

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

12. *Value to U.S.-Partner Country Relations*: Proposed projects should receive positive assessments by the U.S. Department of State's geographic area desk and overseas officers of program need, potential impact, and significance in the partner country(ies).

VI. Award Administration Information

VI.1a. Award Notices:

Final awards cannot be made until funds have been appropriated by Congress, allocated and committed through internal Bureau procedures. Successful applicants will receive an Assistance Award Document (AAD) from the Bureau's Grants Office. The AAD and the original grant proposal with subsequent modifications (if

applicable) shall be the only binding authorizing document between the recipient and the U.S. Government. The AAD will be signed by an authorized Grants Officer, and mailed to the recipient's responsible officer identified in the application.

Unsuccessful applicants will receive notification of the results of the application review from the ECA program office coordinating this competition.

VI.2 *Administrative and National Policy Requirements*: Terms and Conditions for the Administration of ECA agreements include the following: Office of Management and Budget Circular A-122, "Cost Principles for Nonprofit Organizations"; Office of Management and Budget Circular A-21, "Cost Principles for Educational Institutions"; OMB Circular A-87, "Cost Principles for State, Local and Indian Governments";

OMB Circular No. A-110 (Revised), Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Agreements with Institutions of Higher Education, Hospitals, and other Nonprofit Organizations; OMB Circular No. A-102, Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants-in-Aid to State and Local Governments; OMB Circular No. A-133, Audits of States, Local Government, and Non-profit Organizations

Please reference the following Web sites for additional information: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants>, <http://exchanges.state.gov/education/grantsdiv/terms.htm#articleI>.

VI.3. *Reporting Requirements*: You must provide ECA with a hard copy original plus two copies of the following reports:

1. A final program and financial report no more than 90 days after the expiration of the award;

Grantees will be required to provide reports analyzing their evaluation findings to the Bureau in their regular program reports. (Please refer to IV. Application and Submission Instructions (IV.3.d.3) above for Program Monitoring and Evaluation information.

All data collected, including survey responses and contact information, must be maintained for a minimum of three years and provided to the Bureau upon request.

All reports must be sent to the ECA Grants Officer and ECA Program Officer listed in the final assistance award document.

Organizations awarded grants will be required to maintain specific data on

program participants and activities in an electronically accessible database format that can be shared with the Bureau as required. As a minimum, the data must include the following:

(1) Name, address, contact information and biographic sketch of all persons who travel internationally on funds provided by the grant or who benefit from the grant funding but do not travel.

(2) Itineraries of international and domestic travel, providing dates of travel and cities in which any exchange experiences take place. Final schedules for in-country and U.S. activities must be received by the ECA Program Officer at least three work days prior to the official opening of the activity.

VII. Agency Contacts

For questions about this announcement, contact: Dorothy Mora, Educational Information and Resources Branch, ECA/A/S/A, Room 349, ECA/A/S/A-08-05, U.S. Department of State, SA-44, 301 4th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20547, phone: 202-453-8868, fax: 202-453-8890, e-mail: MoraDD@state.gov.

All correspondence with the Bureau concerning this RFPG should reference the above title and number ECA/A/S/A-08-05.

Please read the complete announcement before sending inquiries or submitting proposals. Once the RFPG deadline has passed, Bureau staff may not discuss this competition with applicants until the proposal review process has been completed.

VIII. Other Information

Notice

The terms and conditions published in this RFPG are binding and may not be modified by any Bureau representative. Explanatory information provided by the Bureau that contradicts published language will not be binding. Issuance of the RFPG does not constitute an award commitment on the part of the Government. The Bureau 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 per section VI.3 above.

Dated: May 1, 2007.

Dina Habib Powell,

Assistant Secretary for Educational and Cultural Affairs, Department of State.

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