

Associate Administrator for Research and Development, NRD-01, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Washington, DC 20590, FAX number: 202/366-5930.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Richard L. Strombotne, Special Assistant for Technology Transfer Policy and Programs, Office of Research and Development, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC 20590. Telephone: 202-366-4730. Fax number: 202-366-5930.

Issued: March 3, 1995.

**George L. Parker,**

*Associate Administrator for Research and Development.*

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### Office of Commercial Space Transportation

#### Environmental Impact Statement; Sierra and Doña Ana Counties, NM; Correction

**AGENCY:** Office of Commercial Space Transportation (OCTS), U.S. DOT.

**ACTION:** Correction.

**SUMMARY:** On February 23, 1995 the Office of Commercial Space Transportation (OCST), DOT; published a Notice of Intent at 60 FR (10139). The Notice gave the wrong date and location for the second scoping meeting. The date was given as March 23, 1995 and should have been March 21, 1995. The location was given as the Convention Center, 300 Daniel Street. The correct location should have been listed as Council Room, City Council Chambers, 400 West 4th. This notice makes correction to the Notice of Intent. In FR DOC 95-4392, 3rd Column, para 1, make the following correction:

\* \* \* "(2) March 21, 1995, 7:00-9:00 pm, Council Room, City Council Chambers, 400 West 4th, Truth or Consequences, New Mexico."

Dated: March 3, 1995.

**Sharon D.W. Boddie,**

*Office of Commercial Space Transportation.*

[FR Doc. 95-5768 Filed 3-8-95; 8:45 am]

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### UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY

#### Support to Develop and Facilitate Access to Exchange Opportunities for Post-Secondary International Students

**ACTION:** Notice; request for proposals.

**SUMMARY:** The Advising and Student Services Branch of the United States Information Agency's Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs announces an open competition for an assistance award. Public or private non-profit organizations or consortia meeting the provisions described in IRS regulation 501(c)(3) may apply to provide an administrative mechanism to develop and facilitate exchanges between post-secondary school students enrolled at institutions in the United States and in other countries of the world. Preference will be given to the organization which maximizes the number of participants from all world regions and presents the most flexible mechanism for administering the exchanges. The applicants must clearly demonstrate how the proposed project differs from traditional "junior year abroad" programs and how it will create accessibility to international exchange for students who otherwise would not be able to have an overseas study experience. USIA anticipates awarding up to \$350,000 to one organization to administer this program.

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 project must conform with Agency requirements and guidelines outlined in the Solicitation Package. The 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/ASA-95-13.

**DATES:** Deadline for proposals: All copies must be received at the U.S. Information Agency by 5 p.m. Washington, DC time on Friday, April 21, 1995. Faxed documents will not be accepted, nor will documents postmarked on April 21 but received at a later date. It is the responsibility of

each applicant to ensure that proposals are received by the above deadline.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Advising and Student Services, E/ASA, Room 349, U.S. Information Agency, 301 4th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20547, Tel: (202) 619-5434, Fax: (202) 401-1433, E-mail: ahatteme@usia.gov, to request a Solicitation Package, which includes all application forms and guidelines for preparing proposals, including specific criteria for preparation of the proposal budget. Please specify the USIA Program Officer, Alexandria Hattemer, on all inquiries and correspondences. Interested applicants should read the complete **Federal Register** announcement before addressing inquiries to E/ASA or submitting their proposals. Once the RFP deadline has passed, E/ASA may not discuss this competition in any way with applicants until the Bureau proposal review process has been completed.

**ADDRESSES:** Applicants must follow all instructions given in the Solicitation Package and send only complete applications to: U.S. Information Agency, Ref.: E/ASA-95-13, Office of Grants Management, E/XE, Room 336, 301 4th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20547.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** 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 race, gender, religion, geographic location, socio-economic status, and physical challenges. Applicants are strongly encouraged to adhere to the advancement of this principle.

#### Overview

An ideal proposal should describe an administrative mechanism capable of developing and facilitating exchanges between post-secondary students enrolled at institutions in the United States and their counterparts in Europe, Latin America, the Middle East, South Asia, Africa and East Asia (including Oceania). Numbers of incoming and outgoing students should be approximately equal. A minimum of forty percent of the exchanges must take place outside of Western Europe within a broad range of non-traditional study abroad countries, although preference will be given to applicants who can demonstrate a higher number of non-European exchanges. All world regions must be represented in this program; the

applicant should especially target exchanges with Africa, the Near East, South and East Asia.

Exchange students should be drawn from the broadest possible range of universities and colleges. These institutions should be diverse—representing both public and private institutions, offering the greatest possible choice of location, academic discipline, size, and cost; and allowing the use of financial aid for study abroad when at all possible. Recruitment of student populations not usually involved in international exchanges should be stressed. A funding level of up to \$350,000 is available for this program.

#### Guidelines

The proposal should describe how colleges and universities in the U.S. and abroad will be recruited to participate, the standards established for participation, and the means to evaluate compliance with those standards. The proposal should describe the criteria for student participation, the obligations of the student (including financial), and the services which the applicant will provide to the student and why this assistance is not available from other sources. The proposal should describe methods of evaluating the effectiveness of the exchange mechanism (See Review Criteria for further information). Programs must comply with J-1 visa regulations.

#### Proposed Budget

The applicant is required to submit a comprehensive administrative line item budget, based on the specific guidance in the Solicitation Package. There must be a summary budget as well as a breakdown of the administrative budget. USIA's grant assistance, up to \$350,000 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. Grant applications should demonstrate financial and in-kind support.

Grants awarded to eligible organizations with fewer than four years of experience in conducting international exchange programs will be limited to \$60,000.

Allowable costs for the program include the following:

- (1) Salaries and fringe benefits; travel, although the Agency reserves the right not to fund travel to Western Europe;
- (2) Other direct costs, inclusive of rent, utilities, etc.;
- (3) Indirect expenses, auditing costs.

Please refer to the Solicitation Package for complete budget guidelines and formatting instructions.

#### 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 Agency contracts office, as well as the USIA Area Offices and the USIS posts overseas, where appropriate. 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 grant awards 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 originality, substance, precision, and relevance to Agency mission.
2. *Program planning:* Detailed agenda and relevant work plan should demonstrate substantive undertakings and logistical capacity, specifically the ability to increase exchanges with non-traditional regions. Agenda and plan should adhere to the program overview and guidelines described above.
3. *Ability to achieve program objectives:* Proposal 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 with the maximum number of exchanges and number of countries.

5. *Support of Diversity:* Proposals should demonstrate the recipient's commitment of promoting the awareness and understanding of diversity and should target diverse locations for exchanges as well as creating access to international exchange for students from all backgrounds and ethnic groups.

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 of past Agency grants as determined by USIA's Office of Contracts. The Agency will consider the past performance of prior recipients and the demonstrated potential of new applicants.

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

9. *Project Evaluation:* Proposals should include a plan to evaluate the activity's success, both as the activities unfold and at the end of the program. USIA recommends that the proposal include a draft survey questionnaire or other technique plus description of a methodology to use to link outcomes to original projects objectives. USIA requires an evaluation survey return rate of at least 70 percent. Award-receiving organizations/institutions will be expected to submit biannual reports.

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 USIA's geographic area desks and overseas officers of program need, potential impact, and significance in the partner country(ies).

#### Notice

The terms and conditions published in the RFP are binding and may not be modified by the USIA representative. Explanatory information provided by the Agency that contradicts published language will not be binding.

#### Notification

All applicants will be notified of the results of the review process on or about July 1, 1995. Awards made will be subject to periodic reporting and evaluation requirements.

Dated: February 28, 1995.

**Dell Pendergrast,**

*Deputy Associate Director, Educational and  
Cultural Affairs.*

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