

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: NHTSA will hold this regular, quarterly meeting to answer questions from the public and the regulated industries regarding the agency's safety performance standards, safety assurance and other programs. Since the agency is holding a separate meeting on its research and development programs, any questions on those issues will only be answered at the afternoon meeting to be held on June 27, 1995 and should be submitted to the Research and Development Office. However, questions on aspects of the agency's research and development activities that relate to ongoing regulatory actions should be submitted, as in the past, to the agency's Safety Performance Standards Office.

The motor vehicle regulatory reform meeting is a follow-up to NHTSA's March 29, 1995 meeting on regulatory reform held in conjunction with the agency's previous quarterly technical meeting, and to the agency's April 4, 1995 meeting in Washington, D.C., at which NHTSA sought information from the public on regulatory reform actions the agency should take related to its motor vehicle regulations. These were in conjunction with President Clinton's call for a new approach to the way Government regulates the private sector, and his request that Executive Branch agencies report to him by June 1, 1995 on ways to improve the regulatory process. To follow the President's expected announcement of the results of this initiative, NHTSA will discuss how the agency has handled the public comments and the anticipated next actions to implement its motor vehicle regulatory reform decisions.

The regular, quarterly, meeting to be held on June 28th will be at the Ramada Inn near the Detroit Metro Airport, 8270 Wickham Road, Romulus, MI 48174. The purpose of this meeting is to focus on those phases of NHTSA activities which are technical, interpretative or procedural in nature. A transcript will be available for public inspection in the NHTSA Technical Reference Section in Washington, DC, within four weeks after the meeting. Copies of the transcript will then be available at ten cents a page (length has varied from 100 to 150 pages) upon request to NHTSA Technical Reference Section, Room 5108, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. The Technical Reference Section is open to the public from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

NHTSA will provide auxiliary aids to participants as necessary, during the NHTSA Technical Industry Meeting, NHTSA Regulatory Reform Meeting, and the NHTSA Industry Research and Development Meeting. Any person

desiring assistance of "auxiliary aids" (e.g., sign-language interpreter, telecommunications devices for deaf persons (TDDs), readers, taped texts, brailled materials, or large print materials and/or a magnifying device), please contact Barbara Carnes on (202) 366-1810, by COB June 19, 1995 for the June 28, 1995 meetings or Barbara Coleman (202) 366-1537 by COB June 19, 1995 for the June 27, 1995 meeting.

Issued: May 15, 1995.

Barry Felrice,

Associate Administrator for Safety Performance Standards.

[FR Doc. 95-12300 Filed 5-18-95; 8:45 am]

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UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY

Administration of the 1996 U.S. Based Training Program for Overseas Educational Advisers

ACTION: Notice—request for proposals.

SUMMARY: The Advising and Student Services Branch of the United States Information Agency's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs announces an open competition for an assistance award. The proposal, which can be submitted by public and private non-profit organizations meeting the provisions described in IRS regulation 26 CFR 1.501(C)(3)-1, should describe the design of two training programs for USIA-affiliated mid-level overseas educational advisers to be held in late spring and fall of 1996. The training programs' objectives are to strengthen and develop the skills of more experienced overseas educational advisers so that they can train beginning advisers and advance the field of educational advising in their home countries. A successful training program should provide in-depth exposure to the mechanics of international study on a U.S. university campus (admissions and international office), advances in technology (internet), and outreach strategies, (fundraising and management of volunteers). Each session should last three weeks, with a beginning week in Washington, DC or other suitable city for workshops, research opportunities and discussions; a one-week to ten-day internship at a U.S. college or university campus for an in-depth exposure to international student admission and advising; and approximately one week or less at either the National NAFSA: Association of International Educators Conference in late May or one of the regional NAFSA conferences in the fall. Further clarification is provided in the

application package. USIA anticipates awarding up to \$205,000 to one organization to administer this program.

Background and Program Rationale

The presence of international students and scholars on U.S. campuses contributes significantly to the academic quality and financial well-being of American higher education. In recognition of this, The United States Information Agency, maintains a network of educational advising centers overseas where objective information about study options and the application process to U.S. higher education is available to all prospective students, scholars, parents, governments ministries, and other interested individuals. These centers are staffed by educational advisers who must stay up to date with current trends in U.S. higher education, as well as remain knowledgeable about developments in technology, materials available, and management skills relevant to running busy centers.

Program Participants

USIA will select participants for the training sessions from the corps of educational advisers who are part of the network of USIA-affiliated advising centers overseas and who, based on seniority and previous job experience, are considered "mid-level" advisers. For the purposes of this RFP, mid-level advisers are defined as those who have mastered the following skills: (1) Knowledge of the U.S. and home country educational systems; (2) familiarity with the application process for U.S. higher education and training; (3) skills in advising and cross-cultural communication skills; (4) a basic understanding of the management theories and practices as they relate to educational advising.

Training Program Format

The training program is intended for two separate groups of ten participants each and should contain sessions in Washington DC or other suitable city, an internship or other form of meaningful professional visit at a U.S. academic institution(s), and active attendance, to include at least one presentation, at either the national NAFSA: Association of International Educators conference or one of its regional fall conferences.

The separate training programs should resemble each other in structure but have a different focus, thereby taking advantage of opportunities available at different times of the year. For instance, the spring session might concentrate on cultural adjustment (pre-departure/re-entry issues) faced by

international students, whereas the fall session might focus on admissions issues. These are suggestions; USIA invites organizations to submit creative and flexible program plans which can be tailored to participants' individual needs. Nevertheless, the following components must be covered in each training course:

Discussion of the current state of U.S. higher education and how it affects the work of the educational adviser; individual consultations with U.S. exchange organizations depending on participant's area of expertise; accreditation and degree equivalency issues; internet training; hands-on campus exposure to admissions and international student advising issues in the U.S.; exploration of alternate sources of support for educational advising, including fundraising techniques and managing volunteers. Please refer to program specific guidelines (POGI) and the "Training and Professional Development" report in the Solicitation Package for further details.

Proposed Budget

Applicants must submit a comprehensive budget for the entire program (both sessions). For clarification, applicants should provide separate sub-budgets for each training component. There must be a summary budget as well as a breakdown reflecting both the administrative budget and the program budget based on the guidance in the Solicitation Package. USIA's grant assistance, up to \$205,000 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. Organizations with fewer than four years of experience in conducting international exchange programs will not be eligible.

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 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 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 demonstrate comprehensive understanding of current issues in international educational exchange and show clearly how the proposed course of study will give advisers the expertise to run efficient and effective advising centers. Training ideas should be innovative, interesting and engage the participants actively at all sessions of the program.

2. *Program planning:* Proposals should contain a detailed agenda and syllabus, clearly showing how sessions will achieve program objectives. Proposals should demonstrate convincingly that the organization has the staff capacity and expertise to plan this complex set of training sessions. Agenda and plan should adhere to the program overview and guidelines described above.

3. *Multiplier effect/impact:* The training program should put participants in touch with U.S. experts and international educators so that the maximum amount of information can be shared and professional linkages established.

5. *Support of diversity:* The proposal should demonstrate how the participants will be exposed to the widest possible range of views and approaches to U.S. higher education. Attention should be paid to selecting the campuses for internships to represent different kinds of schools from various regions of the U.S.

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 designing and running effective training 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, including participant evaluation forms, both as the activities unfold and at the end of the program. Award-receiving organizations/institutions 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.

Authorization

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 other countries of the world."

Programs and projects must conform with Agency requirements and guidelines outlined in the Solicitation Package. USIA projects and programs are subject to the availability of funds.

Announcement Name and Number

All communications with USIA concerning this announcement should refer to the above title and reference number E/ASA-96-01.

Deadline for Proposals

All copies must be received at the U.S. Information Agency by 5 p.m. Washington, DC time on Friday, July 28, 1995. Faxed documents will not be accepted, nor will documents postmarked July 28, but received at a

later date. It is the responsibility of each applicant to ensure that proposals are received by the above deadline. Grants should begin November 1, 1995 and run through December 31, 1996, with a starting date of May 1996 for the first training program.

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. Potential applicants are encouraged to contact the program office and confirm understanding of the terms of this Request for Proposals before requesting a Solicitation Package, which includes more detailed award criteria; all application forms; and guidelines for preparing proposals, including specific criteria for preparation of the proposal budget; a report/concept paper on training for educational advisers. The report should be used for general guidance only; in places where the recommendations of the report conflict with the RFP, it shall be the definitive document. (Note: the report/concept paper is available only upon specific request to E/ASA). Please specify USIA Program Officer Alexandra Hattemer on all inquiries and correspondence. 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. The original and eight copies of the complete application should be sent to: U.S. Information Agency, Ref.: E/ASA-96-01, 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.

Notice

The terms and conditions published in this 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 needs of the program may require the award to be reduced, revised, or increased. Final awards cannot be made until funds have been appropriated by Congress, allocated and committed through internal USIA procedures.

Notification

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

Dated: May 12, 1995.

Dell Pendergrast,

Deputy Associate Director, Educational and Cultural Affairs.

[FR Doc. 95-12351 Filed 5-18-95; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Advisory Committee for Cooperative Studies, Health Services, and Rehabilitation Research and Development Subcommittee on Scientific Review and Evaluation for Health Services Research and Development Service, Notice of Meeting

The Department of Veteran Affairs, Veterans Health Administration, gives notice under Pub. L. 92-463, that a meeting of the Advisory Committee for Cooperative Studies, Health Services, and Rehabilitation Research and Development Subcommittee on Scientific Review and Evaluation for Health Services Research and Development will be held at The Madison Hotel, 15th and M Streets, Northwest, Washington, D.C., June 13 through June 15, 1995. Session One on June 13, 1995, is scheduled to begin at 11:00 a.m. and end at 12:30 p.m. (EST). The purpose of the meeting is to review a cooperative study entitled "A Comprehensive System for Quality Improvement in Ambulatory Care." The study will be reviewed for scientific and technical merit and recommendations regarding its funding are prepared for the Associate Chief Medical Director for Research and Development. Session Two on June 13, 1995, is scheduled to begin at 5:30 p.m. and end at 7:00 p.m. (EST). The sessions scheduled for June 14 and 15 are scheduled to begin at 8:00

a.m. and end at 5:00 p.m. (EST). The purpose of the meeting is to review research and development applications concerned with the measurement and evaluation of health care systems and with testing new methods of health care delivery and management. Applications are reviewed for scientific and technical merit and recommendations regarding their funding are prepared for the Associate Chief Medical Director for Research and Development.

Session One will be open to the public (to the seating capacity of the room) at the start of the June 13 Cooperative Studies in Health Sciences meeting for approximately one-half hour to cover administrative matters and to discuss the general status of the program. Session Two will be open to the public (to the seating capacity of the room) at the start of the June 13 Investigator Initiated Research meeting for approximately one hour to cover administrative matters and to discuss the general status of the program. The closed portion of the two meetings involves discussion, examination, reference to, and oral review of staff and consultant critiques of research protocols, and similar documents. During this portion of the meeting, discussion and recommendations will deal with qualifications of personnel conducting the studies, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, as well as research information, the premature disclosure of which would be likely to frustrate significantly implementation of proposed agency action regarding such research projects. As provided by the subsection 10(d) of Pub. L. 92-463, as amended by Pub. L. 94-409, closing portions of these meetings is in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(6) and (9)(B).

Due to the limited seating capacity of the room, those who plan to attend the open sessions should contact Mr. Bill Judy, Review Program Manager (12B3), Health Services Research and Development Service, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, (Techworld), Washington, DC, 20420 (phone: 202-523-7425) at least five days before the meeting.

Dated: May 11, 1995.

By Direction of the Secretary:

Heyward Bannister,

Committee Management Officer.

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