

NHTSA has decided that the motor vehicle is substantially similar to a motor vehicle originally manufactured for importation into and sale in the United States, certified under 49 U.S.C. 30115 (formerly section 114 of the Act), and of the same model year as the model of the motor vehicle to be compared, and is capable of being readily altered to conform to all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards.

Petitions for eligibility decisions may be submitted by either manufacturers or importers who have registered with NHTSA pursuant to 49 CFR part 592. As specified in 49 CFR 593.7, NHTSA publishes notice in the **Federal Register** of each petition that it receives, and affords interested persons an opportunity to comment on the petition. At the close of the comment period, NHTSA decides, on the basis of the petition and any comments that it has received, whether the vehicle is eligible for importation. The agency then publishes this decision in the **Federal Register**.

Liphardt & Associates of Ronkonkoma, New York (Registered Importer R-93-016) petitioned NHTSA to decide whether 1992 Mercedes-Benz 300E passenger cars are eligible for importation into the United States. NHTSA published notice of the petition on April 7, 1995 (60 FR 17847) to afford an opportunity for public comment. The reader is referred to that notice for a thorough description of the petition. No comments were received in response to the notice. Based on its review of the information submitted by the petitioner, NHTSA has decided to grant the petition.

Vehicle Eligibility Number for Subject Vehicles

The importer of a vehicle admissible under any final decision must indicate on the form HS-7 accompanying entry the appropriate vehicle eligibility number indicating that the vehicle is eligible for entry. VSP-114 is the vehicle eligibility number assigned to vehicles admissible under this decision.

Final Determination

Accordingly, on the basis of the foregoing, NHTSA hereby decides that a 1992 Mercedes-Benz 300E (Model ID 124.031) not originally manufactured to comply with all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards is substantially similar to a 1992 Mercedes-Benz 300E originally manufactured for importation into and sale in the United States and certified under 49 U.S.C. § 30115, and is capable of being readily altered to conform to all

applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards.

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 30141(a)(1)(A) and (b)(1); 49 CFR 593.8; delegations of authority at 49 CFR 1.50 and 501.8.

Issued on: June 5, 1995.

Marilynne Jacobs

Director, Office of Vehicle Safety Compliance.

[FR Doc. 95-14134 Filed 6-8-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-59-M

UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY

Disability Exchanges Clearinghouse

ACTION: Notice—request for proposals.

SUMMARY: The United States Information Agency's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs announces an open competition for an assistance award. Public and private non-profit organizations meeting the provisions described in IRS regulation 26 CFR 1.501(c)(3)-1 may apply for a single award to establish and manage a disability exchanges clearinghouse, the overall purpose of which is two-fold: (1) To provide information for the disability community about international exchange opportunities available to them; and (2) to assist exchange organizations in developing skills and understanding about how to incorporate people with disabilities into their exchange programs.

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." The funding authority for the program cited above is provided through the Fulbright-Hays Act.

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 TITLE AND NUMBER: All communications with USIA concerning this announcement should refer to the

Disability Exchanges Clearinghouse and reference number *E/AE-95-01*.

DEADLINE FOR PROPOSALS: All copies must be received at the U.S. Information Agency by 5 p.m. Washington, DC time on Thursday, July 27, 1995. Faxed documents will not be accepted, nor will documents postmarked July 27, 1995 but received at a later date. It is the responsibility of each applicant to ensure that proposals are received by the above deadline.

Award date: The award should begin on September 30, 1995.

Duration: September 30, 1995—September 30, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, Office of Academic Programs, Academic Exchanges Division—E/AE, U.S. Information Agency, 301 4th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20547, telephone number; 202/619-4360, fax number: 202/401-5914, internet address: DLEVIN@USIAGOV to request a Solicitation Package, which includes all application forms and further guidelines for preparing proposals, including specific criteria for preparation of the proposal budget. Please specify USIA Program Officer David Levin on all inquiries and correspondence. Interested applicants should read the complete **Federal Register** announcement before addressing inquiries to the Academic Exchanges Division or submitting their proposals. Once the RFP deadline has passed, the Academic Exchange Division may not discuss this competition in any way with applicants until the Bureau proposal review process has been completed.

SUBMISSIONS: Applicants must follow all instructions given in the Solicitation Package. The original and 15 copies of the complete application should be sent to: U.S. Information Agency, Ref.: E/AE-95-01 (Disability Exchanges Clearinghouse), Office of Grants Management, E/XE, Room 326, 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.

Proposals obviously will relate directly to the disability community.

Proposals should make an effort to incorporate other types of diversity into various proposal elements and activities, including program staff, consultants and resource people, programmatic locations, program participants, materials and resources developed, collaborative programming, etc.

Overview

Background

For several years USIA's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs has actively promoted the concept of diversity, making a concerted effort to increase the number of people from underrepresented audiences participating in its exchanges and other programming. This clearly has included outreach to the disability community. Simultaneously, the U.S. Congress has encouraged USIA to focus even more on people with disabilities and on disability-related matters. In FY 1995 the Congress appropriated funds to USIA for the purpose of making an award to a private non-profit organization to establish and manage a disability exchanges clearinghouse.

Special Note

In making this award and establishing the disability exchanges clearinghouse, funding priority will be given to entities that are operated by people with disabilities and knowledgeable about the operation and development of exchange programs for those with disabilities, and which have been involved for at least ten years in integrating persons with disabilities into such programs.

Objectives

The short term objectives in making an award to establish a disability exchanges clearinghouse are to develop a set of programs, products, and services that will: (1) provide information for the disability community at all levels about the various publicly-sponsored and privately-sponsored exchange opportunities available to them; and (2) assist exchange organizations, both private and public (including relevant USIA Offices, Divisions, and Branches) in developing skills and understanding about how to incorporate persons with disabilities into their exchange programs through training, technical assistance, and information-sharing.

The long-term objectives in making an award to establish a disability exchanges clearinghouse are: (1) To advance mutual understanding between the United States and other countries by increasing the number of people with

disabilities participating in both publicly-sponsored and privately-sponsored international educational exchange programs; (2) to enable exchange organizations, associations and the broader public to understand and appreciate the importance and benefits of including people with disabilities in exchange programs; and (3) to help advance the civil rights of people with disabilities by their participating in exchange programs, thus benefiting personally and/or professionally from the exchange experience, while abroad and after returning home.

Guidelines

Successful Project Components

Proposals to establish and maintain a disability exchanges clearinghouse, in striving to meet the objectives described above, should include, but are not limited to the following components:

- Developing and disseminating an all-purpose brochure describing the Clearinghouse and its purposes, as well as its programs, products, and services.
- Developing a portable exhibit for use at conferences and meetings describing and promoting the Clearinghouse and its purposes, programs, products, and services.
- Developing and maintaining an electronic data base of exchange opportunities for individuals with disabilities in the principal types of international exchange programming—academic exchanges, professional and citizen exchanges, arts exchanges, international visitor programming, youth exchanges, etc. Selected information should be accessible by means of an internet gopher or web page. Selected information also should be available in alternate formats, including braille. The data base should also include resource information and references for internal use as well as information and references/resource material to assist exchange organizations to incorporate people with disabilities into their exchange programs.
- Establishing and strengthening relationships with the principal international exchange organizations and associations such as the Alliance for International Educational and Cultural Exchange, NAFSA: Association of International Educators, IIE, CIEE, and others, including selected Federal Departments and Agencies, in order to foster the possibility of collaborative efforts and to ensure that the Clearinghouse maintains comprehensive up-to-date information about exchange opportunities and resources.

- Establishing a toll-free telephone line, including TDD capability, with staff able to respond to incoming inquiries concerning international exchange programs vis-a-vis persons with disabilities.

- Developing and distributing a training/technical assistance manual, perhaps in loose-leaf format for easy update, for use by practitioners in the international exchanges field on how to incorporate persons with disabilities into their programs. Topics addressed would include such items as information about disabilities/disability awareness, publicity/recruitment, travel, affiliation/placement, accessibility and special needs accommodations, monitoring, evaluation, relevant Federal laws and regulations, resources/annotated organizational references, etc.

- Developing and conducting training/technical assistance workshops for relevant audiences regarding the incorporation of persons with disabilities into international exchange programs, perhaps in conjunction with regional/national conferences pertaining to international education/educational exchange or to the disability community.

- Writing, producing and distributing a quarterly or semi-annual journal devoted to topics pertaining to exchanges and persons with disabilities, highlighting success stories, new developments, collaborative efforts, special activities, etc. Articles written by people in the exchanges and disabilities communities and elsewhere should be welcome.

- Developing a brochure for individuals with disabilities and exchange practitioners detailing the rights and responsibilities of both when people with disabilities participate in international exchanges, following guidelines of the ADA and other Federal legislation.

- Authoring (or soliciting) and placing articles in selected local, regional, national and international newspapers and periodicals regarding the importance of including individuals with disabilities in international exchange programs, highlighting success stories, innovative programs, collaborative efforts, etc.

Where relevant, the awardee organization will be encouraged to conduct needs assessments to determine what information/resources/technical assistance is already available and what is needed by particular audiences, e.g., USIA Offices, Divisions, and Branches and related private organizations that manage or administer USIA-funded exchanges in addition to exchange associations representing the exchanges

community. Appropriate USIA elements will provide monitoring and oversight functions vis-a-vis Clearinghouse efforts. Products and services will be developed in consultation with the Agency and reviewed and approved by relevant Agency offices. All official documents should highlight the U.S. Government's role as sponsor and funding source. USIA requests that it receive the copyright use and be allowed to distribute written material as it sees fit.

Proposal Preparation

In developing proposals, particular attention should be paid to the objectives and guidelines stated in this RFP as well as to the stated proposal review criteria.

Proposals should include an executive summary (Tab B) not to exceed five double-spaced pages, providing the following information:

- (1) Name of organization
- (2) Beginning and ending date of the program
- (3) Nature of activity
- (4) Funding level requested from USIA, total cost-sharing from applicant and other sources, and total costs
- (5) Scope and goals
- (6) Brief descriptions of activities, programs, products and services to be undertaken
- (7) Anticipated results (short and long-term)

Proposals should include a narrative (Tab C) not to exceed forty double-spaced pages addressing the areas listed below:

- (1) Vision (statement of need, objectives, goals, benefits)
- (2) Participating organizations
- (3) Clearinghouse programs, products and services
- (4) Evaluation plan regarding Clearinghouse programs, products, and services
- (5) Follow-on
- (6) Clearinghouse management, including any subgrants
- (7) Work plan/time frame

Proposed Budget

Organizations must submit a comprehensive line-item budget based on specific guidance in the Solicitation Package. The award will not exceed \$500,000. The award will not be made to an organization with less than four years of experience in conducting international exchange programs, as USIA policy dictates that such organizations will be limited to \$60,000 per assistance award.

Applicants must submit a comprehensive budget for the entire

program. There must be a three-column summary budget as well as a breakdown of each budget by line-item. For better understanding or further clarification, applicants should provide separate sub-budgets for each program component, or activity in order to facilitate USIA decisions on funding.

Allowable costs for the Clearinghouse include but are not limited to the following:

- (1) Staff salaries and benefits
- (2) staff travel and per diem
- (3) occupancy
- (4) telephone, TDD, fax, E-mail
- (5) office furniture and equipment, including computer hardware, software and telecommunications, as well as equipment to convert written text into alternate formats, including braille
- (6) office supplies
- (7) reference materials
- (8) accounting and auditing costs
- (9) indirect costs, as appropriate
- (10) consultant travel, per diem, and honoraria
- (11) duplicating and printing
- (12) postage and courier service
- (13) participant travel and per diem
- (14) conference attendance expenses, including exhibit space
- (15) meeting expenses

Please refer to the Solicitation Package for further guidance regarding proposal preparation, 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. 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 originality, substance, precision, and relevance to

Agency mission, and the short-term and long-term objectives and guidelines stated in this RFP.

2. Program planning: A detailed agenda and relevant work plan should demonstrate substantive undertakings and logistical capacity. The agenda and plan should adhere to the program overview and guidelines described above.

3. Ability to achieve program objectives: Objective should be reasonable, feasible, and flexible. Proposals should clearly demonstrate how the organization will meet the program's objectives and plan.

4. Program comprehensiveness: Proposals should demonstrate how the various types of exchange programming—academic exchanges, citizen and professional exchanges, arts exchanges, youth exchanges, international visitor programming, etc. will be included in Clearinghouse planning and implementation efforts.

5. Cultural awareness and sensitivity: Proposals should demonstrate an awareness and sensitivity of issues related to people with disabilities, particularly in a cross-cultural/international setting.

6. Multiplier effect/impact: Proposed Clearinghouse activities should strengthen long-term mutual understanding, including maximum sharing of information and detail potential long-term benefits.

7. Support of Diversity: Proposals should demonstrate the recipient's commitment to promoting the awareness and understanding of diversity.

8. Institutional Capacity: Proposed personnel and institutional resources should be adequate and appropriate to achieve the Clearinghouse's goals.

9. Institution's Record/Ability: Proposals should demonstrate an institutional record of successful exchange programs, including previous interactions with other organizations in the exchanges and disability fields, as well as 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.

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

11. Project/Activity Evaluation: Proposals should include a plan to evaluate the Clearinghouse's success, at

the macro and micro levels both as the activities unfold and at the end of the time period. USIA recommends that the proposal include draft survey questionnaires or other technique plus description of a methodology to be used to link outcomes to original project objectives. The award-receiving organization/institution will be expected to submit intermediate reports after each project component is concluded or quarterly, whichever is less frequent.

12. 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.

13. 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 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 Agency reserves the right to reduce, revise, or increase proposal budgets in accordance with the needs of the program. 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 September 20, 1995. The award made will be subject to periodic reporting and evaluation requirements.

Dated: June 2, 1995.

John P. Loiello,

Associate Director, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

[FR Doc. 95-14247 Filed 6-7-95; 11:36 am]

BILLING CODE 8230-01-M