

the Public Debt, Room 534, E Street Building, Washington, D.C. 20239-0001, telephone (202) 219-3350.

Diane M. Polowczuk, Government Securities Specialist, Bureau of the Public Debt, Room 534, E Street Building, Washington, D.C. 20239-0001, telephone (202) 219-3350.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On October 1, 1985, the Department of the Treasury established a fee schedule for the transfer of Treasury book-entry securities between one book-entry account to another book-entry account of the same depository institution, and between the accounts of one depository institution and the accounts of another depository institution that maintain their accounts at Federal Reserve Banks and Branches. This fee schedule also applies to the book-entry transfer of securities between depository institution accounts and Federal Reserve Bank accounts.

Based on the latest review of book-entry costs and volumes, the Treasury has decided that the fees for securities transfers in 1996 should remain unchanged from the levels currently in effect.

The fees described in this notice apply only to the transfer of Treasury book-entry securities. The Federal Reserve System assesses the fees to recover the costs associated with the processing of the funds component of Treasury book-entry transfer messages, as well as the costs of providing book-entry services for Government agencies. Information concerning book-entry transfers of government agency securities, which are priced by the Federal Reserve System, is set out in a separate notice published by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

The following is the Treasury fee schedule that will be effective January 1, 1996, for the Treasury book-entry transfer service:

#### 1996 FEE SCHEDULE

|                                      | Cost per transfer |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| On-line transfers originated .....   | \$1.65            |
| On-line reversal transfers received  | 1.65              |
| Off-line transfers originated .....  | 9.40              |
| Off-line transfers received .....    | 9.40              |
| Off-line reversal transfers received | 9.40              |

Gerald Murphy,

*Fiscal Assistant Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 95-28289 Filed 11-13-95; 1:59 pm]

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[Dept. Circ. 570, 1995 Rev., Supp. No. 3]

#### **Surety Companies Acceptable on Federal Bonds; Redomestication; Pacific Insurance Company, Limited**

Pacific Insurance Company, Limited, has redomesticated from the state of Hawaii to the state of Connecticut effective January 26, 1995. This was accomplished through a merger with Pacific Insurance Company of Connecticut, Hartford, Connecticut, and a simultaneous name change to Pacific Insurance Company, Limited. The company was last listed as an acceptable surety on Federal bonds at 60 FR 34445, July 1, 1995.

Federal bond-approving officers should annotate their reference copies of the Treasury Circular 570, 1995 revision, on page 34445 to reflect this change in state of incorporation.

Questions concerning this notice may be directed to the U.S. Department of the Treasury, Financial Management Service, Funds Management Division, Surety Bond Branch, 3700 East-West Highway, Room 6F04, Hyattsville, MD 20782, telephone (FTS) 202-874-6507.

Dated: November 8, 1995.

Charles F. Schwan III,

*Director, Funds Management Division,  
Financial Management Service.*

[FR Doc. 95-28349 Filed 11-15-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4810-35-M

#### **UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY**

##### **Central and Eastern European Training Program**

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

**SUMMARY:** The Office of Citizen Exchanges of 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 to develop training programs in the areas of (1) local government/public administration, (2) independent media development, and (3) business administration. These projects should link the U.S. organization's international exchange interests with counterpart institutions and groups in Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Slovak Republic and Slovenia.

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 above title and reference number E/P-96-17.

Deadline for Proposals: All copies must be received at the U.S. Information Agency by 5 p.m. Washington, D.C. time on Friday, January 12, 1996. Faxed documents will not be accepted, nor will documents postmarked January 12, 1996, but received at a later date. It is the responsibility of each applicant to ensure that proposals are received by the above deadline. CEETP-6 grant activity should begin after July 15, 1996.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Contact the Office of Citizen Exchanges, European Division, E/PE, Room 216, U.S. Information Agency, 301 4th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20547, telephone: 202-619-5319, fax: 202-619-4530, e-mail address: (cminer@usia.gov) to request a Solicitation Package containing more detailed award criteria, required application forms, and standard guidelines for preparing proposals, including specific criteria for preparation of the proposal budget.

**VIA INTERNET:** The Solicitation Package may be downloaded from USIA's website at <http://www.usia.gov/> or from the Internet Gopher at [gopher.usia.gov](http://gopher.usia.gov), under "New RFPs on Educational and Cultural Exchanges."

Please specify USIA Program Officer Christina Miner on all inquiries and correspondence. Interested applicants should read the complete Federal Register announcement before sending inquiries or submitting proposals. Once

the RFP deadline has passed, Agency staff 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 eight copies of the complete application should be sent to: U.S. Information Agency, Ref.: E/P-96-17, Office of Grants Management, E/XE, Room 326, 301 4th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20547.

Applicants must also submit the "Executive Summary" and "Proposal Narrative" sections of the proposal on a 3.5" diskette, formatted for DOS. This material must be provided in ASCII text (DOS) format with a maximum line length of 65 characters. USIA will transmit these files electronically to USIS posts overseas for their review, with the goal of reducing the time it takes to get posts' comments for the Agency's grants review process.

**DIVERSITY 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 physical challenges. 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 the total proposal.

#### SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION:

##### Overview

Proposals must be for projects which encourage the growth of democratic institutions and political and economic pluralism. The project may include: short-term professional training workshops conducted in Central/Eastern Europe; four-to-ten week internships in the U.S.; and professional training programs and study tours in the U.S. All proposals should demonstrate in-depth, substantive knowledge of the issues of concern to the countries listed above and the capacity to organize and conduct the program, including appropriate orientation activities for the participants; detailed work plan for all phases of the project; tentative agendas for study tours, workshops, and internships; letters of commitment from

internship hosts; and selection procedures.

USIA will give priority to proposals from U.S. organizations which have established connections with partner institutions in Central/Eastern Europe. The in-country partners are expected to assist logistically and contribute to the realization of program goals and objectives. Applicants should demonstrate partner relationships by providing copies of correspondence or other materials as appendices to the proposals. In-country partners are encouraged to provide cost sharing or significant in-kind contributions such as local housing, transportation, interpreting, translating, and other local currency costs and to assist with the organization of projects.

Applicants are encouraged to consult with USIS offices regarding program content and partner institutions before submitting proposals.

Listed below in order of priority are the topics of interest for each of the countries included in the competition:

*Albania:* (1) Independent media development, including the development of reporters' investigative skills and editors' need to meet the consumers' desires for information about non-political social problems and issues; and (2) business administration.

*Bosnia-Herzegovina:* (1) Local government; (2) independent media development.

*Bulgaria:* (1) Independent media; (2) local government.

*Croatia:* (1) Independent media development, stressing management and organization; (2) local government; (3) business administration.

*Czech Republic:* (1) Independent media development; (2) local government.

*Estonia:* (1) Independent media development, particularly projects including U.S. internships; (2) business administration.

*Hungary:* (1) Business administration; (2) independent media development.

*Latvia:* (1) Independent media development, particularly investigative journalism, media ethics, photojournalism management, and business operations. Projects including U.S. internships are encouraged. (2) Business administration.

*Lithuania:* (1) Independent media development, specifically projects on reporting, implementation of fair media laws, management, advertising, and economic survival.

*Macedonia:* (1) Independent media development.

*Poland:* (1) Local government, particularly projects on the electoral system; (2) independent media

development, especially projects focusing on the coverage of elections.

*Romania:* (1) Business administration; (2) local government.

*Slovak Republic:* (1) Independent media development, with an emphasis on training in management and advertising skills.

*Slovenia:* (1) Local government.

#### Guidelines

1. Proposals should limit their focus to one of the CEE countries and to one of the specified topics. Proposals for programs that are broader in scope will be eligible, but are less likely to receive USIA support. USIA will consider geographic distribution in selecting grantee institutions to ensure a wide distribution of the program.

2. All grant proposals must clearly describe the type of persons who will participate in the program as well as the process by which participants will be selected. Note that participants in CEETP-6 programs should be professionals working in the fields of local government, media, or business administration and not members of university faculties. In the selection of all foreign participants, USIA and USIS posts retain the right to nominate participants and to approve or reject participants recommended by the program institution. Programs must also comply with J-1 visa regulations.

3. Programs that include internships in the U.S. should provide letters tentatively committing host institutions to support the internships.

4. CEETP-6 grant projects should begin after August 1, 1996.

Note: Research projects or projects limited to technical issues are not eligible for support nor are film festivals or exhibits. Exchange programs for students or faculty or proposals that request support for the development of university curricula or for degree-based programs are also ineligible under this RFP. Proposals to link university departments or to exchange faculty and/or students are funded by USIA's Office of Academic Programs (E/EA) under the University Affiliation Program and should not be submitted in response to this RFP.

#### Funding

Proposals for less than \$150,000 will receive preference.

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

Applicants must submit a comprehensive budget for the entire program. There must be a summary budget as well as a breakdown reflecting both the administrative budget and the program budget. For better

understanding or further clarification, applicants may provide separate sub-budgets for each program component, phase, location, or activity in order to facilitate USIA decisions on funding.

Allowable program costs include the following:

1. International and domestic air fares; visas; transit costs; ground transportation costs.
2. Per Diem. For the U.S. program, organizations have the option of using a flat 4140/day for program participants or the published U.S. federal per diem rates for individual American cities. For activities outside the U.S., the published Federal per diem rates must be used.

Note: U.S. escorting staff must use the published Federal per diem rates, not the flat rate.

3. Interpreters: If needed, interpreters for the U.S. program are provided by the U.S. State Department Language Services Division. A pair of simultaneous interpreters is provided for every four participants. USIA grants do not pay for foreign interpreters to accompany delegations from their home country. Grant proposal budgets should contain a flat \$140/day per diem for each Department of State interpreter, as well as home-program-home air transportation of \$400 per interpreter plus any U.S. travel expenses during the program. Salary expenses are covered centrally and should not be part of an applicant's proposed budget.

4. Book and cultural allowance. Participants are entitled to and escorts are reimbursed a one-time cultural allowance of \$150 per person, plus a participant book allowance of \$50. U.S. staff do not get these benefits.

5. Consultants can be used to provide specialized expertise or to make presentations. Daily honoraria generally do not exceed \$250 per day.

6. Room rental, which generally should not exceed \$250 per day.

7. Materials development. Proposals may contain costs to purchase, develop, and translate materials for participants.

8. One working meal per project. Per capita costs may not exceed \$5-8 for a lunch and \$14-20 for a dinner, excluding room rental. The number of invited guests may not exceed participants by more than a factor of two-to-one.

9. A return travel allowance of \$70 for each participant which is to be used for incidental expenditures incurred during international travel.

10. Other costs necessary for the effective administration of the program, including salaries for grant organization employees, benefits, and other direct and indirect costs per detailed instructions in the application package.

Please refer to the Solicitation Package for complete budget guidelines and formatting instructions, including information on audit requirements and cost sharing.

#### 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 Office of Eastern European and NIS Affairs and the USIA post 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 exhibit originality, substance, precision, and relevance to Agency mission. Program objectives should be reasonable, feasible, and flexible.
2. *Program planning:* Detailed agenda and relevant work plan should demonstrate substantive undertakings, logistical capacity, and institution's ability to meet program objectives. Agenda and plan should adhere to the program overview and guidelines described above.

3. *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.

4. *Cross Cultural/Area Expertise:* Proposals should reflect the institution's expertise in the subject area and should address specific areas of concern facing countries involved in the project. Additionally, projects should show evidence of sensitivity to historical, linguistic and other cross cultural factors and should demonstrate how this sensitivity will be used in practical aspects of the program, such as pre-departure orientations or briefings of American hosts.

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's or project's goals.

7. *Institution's Record/Ability:* Proposals should demonstrate an institutional record of successful exchange programs, including responsible fiscal management and full compliance with all reporting requirements for past Agency grants as determined by USIA's Office of Contracts. The Agency will consider the past performance of prior recipients and the demonstrated potential of new applicants.

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

9. *Project Evaluation:* Proposals should include a plan to evaluate the project's success, both as the activities unfold and at the end of the program. USIA recommends that the proposal include a sample of the questionnaire or other method of project assessment as well as a description of how outcomes will be linked to original project objectives. Successful applicants will be expected to submit intermediate reports after each project component is concluded or quarterly, whichever is less frequent.

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 desk and overseas officers of program need, potential impact, and significance in the partner country(ies).

#### 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 and the availability of funds. Awards made will be subject to periodic reporting and evaluation requirements.

#### Notification

Final awards cannot be made until funds have been appropriated by Congress, allocated and committed through internal USIA procedures. Applicants will be notified of the results of the review process on or about June 10, 1996.

Dated: November 7, 1995.

Dell Pendergrast,

*Deputy Associate Director, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.*

[FR Doc. 95-28342 Filed 11-15-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8230-01-M

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## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[Form Letter 40-12]

### Proposed Information Collection Activity; Public Comment Request: Gravesite Reservation Survey; Virginia

**AGENCY:** National Cemetery System, Department of Veterans Affairs.

**ACTION:** Notice.

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

**DATES:** Written comments and recommendations on the proposal for the collection of information should be received by January 16, 1996.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to George Vogel, National Cemetery System (403C), Department of Veterans Affairs, Washington, DC 20420. All comments will become a matter of public record and will be summarized in the NCS request for Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval. In this document NCS is soliciting comments concerning the following information collection:

*OMB Control Number:* 2900-0357.

*Title and Form Number:* Gravesite Reservation Survey, VA Form Letter 40-12.

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

*Need and Uses:* The form letter is used to determine whether individuals holding gravesite reservations in

national cemeteries wish to continue the reservation and whether their eligibility for the reservation has been affected.

*Current Actions:* From the late 1940's until January 1962, the Department of the Army allowed active duty servicepersons and surviving spouses of deceased veterans interred in national cemeteries to reserve gravesites for their interments. Recurring gravesite reservation surveys are necessary as some holders become ineligible, are buried elsewhere, or cancel their reservation; therefore, reserved gravesites would exist forever without use.

*Affected Public:* Individuals or households.

*Estimated Annual Burden:* 2,000 hours.

*Estimated Average Burden Per Respondent:* 12 minutes.

*Frequency of Response:* Biennially.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 10,000.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Requests for additional information or copies of the form should be directed to Department of Veterans Affairs, Attn: Ron Taylor, VA Clearance Officer (045A4), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420, telephone (202) 565-4412 or FAX (202) 565-8267.

Dated: November 7, 1995.

By direction of the Secretary:

Donald L. Neilson,

*Director, Information Management Service.*

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