

related work will now be conducted under the TCG.

BACKGROUND: The Land Transportation Standards Subcommittee (LTSS) was established by the North American Free Trade Agreement's (NAFTA) Committee on Standards-Related Measures to examine the land transportation regulatory regimes in the United States, Canada, and Mexico, and to seek to make certain standards more compatible. The Transportation Consultative Group (TCG) was formed by the three countries' departments of transportation to address non-standards-related issues that affect cross-border movements among the countries, but that are not included in the NAFTA.

The LTSS Working Group on Rail Safety Standards has completed its NAFTA-mandated work, and has determined that safety regulations for rail operating personnel involved in cross-border operations and for locomotives and other rail equipment are mostly compatible. The working group's final report is available for review at the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) at the address below. A working group has been created under the TCG to analyze economic aspects of rail operations and to seek to increase compatibility of certain regulations not covered by the NAFTA's LTSS work program.

MEETINGS AND DEADLINES: The third annual joint LTSS/TCG plenary session will be held June 17-20, 1996, at the Holiday Inn On-the-Bay, 1355 North Harbor Drive, San Diego, California. All LTSS and TCG working groups (with the exception of the TCG working group on Maritime & Ports Policy) will meet during the same week and at the same location. The following working groups continue to operate under the LTSS: Compliance, Driver and Vehicle Standards; Vehicle Weights and Dimensions; Traffic Control Devices for Highways; and Hazardous Materials Standards. Five working groups operate under the TCG: Cross-Border Operations and Facilitation; Rail Safety and Economic Issues; Automated Data Exchange; Science and Technology; and Maritime and Ports Policy.

Also at the same San Diego site, on June 18, from 9:00 a.m. to noon, a listening session will be held for representatives of the truck, bus, rail, and chemical manufacturing industries, transportation labor unions, brokers and shippers, public safety advocates, and others who have notified us of their interest to attend and have submitted copies of their presentations, in English and Spanish, to the address below by May 24. This is an opportunity for

presenters to voice their concerns, provide technical information, and offer suggestions relevant to achieving greater standards compatibility and improving cross-border trade.

A briefing to report on the outcome of the San Diego meetings will be conducted at DOT at the address below, in Room 9230, on July 23, from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Interested parties may notify DOT of their interest to attend this briefing by calling the phone number listed below by July 16.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: LTSS-related documents, including working group reports and statements received by DOT from industry associations, transportation labor unions, public safety advocates, and others, will be available for review in Docket no. OST-95-246, at the address below, Room PL-401, between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., e.s.t., Monday through Friday, except national holidays.

Address and Phone Numbers

Individuals and organizations interested in participating in the listening session may send notice of their interest and copies of their presentations to Ronald Taylor, U.S. Department of Transportation, OST/X-20, Room 10300, 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20590. Respondents may also send information by fax at (202) 366-7417.

For additional information, call (202) 366-2892.

Dated: April 29, 1996.
Nancy K. MacRae,
Acting Director, Office of International Transportation and Trade.
[FR Doc. 96-10934 Filed 5-1-96; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4910-62-P

Federal Aviation Administration

Deadline for Submission of Application for Airport Grant Funds Under the Airport Improvement Program (AIP) for Fiscal Year 1996

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) announces June 30, 1996, as the deadline for having on file with the FAA an acceptable application for airport grant funds under the Airport Improvement Program (AIP) for fiscal year 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Stanley Lou, Manager, Programming Branch, Airports Financial Assistance Division, Office of Airport Planning and

Programming, APP-520, on (202) 267-8809.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 47105(f) of the Codification of Certain U.S. Transportation Laws as Title 49, United States Code, Public Law No. 103-272, (July 5, 1994), provides that the sponsor of each airport to which entitlement funds are apportioned shall notify the Secretary, by such time and in a form as prescribed by the Secretary, of the sponsor's intent to apply for passenger and cargo entitlement funds. Notification of the sponsor's intent to apply during fiscal year 1996 for any of its entitlement funds, including those unused from prior years, shall be in the form of a project application (SF 424) submitted to the FAA field office no later than June 30, 1996.

This notice is promulgated to expedite and prioritize grants in the final quarter of the fiscal year. Absent an acceptable application by June 30, FAA intends to defer an airport's entitlement funds until the next fiscal year.

Issued in Washington, D.C., April 25, 1996.
Stan Lou,

Manager, Programming Branch.

[FR Doc. 96-10970 Filed 5-1-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-13-M

UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY

Training Programs in Bosnia, Request for Proposals; Notice

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 media and parliamentary training programs for Bosnia. Projects should include both in-country and U.S. training programs for professionals in the above-mentioned fields.

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 Exchanges appropriation.

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-96-35.

DEADLINE FOR PROPOSALS: All copies must be received at the U.S. Information Agency by 5 p.m. Washington, D.C. time on Friday, June 14, 1996. Faxed documents will not be accepted, nor will documents postmarked June 7, 1996, but received at a later date. It is the responsibility of each applicant to ensure the proposals are received by the above deadline.

Grants should begin after September 9, 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: The Office of Citizen Exchanges, European Division, Room 224, U.S. Information Agency, 301 4th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20547, telephone (202) 619-5319, fax (202) 619-4350, Internet 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.

TO DOWNLOAD A SOLICITATION PACKAGE VIA INTERNET: The Solicitation Package may be downloaded from USIA's website at <http://www.usia.gov/> or from the Internet Gopher at [gopher://gopher.usia.gov](http://gopher.usia.gov). Select "Education and Cultural Exchanges", then select "Current Request for Proposals (RFPs)." Please read "About the Following RFPs" before beginning to download.

Please specify USIA Program Officer Christina Miner on all inquiries and correspondences. 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 application should be sent to:

U.S. Information Agency, Ref.: E/P-96-35, Office of Grants Management, E/XE, Room 326, 301 4th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20547

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.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Overview

Proposals must focus on one of the following topics:

Media Training

Programs in this general topic should fall under one or more of three sub-categories: journalistic training (both print and broadcast); management of media organizations; and/or government/press relations. Media projects should include cities outside of Sarajevo.

Journalistic training should emphasize skills such as effective writing, investigative reporting, objectivity, evaluation of sources, clear labeling of editorials and opinion pieces, conformance to copyright laws, and ethics.

Media management training should focus on management of media as a profitable business. Topics to be addressed might include management techniques, desk top publishing, sales, and advertising, marketing, distribution, staff development, and accountability.

Public affairs training should cover the relationship between journalists and spokespersons for political parties and/or government agencies. Following the Fall elections the interaction between both national and municipal government spokespersons and the media will be critical to the development of democracy.

Parliamentary Training

Training should focus on the administration and structure of a parliamentary government. The role of support offices, the structure of

parliamentary committees and parliamentary procedures and process, including the basics of drafting legislation, should all be addressed. These projects may be regional in focus.

Guidelines

Projects must be two-way exchanges and include in-country workshops, consultations, and U.S.-based training (including internships, where possible).

University faculty are invited to work as project directors; however, the U.S.-based training should include professional development and the Bosnian participants should be professionals working in the fields of media or government.

Exchange programs for students or faculty or proposals that request support for the development of university curricula or for degree-based programs are 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/AE) under the University Affiliation Program and should not be submitted in response to this RFP.

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.

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

Funding

Proposals for less than \$135,000 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 sub-budgets for each program component, phase, location, or activity in order to facilitate USIA decisions on funding.

Allowable costs for the program 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 \$140/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. If needed, interpreters for the U.S. program may be 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 capital 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.

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 program office, as well as the USIA Office of Eastern European and NIS Affairs and the USIA post overseas, where appropriate. Proposals may 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

Technical 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 and logistical capacity. 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 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 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. 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.

Dated: April 23, 1996.

Dell Pendergrast,

Deputy Associate Director for Educational and Cultural Affairs.

[FR Doc. 96-10596 Filed 5-1-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8230-01-M

**United States Information Agency
Regional Scholar Exchange Program
With the New Independent States;
Freedom Support Act Fellowships in
Contemporary Issues**

ACTION: Notice—Request for proposals.

SUMMARY: The Office of Academic Programs, Academic Exchanges Division, European Programs Branch of the United States Information Agency's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs announces an open competition for two assistance awards. Public and private non-profit organizations with at least four years of experience in conducting international exchange programs with the New Independent States and meeting the provisions described in IRS regulation 26 CFR 1.501(c)(3)-1 may apply to develop and administer one or both of the following two categories of academic exchange programs:

Category A: USIA Regional Scholar Exchange Program with the New Independent States for approximately 60 to 70 pre-doctoral and/or post-doctoral scholars, researchers, and university faculty in the social sciences and humanities who are citizens of Armenia, Azerbaijan*, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan and for approximately 10 pre- and/or post-doctoral scholars, researchers, and university faculty in the social sciences and humanities who are citizens of the United States.

Category B: FREEDOM Support Act Fellowships in Contemporary Issues for approximately 60 to 70 highly qualified policymakers, public, private, and third sector professionals, and scholars with advanced degrees—Kandidat preferred—who are citizens of Armenia, Azerbaijan*, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan and who are professionally engaged in the building of democracy, free markets, and a civil society in their countries in the post-Soviet era. Interested organizations should read the complete Federal Register announcement and request a Solicitation Package from USIA prior to preparing a proposal.

*Please note: Programs with Azerbaijan are subject to the restrictions of Section 907 of the Freedom Support Act of 1992: Employees of the Government of Azerbaijan or any of its instrumentalities are excluded from participation and no U.S. participant overseas may work for the Government of Azerbaijan or any of its instrumentalities.

The goals and objectives of both the USIA Regional Scholar Exchange Program with the NIS and the FREEDOM Support Act Fellowships in Contemporary Issues are to empower outstanding citizens of the countries of the NIS and U.S. to: (1) Obtain access to the resource materials and specialists of the host country so that they can conduct the specific research proposed in their applications; (2) Deliver lectures, make presentations, and write articles, books, policy papers, reports, and/or produce other materials that advance the state of knowledge and practice in their fields in their home countries and institutions; (3) Promote long-term collaborative research projects and cooperation between U.S. and NIS scholars and practitioners.

For both categories, participants from the NIS must demonstrate a high level of fluency in written and spoken English at a level appropriate to achieve the goals and objectives of the program. Participants from the U.S. must demonstrate a high level of fluency in written and spoken Russian and/or another language of the NIS in order to conduct research at NIS host institutions. Escort interpreters will not be provided, nor funded by USIA.

Both categories are open, merit-based competitions that must be conducted nationally in the home countries of the applicants and all applicants must be working or studying in their home countries at the time of application and selection. The fellowship periods for both categories must be for a minimum of three months (or the equivalent of one academic semester), but must not exceed a maximum of eight months (or the equivalent of one academic year). For both categories, all participants must be affiliated with universities, research institutes, or other organizations in the host country which have specialists and resources in the field of the fellows' research. All participants must be matched with a host advisor who serves as a research mentor and guides their professional development during the fellowship. Applicants who have participated in a USIA-funded academic exchange program after June 1994 are not eligible to receive fellowships in either category.

Each category has separate conditions and requirements which are stated in this announcement and detailed in the

full Solicitation Package. Organizations may apply for an assistance award for one or both categories, but must submit a separate proposal and budget for each category. Organizations that apply for assistance awards in both categories are strongly encouraged to craft each proposal and budget in an innovative way that maximizes resources, streamlines program and administrative operations, and achieves economies of scale for the program and administrative activities, practices, and procedures which are common to both categories.

Organizations which wish to work in partnership on one or both categories may apply as a consortia, but must submit one proposal and one budget for each category. All proposals from consortia must identify a lead organization and cite the specific duties, responsibilities, division of labor, and budget for all members of the consortia as well as subcontracts from a lead organization to each member of the consortia.

USIA anticipates awarding one assistance award for each category cited in this announcement. Grants awarded to organizations through this competition must begin no earlier than August 1, 1996 and must be completed by July 31, 1998. USIA expects that NIS participants will begin their U.S. programs as a group in late January 1997 and in late August 1997. However, in instances when it is feasible and advisable, some NIS participants may begin their U.S. programs at other appropriate times during the grant period. USIA expects that U.S. participants will begin their NIS programs at various and appropriate times in 1997 and 1998. At the end of their fellowships, all participants are required to return to their home countries so that they can begin to apply the knowledge, skills, and insights gained as a result of their academic exchange experience.

Overall grantmaking authority for the USIA Regional Scholar Exchange Program for the New Independent States 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