

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 program office, as well as the USIA Office of African 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

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: Proposal should exhibit quality, rigor, and appropriateness of proposed syllabus to the academic objectives of the Institute. Proposal should demonstrate effective use of community and regional resources to enhance the cultural and educational experiences of participants.

2. Program planning: Relevant work plan and detailed calendar should demonstrate substantive undertakings and logistical capacity. Plan and calendar should adhere to the program overview and guidelines described above.

3. Institutional capacity: Proposed personnel and institutional resources should be adequate and appropriate to achieve a substantive academic EFL program and effective cross-cultural communication with African participants. Proposals should show evidence of strong on-site administrative capabilities with specific discussion of how logistical arrangements will be undertaken.

4. Multiplier effect/impact: Proposed program should contribute to long-term, mutual understanding and sharing of information about Africa among Americans, as well as to the understanding and knowledge of the U.S. among the African participants.

5. Support of diversity: Proposals should demonstrate the recipient's

commitment to promoting the awareness and understanding of diversity. Program administrators should strive for diversity among Institute staff, university students, and the host community who interact with participants.

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

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 Summer Institute's success, both as the activities unfold and at the end of the program.

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.

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: February 24, 1997.

Dell Pendergrast,

Deputy Associate Director for Educational and Cultural Affairs.

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Veterans' Advisory Committee on Rehabilitation; Notice of Availability of Annual Report

Under Section 10(b) and Section 13 of Public Law 92-463 (Federal Advisory Committee Act), notice is hereby given that the Veterans' Advisory Committee on Rehabilitation Annual report for Fiscal Year 1995 has been issued.

The report summarizes activities of the Group relative to VA's rehabilitation program. It is available for inspection at two locations:

Federal Documents Section, Exchange and Gift Division, LM 632, Library of Congress, Washington, DC 20540 and

Department of Veterans Affairs, Vocational Rehabilitation and Counseling Service (28), 1800 G St. N.W., Room 501, Washington, DC 20420

Dated February 19, 1997.

By Direction of the Secretary.

Heyward Bannister,

Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 97-4827 Filed 2-26-97; 8:45 am]

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VA Innovations in Nursing Advisory Committee; Notice of Meeting

As required by section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) hereby gives notice that the second meeting of the VA Innovations in Nursing Advisory Committee will be held March 3-4, 1997, in Room C7 at VA Headquarters, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC. The March 3, 1997, session will convene at 9:00 a.m. and adjourn at 4:30 p.m. The March 4, 1997, session will convene at 8:00 a.m. and adjourn at 3:00 p.m.

The purpose of the committee is to study and formulate recommendations to the Under Secretary for Health on how VA can generally promote and support health care innovations in which nurses play key leadership and clinical roles and which promote VHA's reengineering efforts.