

4. *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.

5. *Institutional Capacity*: Proposed personnel and institutional resources should be adequate and appropriate to achieve the program or project's goals. The narrative should demonstrate proven ability to handle logistics. Proposal should reflect the institution's expertise in the subject area and knowledge of the country.

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

7. *Project Evaluation*: Proposals should include a plan and methodology 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 draft survey questionnaire and/or plan for use of another measurement technique (such as a focus group) to link outcomes to original project objectives. Award-receiving organizations/institutions will be expected to submit intermediate reports after each project component is concluded or quarterly, whichever is less frequent.

8. *Cost-effectiveness/cost sharing*: The overhead and administrative components of the proposal, including salaries, honoraria, and subcontracts for services, should be kept as low as possible. All other items should be necessary and appropriate. 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.

[FR Doc. 97-4845 Filed 2-26-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8230-01-M

Summer Institute for EFL Educators From Francophone and Lusophone Sub-Saharan Africa

ACTION: Notice; Request for Proposals.

SUMMARY: The Office of Academic Programs, Academic Exchanges Division, Africa Branch of the United States Information Agency's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs announces an open competition for an assistance award. Accredited, post-secondary educational institutions meeting the provisions described in IRS regulation 26 CFR 1.501(c)(3)-1 may apply to develop a Summer Institute for English-as-a-Foreign-Language (EFL) Educators from Francophone and Lusophone Sub-Saharan Africa. The Summer Institute will provide a six-week academic training/development program in English-as-a-Foreign-Language for 16 teacher trainers/educators and supervisors/inspectors of secondary schools selected from sixteen French and Portuguese-speaking countries of Sub-Saharan Africa.

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/AEA-97-02.

DEADLINE FOR PROPOSALS: All copies must be received at the U.S. Information Agency by 5 p.m. Washington, DC time on Thursday, April 3, 1997. Faxed documents will not be accepted, nor will documents postmarked April 3, 1997, but received at a later date. It is the responsibility of each applicant to ensure that proposals are received by the above deadline.

The Summer Institute for EFL Educators should be programmed to encompass about 45 days and should begin between June 15, 1997, and July 13, 1997, depending on the host institution's academic calendar. No funds may be expended until a grant agreement is signed with USIA's Office of Contracts.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: The Office of Academic Programs, Academic Exchanges Division, Africa Branch (E/AEA), Ann J. Martin, Program Officer, Room 232, U.S. Information Agency, 301 4th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20547, phone: 202-619-5371, fax: 202-619-6137, or e-mail: amartin@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 entire Solicitation Package may be downloaded from USIA's website at <http://www.usia.gov/education/rfps>. Please read the information provided before downloading.

TO RECEIVE A SOLICITATION PACKAGE BY FAX: The entire solicitation package may be requested via the Bureau's Grants Information "Fax on Demand" System which is accessed by calling 202/401-7616. The 'Table of Contents' containing document order numbers should be the first document requested.

Please specify USIA Program Officer Ann J. Martin 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 7 copies of the application should be sent to: U.S. Information Agency, Ref.: E/AEA-97-02, Office of Grants Management, E/XE,

Room 326, 301 4th Street, SW.,
Washington, DC 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:

Program Overview

The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the United States Information Agency (USIA) solicits proposals for a Summer Institute for English-as-a-Foreign-Language (EFL) Educators from Francophone and Lusophone Sub-Saharan Africa. The Summer Institute will provide a six-week academic training/development program in English-as-a-Foreign-Language, incorporating a U.S. cultural and educational experience, for 16 teacher trainers/educators and supervisors/inspectors of secondary schools selected from sixteen French and Portuguese-speaking countries of Sub-Saharan Africa. Subject to availability of funds, one grant will be awarded to conduct the 1997 Institute.

USIA asks for detailed proposals from U.S. institutions of higher education which have an acknowledged reputation in the field of training teachers of English-as-a-foreign-language, special expertise in handling cross-cultural programs, and experience with educational systems in Sub-Saharan Africa and African educators.

Note: Applicant organizations should demonstrate a proven record (at least four years) of experience in international exchange.

The general objective in the Institute is to support and encourage the upgrading of the teaching of English at secondary school level in French and Portuguese-speaking African countries. The specific objectives of the 1997 Institute are to develop skills of training, supervising, and evaluating teachers of EFL; to explore ways to introduce and/or adapt current EFL teaching methods and materials to local conditions in

African countries, and to foster leadership capabilities.

Guidelines

The proposal should be designed to support the following specific activities:

(a) A five-week academic program with emphasis on developing the capacities of teacher trainers/educators and supervisors/inspectors to train, supervise, and evaluate teachers of EFL; to introduce and/or adapt current EFL teaching methods and materials to local conditions in African countries; and to assume leadership roles in their national EFL education systems. Detailed academic objectives are set forth in the Solicitation Package.

(b) Cultural activities facilitating interaction among the African participants, American students, faculty, and administrators and the local community to promote mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of African countries, planned with the five-week academic program.

(c) A one-week, escorted, cultural and educational tour of Washington, D.C., complementing and reinforcing the academic material.

(d) Follow-on communication among participants and the U.S. institution to continue exchanges of ideas developed during the Institute.

(e) Assistance to participants to select, purchase and ship EFL materials, to use in follow-on activities and training projects in their home countries.

Participants will be selected by USIA, based on nominations from USIA offices overseas. Minimum qualifications for all participants will be the equivalent of BA/BS degrees from their national education systems. Participants will enter the United States on J-visas, using IAP-66 forms issued by USIA offices in the home country.

The U.S. institution should plan to conduct an initial needs assessment of participants and should be prepared to adjust program emphasis as necessary to respond to participants' concerns for EFL education. Specific areas to address in the five-week academic program follow:

1. New/current EFL teaching methodologies and approaches (theory and practice).
2. Comprehensive coverage of classroom pedagogical issues and classroom management skills (including special focus on large classes).
3. Teacher observation and evaluation practices.
4. Designing and conducting in-service training programs and workshops for teachers.
5. Leadership training.

6. The introduction and/or adaptation of existing EFL materials to local conditions in African countries and general materials development procedures.

7. Development of local/regional professional EFL associations.

8. Introduction to Internet (WWW and e-mail) for professional networking and development.

Few participants will have visited the United States previously. In view of this, an initial orientation to the host institution community and an introduction to U.S. society and system of education should be considered an integral part of the Institute.

Management of the academic program, the cultural tour and on-site arrangements will be the responsibility of the Institute grantee. The host institution is responsible for arrangements for lodging, food, maintenance and local travel for participants while at the host institution and in Washington. USIA will arrange participants' international travel. USIA will provide the host institution with participants' curricula vitae and travel itineraries and will be available to offer guidance throughout the Institute.

Proposed Budget

Applicants must submit a comprehensive line-item 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. The cost to USIA for the Summer Institute for EFL Educators from Francophone and Lusophone Africa should not exceed \$95,000. Grants awarded to eligible organizations with less than four years of experience in conducting international exchange programs will be limited to \$60,000.

Allowable costs for the program include the following:

- (1) Instructional costs (for example: instructors' salaries, honoraria for outside speakers, educational course materials);
 - (2) Lodging, meals, and incidentals for participants;
 - (3) Expenses associated with cultural activities planned for the group of participants (for example: tickets, transportation);
 - (4) Administrative costs as necessary.
- Proposals should maximize cost-sharing through private sector support as well as institutional direct funding contributions.

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.

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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.

[FR Doc. 97-4846 Filed 2-26-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8230-01-M

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]

BILLING CODE 8320-01-M

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.