

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 East Asian and Pacific 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:* Proposals should exhibit originality, substance, precision, and relevance to Agency mission.

2. *Program planning/ability to achieve program objectives:* 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. Proposals should clearly demonstrate how the institution will meet the program's objectives and plan.

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. *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).

5. *Institutional capacity/record:* Proposed personnel and institutional resources should be adequate and appropriate to achieve the program or project's goals. 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.

6. *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.

7. *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.

8. *Cost-effectiveness/Cost-sharing:* 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. Proposals should maximize cost-sharing.

9. *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.

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 21, 1997.

Dell Pendergrast,

Deputy Associate Director for Educational and Cultural Affairs.

[FR Doc. 97-10612 Filed 4-23-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8230-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Associated Health Professions Review Subcommittee of the Special Medical Advisory Group; Meeting

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) gives notice that a meeting of the Associated Health Professions Review Subcommittee of the Special Medical Advisory Group will be held May 12 and 13, 1997. This subcommittee is established to review and recommend changes in Veterans Health Administration's (VHA) role and priorities in education and training, specifically with reference to the use of associated health professionals in the delivery of healthcare. Associated health disciplines are defined as all healthcare providers other than physicians. The meeting on both days will be held at the Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Room 830, Washington, DC. The meeting will convene on May 12 from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m. and on May 13 from 8:30 a.m. until approximately 3 p.m.

On May 12, the subcommittee will review sections one through four of the draft report (Introduction, the Under Secretary for Health's Vision, Rationale for Education Programs for Associated Health Professions, and Assumptions Underlying the Committee Recommendations) and review information from professional/accrediting organizations' questionnaire. During break-out groups, the subcommittee will develop strategies to resolve the differences between emerging themes of the subcommittee and responses from the professional/accrediting organizations.

On May 13, there will be a presentation and then group discussion about patient-focused care and associated health education as they are delivered at Henry Ford Health System in Detroit, Michigan. During afternoon break-out groups, preliminary report recommendations will be developed and reported back to the subcommittee.

The meetings will be open to the public. Those who plan to attend or who have questions concerning the meeting should contact Linda Johnson, Ph.D., R.N., Acting Director, Associated Health Professions Office (143), at 202.273.8372.

Dated: April 16, 1997.

By direction of the Secretary.

Heyward Bannister,

Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 97-10563 Filed 4-23-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8320-01-M