

(20) with a semi-colon(;) and add the following text:

ROUTINE USES OF RECORDS MAINTAINED IN THE SYSTEM, INCLUDING CATEGORIES OF USERS AND THE PURPOSES OF SUCH USES:

* * *

“(21) Respond to state and local authorities for support garnishment interrogatories; and

(22) Provide information to private creditors for the purpose of garnishment of wages of an employee if a debt has been reduced to a judgement.”

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[FR Doc. 97-26160 Filed 10-1-97; 8:45am]

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UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY

College and University Affiliations Program (CUAP)

ACTION: Notice—request for proposals.

SUMMARY: The Office of Academic Programs of the United States Information Agency's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs announces an open competition for an assistance award program. Accredited, post-secondary educational institutions meeting the provisions described in IRS regulation 26 CFR 1.501 (c) may apply to develop a partnership with (a) foreign institution(s) of higher education in specified fields and themes within the humanities and social sciences.

Awards will be made to support democratic institution-building and/or civic education.

A second Request for Proposals in this issue of the **Federal Register** solicits proposals in support of free trade and market economies, and/or the environment and sustainable development.

Grants are subject to the availability of funds for Fiscal year 1998.

Proposed projects must be eligible in terms of country(ies)/localities and themes as described in the section entitled "Eligibility" below.

Participating institutions exchange faculty and administrators for a combination of teaching, lecturing, faculty and curriculum development, collaborative research, and outreach, for periods ranging from one week (for planning visits) to an academic year. The FY 98 program will also support the establishment and maintenance of Internet and/or e-mail communication facilities as well as interactive distance learning programs at foreign partner institutions. Applicants may propose

other project activities not listed above that are in keeping with the goals and activities of the College and University Affiliations Program.

The program awards up to \$120,000 for a three-year period to defray the cost of travel and per diem with an allowance for educational materials and some aspects of project administration. Grants awarded to organizations with less than four years of experience in conducting international exchange programs will be limited to \$60,000.

Overall grant-making authority for this program is contained in the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961, Pub. L. 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*.

Projects must conform with Agency requirements and guidelines outlined in the Solicitation Package. The POGI, a document describing College and University Affiliation Project Objectives, Goals, and Implementation, is included in the Solicitation Package.

Announcement Title and Number: All communications with USIA concerning this announcement should refer to the College and University Affiliations Program and reference number E/ASU-98-02.

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 16, 1998. Faxed documents will not be accepted, nor will documents postmarked on Jan. 16, 1998, but received on a later date. It is the responsibility of each applicant to ensure compliance with the deadline.

Approximate program dates: Grants should begin on or about September 1, 1998.

Duration: September 1, 1998–August 31, 2001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Office of Academic Programs; Advising, Teaching, and Specialized Programs Division; College and University Affiliations Program (CUAP), (E/ASU), Room 349, U.S. Information Agency,

301 4th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20547, phone: (202) 619-5289, fax: (202) 401-1433. Send a message via Internet to: affiliat@usia.gov to request a Solicitation Package. The Solicitation Package includes more detailed award criteria; all application forms; and 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 all information before downloading.

To Receive a Solicitation Package via Fax On Demand: The entire Solicitation Package may be received via the Bureau's "Grants Information Fax on Demand System," which is accessed by calling 202/401-7616. Please request a "Catalog" of available documents and order numbers when first entering the system.

Please specify "College and University Affiliations Program Officer" on all inquiries and correspondence. Prospective applicants should read the complete **Federal Register** announcement before addressing inquiries to the College and University Affiliations Program staff or submitting their 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 10 copies of the complete application, including the documents specified under Tabs A through I in the "Project Objectives, Goals, and Imposition" (POGI) section of the Solicitation Package, should be sent to: U.S. Information Agency, Ref: E/ASU-98-02, Office of Grants Management, E/XE, Room 326, 301 4th St., S.W., Washington, D.C. 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 U.S. Information Service (USIS) posts overseas for their review, with the goal of reducing the time it takes to get posts' comments for the Agency's grant review process.

Diversity, Freedom and Democracy Guidelines

Pursuant to the Bureau's authorizing legislation, projects 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. Public Law 104-319 provides that "in carrying out programs of educational and cultural exchange in countries whose people do not fully enjoy freedom and democracy," USIA "shall take appropriate steps to provide opportunities for participation in such programs to human rights and democracy leaders of such countries." Proposals should account for advancement of this goal, in their program contents, to the full extent deemed feasible.

Eligibility

U.S. Partner and Participant Eligibility

In the U.S., participation in the program is open to accredited two- and four-year colleges and universities, including graduate schools. Applications from consortia of U.S. colleges and universities are eligible. Secondary U.S. partners may include relevant non-governmental organizations, non-profit service or professional organizations. The lead U.S. institution in the consortium is responsible for submitting the application and each application from a consortium must document the lead school's stated authority to represent the consortium. Participants representing the U.S. institution who are traveling under USIA grant funds must be faculty, graduate teaching assistants, or staff from the participating institution(s) and must be U.S. citizens. Please note that graduate teaching assistants are eligible for USIA-funded participation only if working as part of a team directed by a faculty member.

Foreign Partner and Participant Eligibility

Overseas, participation is open to recognized, degree-granting institutions

of post-secondary education, which may include internationally recognized and established independent research institutes. Secondary foreign partners may include relevant governmental and non-governmental organizations, non-profit service or professional organizations. Participants representing the foreign institutions must be faculty, graduate teaching assistants, or staff who are citizens, nationals, or permanent residents of the country of the foreign partner and be qualified to hold a valid passport and U.S. J-1 visa. Please note that graduate teaching assistants are eligible for USIA-funded participation only if working as part of a team directed by a faculty member.

Ineligibility

A proposal will be deemed technically ineligible if:

- (1) It does not fully adhere to the guidelines established herein and in the Solicitation Package;
- (2) It is not received by the deadline;
- (3) The length of the proposed project is less than three years;
- (4) It is not submitted by the U.S. partner;
- (5) One of the partner institutions is ineligible;
- (6) The foreign geographic location is ineligible;
- (7) It involves a request to fund exchanges between the United States and more than one country, with the exception of trilateral North Africa, Near East, and South Asia (NEA) projects. Please see the section on eligible countries/localities for complete details;
- (8) The theme or academic discipline is not listed as eligible in the RFP, herein;
- (9) The amount requested of USIA exceeds \$120,000 for the three-year project.

Eligible Theme, Academic Disciplines, and Countries/localities

This Request for Proposals is limited to support for democratic institution building and/or civic education.

Please note the following explanatory details:

A. Eligible Academic Disciplines and Countries/Localities

Eligible academic disciplines and countries and localities are listed under each sub-theme. Only those countries or localities and partnership configurations identified under each sub-theme qualify. Specifics should be examined carefully before proposal preparation.

B. Inclusion of Area Studies

Area Studies are included as academic disciplines to engender a

broader cultural understanding and context in which to pursue a linkage project within the stated theme. Area Studies may be incorporated into a given project but only in conjunction with one or more of the other academic disciplines listed under the theme. Area Studies includes U.S. and partner country history, literature, and social sciences.

C. Bilateral Projects—Except for NEA Trilateral Linkages

In most instances, the program invites proposals for bilateral projects only, involving the U.S. and one foreign country (as specified) only. The only exceptions are Near East, North Africa, and South Asia (NEA) trilateral linkages.

Eligible Theme

Support of democratic institution-building and/or civic education.

Projects are solicited which promote democratic institution-building to encourage accountable governments and the rule of law, to strengthen political and economic stability and to protect both political rights and free market economies.

Within this context, affiliation projects should help build democratic institutions, promote the development of civil societies and civic education, and increase expertise in the rule of law and the administration of justice through faculty and curriculum development, teaching and lecturing, and outreach. It is anticipated that exchange participants involved in cross-cultural democracy-building partnerships will generate ideas and projects which will contribute to modernization and development in the higher education community, public policy arena, NGOs, government, and the media.

USIA has a particular interest in reviewing proposals whose goal is to nurture the culture of democracy by focusing on the role of civic education in a democratic society.

A linkage project incorporating a focus on participation in civil society (in which citizens—in addition to working with the government—organize to resolve national problems rather than leaving them to the government to resolve), and on civic education (to prepare them for competent and responsible participation in local, state, and national civic and political life) might include such topics as: the philosophy of democratic institutions; the philosophy and goals of public and private education; the role of citizen behavior and social responsibility in a democracy; the role of volunteerism,

public interest groups, and major players such as public and private schools, government, religious institutions, public libraries, private organizations, and parents. A civic education linkage might also address political practices such as the balance of individual rights and group rights; reconciliation and compromise within the democratic process; the philosophy and practice of majority rule and minority rights.

Projects promoting civil society and civic education may combine one or more of the academic disciplines listed below in order to pursue an affiliation whose activities are those of the overall College and University Affiliations Program—namely teaching, lecturing, faculty development, curriculum development (e.g., for teacher training), collaborative research, and community outreach.

Eligible Academic Disciplines

(1) For Law Projects

Law (may include Constitutional, Comparative, Administrative, Regulatory, and Civil Law, Conflict Resolution, and Intellectual Property Rights)

Political Science/Government/Public Policy/Public Administration Area Studies (in combination with one or more of the academic fields listed here)

(2) For Media Projects

Journalism (Broadcast, Print, Electronic) Communications Law Area Studies (in combination with one or more of the academic fields listed here)

(3) For Projects in Civic Education

Secondary-Level Curriculum Development and Teacher Training
Sociology
Government
History
Social Studies Education
Area Studies (in combination with one or more of the academic fields listed here)

Eligible Countries/Localities

Africa: Ethiopia, Ghana, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, and Uganda;
American Republics: Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic (All projects for the preceding countries are limited to Civic Education and Law); Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, and Uruguay.

Priority will be given to proposals that focus on civic education, ethics in government, grassroots democracy and

citizen participation, women and leadership, the administration of justice, judicial reform, and alternative dispute resolution.

East Asia and Pacific: China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, South Korea (all projects for the preceding countries are limited to Civic Education and Law); Taiwan (Media projects only); Vietnam (Civic Education only);

East Europe, Central Europe, and the New Independent States: Armenia (Civic Education and Media projects only), Bosnia (Media projects only), Estonia, Georgia, Latvia, Moldova (Law only), and Slovakia;

North Africa, Near East, and South Asia: The following are eligible for bilateral or trilateral affiliations: Bahrain, Bangladesh, Gaza, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Morocco, Nepal, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Sri Lanka, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, West Bank, Yemen;

Lebanon: USIA welcomes proposals for bilateral linkages in Lebanon which include the use of distance education and/or Internet to facilitate two-way communication since, at this writing, only one-way travel (from Lebanon to the United States) is currently advisable.

Notice

The terms and conditions published in this RFP are binding and may not be modified by an 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: September 27, 1997.

John P. Loiello,

Associate Director for Educational and Cultural Affairs.

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