

present a written statement to the committee at any time.

Issued in Washington, DC, on December 31, 1997.

Janice L. Peters,

Designated Official.

[FR Doc. 98-452 Filed 1-7-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-13-M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

Notice of Intent to Rule on Application to Impose and Use the Revenue From a Passenger Facility Charge (PFC) at Corpus Christi International Airport, Corpus Christi, Texas

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of intent to rule on application.

SUMMARY: The FAA proposes to rule and invites public comment on the application to impose and use the revenue from a PFC at Corpus Christi International Airport under the provisions of the Aviation Safety and Capacity Expansion Act of 1990 (Title IX of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990) (Pub. L. 101-508) and Part 158 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR part 158). **DATES:** Comments must be received on or before February 9, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Comments on this application may be mailed or delivered in triplicate copies to the FAA at the following address: Mr. Ben Guttery, Federal Aviation Administration, Southwest Region, Airports Division, Planning and Programming Branch, ASW-610D, Fort Worth, Texas 76193-0610.

In addition, one copy of any comments submitted to the FAA must be mailed or delivered to Ms. Bonnie Allin, Director of Aviation, at the following address: Ms. Bonnie Allin, Director of Aviation, City of Corpus Christi, 1000 International Drive, Corpus Christi, Texas 78406-1801.

Air carriers and foreign air carriers may submit copies of the written comments previously provided to the Airport under Section 158.23 of part 158.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Ben Guttery, Federal Aviation Administration, Southwest Region, Airports Division, Planning and Programming Branch, ASW-610D, Fort Worth, Texas 76193-0610, (817) 222-5614.

The application may be reviewed in person at this same location.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The FAA proposes to rule and invites public comment on the application to impose and use the revenue from a PFC at Corpus Christi International Airport under the provisions of the Aviation Safety and Capacity Expansion Act of 1990 (Title IX of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990) (Pub. L. 101-508) and part 158 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR part 158).

On December 15, 1997, the FAA determined that the application to compose and use the revenue from a PFC submitted by the Airport was substantially complete within the requirements of Section 158.25 of part 158. The FAA will approve or disapprove the application, in whole or in part, no later than April 18, 1998.

The following is a brief overview of the application.

Level of the proposed PFC: \$3.00.

Proposed charge effective date: April 1, 1998.

Proposed charge expiration date: March 1, 2017.

Total estimated PFC revenue: \$33,887,996.00.

PFC application number: 98-02-C-00-CRP.

Brief description of proposed projects:

Projects to Impose and Use PFC'S

1. Lighting Control (EMCS)
2. ADA Compliance/Safety Enhancement
3. Canopy Expansion and Enhancement
4. Structural Repair to Terminal Building
5. Land Acquisition Environmental Assessment
6. Airport Planning Studies
7. Runway 17-35 Rehabilitation
8. Runway 13-31 Repairs/Drainage
9. Landside Roadway System Reconstruction
10. Runway 13-31 Extension Environmental Assessment
11. Airfield Drainage Improvements
12. Airfield Equipment Storage Facility
13. Airfield Lighting Monitoring and Control System
14. Aircraft Rescue Firefighting (ARFF) Improvements
15. Commercial Apron Rehabilitation
16. Commercial Apron Expansion
17. Access Control System Replacement
18. Taxiway G Lighting and Paving and West GA Apron
19. Taxiway F Extension
20. Aircraft Rescue Vehicle
21. Vacuum Sweeper
22. Passenger Lift Device
23. PFC Program Formulation Costs
24. Environmental Assessment (Stormwater)

Proposed class or classes of air carriers to be exempted from collecting PFC's:

FAR part 135 air charter operators who operate aircraft with a seating capacity of less than 10 passengers.

Any person may inspect the application in person at the FAA office listed above under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** and at the FAA regional Airports office located at: Federal Aviation Administration, Southwest Region, Airports Division, Planning and Programming Branch, ASW-610D, 2601 Meacham Blvd., Fort Worth, Texas 76137-4298.

In addition, any person may, upon request, inspect the application, notice and other documents germane to the application in person at Corpus Christi International Airport.

Issued in Fort Worth, Texas on December 16, 1997.

Naomi L. Saunders,

Manager, Airports Division.

[FR Doc. 98-454 Filed 1-7-98; 8:45 am]

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UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY

Foreign Language and Area Studies—U.S. Students and Scholars; Request for Proposals

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. Public and private non-profit organizations meeting the provisions described in IRS regulation 26 CFR 1.501(c) may apply to develop and administer programs in cooperation with USIA that will assist U.S. citizens who are graduate students and postdoctoral scholars and who have a new or established interest in North African, Middle Eastern and South Asian studies. Activities permitted under this program include foreign language training, foreign area studies and foreign area research for periods ranging from two to twenty-four months abroad.

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 Near and Middle East Research and Training Act (Pub. L. 102-138, Section 228 as amended by Pub. L. 103-236, Section 233).

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.

For the purpose of this program, the geographic area refers to the region consisting of countries and peoples covered by the Bureau of Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs of the U.S. Department of State as of October, 1991, and Turkey.

Current eligible locales for overseas research are: Mauritania, Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, Israel, the West Bank and Gaza, Jordan, Syria, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Oman, Oatar, Yemen, Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Nepal.

Individual NMERTA grantees are required to provide proof of insurance to the grant-making organizations before fellowship funds can be released. Health and accident, MEDEVAC and repatriation insurance is strongly recommended.

Announcement Title and Number

All communications with USIA concerning this announcement should refer to the annual NMERTA open competition. The announcement number E/AEN-98-01. Please refer to title and number in all correspondence or telephone calls to USIA.

Deadline for Proposals

All copies must be received at the U.S. Information Agency by 5 p.m. Washington, D.C. time on Friday, March 6, 1998. Faxed documents will not be accepted, nor will documents postmarked March 6, 1998 but received at a later date. It is the responsibility of each applicant to ensure that proposals are received by the above deadline. Grants should begin no earlier than September 1, 1998 and no later than September 30, 1998 and end no later than 24 months thereafter.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Patricia Spann or John Sedlins in the Academic Exchange Program Division, North Africa, Middle East and South Asia branch, E/AEN, Room 212, U.S. Information Agency, 301 4th Street,

S.W., Washington, D.C. 20547, telephone number (202) 619-5368, fax number (202) 205-2466, Internet address PSPANNN@USIA.GOV or JSEDLINS@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 all information before beginning to download.

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 "Table of Contents" of available documents when first entering the system. This will provide order numbers for items pertaining to this request for proposals.

Please specify USIA Program Assistant Patricia Spann 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 7 copies of the application should be sent to: U.S. Information Agency, Ref.: E/AEN-98-01—Annual NMERTA Open Competition, Office of Grants Management, E/XE, Room 326, 301 4th Street, 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 USIS posts overseas for their review, with the goal of reducing the time it takes to get posts' comments for the Agency's grants review process.

Diversity, Freedom and Democracy 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. 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.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Overview

Pursuant to the Agency's authorizing legislation (the Fulbright-Hays Act, Public Law 87-256), programs must maintain a non-political character and should be balanced and representative of the diversity of American political, social and cultural life.

Support is offered in two categories. Organizations may address one or both categories, but must submit a separate proposal for each category. Special emphasis will be given to the social sciences and humanities.

Category A; Pre-doctoral Students

Organizations that are awarded funding shall solicit and receive applications from U.S.-citizen, graduate students nationwide who seek to conduct overseas study and research in the eligible locales listed above. Eligible fields of study and research shall be open to students of all disciplines with a new or established interest in topics requiring study or research in the geographic area(s). Eligibility shall be restricted to applicants who have a baccalaureate degree and who are already enrolled in graduate-level academic programs.

Category B; Postdoctoral Scholars

Organizations that are awarded funding shall solicit and receive applications from U.S.-citizen, postdoctoral scholars nationwide who seek to conduct overseas study and research in the eligible locales listed above. Eligible fields of study and research shall be open to scholars of all

disciplines with a new or established interest in topics requiring study or research in the geographic area(s). Eligibility shall be restricted to applicants who have a Ph.D. and who have college or university teaching experience.

In preparing a proposal, organizations should address the subjects of program design and scheduling, as well as program administration. At a minimum, a successful proposal should clearly cover publicity, selection process, orientation for participants, and logistical and scheduling measures. A basic plan for post-program follow-up and evaluation should also be included. In keeping with the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993, proposals should emphasize how grantee organizations will evaluate the effectiveness, economy and efficiency of their programs. Cost-sharing will be used in the review process as one measure. The proposal must be typewritten, double-spaced and may not exceed twenty (20) pages including budget attachments.

The Office of Academic Exchanges strongly recommends that applicants consult with host country USIS posts prior to submitting proposals.

Proposed budget: Awards will not exceed \$200,000. Awards 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, line-item budget based on the specific guidance in the Solicitation Package for the entire program. There must be a summary budget as well as break-down 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.

Budget guidelines apply to proposals submitted in both Category A and B described above.

Allowable costs for the program include the following:

- (1) round-trip international travel via an American flag carrier;
- (2) domestic travel;
- (3) maintenance and per diem;
- (4) academic program costs (e.g. book allowance);
- (5) orientation costs;
- (6) cultural enrichment costs (e.g. admissions, tickets, etc.);
- (7) U.S.-based administration costs (e.g. advertisement, recruitment and selection costs).

Please refer to the Solicitation Package (the Proposal Submission Instructions or PSI) for complete budget guidelines and formatting instructions.

Administrative costs are not to exceed 20 percent of the requested budget.

Competition for USIA funding support is keen. Cost-sharing at a minimum of 25 percent of the total project cost is strongly encouraged.

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 USIA Office of Academic Programs, as well as by the USIA Office of North African, Near Eastern, and South Asian Affairs and the USIA post(s) 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. Objectives should be reasonable, feasible, and flexible. Proposals should clearly demonstrate how the institution will meet the program's objectives and plan.

3. Multiplier effective/impact: Proposed programs should strengthen 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-on activities).

5. Institutional Capacity/Reputation/Ability: 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 through other private sector support as well as institutional direct funding contributions.

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 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. Organizations will be expected to cooperate with USIA in evaluating their programs under the principles of the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993, which requires federal agencies to measure and report on the results of their programs and activities.

Notification

Final awards cannot be made until funds have been appropriated by Congress, allocated and committed through internal USIA procedures. Awards made will be subject to periodic reporting and evaluation requirements.

Dated: January 5, 1998.

Robert L. Earle,

Deputy Associate Director for Educational and Cultural Affairs.

[FR Doc. 98-473 Filed 1-7-98; 8:45 am]

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UNITED STATES INSTITUTE OF PEACE

Sunshine Act Meeting

AGENCY: United States Institute of Peace.

DATE/TIME: Thursday, January 22, 1998, 9:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

LOCATION: 1550 M. Street, NW., M Street Lobby Conference Room, Washington, DC 20005.

STATUS: Open Session—Portions may be closed pursuant to Subsection (c) of Section 552(b) of Title 5, United States Code, as provided in subsection 1706(h)(3) of the United States Institute of Peace Act, Public Law 98-525.

AGENDA: January 1998 Board Meeting; Approval of Minutes of the Eight-second Meeting (September 18, 1997) of the Board of Directors; Chairman's Report; President's Report; Committee Reports; Review of Unsolicited Grant Applications; Selection of 1999 Essay Contest Topic; Space Plans; Other General Issues.

CONTACT: Dr. Sheryl Brown, Director, Office of Communications, Telephone: (202) 457-1700.

Dated: January 5, 1998.

Charles E. Nelson,

Vice President for Management and Finance, United States Institute of Peace.

[FR Doc. 98-528 Filed 1-6-98; 10:03 am]

BILLING CODE 6820-AR-M

UTAH RECLAMATION MITIGATION AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Notice of Availability of the Finding of No Significant Impact for the Reconstruction of the Kamas State Fish Hatchery

AGENCY: The Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission (Mitigation Commission).

ACTION: Notice of Availability of the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

SUMMARY: On December 30, 1997, Michael C. Weland, Executive Director of the Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission signed the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) which documents the decision to fund reconstruction of the Kamas State Fish Hatchery in Summit County, Utah. The hatchery will be reconstructed near the city of Kamas as a fish, wildlife and recreation feature of the Bonneville Unit of the Central Utah Project. The Mitigation Commission and the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources documented the environmental effects of reconstructing the hatchery in an environmental assessment (EA). The