

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY**Office of Thrift Supervision**

[AC-4: OTS No. 6519]

Douglas Federal Bank, a Federal Savings Bank, Douglasville, GA; Approval of Conversion Application

Notice is hereby given that on May 6, 1999, the Director, Office of Examination and Supervision, Office of Thrift Supervision, or his designee, acting pursuant to delegated authority, approved the application of Douglas Federal Bank, a Federal Savings Bank, Douglasville, Georgia, to convert to the stock form of organization. Copies of the application are available for inspection at the Dissemination Branch, Office of Thrift Supervision, 1700 G Street, NW, Washington, DC 20552, and the Southeast Regional Office, Office of Thrift Supervision, 1475 Peachtree Street, NE, Atlanta, GA 30309.

Dated: May 11, 1999.

By the Office of Thrift Supervision,

Nadine Y. Washington,*Corporate Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 99-12371 Filed 5-14-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6720-01-P

UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY**Azores and Cape Verde School Partnership Program****ACTION:** Request for proposals.

SUMMARY: The Youth Programs Division, Office of Citizen Exchanges, of the United States Information Agency's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs announces an open competition for the Azores and Cape Verde School Partnership Program. Public and private non-profit organizations meeting the provisions described in IRS regulation 26 CFR 1.501(c) may submit proposals for a project in which three American high schools will be paired with two schools in the Azores and one in Cape Verde for the purpose of exchanges of students and teachers and to develop joint projects on themes relating to areas of common interest between the United States and the Azores/Cape Verde.

Program Information*Overview*

One grant of up to \$100,000 will be awarded to sponsor a one-year secondary school partnership program involving activities during academic year 1999-2000. If successful, one or two follow-on grants may be possible,

subject to the availability of funding. The basic model for the program is the information of a one-to-one partnership in which the participating student bodies and faculties in the partner schools engage in joint thematic projects throughout the academic year. During the year, there will be a non-simultaneous exchange, each school sending and hosting ten students and one or two teachers for a minimum three-week period. Once the linkages are established, the partner schools could decide on any variations, involving longer stays for individuals or small groups.

Guidelines

Although the project seeks to target communities in the U.S. that have concentrations of immigrants from the Azores and Cape Verde, the goal is to include a broad spectrum of the population of those communities. The areas of greatest interest are eastern Rhode Island and east central and southeastern Massachusetts. The American Consulate in Ponta Delgada will choose the communities and schools in the Azores, and the American Embassy in Praia will do the same for Cape Verde. The American administering organization, chosen through this competition, will select the American partner schools. Once the linkage is established, each school pair will choose a project on a theme of interest to the participating countries and U.S. regions. Possible themes include civic education and comparative political systems, the environment (with special focus on the oceans), agriculture and aquaculture, health education, preparation for careers or vocations, and international security issues. In each school, students and teachers would work on aspects of these projects throughout the academic year, corresponding with their counterparts in the partner schools, exchanging materials, and working toward a culmination when the exchange participants get together. This ensures that the program has a didactic purpose and that it involves the general populace in the schools. Each side will also introduce its school communities to the language, culture, and geography of the partner country. A merit-based selection process would be worked out by the partner schools to ensure that the participants in the exchange phase are well qualified, prepared and motivated and will represent their communities well. Exchanges should take place while schools are in session so that the participants can attend classes and experience scholastic activities. All participants would live with host

families and would have excursions to important historic and cultural sites in the host communities. Ideally, the schools on both sides would have Internet access so that they can maintain regular communication via E mail and use the Internet to develop their joint projects. If they lack this, funding for the program might include some support to bring the schools online. Please refer to Solicitation Package for further information.

Eligibility

USIA will award a grant to one organization, which will coordinate the whole program. Eligible applicants include: non-profit, community-based organizations with exchange experience, a school system or network of schools, and universities with established ties to secondary schools. Criteria for selection include: (1) experience conducting high school exchanges; (2) some familiarity with the Azores and Cape Verde; (3) ability and commitment to supplement the grant funds with private sector contributions; and (4) low administrative overhead costs. Applicant organizations with less than four years of experience in conducting international exchange programs will be ineligible for this competition. For complete judging criteria, see below. J-1 visa regulations and USIA policy require that the students participating in the exchange component be between the ages of 14 and 18.5 years of age and that those who represent US schools be American citizens.

Budget Guidelines

The grant is intended to subsidize international and in-country airfare, program enhancements, and participant stipends. Host communities are expected to cover many local expenses and participants should be lodged with volunteer host families (compensation for host families is not allowable). Participants are expected to contribute to their travel and living expenses. Administrative (indirect) expenses over 20% will be judged less competitive. Applicants must submit a comprehensive budget for the entire program. There must be a summary budget as well as breakdowns reflecting both administrative and program budgets. Please refer to the Solicitation Package for complete budget guidelines and formatting instructions. The grant award will not likely be available before September 1. For the successful applicant organization, grant-funded activity may not begin until after that date and should conclude by December 31, 2000.