

public in accordance with the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552, will be available for inspection and copying at the Commission's Public Reference Room. Copies of such filing will also be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the Exchange. All submissions should refer to File No. SR-PCX-99-36 and should be submitted by April 25, 2000.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.³¹

Margaret H. McFarland,

Deputy Secretary.

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SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Region II Advisory Council Meeting; Public Meeting

The U.S. Small Business Administration Region II Advisory Council located in the geographical area of Buffalo, New York, will hold a public meeting at 10 a.m. on April 19, 2000, at the Erie County Industrial Development Agency (ECIDA), 275 Oak Street, Board Room at entrance, Buffalo, New York to discuss matters that may be presented by members of the Advisory Council, staff of the U.S. Small Business Administration or others present.

For further information, write or call: Franklin J. Sciortino, District Director, Small Business Administration, 1311 Federal Building, 111 West Huron Street, Buffalo, New York 14202, (716) 551-4301.

Franklin J. Sciortino,

District Director.

[FR Doc. 00-8118 Filed 4-3-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

(Public Notice 3273)

Bureau for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs; Anti-Crime Training and Technical Assistance Program (ACTTA)

AGENCY: Office of Europe, NIS, and Training; Bureau for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, State.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: State Department's Bureau for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) developed the

Anti-crime Training and Technical Assistance Program (ACTTA) in 1994 to bring U.S. Federal law enforcement agencies together to provide training and technical assistance in consultation with their counterparts in Russia, other the Newly Independent States (NIS), Hungary and Slovakia. Training continues to focus on combating international organized crime, financial crimes, and narcotics trafficking. The goal of the program is to increase professionalism and develop the technical capabilities of law enforcement institutions to combat organized crime and to assure that through international law enforcement cooperation, U.S. agencies and their foreign counterparts succeed in intercepting the movement of transnational organized criminal elements into the U.S.

The ACTTA program continues to include the participation of non-Federal agencies (e.g., universities, state/local government agencies, private non-profit organizations) in the delivery of law enforcement training and technical assistance to Russia, the NIS and Hungary and Slovakia. This non-Federal component of the ACTTA program has a timeframe of 2000-2002.

DATES: Strict deadlines for submission to the FY 2000 process are: Full proposals must be received at INL no later than Tuesday, May 16, 2000. Letters of intent will not be required. We anticipate that review of full proposals will occur during June 2000 and funding should begin during September of 2000 for most approved projects.

September 1, 2000 should be used as the proposed start date on proposals, unless otherwise directed by a program manager. Applicants should be notified of their status within 6 months, of submission deadline. All proposals must be submitted in accordance with the guidelines below. Failure to heed these guidelines may result in proposals being returned without review.

ADDRESSES: Proposals may be submitted to: U.S. Department of State, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, Navy Hill South, 2430 E Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20520, Attn: Linda Gower, Grants Officer.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jo Ann Moore at above address, TEL: 202-736-4380, FAX: 202-736-4515, for Russia and the NIS
Maren Brooks at above address, TEL: 202-736-4379, FAX: 202-736-4515, for Hungary or Slovakia, or Linda Gower at above address, TEL: 202-776-8774, FAX: 202-776-8775

Once the RFA deadline has passed, DOS staff may not discuss this competition in any way with applicants until the proposal review process has been completed.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Funding Availability

This Program Announcement is for projects to be conducted by agencies/programs outside the Federal Government, over a period of up to two years. Actual funding levels will depend upon availability of funds. Current plans are for up to \$3 million for Russia and the NIS, and \$100,000 for Hungary and \$400,000 for Slovakia, to be available for new (or renewing) ACTTA awards, in Crime. The funding instrument for extramural awards will be a grant or a cooperative agreement. Funding for non-U.S. institutions and contractual arrangements for services and products for delivery to INL are not available under this announcement. Matching share, though encouraged, is not required by this program. No proposal should exceed a total cost of \$750,000.

Program Authority

Authority: Section 635(b) of the Foreign Assistance Act, of 1961 as amended.

Program Objectives

The goal of the ACTTA program is to increase the technical capabilities of foreign country law enforcement institutions to control organized crime, combat corruption, institute democratic practices, and to assure that through international law enforcement cooperation, U.S. agencies succeed in intercepting the movement of transnational organized criminal elements into the U.S.

The ACTTA program has been designed to provide assistance to foreign governments which will complement the training and assistance provided by US Federal agencies. All training and assistance of the ACTTA program should be focused on city or local police forces, with a concentration out of the capital cities.

The program objectives of the ACTTA program are: (1) combat the growing threat to U.S. national security posed by the broad range of organized crime activities, (2) help emerging democracies strengthen their national and law enforcement institutions to counter illegal criminal activities, (3) help emerging democracies develop laws and prosecutorial frameworks to counter organized crime activities, and (4) provide foreign law enforcement institutions with the skills to detect,

³¹ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

arrest, and prosecute major transnational criminal offenders.

Program Priorities

The primary focus of this program is concentrated in Armenia, Georgia, Hungary, Moldova, Russia, Slovakia and the Ukraine. The focus should be on regional areas outside of country's capital city.

All training conducted under this program must utilize a "training-of-trainers" format.

The FY 2000 ACTTA Program Announcement invites training and technical assistance program proposals in the following program priorities:

- (1) community policing methods,
- (2) combating organized crime,
- (3) rule of law.

Note: For Hungary and Slovakia—community policing only.

Eligibility

Eligibility is limited to non-Federal agencies and organizations, and is encouraged with the objective of developing a strong partnership with the state/local law enforcement community. Non-law enforcement proposers are urged to seek collaboration with state/local law enforcement institutions. Letters of support must be included in the proposal. State and local governments, universities, and non-profit organizations are included among entities eligible for funding under this announcement. Funding for non-U.S. institutions is not available under this announcement.

Evaluation Criteria

Consideration for financial assistance will be given to those proposals which address one or more of the Program Priorities identified above and meet the following evaluation criteria:

- (1) Relevance (20%): Importance and relevance to the goal and objectives of the ACTTA program identified above.
- (2) Methodology (25%): Adequacy of the proposed approach and activities, including development of relevant training curricula, training methods proposed, evaluation methodology, project milestones, and final products.
- (3) Readiness (25%): Relevant history and experience in conducting training/technical assistance in the program priority areas identified above, strength of proposed training/technical assistance or evaluation teams, past performance record of proposers.
- (4) Linkages (15%): Connections to existing law enforcement agencies in Russia, the NIS and Central European countries named in program priorities, letters of support, from those law

enforcement agencies, in addition to previous training or related assistance experience in these countries.

(5) Costs (15%): Adequacy/efficiency of the proposed resources and a percentage of cost sharing.

Selection Procedures

All proposals will be evaluated and ranked in accordance with the assigned weights of the above evaluation criteria by independent peer panel review composed of INL and other Federal USG agency law enforcement experts. The panel's recommendations and evaluations will be considered by the program managers in final selections. Those ranked by the panel and program as not recommended for funding will not be given further consideration and will be notified of non-selection. For the proposals rated for possible funding, the program managers will: (a) Ascertain which proposals meet the objectives, fit the criteria posted, and do not duplicate other projects that are currently funded by INL, other USG agencies or foreign governments, or international (note: proposals or elements that duplicate existing activities of USG agencies will not receive awards. end note); (b) select the proposals to be funded; (c) determine the total duration of funding for each proposal; and (d) determine the amount of funds available for each proposal.

Unsatisfactory performance by a recipient under prior Federal awards may result in an application not being considered for funding.

Proposal Submission

The guidelines for proposal preparation provided below are mandatory. Failure to heed these guidelines may result in proposals being returned without review.

(a) Full Proposals

(1) Proposals submitted to INL must include the original and three unbound copies of the proposal. (2) Applicants are not required to submit more than 3 copies of the proposal, although the normal review process requires 5 copies.

Applicants are encouraged to submit sufficient proposal copies for the full review process if they wish all reviewers to receive color, unusually sized (not 8.5 x 11"), or otherwise unusual materials submitted as part of the proposal. Only three copies of the Federally required forms are needed. (3) Program descriptions must be limited to 20 pages (numbered), not including budget, personnel vitae, letters of support and all appendices, and should be limited to funding requests for one to

two year duration. Federally mandated forms are not included within the page count. (4) Proposals should be sent to INL at the above address. (5) Facsimile transmissions of full proposals will not be accepted.

(b) Required Elements

(1) Signed title page: The title page should be signed by the Project Director (PD) and the institutional representative and should clearly indicate which program priority or priorities are being addressed. The PD and institutional representative should be identified by full name, title, organization, telephone number and address. The total amount of Federal funds being requested should be listed for each budget period. A budget period is normally two years.

(2) Abstract: An abstract must be included and should contain an introduction of the problem, rationale and a brief summary of work to be completed. The abstract should appear as a separate page, headed with the proposal title, institution(s) name, investigator(s), total proposed cost and budget period.

(3) Prior training experience: A summary of prior law enforcement training experience should be described, including training related to program priorities identified above and/or conducted in Russia and the NIS. Reference to each prior training award should include the title, agency, award number, period of award and total award. The section should be a brief summary and should not exceed two pages total.

(4) Statement of work: The proposed project must be completely described, including identification of the problem, project objectives, proposed training methodology, relevance to the goal and objectives of the ACTTA program, and the program priorities listed above. Benefits of the proposed project to U.S. law enforcement efforts should be discussed. A year-by-year summary of proposed work must be included clearly indicating that each year's proposed work is severable and can easily be separated into annual increments of meaningful work. Statement of work, including and excluding figures and other visual materials, must not exceed 20 pages of length.

(5) Budget: Applicants must submit a Standard form 424 (4-92) "Application for Federal Assistance," including a detailed budget using the Standard Form 424a (4-92), "Budget Information—Non-Construction Programs." The proposal must include total and annual budgets corresponding with the descriptions provided in the statement of work. Budget text must be

included to justify expenses. Additional text should include salaries and benefits by each proposed staff person; direct costs such as travel (airfare, per diem, miscellaneous travel costs); equipment; supplies; contractual, and indirect costs. Indicate if indirect rates are DCAA or other Federal agency approved or proposed rates and provide a copy of the current rate agreement. In addition, furnish the same level of information regarding subgrantee costs, if applicable, and submit a copy of your most recent A-110 audit report. Consultant fees should not exceed \$250 per day.

(6) Vitae: Abbreviated curriculum vitae are sought with each proposal. Vitae for each project staff person should not exceed three pages in length.

(c) Other Requirements

Primary Applicant Certification—All primary applicants must submit a completed Form CD-511, "Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension and Other Responsibility Matters; Drug-Free Workplace Requirements and Lobbying." Applicants are also hereby notified of the following:

1. Non procurement Department and Suspension—Prospective participants (as defined at 15 CFR Part 26, section 105) are subject to 15 CFR Part 26, "Non procurement Debarment and Suspension," and the related section of the certification form prescribed above applies;

2. Drug Free Workplace—Grantees (as defined at 15 CFR part 26, section 605) are subject to 15 CFR Part 26, Subpart F, "Government wide Requirements for Drug-Free Workplace (Grants)" and the related section of the certification form prescribed above applies;

3. Anti-Lobbying—Persons (as defined at 15 CFR Part 28, section 105) are subject to the lobbying provisions of 31 U.S.C. 1352, "Limitation on use of appropriated funds to influence certain Federal contracting and financial transactions," and the lobbying section of the certification form prescribed above applies to applications/bids for grants of more than \$100,000; and

4. Anti-Lobbying Disclosures—Any applicant that has paid or will pay for lobbying using any funds must submit SF-LLL, "Disclosure of Lobbying Activities," as required under 15 CFR part 28, appendix B.

Lower Tier Certifications

(1) Recipients must require applicants/bidders for sub-grants or lower tier covered transactions at any tier under the award to submit, if applicable, a completed Form CD-512, "Certifications Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary

Exclusion—Lower Tier Covered Transactions and Lobbying" and disclosure Form SF-LLL, "Disclosure of Lobbying Activities." Form CD-512 is intended for the use of recipients and should not be transmitted to Department of State (DOS). SF-LLL submitted by any tier recipient or sub-recipient should be submitted to DOS in accordance with the instructions contained in the award document.

(2) Recipients and sub-recipients are subject to all applicable Federal laws and Federal and Department of State policies, regulations, and procedures applicable to Federal financial assistance awards.

(3) Pre-award Activities—If applicants incur any costs prior to an award being made, they do so solely at their own risk of not being reimbursed by the Government. Notwithstanding any verbal assurance that may have been received, there is no obligation to the applicant on the part of Department of State to cover pre-award costs.

(4) This program is subject to the requirements of OMB Circular No. A-110, "Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Other Agreements with Institutions of Higher Education, Hospitals, and Other Non-Profit Organizations," OMB Circular No. A-133, "Audits of Institutions of Higher Education and Other Non-Profit Institutions," and 15 CFR Part 24, "Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements to State and Local Governments," as applicable. Applications under this program are not subject to Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs."

(5) All non-profit applicants are subject to a name check review process. Name checks are intended to reveal if any key individuals associate with the applicant have been convicted of, or are presently facing criminal charges such as fraud, theft, perjury, or other matters which significantly reflect on the applicant's management, honesty, or financial integrity.

(6) A false statement on an application is grounds for denial or termination of funds and grounds for possible punishment by a fine or imprisonment as provided in 18 U.S.C. 1001.

(7) No award of Federal funds shall be made to an applicant who has an outstanding delinquent Federal debt until either:

(i) The delinquent account is paid in full,

(ii) a negotiated repayment schedule is established and at least one payment is received, or

(iii) other arrangements satisfactory to the Department of State are made.

(8) Buy American-Made Equipment or Products—Applicants are reminded that any equipment or products authorized to be purchased with funding provided under this program must be American-made to the maximum extent feasible.

(9) The total dollar amount of the indirect costs proposed in an application under this program must not exceed the indirect cost rate negotiated and approved by a cognizant Federal agency prior to the proposed effective date of the award or 100 percent of the total proposed direct cost dollar amount in the application, whichever is less.

(d) If an application is selected for funding, the Department of State has no obligation to provide any additional future funding in connection with the award. Renewal of an award to increase funding or extend the period of performance is at the total discretion of the Department of State.

(e) In accordance with Federal statutes and regulations, no person on grounds of race, color, age, sex, national origin or disability shall be excluded from participation in, denied benefits of or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving assistance from the INL ACTTA program.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person is required to respond to nor shall a person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act unless that collection of information displays a current valid OMB control number. The standard forms have been approved by the Office of Management and Budget pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act under OMB approval number 0348-0043, 0348-0044, and 0348-0046.

Classification: This notice has been determined to be not significant for purposes of Executive Order 12866.

Dated: March 30, 2000.

Jo Ann Moore,

Coordinator, Office of Europe, New Independent States, and Training, Bureau for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, U.S. Department of State.

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