

Review Process

In support of first-time applicants, the grant proposal, budget and review process has been modified for this competition. The proposal narrative should not exceed six pages double-spaced and be developed around the review criteria below. Budget should be contained on one page. Please follow the enclosed Request for Proposal (RFP) Proposal Submission Instructions (PSI). Proposals will be reviewed in two tiers. First, all proposals will be read and reviewed by a qualified staff team from the Office of Citizen Exchanges and the respective Department of State regional bureaus. Second, the most competitive will be forwarded to embassies overseas and to panels of Bureau-wide State Department officers for formal advisory review. Non-finalists will be advised at this point in the process. Final funding decisions will be made at the discretion of the Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs. Final technical authority for assistance awards (grants or cooperative agreements) resides with the Citizen Exchanges 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 program idea and ability to achieve objectives:* Program objectives should be clearly and precisely stated. Applications should respond to priorities in this announcement and articulate the organization's ability to successfully carry out objectives. Staff and participant responsibilities and timetable should be clearly designated.

2. *Cost effectiveness and Cost sharing:* Administrative costs should be kept low. Proposals should maximize cost-sharing through support and in-kind contributions.

3. *Monitoring/Reporting:* Proposals should provide a brief plan for submitting written reports midway through the program and at the end. Reports should include accomplishments, problems encountered, and impact on American and overseas communities.

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. *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.

Authority

Overall grant making authority for this program is contained in the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961, Public Law 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 above is provided through legislation.

Notice

The terms and conditions published in this RFP are binding and may not be modified by any Bureau representative. Explanatory information provided by the Bureau 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 Bureau 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 Bureau procedures.

Dated: April 10, 2000.

Evelyn S. Lieberman,

Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs, U.S. Department of State.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice #3277]

Shipping Coordinating Committee Maritime Safety Committee; Notice of Meeting

The Shipping Coordinating Committee will conduct an open meeting at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, May 11, 2000, in Room 2415, at U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, 2100 2nd Street, SW, Washington, DC. The purpose of this meeting will be to finalize preparations for the 72nd Session of the Maritime Safety Committee, and associated bodies of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), which is scheduled for May 17-26, 2000, at IMO Headquarters in London. At this meeting, papers received and the draft U.S. positions will be discussed.

Among other things, the items of particular interest are:

- a. Bulk carrier safety;
- b. Role of the human element;
- c. Formal safety assessment;
- d. Piracy and armed robbery against ships;
- e. Reports of seven subcommittees—Training and watchkeeping; Flag State implementation; Bulk liquids and gases; Radiocommunications and search and rescue; Safety of navigation; Dangerous goods, solid cargoes and containers; Fire protection; and, Ship design and equipment;

Members of the public may attend this meeting up to the seating capacity of the room. Interested persons may seek information by writing to Mr. Joseph J. Angelo, Commandant (G-MS), U.S. Coast Guard, 2100 2nd Street, SW, Room 1218, Washington, DC 20593-0001 or by calling (202) 267-2970.

Dated: April 6, 2000

Stephen M. Miller,

Executive Secretary, Shipping Coordinating Committee, U.S. Department of State.

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