DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Office of the Secretary

Combatting Exploitive Child Labor Trough Education in Angola

AGENCY: Bureau of International Labor Affairs, U.S. Department of Labor


SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL), Bureau of International Labor Affairs (ILAB), intends to obligate up to approximately U.S. $3.5 million through a Cooperative Agreement to organization(s) to improve access to and quality of education programs as a means to combat exploitive child labor in Angola. The project(s) funded under this award should address gaps and challenges to basic education found in Angola.

ILAB intends to solicit cooperative agreement applications through a limited competition of organizations qualified to implement a project that focuses on innovative ways to provide educational services to children engaged, or at risk of engaging, in exploitive labor in Angola. Qualified organizations include any commercial, international, educational, or non-profit organization that is capable of successfully developing and implementing education projects in Angola and that meets the following criteria—qualified organizations must have (1) an established presence in Angola (i.e., one or more offices and employees) and be legally recognized and permitted to operate by the Government of Angola, and (2) direct and current experience implementing technical cooperation programs for children-in-need in Angola that aim to combat exploitive child labor and/or promote educational and training opportunities for children-in-need who are under the age of 18 years. Among the organizations deemed eligible based on this criteria are the Christian Children’s Fund, Save the Children, UK, and World Vision.

Other organizations wishing to be considered under this limited competition must submit to USDOL, at the contact address provided below, a formal request within 10 working days of the date of this announcement.

A specific solicitation for cooperative agreement applications will be provided to those organizations deemed eligible for the limited competition within 20 working days of this announcement. The solicitation will remain open for at least 30 calendar days.

To Request Consideration Under This Limited Competition or For Further Information Contact: Ms. Lisa Harvey. E-mail address: harvey.lisa@dol.gov. All formal requests for consideration and other inquiries should make reference to the USDOL Child Labor Education Initiative—Solicitations for Cooperative Agreement Applications.

Background Information: Since 1995, USDOL has supported a worldwide technical assistance program implemented by the International Labor Organization’s International Program on the Elimination of Child Labor (ILO–IPEC). ILAB has also supported the efforts of other organizations involved in efforts to combat child labor internationally through the promotion of educational opportunities for children-in-need. In total, ILAB has provided over U.S. $530 million to ILO–IPEC and other organizations for international technical assistance to combat abusive child labor around the world.
USDOL’s Child Labor Education Initiative seeks to nurture the development, health, safety, and enhanced future employability of children around the world by increasing access to basic education for children removed from child labor or at risk of entering it. Eliminating child labor depends, in part, on improving access to, quality of, and relevance of educational and training opportunities for children less than 18 years of age. Without improving such opportunities, children withdrawn from exploitative forms of labor may not have viable alternatives to child labor and may be more likely to return to such work or resort to other hazardous means of subsistence.

In addition to increasing access to education and eliminating exploitative child labor through direct withdrawal and prevention services to children, the Child Labor Education Initiative has the following four strategic goals:

1. Raise awareness of the importance of education for all children and mobilize a wide array of actors to improve and expand education infrastructures;
2. Strengthen formal and transitional education systems that encourage working children and those at risk of working to attend school;
3. Strengthen national institutions and policies on education and child labor; and
4. Ensure the long-term sustainability of these efforts.

When working to increase access to quality basic education, USDOL strives to complement existing efforts to eradicate the worst forms of child labor, to build on the achievements of and lessons learned from these efforts, to expand impact and build synergies among actors, and to avoid duplication of resources and efforts.

Signed at Washington, DC, this 20th day of November, 2006.

Lisa Harvey,
Grant Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Employment and Training Administration

 Proposed Collection; Comment Request

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Labor, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden conducts a pre-clearance consultation program to provide the general public and Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing collections of information in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA95) [44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)]. This program helps to ensure that requested data can be provided in the desired format, reporting burden (time and financial resources) is minimized, collection instruments are clearly understood, and the impact of collection requirements on respondents can be properly assessed. The Employment and Training Administration (ETA) is soliciting comments regarding an extension of a current Office of Management and Budget (OMB) clearance for a series of quick turnaround surveys in which data will be collected from state workforce agencies and local workforce investment areas.

DATES: Submit comments on or before January 29, 2006.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to Richard Muller, Employment and Training Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW., Room N–5637, Washington, DC 20210; (202) 693–3680 (this is not a toll-free number); e-mail: Muller.Richard@ dol.gov; fax: (202) 693–2766 (this is not a toll-free number).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

The Employment and Training Administration (ETA) is soliciting comments regarding an extension of a current Office of Management and Budget (OMB) clearance for a series of quick turnaround surveys in which data will be collected from state workforce agencies and local workforce investment areas. The surveys will focus on issues relating to the governance, administration, funding, service design, and delivery structure of workforce programs authorized by the Workforce Investment Act (WIA). Enacted in 1998, WIA has sought to redesign the workforce development system by linking over a dozen separately funded Federal programs and streamlining services, and establishing new accountability requirements.

ETA has developed quick turnaround surveys on several aspects of WIA services and outreach to businesses, under the current OMB clearance. Other surveys are also under consideration at this time.

The agency has a continuing need for information on WIA operations and is seeking a further extension of the clearance for conducting a series of eight (8) to twenty (20) separate surveys over the next three years. Each survey will be relatively short (10–30 questions) and, depending on the nature of the survey, may be administered to state workforce agencies, local workforce boards, One-Stop Centers, employment service offices, or other local-area WIA partners. Each survey will be designed on an ad hoc basis and will focus on emerging topics of pressing policy interest. Each survey will either cover the universe of respondents (for state level information) or a properly drawn random sample (for local level information). Examples of broad topic areas include:

- Local management information system developments
- New processes and procedures
- Services to different target groups
- Integration and coordination with other programs
- Local workforce investment board membership and training

Quick turnaround surveys are needed for a number of reasons. The most pressing concerns the need to understand key operational issues in light of challenges deriving from the Administration’s policy priorities and from the coming reauthorization of WIA and of other partner programs.

Timely information, that identifies the scope and magnitude of various practices or problems, is needed for ETA to fulfill its obligations to develop high quality policy, administrative guidance, regulations, and technical assistance.

The data that will be requested in the quick turnaround surveys is not otherwise available. Other research and evaluation efforts, including case studies or long-range evaluations, either cover only a limited number of sites or take many years for data to be gathered and analyzed. Administrative information and data are too limited: The five-year Workforce Investment Plans, developed by states and local areas, are too general in nature to meet ETA’s specific informational needs and are updated infrequently. Quarterly or annual data reporting by states and local areas do not provide information on key operational practices and issues. Thus, ETA has no alternative mechanism for collecting information that both identifies the scope and magnitude of emerging WIA implementation issues and provides the information on a quick turnaround basis.

ETA will make every effort to coordinate the quick turnaround surveys with other research it is conducting, in order to ease the burden on local and state respondents, to avoid