

PDF format as of January 1, 2010, respectively.

V. Solicitation of Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views, and arguments concerning the foregoing, including whether the proposed rule change is consistent with the Act. Comments may be submitted by any of the following methods:

Electronic Comments

- Use the Commission's Internet comment form (<http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>); or
- Send an e-mail to rule-comments@sec.gov. Please include File Number SR-MSRB-2008-05 on the subject line.

Paper Comments

- Send paper comments in triplicate to Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street, NE., Washington, DC 20549-1090. All submissions should refer to File Number SR-MSRB-2008-05. This file number should be included on the subject line if e-mail is used. To help the Commission process and review your comments more efficiently, please use only one method. The Commission will post all comments on the Commission's Internet Web site (<http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>). Copies of the submission, all subsequent amendments, all written statements with respect to the proposed rule change that are filed with the Commission, and all written communications relating to the proposed rule change between the Commission and any person, other than those that may be withheld from the public in accordance with the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552, will be available for inspection and copying in the Commission's Public Reference Room, 100 F Street, NE., Washington, DC 20549, on official business days between the hours of 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Copies of such filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the MSRB. All comments received will be posted without change; the Commission does not edit personal identifying information from submissions. You should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly. All submissions should refer to File Number SR-MSRB-2008-05 and should be submitted on or before January 2, 2009.

VI. Conclusion

On the basis of the foregoing, the Commission finds that the proposed

rule change is consistent with the requirements of the Act and in particular Section 15B(b)(2)(C) of the Act and the rules and regulations thereunder.

It is therefore ordered, pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) of the Act,¹⁰⁵ that the proposed rule change (SR-MSRB-2008-05), as modified by Amendment No. 1, be, and it hereby is, approved on an accelerated basis.

By the Commission.

Florence E. Harmon,

Acting Secretary.

Exhibit A

Key to Comment Letters Cited in Order Relating to the Establishment of a Continuing Disclosure Service of the Electronic Municipal Market Access System (EMMA) (File No. SR-MSRB-2008-05)

1. Letter from Fran Busby, to 21st Century Disclosure Initiative, Commission, dated October 7, 2008 ("Busby Letter").
2. Letter from Paula Stuart, Chief Executive Officer, Digital Assurance Certification, L.L.C. ("DAC"), to Florence E. Harmon, Acting Secretary, Commission, dated September 25, 2008 ("DAC Letter").
3. Letter from Christopher Alwine, Head of Municipal Money Market and Bond Groups, The Vanguard Group, Inc. ("Vanguard"), to Florence E. Harmon, Acting Secretary, Commission, dated September 24, 2008 ("Vanguard Letter").
4. Letter from Susan A. Gaffney, Director, Federal Liaison Center, Government Finance Officers Association ("GFOA"), to Florence E. Harmon, Acting Secretary, Commission, dated September 24, 2008 ("GFOA Letter").
5. Letter from Louis V. Eccleston, President, Standard & Poor's Securities Evaluations, Inc. ("SPSE"), to Florence E. Harmon, Acting Secretary, Commission, dated September 22, 2008 ("SPSE Letter").
6. Letter from R.T. McNamar, CEO, e-certus, Inc. ("e-certus"), to Christopher Cox, Chairman, Commission, and Ernesto A. Lanza, Senior Associate General Counsel, MSRB, dated September 22, 2008 ("e-certus Letter").
7. Letter from Leslie M. Norwood, Managing Director and Associate General Counsel, Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association ("SIFMA"), to Florence E. Harmon, Acting Secretary, Commission, dated September 22, 2008 ("SIFMA Letter").
8. Letter from William A. Holby, President, National Association of Bond Lawyers ("NABL"), to Florence E. Harmon, Acting Secretary, Commission, dated September 22, 2008 ("NABL Letter").
9. Letter from Denise L. Nappier, Treasurer, State of Connecticut, to Christopher Cox, Chairman, Commission, dated September 22, 2008 ("Treasurer of the State of Connecticut Letter").
10. Letter from J. Douglas Adamson, Executive Vice President, Technical

Services Division, American Bankers Association ("ABA"), to Florence E. Harmon, Acting Secretary, Commission, dated September 22, 2008 ("ABA Letter").

11. Letter from Laura Slaughter, Executive Director, Municipal Advisory Council of Texas ("Texas MAC"), to Christopher Cox, Chairman, Commission, and Ernesto A. Lanza, Senior Associate General Counsel, MSRB, dated September 22, 2008 ("Texas MAC Letter").
12. Letter from K.W. Gurney, Director, Ohio Municipal Advisory Council ("OMAC"), to Christopher Cox, Chairman, Commission, and Ernesto A. Lanza, Senior Associate General Counsel, MSRB, dated September 22, 2008 ("OMAC Letter").
13. Letter from Karrie McMillan, General Counsel, Investment Company Institute ("ICI"), to Florence E. Harmon, Acting Secretary, Commission, dated September 22, 2008 ("ICI Letter").
14. Letter from Robert Donovan, Executive Director, Rhode Island Health and Educational Building Corporation and Steven Fillebrown, Director of Research, Investor Relations and Compliance, New Jersey Healthcare Financing Authority, on behalf of the National Association of Health and Educational Facilities Finance Authorities ("NAHEFFA"), to Florence E. Harmon, Acting Secretary, Commission, dated September 22, 2008 ("NAHEFFA Letter").
15. Letter from Peter J. Schmitt, CEO, DPC DATA Inc. ("DPC DATA"), to Florence E. Harmon, Acting Secretary, Commission, dated September 18, 2008 ("DPC DATA Letter").
16. Letter from Philip D. Moyer, CEO & President, EDGAR Online ("EDGAR Online"), to Christopher Cox, Chairman, Commission, and Ernesto A. Lanza, Senior Associate General Counsel, MSRB, dated September 9, 2008 ("EDGAR Online Letter").
17. Letter from Lynette Kelly Hotchkiss, Executive Director, MSRB, to Christopher Cox, Chairman, and James L. Eastman, Counsel, Commission, dated September 8, 2008 ("MSRB Letter").
18. Letter from Rob Yolland, Chairman, National Federation of Municipal Analysts (NFMA), to Ernesto A. Lanza, Senior Associate General Counsel, MSRB, Commission, dated March 10, 2008 ("NFMA Letter").

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 6449]

Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) Request for Grant Proposals: Youth Programs Academic Year Disability Components

Announcement Type: New Grant.
Funding Opportunity Number: ECA/PE/C/PY-09-05.

¹⁰⁵ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2).

Catalog of Federal Domestic

Assistance Number: 00.000.

Key Dates: June 2009–August 2010.

Application Deadline: February 6, 2009.

Executive Summary: The Office of Citizen Exchanges, Youth Programs Division, of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs announces an open competition for the management of the Disability Components for two Academic Year programs. This includes conducting a five-day summer Preparatory Workshop and a two-day spring Leadership and Reentry Workshop for Students with Disabilities from Eurasia participating in the Future Leaders Exchange (FLEX) Program and from countries with significant Muslim populations participating in the Youth Exchange and Study (YES) Program, as well as providing support services to these students throughout the year by assisting grantee placement organizations and maintaining regular communication with each student, as needed. Approximately 30 high school-aged students will participate in the Disability Component Program.

I. Funding Opportunity Description

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.

Purpose: It is Bureau policy that recruitment of people with disabilities at every level should be a priority in all sponsored programming. It is ECA’s goal to provide each student with a disability participating in the FLEX or YES Program with an integrated three-phase program designed to enhance their experience in the United States. This will include providing a Preparatory Workshop upon the students’ arrival in the U.S. and developing an action plan with each student for the coming year. The grantee organization will then continue to support each of these

students and work with their placement organizations to assist the students in taking advantage of local opportunities for people with disabilities. Finally, the process will include implementing the Leadership and Reentry Workshop to assist the students in discussing their year’s experience and preparing for their return home as individuals with disabilities.

Background: The Future Leaders Exchange (FLEX) and Youth Exchange and Study (YES) programs bring secondary school students from Eurasia and countries with significant Muslim populations to the United States for an academic year. During their time in the United States, these students live with American host families and attend U.S. high schools. Since 1995, the FLEX program has included a component for students with disabilities. In Eurasia, young people with disabilities may be treated differently than they are in the United States. These young people with disabilities may be more sheltered from mainstream society or attend special schools or institutions. Students may not be familiar with the technology, tools, and services available for people with disabilities in the United States, and may need extra assistance in learning to use the resources available. A similar situation exists in the countries from which the YES students come, with obstacles for full inclusion in society compared to people without disabilities. Therefore, the Disabilities Components program was expanded in 2006 to include YES students.

The program should be designed to support the following specific activities/components:

1. Preparatory Workshop for Students With Disabilities

Generally, FLEX and YES participants with disabilities adjust well to American life and culture and realize the same positive effects as non-disabled participants. The grantee organization will assess the students’ abilities and special needs and provide information to placement organizations (POs) on accommodations that each student may require, as well as assist each PO in identifying resources to support the student in the host community. The Preparatory Workshop will also introduce and guide students’ expectations and skills for the U.S. academic year as individuals with disabilities. The grantee organization will focus on identifying local activities and resources to prepare each student to incorporate disability-related themes into their FLEX or YES program objectives of participation in community service and enhancement

activities designed to involve them in civic education, democracy building, and mutual understanding.

2. Ongoing Support and Academic Year Programming: Placement organizations have varying levels of experience working with students with disabilities and often lack resources and counseling expertise. Providing such support services during the year will undoubtedly offer students with disabilities access to opportunities that they may not be aware of as well as enhance their experiences in their American host communities. However, in addition to providing for the physical and emotional support of students with disabilities, POs also need guidance in identifying appropriate disability-related local community service and enhancement opportunities to provide for the programmatic aspects of the students’ FLEX or YES experience. Your organization’s expertise and knowledge of resources around the country will provide valuable assistance to POs in planning meaningful activities that can enhance and enrich the students’ experiences while in the United States, and they will be well-prepared to use their new knowledge and skills in their home countries.

3. Leadership and Reentry Workshop for Students With Disabilities: After having enjoyed the accessibility and other disability support that exists in the U.S., FLEX and YES students with disabilities are often not well prepared to return to the less disability-friendly environments of their home countries. It is important to adequately prepare program participants with disabilities for the reverse culture shock that may occur when they return home. Therefore, this workshop should focus solely on the readjustment of each student as a person with a disability, as the students will also be attending other reentry workshops conducted for all FLEX and YES students by their respective placement organizations at the end of the program year. These other workshops will provide more general training for readjustment to the students’ home cultures. Additional goals of the Leadership and Reentry workshop are to conduct activities to further develop leadership skills, team building, and empowerment skills to assist students in returning to their home countries.

II. Award Information

Type of Award: Grant Agreement.

Fiscal Year Funds: 2009.

Approximate Total Funding: Up to \$220,000, pending availability of funds.

Approximate Number of Awards: One.

Anticipated Award Date: Pending availability of funds, April 2009.

Anticipated Project Completion Date: August 2010.

Additional Information: Pending successful implementation of this program and the availability of funds in subsequent fiscal years, it is ECA's intent to renew this grant for two additional fiscal years, before openly competing it again.

III. Eligibility Information

III.1. Eligible Applicants: Applications may be submitted by public and private non-profit organizations meeting the provisions described in Internal Revenue Code section 26 U.S.C. 501(c)(3).

III.2. Cost Sharing or Matching Funds: There is no minimum or maximum percentage required for this competition. However, the Bureau encourages applicants to provide maximum levels of cost sharing and funding in support of its programs.

When cost sharing is offered, it is understood and agreed that the applicant must provide the amount of cost sharing as stipulated in its proposal and later included in an approved grant agreement. Cost sharing may be in the form of allowable direct or indirect costs. For accountability, you must maintain written records to support all costs which are claimed as your contribution, as well as costs to be paid by the Federal government. Such records are subject to audit. The basis for determining the value of cash and in-kind contributions must be in accordance with OMB Circular A-110, (Revised), Subpart C.23—Cost Sharing and Matching. In the event you do not provide the minimum amount of cost sharing as stipulated in the approved budget, ECA's contribution will be reduced in like proportion.

III.3. Other Eligibility Requirements: Bureau grant guidelines require that organizations with less than four years experience in conducting international exchanges be limited to \$60,000 in Bureau funding. ECA anticipates making one award, in an amount up to \$220,000 to support program and administrative costs required to implement this exchange program. Therefore, organizations with less than four years experience in conducting international exchanges are ineligible to apply under this competition. The Bureau encourages applicants to provide maximum levels of cost sharing and funding in support of its programs.

IV. Application and Submission Information

Note: Please read the complete announcement before sending inquiries or submitting proposals. Once the RFGP deadline has passed, Bureau staff may not discuss this competition with applicants until the proposal review process has been completed.

IV.1. Contact Information To Request an Application Package: Please contact Amy Schulz in the Youth Programs Division, ECA/PE/C/PY, Room Number 220, U.S. Department of State, SA-44, 301 4th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20547, phone: (202) 453-8158, fax (202) 453-8169, or e-mail SchulzAJ@state.gov to request a Solicitation Package.

Please refer to the Funding Opportunity Number located at the top of this announcement when making your request. Alternatively, an electronic application package may be obtained from grants.gov. Please see section IV.3f for further information.

The Solicitation Package contains the Proposal Submission Instruction (PSI) document which consists of required application forms, and standard guidelines for proposal preparation. It also contains the Project Objectives, Goals and Implementation (POGI) document, which provides specific information, award criteria and budget instructions tailored to this competition.

Please specify Bureau Program Officer Amy Schulz and refer to the Funding Opportunity Number (ECA/PE/C/PY-09-05) located at the top of this announcement on all other inquiries and correspondence.

IV.2. To Download a Solicitation Package Via Internet: The entire Solicitation Package may be downloaded from the Bureau's Web site at <http://exchanges.state.gov/education/rfgps/menu.htm> or from the Grants.gov Web site at <http://www.grants.gov>. Please read all information before downloading.

IV.3. Content and Form of Submission: Applicants must follow all instructions in the Solicitation Package. The application should be submitted per the instructions under IV.3f. "Application Deadline and Methods of Submission" section below.

IV.3a. You are required to have a Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number to apply for a grant or cooperative agreement from the U.S. Government. This number is a nine-digit identification number, which uniquely identifies business entities. Obtaining a DUNS number is easy and there is no charge. To obtain a DUNS number, access [http://](http://www.dunandbradstreet.com)

www.dunandbradstreet.com or call 1-866-705-5711. Please ensure that your DUNS number is included in the appropriate box of the SF-424 which is part of the formal application package.

IV.3b. All proposals must contain an executive summary, proposal narrative and budget.

Please Refer to the Solicitation Package. It contains the mandatory Proposal Submission Instructions (PSI) document and the Project Objectives, Goals and Implementation (POGI) document for additional formatting and technical requirements.

IV.3c. You must have nonprofit status with the IRS at the time of application.

Please note: Effective March 14, 2008, all applicants for ECA federal assistance awards must include with their application, a copy of page 5, Part V-A, "Current Officers, Directors, Trustees, and Key Employees" of their most recent Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Form 990, "Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax." If an applicant does not file an IRS Form 990, but instead files Schedule A (Form 990 or 990-EZ)—"Organization Exempt Under Section 501(c)(3)," applicants must include with their application a copy of Page 1, Part 1, "Compensation of the Five Highest Paid Employees Other Than Officers, Directors and Trustees," of their most recent Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Form—Schedule A (Form 990 or 990-EZ).

If your organization is a private nonprofit which has not received a grant or cooperative agreement from ECA in the past three years, or if your organization received nonprofit status from the IRS within the past four years, you must submit the necessary documentation to verify nonprofit status as directed in the PSI document. Failure to do so will cause your proposal to be declared technically ineligible.

IV.3d. Please take into consideration the following information when preparing your proposal narrative:

IV.3d.1. Adherence to All Regulations Governing the J Visa: The Office of Citizen Exchanges of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs is the official program sponsor of the exchange program covered by this RFGP, and an employee of the Bureau will be the "Responsible Officer" for the program under the terms of 22 CFR part 62, which covers the administration of the Exchange Visitor Program (J visa program). Under the terms of 22 CFR part 62, organizations receiving awards (either a grant or cooperative agreement) under this RFGP will be third parties "cooperating with or assisting the sponsor in the conduct of the sponsor's program." The actions of recipient organizations shall be "imputed to the sponsor in evaluating the sponsor's compliance with" 22 CFR part 62. Therefore, the Bureau expects that any organization receiving an award under

this competition will render all assistance necessary to enable the Bureau to fully comply with 22 CFR part 62 *et seq.*

The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs places critically important emphases on the secure and proper administration of Exchange Visitor (J visa) Programs and adherence by recipient organizations and program participants to all regulations governing the J visa program status. Therefore, proposals should explicitly state in writing that the applicant is prepared to assist the Bureau in meeting all requirements governing the administration of Exchange Visitor Programs as set forth in 22 CFR part 62. If your organization has experience as a designated Exchange Visitor Program Sponsor, the applicant should discuss their record of compliance with 22 CFR part 62 *et seq.*, including the oversight of their Responsible Officers and Alternate Responsible Officers, screening and selection of program participants, provision of pre-arrival information and orientation to participants, monitoring of participants, proper maintenance and security of forms, record-keeping, reporting and other requirements.

The Office of Citizen Exchanges of ECA will be responsible for issuing DS-2019 forms to participants in this program.

A copy of the complete regulations governing the administration of Exchange Visitor (J) programs is available at <http://exchanges.state.gov> or from: United States Department of State, Office of Exchange Coordination and Designation, ECA/EC/ECD—SA-44, Room 734, 301 4th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20547, Telephone: (202) 203-5029, FAX: (202) 453-8640.

IV.3d.2 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 disabilities. 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 your 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," the Bureau "shall take appropriate steps to provide opportunities for participation in such programs to human rights and democracy leaders of such countries." Public Law 106-113 requires that the governments of the countries described above do not have inappropriate influence in the selection process. Proposals should reflect advancement of these goals in their program contents, to the full extent deemed feasible.

IV.3d.3. Program Monitoring and Evaluation: Proposals must include a plan to monitor and evaluate the project's success, both as the activities unfold and at the end of the program. The Bureau recommends that your proposal include a draft survey questionnaire or other technique plus a description of a methodology to use to link outcomes to original project objectives. The Bureau expects that the grantee will track participants or partners and be able to respond to key evaluation questions, including satisfaction with the program, learning as a result of the program, changes in behavior as a result of the program, and effects of the program on institutions (institutions in which participants work or partner institutions). The evaluation plan should include indicators that measure gains in mutual understanding as well as substantive knowledge.

Successful monitoring and evaluation depend heavily on setting clear goals and outcomes at the outset of a program. Your evaluation plan should include a description of your project's objectives, your anticipated project outcomes, and how and when you intend to measure these outcomes (performance indicators). The more that outcomes are "smart" (specific, measurable, attainable, results-oriented, and placed in a reasonable timeframe), the easier it will be to conduct the evaluation. You should also show how your project objectives link to the goals of the program described in this RFGP.

Your monitoring and evaluation plan should clearly distinguish between program outputs and outcomes. Outputs are products and services delivered, often stated as an amount. Output information is important to show the scope or size of project activities, but it cannot substitute for information about progress towards outcomes or the results achieved. Examples of outputs include the number of people trained or the number of seminars conducted. *Outcomes*, in contrast, represent specific results a project is intended to achieve and is usually measured as an extent of change. Findings on outputs

and outcomes should both be reported, but the focus should be on outcomes.

We encourage you to assess the following four levels of outcomes, as they relate to the program goals set out in the RFGP (listed here in increasing order of importance):

1. *Participant satisfaction* with the program and exchange experience.
2. *Participant learning*, such as increased knowledge, aptitude, skills, and changed understanding and attitude. Learning includes both substantive (subject-specific) learning and mutual understanding.
3. *Participant behavior*, concrete actions to apply knowledge in work or community; greater participation and responsibility in civic organizations; interpretation and explanation of experiences and new knowledge gained; continued contacts between participants, community members, and others.
4. *Institutional changes*, such as increased collaboration and partnerships, policy reforms, new programming, and organizational improvements.

Please note: Consideration should be given to the appropriate timing of data collection for each level of outcome. For example, satisfaction is usually captured as a short-term outcome, whereas behavior and institutional changes are normally considered longer-term outcomes.

Overall, the quality of your monitoring and evaluation plan will be judged on how well it (1) Specifies intended outcomes; (2) gives clear descriptions of how each outcome will be measured; (3) identifies when particular outcomes will be measured; and (4) provides a clear description of the data collection strategies for each outcome (i.e., surveys, interviews, or focus groups). (Please note that evaluation plans that deal only with the first level of outcomes [satisfaction] will be deemed less competitive under the present evaluation criteria.)

Recipient organizations will be required to provide reports analyzing their evaluation findings to the Bureau in their regular program reports. All data collected, including survey responses and contact information, must be maintained for a minimum of three years and provided to the Bureau upon request.

IV.3d.4. For informational and planning purposes, we are informing all potential applicants that ECA is in the process of developing comprehensive approaches to alumni programming, Web portal development supported through ECA assistance awards (grants/cooperative agreements) and the expansion of private/public partnerships to increase the reach of ECA's exchange programs. In the event your proposal is recommended for funding, you may receive additional guidance/information related to these

topics during the negotiation stage of the approval process.

In addition, all recipients of ECA grants or cooperative agreements should be prepared to state in any announcement or publicity where it is not inappropriate, that activities are assisted financially by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the United States Department of State under the authority of the Fulbright-Hays Act of 1961, as amended. Award recipients are strongly encouraged to use the Department seal on all promotional and related materials for ECA funded programs which support the commemoration of special occasions or events, but only after first obtaining written permission from the ECA program office(r) assigned to the project.

IV.3e. Please take the following information into consideration when preparing your budget:

IV.3e.1. Applicants must submit SF-424A—"Budget Information—Non-Construction Programs" along with a comprehensive budget for the entire program. Budget requests may not exceed \$220,000. There must be a summary budget as well as breakdowns reflecting both administrative and program budgets. Applicants may provide separate sub-budgets for each program component, phase, location, or activity to provide clarification.

IV.3e.2. Allowable costs for the program include the following:

- (1) Round-trip transportation for participants from their host communities to/from the Leadership and Reentry workshop site.
- (2) Daily travel at workshop site location as necessary.
- (3) Accommodations and meals for participants during the time of the workshop.
- (4) Rental of facilities and equipment.
- (5) Fees for relevant excursions and cultural activities.
- (6) Honoraria for speakers/trainers, as appropriate.
- (7) Necessary reasonable accommodations.
- (8) Materials development.

Please refer to the Solicitation Package for complete budget guidelines and formatting instructions.

IV.3f. Application Deadline and Methods of Submission:

Application Deadline Date: Friday, February 6, 2009.

Reference Number: ECA/PE/C/PY-09-05.

Methods of Submission: Applications may be submitted in one of two ways:

- (1) In hard-copy, via a nationally recognized overnight delivery service (i.e., DHL, Federal Express, UPS, Airborne Express, or U.S. Postal Service Express Overnight Mail, etc.), or

(2) Electronically through <http://www.grants.gov>. Along with the Program Title, all applicants must enter the above Reference Number in Box 11 on the SF-424 contained in the mandatory Proposal Submission Instructions (PSI) of the solicitation document.

IV.3f.1. Submitting Printed Applications: Applications must be shipped no later than the above deadline. Delivery services used by applicants must have in-place, centralized shipping identification and tracking systems that may be accessed via the Internet and delivery people who are identifiable by commonly recognized uniforms and delivery vehicles. Proposals shipped on or before the above deadline but received at ECA more than seven days after the deadline will be ineligible for further consideration under this competition. Proposals shipped after the established deadlines are ineligible for consideration under this competition. ECA will not notify you upon receipt of application. It is each applicant's responsibility to ensure that each package is marked with a legible tracking number and to monitor/confirm delivery to ECA via the Internet. Delivery of proposal packages may not be made via local courier service or in person for this competition. Faxed documents will not be accepted at any time. Only proposals submitted as stated above will be considered.

Important note: When preparing your submission please make sure to include one extra copy of the completed SF-424 form and place it in an envelope addressed to "ECA/EX/PM".

The original and seven copies of the application should be sent to: U.S. Department of State, SA-44, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, Ref: ECA/PE/C/PY-09-05, Program Management, ECA/EX/PM, Room 534, 301 4th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20547.

IV.3f.2. Submitting Electronic Applications: Applicants have the option of submitting proposals electronically through Grants.gov (<http://www.grants.gov>). Complete solicitation packages are available at Grants.gov in the "Find" portion of the system. Please follow the instructions available in the "Get Started" portion of the site (<http://www.grants.gov/GetStarted>).

Several of the steps in the Grants.gov registration process could take several weeks. Therefore, applicants should check with appropriate staff within their organizations immediately after reviewing this RFGP to confirm or

determine their registration status with Grants.gov.

Once registered, the amount of time it can take to upload an application will vary depending on a variety of factors including the size of the application and the speed of your internet connection. In addition, validation of an electronic submission via Grants.gov can take up to two business days.

Therefore, we strongly recommend that you not wait until the application deadline to begin the submission process through Grants.gov.

The Grants.gov Web site includes extensive information on all phases/aspects of the Grants.gov process, including an extensive section on frequently asked questions, located under the "For Applicants" section of the Web site. ECA strongly recommends that all potential applicants review thoroughly the Grants.gov Web site, well in advance of submitting a proposal through the Grants.gov system. ECA bears no responsibility for data errors resulting from transmission or conversion processes.

Direct all questions regarding Grants.gov registration and submission to: Grants.gov Customer Support, Contact Center Phone: 800-518-4726, Business Hours: Monday-Friday, 7 a.m.-9 p.m. Eastern Time, E-mail: support@grants.gov.

Applicants have until midnight (12 a.m.), Washington, DC time of the closing date to ensure that their entire application has been uploaded to the Grants.gov site. There are no exceptions to the above deadline. Applications uploaded to the site after midnight of the application deadline date will be automatically rejected by the grants.gov system, and will be technically ineligible.

Please refer to the Grants.gov Web site, for definitions of various "application statuses" and the difference between a submission receipt and a submission validation. Applicants will receive a validation e-mail from grants.gov upon the successful submission of an application. Again, validation of an electronic submission via Grants.gov can take up to two business days. Therefore, we strongly recommend that you not wait until the application deadline to begin the submission process through Grants.gov. ECA will not notify you upon receipt of electronic applications.

It is the responsibility of all applicants submitting proposals via the Grants.gov Web portal to ensure that proposals have been received by Grants.gov in their entirety, and ECA bears no responsibility for data errors

resulting from transmission or conversion processes.

IV.3g. Intergovernmental Review of Applications: Executive Order 12372 does not apply to this program.

V. Application Review Information

V.1. Review Process

The Bureau will review all proposals for technical eligibility. Proposals will be deemed ineligible if they do not fully adhere to the guidelines stated herein and in the Solicitation Package. All eligible proposals will be reviewed by the program office, as well as the Public Diplomacy section overseas, where appropriate. Eligible proposals will be subject to compliance with Federal and Bureau regulations and guidelines and forwarded to Bureau grant panels for advisory review. Proposals may also be reviewed by the Office of the Legal Adviser or by other Department elements. Final funding decisions are at the discretion of the Department of State's Assistant Secretary for Educational and Cultural Affairs. Final technical authority for grants assistance awards resides with the Bureau's 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. *Program planning*: 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.

2. *Ability to achieve program objectives*: Objectives should be reasonable, feasible, and flexible. Proposals should clearly demonstrate how the institution will meet the program's objectives and plan.

3. *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, and resource materials).

4. *Institutional Capacity*: Proposed personnel and institutional resources should be adequate and appropriate to achieve the program or project's goals.

5. *Institution's Record/Ability*: Proposals should demonstrate an institutional record of successful exchange programs, including responsible fiscal management and full

compliance with all reporting requirements for past Bureau awards (grants or cooperative agreements) as determined by Bureau Grants Staff. The Bureau will consider the past performance of prior recipients and the demonstrated potential of new applicants.

6. *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.

7. *Cost-effectiveness and 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.

VI. Award Administration Information

VI.1a. Award Notices

Final awards cannot be made until funds have been appropriated by Congress, allocated and committed through internal Bureau procedures. Successful applicants will receive a Federal Assistance Award (FAA) from the Bureau's Grants Office. The FAA and the original proposal with subsequent modifications (if applicable) shall be the only binding authorizing document between the recipient and the U.S. Government. The FAA will be signed by an authorized Grants Officer, and mailed to the recipient's responsible officer identified in the application.

Unsuccessful applicants will receive notification of the results of the application review from the ECA program office coordinating this competition.

VI.2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

Terms and Conditions for the Administration of ECA agreements include the following:

Office of Management and Budget Circular A-122, "Cost Principles for Nonprofit Organizations."

Office of Management and Budget Circular A-21, "Cost Principles for Educational Institutions."

OMB Circular A-87, "Cost Principles for State, Local and Indian Governments".

OMB Circular No. A-110 (Revised), Uniform Administrative Requirements

for Grants and Agreements with Institutions of Higher Education, Hospitals, and other Nonprofit Organizations.

OMB Circular No. A-102, Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants-in-Aid to State and Local Governments.

OMB Circular No. A-133, Audits of States, Local Government, and Non-profit Organizations.

Please reference the following Web sites for additional information: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants>, <http://fa.statebuy.state.gov>.

VI.3. *Reporting Requirements*: You must provide ECA with a hard copy original plus two copies of the following reports:

(1.) A final program and financial report no more than 90 days after the expiration of the award;

(2.) A concise, one-page final program report summarizing program outcomes no more than 90 days after the expiration of the award. This one-page report will be transmitted to OMB, and be made available to the public via OMB's USAspending.gov Web site—as part of ECA's Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA) reporting requirements.

(3.) A SF-PPR, "Performance Progress Report" Cover Sheet with all program reports.

Award recipients will be required to provide reports analyzing their evaluation findings to the Bureau in their regular program reports. (Please refer to IV. Application and Submission Instructions (IV.3.d.3) above for Program Monitoring and Evaluation information.)

All data collected, including survey responses and contact information, must be maintained for a minimum of three years and provided to the Bureau upon request.

All reports must be sent to the ECA Grants Officer and ECA Program Officer listed in the final assistance award document.

VII. Agency Contact

For questions about this announcement, contact: Amy Schulz, Program Officer, Office of Citizen Exchanges, ECA/PE/C/PY, Room 220, Reference Number ECA/PE/C/PY-09-05, U.S. Department of State, SA-44, 301 4th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20547, phone: (202) 453-8158 and fax (202) 453-8169, E-mail: SchulzAJ@state.gov.

All correspondence with the Bureau concerning this RFGP should reference the above title and number ECA/PE/C/PY-09-05.

Please read the complete announcement before sending inquiries

or submitting proposals. Once the RFGP deadline has passed, Bureau staff may not discuss this competition with applicants until the proposal review process has been completed.

VIII. Other Information

Notice

The terms and conditions published in this RFGP 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 RFGP 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 per section VI.3 above.

Dated: December 2, 2008.

Goli Ameri,

Assistant Secretary for Educational and Cultural Affairs, Department of State.

[FR Doc. E8-29366 Filed 12-11-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-05-P

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

Renewal of the Regional Resource Stewardship Council

Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) and 41 CFR 102-3.65, and following consultation with the Committee Management Secretariat, General Services Administration (GSA), notice is hereby given that the Regional Resource Stewardship Council (Council) has been renewed for a two-year period beginning February 2, 2009. The Council will provide advice to the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) on issues affecting natural resource stewardship activities.

Numerous public and private entities are traditionally involved in the stewardship of the natural resources of the Tennessee Valley region. It has been determined that the Council continues to be needed to provide an additional mechanism for public input regarding stewardship issues.

Further information regarding this advisory committee can be obtained from Beth A. Keel, 400 West Summit Hill Drive, WT 11B-K, Knoxville, Tennessee 37902-1499, (865) 632-6113.

Anda A. Ray,

Senior Vice President, Office of Environment and Research, Tennessee Valley Authority.

[FR Doc. E8-29437 Filed 12-11-08; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

[Docket No. FMCSA-2008-0336]

Agency Information Collection Activities; New Information Collection: Annual Commercial Vehicle Driver Survey: Work and Compensation

AGENCY: Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, FMCSA announces its plan to submit the Information Collection Request (ICR) described below to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for its review and approval and invites public comment. The purpose of this information collection is to acquire general information regarding the commercial motor vehicle driving population and specific information on driver work history, work scheduling, and compensation. This information is needed in many different types of analyses conducted by the FMCSA and would benefit the FMCSA in assessing the impacts of proposed rules and the improvement of its safety programs.

DATES: We must receive your comments on or before February 10, 2009.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments bearing the Federal Docket Management System (FDMS) Docket Number FMCSA-2008-0336 using any of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.
- *Mail:* Docket Management Facility; U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., West Building Ground Floor, Room W12-140, Washington, DC 20590-0001.
- *Hand Delivery:* West Building Ground Floor, Room W12-140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., Washington, DC 20590-0001 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., e.t., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.
- *Fax:* 1-202-493-2251.

Each submission must include the Agency name and the docket number for this Notice. Note that DOT posts all comments received without change to <http://www.regulations.gov>, including any personal information included in a comment. Please see the Privacy Act heading below.

Docket: For access to the docket to read background documents or

comments, go to <http://www.regulations.gov> at any time or Room W12-140 on the ground level of the West Building, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., Washington, DC 20590-0001 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The FDMS is available 24 hours each day, 365 days each year. If you want acknowledgement that we received your comments, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope or post card or print the acknowledgement page that appears after submitting online.

Privacy Act: Anyone may search the electronic form of all comments received into any of our dockets by the name of the individual submitting the comment (or of the person signing the comment, if submitted on behalf of an association, business, labor union, etc.). You may review the DOT's complete Privacy Act Statement in the **Federal Register** on April 11, 2000 (65 FR 19476). This information is also available at <http://docketsinfo.dot.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Mindy Shalaby, Economist, Analysis Division, Office of Analysis, Research and Technology, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, 1200 New Jersey Ave., SE., Washington, DC 20590. *Telephone:* (202) 493-0304; e-mail Mindy.Shalaby@dot.gov. Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed to Dr. Michelle Yeh, Engineering Psychologist, Human Factors Division, Volpe National Transportation Systems Center, 55 Broadway, Cambridge, MA 02124. *Telephone:* (617) 494-3459; e-mail Michelle.Yeh@dot.gov. Office hours are from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: *Background:* The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) needs a better understanding of the commercial motor vehicle (CMV) driving population. Driver-related factors are an important consideration in CMV crashes, but there is no central nationwide source of information describing the population of drivers operating CMVs in the United States (US). Estimates of the number of commercial drivers and particular subsets of drivers (e.g., local, short-haul, and long-haul) are needed and would benefit FMCSA in assessing the impacts of proposed rules and the improvement of its safety programs. In particular, information on driver work history, work schedule, and compensation is needed in many different types of analyses conducted by the FMCSA.