

significantly, will enhance the ability of institutional investors, retail investors and broker-dealers to compare and negotiate prices in Agency debt securities transactions, and will enhance FINRA's surveillance of the debt market in connection with primary market transactions and Agency debt securities generally; and (ii) the proposed fee proposal provides for reporting and market data fees that are reasonable and mirror the fees currently in effect for corporate bonds, and provides for the equitable allocation of such fees and charges among members and other professional market participants, qualifying Tax-Exempt Organizations and public data consumers.

#### *B. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition*

FINRA does not believe that the proposed rule change will result in any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.

#### *C. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Comments on the Proposed Rule Change Received From Members, Participants or Others*

Written comments were neither solicited nor received.

### **III. Date of Effectiveness of the Proposed Rule Change and Timing for Commission Action**

Within 35 days of the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register** or within such longer period (i) as the Commission may designate up to 90 days of such date if it finds such longer period to be appropriate and publishes its reasons for so finding or (ii) as to which the self regulatory organization consents, the Commission will:

(A) By order approve such proposed rule change, or

(B) Institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule change should be disapproved.

### **IV. 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](mailto:rule-comments@sec.gov). Please include File

Number SR-FINRA-2009-010 on the subject line.

#### *Paper Comments*

- Send paper comments in triplicate to Elizabeth M. Murphy, Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street, NE., Washington, DC 20549-1090.

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-FINRA-2009-010. 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 the filing will also be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of FINRA. 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 No. SR-FINRA-2009-010 and should be submitted on or before May 7, 2009.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>25</sup>

**Florence E. Harmon,**

*Deputy Secretary.*

[FR Doc. E9-8656 Filed 4-15-09; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 8010-01-P**

## **DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

[Public Notice 6581]

### **Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) Request for Grant Proposals (RFGP): Congressionally Mandated—One-Time Grants Program—Competition B—Professional, Cultural, and Youth One-Time Grants Program**

*Announcement Type:* New Grant.  
*Funding Opportunity Number:* ECA/PE/C-09-One-time-Comp. B  
*Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number:* 00.000.

*Key Dates:*

*Application Deadline:* May 14, 2009.

*Executive Summary:* This competition is one of two competitions that the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs is conducting as directed in the FY-2009 Omnibus Appropriation (Pub. L. 111-8) under Division H of the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, under "Educational and Cultural Exchange Programs" in support of a \$6 million "competitive one-time grants program." All applications must be submitted by public or private non-profit organizations, meeting the provisions described in Internal Revenue code section 26 U.S.C. 501(c)(3). Total funding for this "one-time grants program" is \$6 million dollars. \$3.9 million will be dedicated to this competition, (Competition B—Professional, Cultural and Youth One-time Grants Program—reference number ECA/PE/C-09-One-time-Comp. B), and \$2.1 million will be dedicated to and announced simultaneously in a separate RFGP, (Competition A—Academic Programs One-time Grants Program—reference number ECA/A-09-One-time-Comp. A). **Please note:** The Bureau reserves the right to reallocate funds it has initially allocated to each of these two competitions, based upon factors such as the number of applications received and responsiveness to the review criteria outlined in each of the solicitations.

Applicants may submit only one proposal (TOTAL) to one of the two competitions referenced above. In addition, applicants under this competition (either ECA/PE/C-09-One-time-Comp. B or ECA/A-09-One-time-Comp. A) may only apply to administer one of the listed activities (total). If multiple proposals are received from the same applicant, all submissions will be declared technically ineligible and will be given no further consideration in the review process. Eligible applicants are strongly encouraged to read both RFGPs

<sup>25</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

thoroughly, prior to developing and submitting proposals, to ensure that proposed activities are appropriate and responsive to the goals, objectives and criteria outlined in each of the solicitations.

As further directed by the Congress, "The program shall be only for the actual exchange of people and should benefit a population that is not being addressed through existing authorized exchanges."

The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs announces a competition for grants that support international exchanges in order to increase mutual understanding and build relationships, through individuals and organizations, between the people of the United States and their counterparts in other countries. The Bureau welcomes proposals from organizations that have not had a previous grant from the Bureau as well as from those which have; see eligibility information below and in section III.

Organizations that received grant funding under the FY-2008 Competitive One-time Grants Program (Reference numbers: ECA/A-08-One-time-Comp. A or ECA/PE/C/-08-One-time-Comp. B) are not eligible to apply for this FY-2009 One-time 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.

#### Background

The FY-2009 Omnibus Appropriation (Pub. L. 111-8) under Division H of the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, under "Educational and Cultural Exchange Programs" provides \$6 million for a "competitive one-time grants program. Grants shall

address issues of mutual interest to the United States and other countries, consistent with the program criteria established in Public Law 110-161. Programs shall support the actual exchange of people and should benefit a population that is not being addressed through existing authorized exchanges."

*Purpose:* ECA anticipates awarding approximately 12-15 grants under this FY2009 Competition B Professional, Cultural, and Youth One-time Grants Program. Each grant must sponsor an exchange of approximately equal numbers of American participants traveling to the partner country(ies) and participants from the partner country(ies) traveling to the U.S. In addition, the projects should set clear learning objectives for both foreign and American participants, thereby supporting the Fulbright-Hays Act purpose of increasing mutual understanding. Also, the applicant must have the necessary capacity in the partner country through their own overseas offices or a partner institution to carry out the proposed project.

Proposals must respond to one specific theme under one of the following programs:

*Emerging Youth Leaders:* for high school students (ages 15-17) and educators

1. Democracy and Governance in Civil Society

2. Science and Environmental issues  
*Emerging Young Professionals:* for young adults (ages 22-35)

1. Environmental issues  
2. Entrepreneurial and business management skills

3. Post-conflict governing  
4. Development of Grassroots

Organizations for Women

*Emerging Cultural Leaders:* "Rooted in the Arts" program for U.S. performing artists (ages 25-35) and teachers

Please note each of the aforementioned programs is limited to specific countries. More detailed descriptions of these programs, themes and eligible countries are included below.

In order to emphasize ECA's interest in clarity of project purpose and, later, to track projects and to evaluate their results, all proposals must be presented in the following format:

Tab A—Application for Federal Assistance Cover Sheet

Tab B—Executive Summary

In one double-spaced page, provide the following information:

1. Names of the applicant organization and other participating institutions, both American and foreign.

2. Beginning and ending dates of the project

3. Grant theme being addressed

4. Numbers of American and foreign participants

5. Types and approximate dates of project activities and their venues

6. Total number of exchange days, including only those days when international travelers are in program status in the partnering country.

#### Tab C—Narrative

In no more than 20 double-spaced, single-sided pages, use the following format to describe the proposed project in detail:

##### A. Purpose:

1. Definition of the overall goal to be pursued through a two-way exchange project. Name the theme from those listed under Emerging Youth Leaders, Emerging Young Professionals, or Emerging Cultural Leaders into which this goal should fit.

2. Country or countries to take part, and why chosen.

3. Category of persons to participate, with explanation of why that category is chosen and how it fits the requirement that it is a population that is not being addressed through existing authorized exchanges.

4. Description of program activities to take place (e.g., workshops, internships, community service, job shadowing, model site visits, cultural activities, etc).

B. Objectives: Based on the purpose described above, delineate your project's main objectives (no more than five) and outcomes you expect as a result of your project's activities. For each outcome, please state the time frame for achievement. Your objectives and outcomes should be realistic in scope. They should be guided by one or more of the following questions. (Please see section IV.3d.3. Project Monitoring and Evaluation for assistance in identifying and defining outcomes.)

1. What specifically will participants, U.S. and foreign, learn as a result of this project?

2. What new attitudes will participants, U.S. and foreign, develop, or what new ideas will they encounter as a result of this project?

3. How will the participants' behavior change as a result of this project? What new actions will they take?

4. Will participants be a catalyst for change in their schools, work-places, communities, or institutions? How so?

C. Baseline: Describe plans for baseline measurements of these outcomes at the project outset. Based on the time-frame for achievement you stipulate, what types of data will be gathered, when, by what methodology,

and what plan will be used to analyze data and draw conclusions?

D. Shorter-term Outcomes: Explain plans for measurement of shorter-term outcomes at the end of project activities. Please note any changes in measurement or data collection, since baseline data were originally collected.

E. Longer-term Outcomes: Provide plans for measurement of outcomes six months or more after the end of project activities. Explain the linkages between project activities and learning, and longer-term outcomes and achievements, in the intervening months. These outcome measurements should be the basis for evaluating the overall project and should provide the core of the final report to ECA.

#### Tab D—Budget

Both a summary budget for administrative and programmatic expenses and a detailed, line-item budget must be presented in the three-column format illustrated in the PSI. Eligible expenses are described in IV.3e of this RFGP and in the PSI. Enough information should be provided so that reviewers can determine how line-item totals were calculated.

#### Tab E—Letters of Endorsement and Resumes

Resumes should not exceed two pages each.

#### Tab F—Copy of IRS Notification of Current Tax-Exempt Status, SF-424B, and Other Attachments if Applicable

Please refer to the Proposal Submission Instructions (PSI) document for detailed information on proposal structuring and formatting.

#### *Emerging Youth Leaders*

Program Contact: Jon Crocitto, tel: 202-203-7501, e-mail [CrocittoJA@state.gov](mailto:CrocittoJA@state.gov).

The Emerging Youth Leaders program provides opportunities for high school students (ages 15–17) and educators in the United States and in multiple countries around the world to participate in two-way exchanges, each three to four weeks in duration. Each project explores a specific theme designed to develop critical leadership skills for aspiring young leaders and encourages respect for diversity, foster mutual understanding, and promote critical thinking. An essential element of all projects is to build mutual understanding and respect among the people of the United States and the people of the exchange partner countries.

The overarching goals are:

1. To develop a sense of civic responsibility and commitment to the global community;
2. To promote mutual understanding between the United States and the people of other countries around topics of common interest; and
3. To foster personal and institutional ties between participants and partner countries.

The applicant should present a program plan that allows the participants to thoroughly explore the project themes in a creative, memorable, and practical way. Activities should be designed to be replicable and provide practical knowledge and skills that the participants can apply to school and civic activities at home.

Applicants will manage the design and planning of activities that provide a substantive, educational program on leadership, critical thinking, and conflict management, as well as on one of the specified themes, through both academic and extracurricular components. Activities should take place in schools and in the community. Community service must also be included. It is crucial that programming involve the participants' peers in the host countries whenever possible. The program will also include opportunities for the educators to work with their American peers and other professionals and volunteers to help them foster youth leadership, civic education, and community service programs at home.

A successful project will be one that nurtures a cadre of students and educators to be actively engaged in addressing issues of concern in their schools and communities upon their return home. Project activities will equip youth with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to become citizen activists and ethical leaders. Participants will be engaged in a variety of activities such as workshops, community and/or school-based programs, seminars, and other activities that are designed to achieve the program's stated goals. Multiple opportunities for participants to interact with youth and educators in the host country must be included. Participants will have homestays with local families for the majority of the exchange period, although participants may spend a modest portion of their time as a group in a hotel or dormitory setting. Applicants must outline their plan for recruiting, screening and orienting host families (who will provide both food and lodging), as well as a plan for appropriate supervision of participants in other living arrangements.

Grant recipients will recruit and select the participants in the United

States, as well as in the partner country(ies) through close consultation with the relevant U.S. Embassies; organize all exchange activities in the participating countries; and implement follow-on activities in which participants may apply at home what they have learned during the exchange.

Applicants must select only one of the two themes listed below. The projects will provide participants with a theoretical framework that will be underpinned by site visits that illustrate methods and strategies of practical implementation. Projects will also help the participants develop leadership skills, such as influential public speaking, team-building, and goal-setting, so that they are prepared to take action with what they have learned. They will also learn the tools of persuasion, negotiation, and mediation to effectively manage relationships and messages in a positive manner. The exchange activities will also examine diversity issues and how young people can develop skills in critical thinking and conflict management techniques.

#### *Themes and Eligible Partner Countries*

ECA will accept proposals in the specific themes and corresponding countries as indicated below. A single-country project is a two-way exchange between the United States and a single partner country. With a two-country project, participants from the partner countries should travel to the United States together; the American participants' exchange travel may be to just one or to both of the partner countries, depending on the applicant organization's program design and objectives. Applicants should present a rationale for their approach. Proposals that target countries or themes not listed in this solicitation will be deemed technically ineligible. No guarantee is made or implied that grants will be awarded in all themes and for all countries listed. Organizations should consider current U.S. Department of State travel advisories when selecting the countries with which they would like to work.

(1) Democracy and Governance in Civil Society: ECA welcomes proposals that will explore the issues of citizen involvement and effective management in government. Projects will demonstrate how this can benefit individual citizens, non-governmental entities, and the public sector. Proposed programs will promote a respect for transparent governance that is responsive to citizens' concerns and increase participant understanding of ways that citizens can improve

governance, fight corruption, and ensure accountability.

Projects should demonstrate the principles of fair and transparent governance and should promote dialogue among youth on this theme. Projects must be culturally sensitive and address specific needs of the partner country or countries, or regions. Individual projects might have the youth participants explore ways that a country's government, media, and NGOs can encourage and support the involvement of its citizenry, increase citizen trust, and expand the democratic process.

Geographic Regions and Eligible Countries:

- *Africa*
  - Senegal (single-country project)
- *Europe and Eurasia*
  - Armenia and Azerbaijan (mandatory two-country project)
- *Middle East and North Africa*
  - Egypt (single-country project)

(2) Science and Environmental issues: Projects will focus on the shared scientific and environmental interests of the participating countries in either agriculture or natural resource and land management. Participants will complete projects that illustrate the issue through hands-on activities and community service. These projects will also include a review of the impact of public interest and government policies on the issue, as well as a comprehensive discussion of proposed solutions. Projects will demonstrate how this can benefit individual citizens, non-governmental entities, and the public sector. Proposed programs will promote scientifically-based and socially responsible decision-making regarding natural resources and land management that will increase participant understanding of the core issues that inform policy creation.

Projects should demonstrate objectivity and should promote dialogue among youth on the core issues. Projects must be culturally sensitive and address specific needs of the partner country or countries, or regions. Individual projects might have the youth participants explore ways that a country's government, academic institutions, and NGOs can encourage and support the involvement of its citizenry in developing scientifically-based and socially responsible environmental policies.

Geographic Regions and Eligible Countries:

- *Asia*
  - China (Beijing Municipality only)
- *South America and Caribbean*
  - Chile or Dominican Republic (single-country project)

Proposal narratives must demonstrate the applicant's capacity in the partner country through their own offices or a partner institution to successfully conduct the proposed exchange activities. The requisite capacity overseas includes the ability to organize substantive exchange activities for the American participants, provide follow-on activities, and handle the logistical and financial arrangements.

Applicants should propose the time periods of the two exchanges, but the exact timing of the project may be altered through the mutual agreement of the Department of State and the grant recipient. The program should be no less than three weeks and up to four weeks in duration.

These two-way exchanges should involve the same communities in each country, as the second reciprocal exchange will help reinforce the relationships and program content developed during the first exchange. Project staff should help facilitate regular program-oriented communication among the exchange participants between the two exchanges.

The exchange participants will be high school students between the ages of 15 and 17 who have demonstrated leadership abilities in their schools and/or communities, and have at least one year of high school remaining after the completion of the exchange. The adult participants will be high school teachers or community leaders who work with youth. They will have a demonstrated interest in youth leadership and will be expected to remain in positions where they can continue to work with youth. The ratio of youth to adults should be between 5:1 and 10:1. Participants will be proficient in the English language.

#### *Emerging Young Professionals*

Program Contact: Curt Huff, tel: 202-453-8159, e-mail: [HuffCE@state.gov](mailto:HuffCE@state.gov).

The Emerging Young Professionals program offers opportunities for young adults (approximately 22-35 years old) to participate in two-way exchanges of approximately three to four weeks or more in duration to develop their leadership skills and to increase mutual understanding between their countries and the United States. ECA is especially interested in engaging marginalized populations and women from both the U.S. and partner countries in the exchanges. Exchange projects should build participants' leadership skills, including how to conceptualize and develop projects to reach diverse citizenry, using clear objectives, solid management structures and evaluation feedback mechanisms for projects at the local level. Participants should be

community leaders, political leaders, educators, and/or advocates for youth, or persons who show the capacity to become effective in those roles.

Projects should be two-way in purpose and implementation, with approximately equal numbers of participants traveling to and from the United States for approximately equal periods of time. Consistent with this approach, project plans should promote learning and teaching by participants from all countries in the project to promote mutual understanding and build individual and institutional partnerships that are likely to continue beyond the grant project. Proposals that clearly delineate salient objectives in measurable terms and plan activities in a sequence that will progressively lead to achieving those objectives, will be considered more competitive on the review criterion of ability to achieve program objectives.

Projects should be planned around one of the following themes:

(1) Environmental issues: These projects should focus on a shared environmental issue of the participating countries (*e.g.*, use of natural resources, pollution, sustainable energy, recycling, land management). Participants should jointly examine a problem or group of issues, through study of public interest and government policy statements, and then participate in experiential learning exercises to build mutual approaches to the issue, and develop their own recommendations for addressing it.

(2) Entrepreneurial and business management skills: These projects should introduce participants to the identification of business opportunities, the writing of business plans, the calculation of risks, and the management of new businesses in order to maximize the probability of success.

(3) Post-conflict governance: These projects are for countries that are emerging from regional or civil war in recent years. Projects should allow participants to experience creative approaches to governing in a post-conflict country. Developing working relationships with colleagues from opposite sides of a past conflict; breaking down barriers to implement governmental administration; and how a new post-conflict government promotes tolerance and diversity should be addressed in these projects. Participants should practice different methods and receive hands-on experiential learning.

(4) Development of Grassroots Organizations for Women: These projects should work to expand the capacity of grassroots organizations (NGOs) that advocate empowering women. Projects should work to build

NGO capacity in practice, giving NGO leaders opportunities to adopt best practices by doing. When possible, joint projects should be developed, implemented, monitored and evaluated by both the U.S. and international sides.

#### *Eligible Partner Countries and Regions*

ECA will consider proposals for either single-country or multi-country projects. A single-country project is a two-way exchange between the United States and a single partner country. A multi-country project involves participants from more than one country coming to the United States together, and American participants traveling to those countries. The Bureau prefers projects that will engage both Americans and international participants deeply enough that relationships will continue beyond the grant-funded activities. Competitive proposals will be those that demonstrate why any country or group of countries has been identified for a specific project and outline why the specific group of participants to be selected from that country/countries is an effective group to achieve project objectives. Proposals that target countries or themes not listed in this solicitation will be deemed technically ineligible. No guarantee is made or implied that grants will be awarded in all themes and for all countries listed. Organizations should consider current U.S. Department of State travel advisories when selecting the countries with which they would like to work.

#### *Eligible Countries*

*Africa:* Liberia, Sierra Leone, Ghana

*East Asia/Pacific:* China, Korea

*Europe:* Armenia, Kosovo

*South and Central Asia:* Afghanistan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan

Proposal narratives must demonstrate the applicant's capacity in the partner country through their own offices or a partner institution to successfully conduct the proposed exchange activities. The requisite capacity overseas includes the ability to organize substantive exchange activities for the American participants, provide follow-on activities, and handle the logistical and financial arrangements.

**Please note:** Because of the changing nature of the security situation, U.S. participants may not be able to travel to Afghanistan as part of a two-way exchange program. Therefore, proposals should include a contingency plan to bring U.S. and participants from Afghanistan together in a third country for those relevant program components.

#### *Emerging Cultural Leaders*

Program Contact: Jill Staggs, tel: 202-203-7500, e-mail: [StaggsJ@state.gov](mailto:StaggsJ@state.gov).

The 'Rooted in the Arts' program provides opportunities for U.S. performing artists (ages 25-35), teachers and students to build long-term sustainable linkages with their counterparts in selected countries. The project should connect economically and socially diverse populations of high school social studies, music and/or art students and their teachers in the U.S. with comparable populations in the selected countries. The project must include two-way physical exchanges of artists and teachers (but not students), each two to four weeks in duration. It must also include virtual or distance projects that will provide the high school students an opportunity to communicate with their counterparts abroad. Projects must present an opportunity for participants to explore and learn about their own and another country's history and culture through the performing arts. Activities should include artistic performances, workshops, lecture demonstrations, contextual learning, and on-going virtual (internet) dialogues and other virtual exchanges.

The overarching goals are:

1. To articulate identity through artistic expression, gain respect for the identity and artistic expression of another culture;
2. To learn about their own and another country's history through the performing arts;
3. To incorporate cultural awareness and build mutual understanding and respect for other countries;
4. To foster continuing personal and institutional ties between participants and partner countries.

A successful project will equip participating artists, teachers, and high school students with an understanding of how the performing arts opens a window into a country's history. For the teachers, it will also provide insight on how the performing arts can be used as a tool to educate students about their country and their culture. During their exchange experience, participants should engage in a variety of activities such as performances, workshops, community- and/or learning-based programs, seminars, and other activities designed to achieve the program's stated goals. We encourage exchange projects that require collaborative work across cultures, that include a public presentation, and that involve public schools in the U.S. and abroad.

Proposal narratives must demonstrate the applicant's capacity in the partner

country through their own offices or a partner institution to successfully conduct the proposed exchange activities. The requisite capacity includes the ability to recruit and select participants in both the United States and the partner countries in close consultation with the relevant U.S. Embassies; organize substantive exchange activities in the participating countries; handle the logistical and financial arrangements; and implement follow-on alumni activities in which participants may locally apply what they learned during the exchange. While Bureau funds may be used to support public programming, long-standing ECA practice is that Bureau funds are not to be used for the public presentation of art works in the United States. Cost sharing provided by the grantee organization may be used for presentation costs in the United States and should be noted in the budget.

Proposals must describe a selection process for American and international participants and demonstrate how the participant group represents an underserved community. For example, an under-served community could be economically disadvantaged, geographically isolated or experience low literacy rates. Selected participants should demonstrate a commitment to leadership in their communities. If participants are not fluent in English, proposals should include provision for interpretation as necessary.

Applicants should identify which performing arts fields will be included in the exchange and demonstrate how each part of the two-way exchange will accomplish the over-arching goals of this competition. Proposals might focus exclusively on an exchange in one field, such as music. Alternatively, a more community-based project could include artists from various performing arts fields, as well as a representative of a community arts organization. All projects must include an examination of cultural diversity, history and the arts as a means of educational outreach and civic engagement.

#### *Proposed Partner Countries*

ECA will accept proposals for either single-country or multi-country projects. We can only accept proposals for projects with the countries listed below. A single-country project is a two-way exchange between the United States and a single partner country. With a multi-country project, participants from the partner countries should travel to the United States together; the American participants' exchange travel may be to just one or to all of the partner countries, depending on the applicant

organization's program design and objectives. Applicants should present a rationale for their approach. No guarantee is made or implied that grants will be awarded in all themes and for all countries listed. Organizations should consider current U.S. Department of State travel advisories when selecting the countries with which they would like to work.

#### Eligible Countries

*East Asia:* China, Hong Kong, Taiwan  
*Western Hemisphere:* Mexico, Venezuela

Applicants should propose the period of the two exchange components and explain how together the exchange in each direction will accomplish project objectives. The exact timing of the project may be altered through the mutual agreement of the Department of State and the grant recipient. Each exchange component should be no less than two weeks and up to four weeks in duration. Program development should begin in late summer/early fall 2009. Applicants must include letters of support in their proposals.

For All Themes, Grantee Responsibilities will include:

#### 1. Recruitment and Selection of project participants.

(a) Conduct an open, merit-based competition for exchange participants. The grantee organization and its overseas partner(s) will recruit, screen, and select participants in consultation with ECA and with the Public Affairs Section (PAS) of U.S. Embassies or consulates, using clearly identified criteria and a formal process for the selection. The grantee will also develop plans for outreach and recruitment that will generate a strong pool of qualified candidates representing diverse ethnic and socio-economic groups and geographic areas;

(b) Administer an effective English language screening process, if applicable, or provide for any interpretation services, as necessary;

(c) Recommend participants and alternates for selection (Invitations to participate may not be issued without ECA and Embassy Public Affairs clearance).

#### 2. Preparation of participants.

(a) Contact participants before the project to provide them with project information, pre-departure materials, and any training necessary for them successfully to participate;

(b) Facilitate the visa process, working with ECA and PAS for the U.S. visas and directly with the embassy of the partner country for its visas; as indicated in IV.3.d.1 below, ECA will

issue the DS-2019 forms required for J visas;

(c) Conduct a pre-departure orientation for participants, including general and project-specific information;

(d) Make all round-trip international travel arrangements, complying with the Fly America Act, and domestic travel arrangements for the participants.

#### 3. Exchange activities.

(a) Design, plan, and implement one or more intensive and substantive projects in the U.S. on one of the stated themes, and one or more corollary projects in the partner overseas country(ies). The link of project activities to project objectives should be explained.

(b) Arrange appropriate community, cultural, social, and civic activities, and make provisions for religious observance.

(c) Engage both foreign and U.S. participants in at least one community service activity (e.g., visit to a food bank, a park clean-up) during the U.S.-based project. The project should provide context for the participants, identifying community needs, volunteerism, charitable giving, etc., as well as a debriefing so that the service activity is not an isolated event and helps participants understand how they can apply their experience at home.

(d) Provide day-to-day monitoring of the project, preventing and dealing with any misunderstandings or adjustment issues that may arise.

(e) Provide a closing session to summarize the project activities, prepare participants for their return home, and to plan for the future.

#### 4. Follow-on activities.

Conduct follow-on activities with project alumni, such as seminars and physical or virtual gatherings, to reinforce values and skills developed during the exchange program and to help alumni apply what they learned to serve their communities. Encourage participants to register in *Alumni.state.gov*.

5. Work in consultation with ECA and the Embassy PAS in the implementation of the project, provide timely reporting of progress to ECA, and comply with financial and project reporting requirements.

6. Manage all financial aspects of the project, including participant costs and transparent arrangements of sub-grant relationships with partner organizations, if applicable.

7. Design and implement an evaluation plan that assesses the impact of the project.

## II. Award Information

*Type of Award:* Grant Agreement.

*Fiscal Year Funds:* FY-2009.

*Approximate Total Funding:* \$3.9 million.

*Approximate Number of Awards:* 12-15.

*Approximate Average Award:* \$300,000.

*Floor of Award Range:* Depending upon an organization's length of experience in conducting international exchanges, grants could be awarded for less than \$60,000. See section III.3.a., below.

*Ceiling of Award Range:* \$350,000.

*Anticipated Award Date:* August 2009.

*Anticipated Project Completion Date:* No later than, *approximately 20 months after the start date of the grant.*

*Additional Information:* As stipulated in the legislation, this is a competitive one-time grants program.

## III. Eligibility Information

### III.1. Eligible Applicants

Applications must be submitted by public and private non-profit organizations meeting the provisions described in Internal Revenue Code section 26 USC 501(c)(3).

Organizations listed in the FY-2009 Omnibus Appropriation (Pub. L. 111-8) under Division H of the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, under "Educational and Cultural Exchange Programs" in support of a \$6 million "competitive one-time grants program" are encouraged to apply.

In addition, organizations listed in the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriation Act, 2008 (Division J, Pub. L. 110-161) under "Educational and Cultural Exchange Programs—a competitive one-time grants program" that did not receive funding under the FY-2008 Competitive One-time Grants Program are encouraged and eligible to apply.

### 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 the highest possible levels of cost sharing and funding in support of its projects, noting that cost sharing is one of the criteria for reviewing proposals.

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, written

records must be maintained to support all costs which are claimed as contributions, 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 that the minimum amount of cost sharing is not provided as stipulated in the approved budget, ECA's contribution will be reduced in like proportion.

### III.3. Other Eligibility Requirements

(a) Grants awarded to eligible organizations with less than four years of experience in conducting international exchange programs will be limited to \$60,000. Therefore, applicants should explain, with examples, their experience in conducting international exchanges, and, if that experience is less than four years, should limit their proposed grant budgets to \$60,000.

(b) Technical Eligibility: All proposals must comply with the following:

- Eligible applicants may submit only ONE proposal (TOTAL) for one of the two competitions referenced in the Executive Summary Section of this document. If multiple proposals are received from the same applicant, all submissions from that applicant will be declared technically ineligible and will be given no further consideration in the review process. In addition, applicants under this competition (ECA/PE/C-09-One-time-Comp. B) may only apply to administer one of the listed activities (total).
- Proposals requesting funding for infrastructure development activities, sometimes referred to as “bricks and mortar support,” are not eligible for consideration under this competition and will be declared technically ineligible and will receive no further consideration in the review process.
- The Bureau does not support proposals limited to conferences or seminars (*i.e.*, one- to fourteen-day programs with plenary sessions, main speakers, panels, and a passive audience). It will support conferences only when they are a small part of a larger project in duration that is receiving Bureau funding from this competition.
- No funding is available exclusively to send U.S. citizens to conferences or conference-type seminars overseas; nor is funding available for bringing foreign nationals to conferences or to routine professional association meetings in the United States.

—Organizations that received funding for a grant under the FY-2008 Competitive One-time Grants Program (Reference numbers: ECA/A-08-One-time-Comp. A or ECA/PE/C/-08-One-time-Comp. B) are not eligible to apply for this FY-2009 One-Time Program. In the event a proposal is received from a FY-2008, One-Time grant recipient, the proposal will be declared technically ineligible and will receive no further consideration in the review process. **Please note:** A FY-2008, One-time grant recipient, per above, is defined by the DUNS number of the organization and by the signature of the authorized representative contained on “Application for Federal Assistance Form” (SF-424) that was submitted under the FY-2008 Competitive One-time Grants Program.

Please refer to the Proposal Submission Instructions (PSI) document for additional requirements.

### 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 the Office of Citizen Exchanges, ECA/PE/C, Room 220, U.S. Department of State, SA-44, 301 Fourth Street, SW., Washington, DC 20547, tel 202-453-8176, fax 202-453-8169, [RossAR@state.gov](mailto:RossAR@state.gov), to request a Solicitation Package. Please refer to the Funding Opportunity Number ECA/PE/C-09-One-time-Comp. B also located at the top of this announcement when making your request.

The Solicitation Package contains the Proposal Submission Instructions (PSI) document which consists of required application forms, and standard guidelines for proposal preparation.

Please specify Program Coordinator Alice Ross, and refer to the Funding Opportunity Number ECA/PE/C-09-One-time-Comp. B 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>. Please read all information before downloading.

#### IV.3. Content and Form of Submission

Applicants must follow all instructions in the Solicitation Package. The original and seven copies of the application should be sent per the instructions under IV.3e. “Submission Dates and Times 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://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. The summary and narrative must be presented in double-spaced typing.

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

**Please note:** Effective January 7, 2009, all applicants for ECA federal assistance awards must include in their application the names of directors and/or senior executives (current officers, trustees, and key employees, regardless of amount of compensation). In fulfilling this requirement, applicants must submit information in one of the following ways:

(1) Those who file Internal Revenue Service Form 990, “Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax,” must include a copy of relevant portions of this form.

(2) Those who do not file IRS Form 990 must submit information above in the format of their choice.

In addition to final project reporting requirements, award recipients will also be required to submit a one-page document, derived from their project reports, listing and describing their grant activities. For award recipients, the names of directors and/or senior executives (current officers, trustees, and key employees), as well as the one-page description of grant activities, will be transmitted by the State Department to OMB, along with other information required by the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA), and will be made available to the public by the Office of Management and Budget on its USASpending.gov Web site as part of ECA's FFATA reporting requirements.

**Please Note:** 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 grants under this RFGP will be third parties "cooperating with or assisting the sponsor in the conduct of the sponsor's program." The actions of grantee program 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 a grant 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 grantee project organizations and project 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 the applicant organization has experience as a designated Exchange Visitor Program Sponsor, the applicant should describe 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 foreign 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 Fourth 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, projects 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 project administration and in project 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 project contents, to the full extent deemed feasible.

IV.3d.3 Project Monitoring and Evaluation

This section of the RFGP amplifies the direction given in section I above on proposal format, which calls for the delineation of objectives and planning for baseline, early results, and longer-term measurements. Proposals must include a plan to monitor and evaluate the project's success, both as the activities unfold and at the end of the project. The Bureau recommends that each proposal include a draft survey questionnaire or other instruments 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 project, learning as a result of the project, changes in behavior as a result of the project, and effects of the project 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 intended outcomes at the outset of a project. 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). (Note the call for measurements at the baseline and for early results and longer-term results.) The more that outcomes are "smart" (specific, measurable, attainable, results-oriented, and placed in a reasonable time frame), 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 project 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 emphasis 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 impact):

1. Participant satisfaction with the project 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 each 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 (e.g., surveys, interviews, tests, 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.)

Grantees will be required to provide reports analyzing their evaluation findings to the Bureau in their regular project 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.3e. Please take the following information into consideration when preparing the proposal budget:

IV.3e.1. Applicants must submit SF-424A—"Budget Information—Non-Construction Programs" along with a comprehensive budget for the entire project. There must be a summary budget as well as breakdowns reflecting both administrative and program budgets. Applicants may provide separate sub-budgets for each project component, phase, location, or activity to provide clarification.

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

(1) Travel. International and domestic airfare; visas; transit costs; ground transportation costs. Please note that all air travel must be in compliance with the Fly America Act. There is no charge for J-1 visas for participants in Bureau-sponsored programs.

(2) Per Diem. For U.S.-based programming, organizations should use the published Federal per diem rates for individual U.S. cities. Domestic per diem rates may be accessed at: [http://www.gsa.gov/Portal/gsa/ep/contentView.do?contentId=17943&contentType=GSA\\_BASIC](http://www.gsa.gov/Portal/gsa/ep/contentView.do?contentId=17943&contentType=GSA_BASIC).

Living costs during foreign-based activities must not exceed USG-approved per diem rates, which can be found at [http://aoprals.state.gov/content.asp?content\\_id=184&menu\\_id=81](http://aoprals.state.gov/content.asp?content_id=184&menu_id=81).

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

#### IV.3f. Submission Dates and Times

*Application Deadline Date:* May 14, 2009.

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., Federal Express, UPS, or U.S. Postal Service Express Overnight Mail, etc.), or

(2) electronically through <http://www.grants.gov>.

**Please Note:** ECA strongly encourages organizations interested in applying for this competition to submit printed, hard copy applications as outlined in section IV.3f.1 below rather than submitting electronically through Grants.gov. This recommendation is being made as a result of the anticipated high volume of grant proposals that will be submitted via the Grants.gov Web portal as part of the Recovery Act stimulus package. As stated in this RFGP, ECA bears no responsibility for data errors resulting from transmission or conversion processes for proposals submitted via Grants.gov

Along with the Project Title, all applicants must enter the competition Reference Number (ECA/PE/C-09-One-time-Comp. B) 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".

Applicants must also submit the "Executive Summary" and "Proposal Narrative" and budget sections of the proposal as well as any essential attachments, in Microsoft Word and/or Excel on a PC-formatted disk. The Bureau will provide these files electronically to the appropriate Public Affairs Sections at the U.S. Embassies for their review.

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-09-One-time-Comp. B, Program Management, ECA/EX/PM, Room 534, 301 4th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20547.

Applicants submitting hard-copy applications must also submit the "Executive Summary" and "Proposal Narrative" and "Budget" sections of the proposal in text (.txt) or Microsoft Word format on a PC-formatted disk. The Bureau will provide these files electronically to the appropriate Public Affairs Section(s) at the U.S. embassy(ies) for its(their) review.

#### 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 Note:** ECA strongly encourages organizations interested in applying for this competition to submit printed, hard copy applications as outlined in section IV.3f.1 above, rather than submitting electronically through Grants.gov. This recommendation is being made as a result of the anticipated high volume of grant proposals that will be submitted via the Grants.gov webportal as part of the Recovery Act stimulus package. As stated in this RFGP, ECA bears no responsibility for data errors resulting from transmission or conversion processes for proposals submitted via Grants.gov.

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 a lengthy 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](mailto: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.3f.3 Once again, please note that an applicant may submit only one proposal in this competition.

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 of the relevant U.S. Embassy 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 assistance awards (grants) resides with the Bureau's Grants Officer.

### Review Criteria

Technically eligible applications will be competitively reviewed according to the criteria stated below.

1. Quality of the project idea and project planning: The project's purpose should clearly fit one of the eligible themes described above, and the proposal should clearly demonstrate how the institution plans to pursue the project's objectives. The proposed project should be creative and well developed, respond to the design outlined in the solicitation, and demonstrate originality. It should be clearly and accurately written, substantive, and with sufficient detail to ensure practical success. The project plan should adhere to the program overview and guidelines described above.

2. Ability to achieve project objectives: Objectives should be reasonable, feasible, and relevant to the proposed theme. Proposals should clearly plan activities in a sequence that will progressively lead to achieving those objectives.

3. Support of diversity: The proposal should acknowledge ECA's policy on diversity and should demonstrate the recipient's commitment to promoting

the awareness and understanding of diversity in participant selection and exchange project design and content.

4. Institutional capacity and track record: Proposed personnel and institutional resources should be adequate and appropriate to achieve the project goals. The proposal should demonstrate an institutional record, including solid programming and responsible fiscal management. The Bureau will consider past performance, including compliance with all reporting requirements for past Bureau grants.

5. Project evaluation: The proposal should include a plan to evaluate the project's success, both as the activities unfold and at the end of the program. The proposal should include a draft survey questionnaire or other data-collection technique plus description of a methodology to link outcomes to original project objectives. Please see Section IV.3d.3. of this announcement for more information.

6. Cost-effectiveness and cost sharing: The applicant should demonstrate efficient use of Bureau funds. 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. The proposal 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 grant 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.

### VI.1b. Special Provision for Performance in a Designated Combat Area (Currently Iraq and Afghanistan)

All Recipient personnel deploying to areas of combat operations, as designated by the Secretary of Defense (currently Iraq and Afghanistan), under assistance awards over \$100,000 or performance over 14 days must register in the Department of Defense maintained Synchronized Pre-

deployment and Operational Tracker (SPOT) system. Recipients of federal assistance awards shall register in SPOT before deployment, or if already in the designated operational area, register upon becoming an employee under the assistance award, and maintain current data in SPOT. Information on how to register in SPOT will be available from your Grants Officer or Grants Officer Representative during the final negotiation and approval stages in the federal assistance awards process. Recipients of federal assistance awards are advised that adherence to this policy and procedure will be a requirement of all final federal assistance awards issued by ECA.

Recipient performance may require the use of armed private security personnel. To the extent that such private security contractors (PSCs) are required, grantees are required to ensure they adhere to Chief of Mission (COM) policies and procedures regarding the operation, oversight, and accountability of PSCs.

VI.1c. 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 refer to 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 one copy of the following reports:

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

2. A concise, one-page final project report summarizing project 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 project reports.

4. Interim project and financial reports after each project phase, as required in the Bureau grant agreement.

Award Recipients will be required to provide reports analyzing their evaluation findings to the Bureau in their regular project 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.

#### *VI.4. Project Data Requirements*

Organizations awarded grants will be required to maintain specific data on project participants and activities in an electronically accessible database format that can be shared with the Bureau as required. As a minimum, the data must include the following:

1. Name, address, contact information and biographic sketch of all persons who travel internationally on funds provided by the grant or who benefit from the grant funding but do not travel.

2. Itineraries of international and domestic travel, providing dates of travel and cities in which any exchange experiences take place. Final schedules for in-country and U.S. activities must be received by the ECA Program Officer at least three work days prior to the official opening of the activity.

#### **VII. Agency Contacts**

For questions about this announcement, please contact: Curt Huff, Professional Programs, Tel: (202) 453-8159; E-mail: [HuffCE@state.gov](mailto:HuffCE@state.gov).

All correspondence with the Bureau concerning this RFGP should reference the above title and number ECA/PE/C-09-One-time-Comp.B.

Please read the complete **Federal Register** 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: April 8, 2009.

**C. Miller Crouch,**

*Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, Department of State.*

[FR Doc. E9-8650 Filed 4-15-09; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4710-05-P**

#### **DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

**[Public Notice 6578]**

#### **Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) Request for Grant Proposals (RFGP): Congressionally Mandated—One-Time Grants Program for Academic Programs—Competition A**

*Announcement Type:* New Grant.  
*Funding Opportunity Number:* ECA/A-09-One-time-Comp. A  
*Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number:* 00.000

*Key Dates:*

*Application Deadline:* May 14, 2009.  
*Executive Summary:* This competition is one of two competitions that the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs is conducting as directed in the FY-2009 Omnibus Appropriation (Pub. L. 111-8) under Division H of the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, under "Educational and Cultural Exchange Programs" in support of a \$6 million "competitive one-time grants program." All applications must be submitted by public or private non-profit organizations, meeting the provisions described in Internal Revenue code section 26 U.S.C. 501(c)(3). Total funding for this "one-time grants