

information is the basis for the determination.

HTS number: 2917.39.2000

CAS number: 85-68-7

Butyl benzyl phthalate is derived from the taxable chemicals methane, propylene, xylene, toluene, and chlorine and is a liquid produced predominantly by the reaction of n-butanol and phthalic anhydride, followed by a reaction with benzyl chloride in the presence of a catalyst. n-butanol is manufactured by the hydrogenation of n-butyraldehyde, which is derived from propylene and synthesis gas (hydrogen and synthesis gas are derived from natural gas). Benzyl chloride is produced by direct photochemical chlorination of toluene. Phthalic anhydride is produced by the reaction of o-xylene with air in the presence of a catalyst.

The stoichiometric material consumption formula for this substance is:

CH_4 (methane) + C_3H_6 (propylene) + C_8H_{10} (xylene) + 3 O_2 (oxygen) + C_7H_8 (toluene) + Cl_2 (chlorine)
 —————> $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{20}\text{O}_4$ (butyl benzyl phthalate) + 2 HCl (hydrochloric acid) + H_2 (hydrogen) + 2 H_2O (water).

Butyl benzyl phthalate has been determined to be a taxable substance because a review of its stoichiometric material consumption formula shows that, based on the predominant method of production, taxable chemicals constitute 77.25 percent by weight of the materials used in its production.

Dale D. Goode,

Federal Register Liaison Officer, Assistant Chief Counsel (Corporate).

[FR Doc. 96-7608 Filed 3-27-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4830-01-U

UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY

Community Connections

ACTION: Notice—Request for Proposals.

SUMMARY: The Office of Citizen Exchanges, Russia/Eurasia Division of the United States Information Agency's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs announces an open competition for an assistance award. Public and private non-profit organizations meeting the provisions described in IRS regulation 26 CFR 1.501 (c)(3)-1 may apply to organize and implement community-based, professional programs for entrepreneurs, legal professionals and government officials from Ukraine and Moldova. The objective of Community Connections is

to enhance the participants' skills in business and entrepreneurship, law, and local governance upon returning to Ukraine and Moldova. USIA is interested in proposals that provide both professional experience and exposure to American life and culture through internships hosted by U.S. businesses and local governmental and legal institutions, and homestays with local community members. This program is not academic in nature; rather, it is designed to provide practical, hands-on training in American business and in legal and public sector environments which can be transferred to the individual's professional career at home. The Agency welcomes innovative proposals which combine elements of professional enrichment, job shadowing and internships appropriate to the language ability and interests of the participants.

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 cited above is provided through the FREEDOM Support Act. Programs and projects must conform with Agency requirements and guidelines outlined in the Solicitation Package. USIA projects and programs are subject to the availability of funds.

ANNOUNCEMENT TITLE AND NUMBER: All communications with SLUA concerning this announcement should refer to the above title and reference number E/PN-96-32.

DEADLINE FOR PROPOSALS: All copies must be received at the U.S. Information Agency by 5 p.m. Washington, D.C. time on Tuesday, April 30, 1996. Faxed documents will not be accepted, nor will documents postmarked April 30, 1996 but received at later date. It is the responsibility of each applicant to ensure that proposals are received by the above deadline.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: The Office of Citizen Exchanges, Russia/

Eurasia Division, E/PN Room 216, U.S. Information Agency, 301 4th Street SW., Washington, D.C. 20547, Phone: (202) 619-5326, fax: (202) 619-4350, internet: jdelgiud@usia.gov to request a Solicitation Package containing more detailed award criteria, required application forms, and standard guidelines for preparing proposals, including specific criteria for preparation of the proposal budget.

TO DOWNLOAD A SOLICITATION PACKAGE VIA INTERNET: The Solicitation Package may be downloaded from USIA'S website at <http://www.usia.gov/> or from the Internet Gopher at gopher.usia.gov/. Select "Education and Cultural Exchanges", then select "Current Request for Proposals (RFPs)." Please read "About the following RFPs before beginning to download.

Please specify USIA Program Assistant James Del Giudice on all inquiries and correspondences. Interested applicants should read the complete Federal Register announcement before sending inquiries or submitting proposals. Once the RFP deadline has passed, Agency staff may not discuss this competition in any way with applicants until the Bureau proposal review process has been completed.

SUBMISSIONS: Applicants must follow all instructions given in the Solicitation Package. The original and 12 copies of the application should be sent to: U.S. Information Agency, Ref.: E/PN-96-32, Office of Grants Management, E/XE, Room 326, 301 4th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20547.

DIVERSITY 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 physical challenges. 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 the total proposal.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Overview

Community Connections seeks to establish and strengthen links between American communities and communities in Ukraine and Moldova.

Community Connections will focus on business (particularly entrepreneurship), the legal profession and its relationship to the administration of justice, and issue of concern for local government. Pending the availability of funds, approximately 325 Ukrainian business people, 160 Ukrainian legal professionals, 160 Ukrainian local government officials, 50 Moldovan business people, 25 Moldovan legal professionals, and 25 Moldovan local government officials will be recruited from selected regions of Ukraine and Moldova by experienced U.S. organizations with offices in Ukraine and Moldova. The program will recruit both English-speaking participants and participants with little or no English-language skills in order to expand the reach and impact of Community Connections.

Guidelines

In order to make the most effective use of the limited financial resources available while, at the same time, maintaining a maximum degree of program flexibility, the Office of Citizen Exchanges asks that interested organizations submit proposals to host no fewer than 30 participants in total. Organizations must host at least one group of participants each from two of the three subject components of the program. Groups of legal professionals and local government officials may not be smaller than 10 participants. Programs for business people will be from four to five weeks in length; programs for legal professionals will be from three to four weeks in length; and programs for government officials will be from two to three weeks in length. Programs are to be conducted between October 1, 1996, and December 31, 1997. Care must be taken to allow sufficient time between programs to adequately prepare for the following group. Organizations proposing to develop programs for additional groups of interns beyond the minimum must demonstrate that they have either allowed for sufficient preparatory time between programs or have the necessary human, physical and financial resources to adequately handle any overlap. The Agency strongly prefers that all programs be completed by December 31, 1997.

Recruitment for the "Community Connections" program will be conducted by experienced American organizations with offices in Ukraine and Moldova. All candidates for placement in the U.S. will be selected no later than December 1996. The first group of participants will be selected by August 1996 for arrival in the United

States no earlier than October 1, 1996. Participants will be assigned to U.S. host communities by the Office of Citizen Exchanges based on the following factors: Existing ties between the regions of origin of the participants, the locations of the U.S. grantee organizations (e.g. Sister City ties), the professional interests of the participants, and the areas of strength of U.S. grantee organizations.

A proposal's cost-effectiveness, including in-kind contributions and ability to keep administrative costs low, is a major consideration in the review process. Cost-sharing may be in the form of allowable direct or indirect costs. The Recipient must maintain written records to support all allowable costs which are claimed as being its contribution to cost participation, 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, Attachment E, "Cost-Sharing and Matching" and should be described in the proposal. In the event that the Recipient does not provide the minimum amount of cost-sharing as stipulated in the Recipient's budget, the Agency's contribution.

Proposed Budget

Organizations must submit a comprehensive line item budget based on the specific guidance in the Solicitation Package. Average per capita cost for participants hosted should not exceed \$6,300.

Grants awarded to eligible organizations with less than four years of experience in conducting international exchange programs will be limited to \$60,000.

Review Process

USIA will acknowledge receipt of all proposals and will review them for technical eligibility. Proposals will be deemed ineligible if they do not fully adhere to the guidelines stated herein and in the Solicitation Package. Eligible proposals will be forwarded to panels of USIA officers for advisory review. All eligible proposals will be reviewed by the program office, as well as the USIA Office of Eastern European and NIS Affairs and the USIA posts in Ukraine and Moldova. Proposals may be reviewed by the Office of the General Counsel or by other Agency elements. Funding decisions are at the discretion of the USIA Associate Director for Educational and Cultural Affairs. Final technical authority for assistance awards (grants or cooperative

agreements) resides with the USIA grants officer.

Review Criteria

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

1. Program planning and ability to achieve objectives: Detailed agenda and relevant work plan should demonstrate careful and thorough preparation to carry out substantive programs which have a high likelihood of achieving program objectives. Agenda and plan should adhere to the program overview and guidelines described above. Objectives should be reasonable, feasible, and flexible.

2. Institutional capability: Organization should demonstrate sufficient skills and experience in hosting visitors from other countries and ability to utilize local business, legal and governmental resources and voluntary support. Thematic expertise in project subject areas should be demonstrated.

3. Cost-effectiveness: 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 also maximize cost-sharing through other private sector support as well as institutional direct funding contributions.

4. Support of Diversity: Proposals should demonstrate the recipient's commitment to promoting the awareness and understanding of diversity.

Notice

The terms and conditions published in this RFP are binding and may not be modified by any USIA representative. Explanatory information provided by the Agency that contradicts published language will not be binding. Issuance of the RFP does not constitute an award commitment on the part of the Government. The Agency reserves the right to reduce, revise, or increase proposal budgets in accordance with the needs of the program and the availability of funds. Awards made will be subject to periodic reporting and evaluation requirements.

Notification

Final awards cannot be made until funds have been appropriated by Congress, allocated and committed through internal USIA procedures.

Dated: March 21, 1996.

Dell Pendergrast,

*Deputy Associate Director for Educational
and Cultural Affairs.*

[FR Doc. 96-7467 Filed 3-27-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8230-01-M