

(a) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology; and (e) estimates of capital or start-up costs and costs of operation, maintenance, and purchase of services to provide information.

Approved: July 2, 1997.

Garrick R. Shear,

IRS Reports Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 97-18120 Filed 7-9-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4830-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Internal Revenue Service

[Delegation Order No. 67 (Rev. 23)]

Delegation of Authority

AGENCY: Internal Revenue Service.

ACTION: Delegation of authority.

SUMMARY: The specific authority to sign the name of, or on behalf of, Michael P. Dolan, Acting Commissioner, Internal Revenue Service. The text of the delegation order appears below.

EFFECTIVE DATE: May 26, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ronald R. Ridgley, Chief, Office of Organizational Research, M:SP:A, Room 401, 1255 22d Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20037, (202) 874-4479 (not a toll-free call).

Effective: May 26, 1997.

Signing the Commissioner's Name or on the Commissioner's Behalf.

Authority: To sign the name of, or on behalf of, Michael P. Dolan, Acting Commissioner of Internal Revenue.

Delegated to: Persons with existing authority to sign the name of, or on behalf of, Margaret Milner Richardson, Commissioner of Internal Revenue.

Redelegation: This authority may not be redelegated.

Source of Authority: Treasury Order 150-10.

This order is effective 12:01 a.m., May 26, 1997, and supersedes Delegation Order No. 67 (Rev. 22), effective May 12, 1993.

Dated: June 16, 1997.

Michael P. Dolan,

Acting Commissioner.

[FR Doc. 97-18119 Filed 7-9-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4830-01-P

UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY

Civic Education Institute for the Middle East

ACTION: Request for proposals.

SUMMARY: The Study of the U.S. Branch 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) may apply to conduct a 3-4 week U.S.-based institute on innovative approaches to curriculum development and teaching methodology in civic education and social studies for approximately 15 educators from Israel, Jordan, and West Bank/Gaza (Palestinian Authority). The purpose of this institute is to expose participants to recent developments in U.S. civic education curriculum and teaching practice, and to enable participants to examine and discuss their current/projects approaches with U.S. educators and with each other. Anticipated outcomes of the institute would be the development/refinement of viable curricular materials that will enable these educational sectors to prepare students to become responsible community members as the peace process develops. The long-term goal of the institute is to strengthen the teaching of citizenship skills in the region. Participants will have professional responsibilities which are concerned with the development/revision of up-to-date civic education and social studies curricular materials, and appropriate teaching methodologies for such materials. Overseas participants in this program will be identified and selected by U.S. Information Service (USIS) posts abroad, and will be English-speaking. The program should take place for 3-4 weeks during January/February of 1998.

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 Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961, as amended, Public Law 87-256 (Fulbright Hays Act.) The Fulbright program seeks to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and people of other countries. 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," and must "maintain their scholarly integrity and shall meet the highest standards of academic excellence * * *"

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 USIA concerning this RFP should refer to the announcement's title and reference number E/AAS-97-12.

DEADLINE FOR PROPOSALS: All copies must be received at the U.S. Information Agency by 5 p.m. Washington, D.C. time on Friday, August 15, 1997. Faxed documents will not be accepted at any time. Documents postmarked by the due date but received at a later date will not be accepted.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To request a Solicitation Package containing more detailed award criteria, required application forms, and standard guidelines for preparing proposals (including specific information on budget preparation), applicants should contact: Gretchen Christison, Study of the U.S. Branch, E/AAS, Room 256, U.S. Information Agency, 301 4th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20547, tel: 202-619-4557 fax: 202-619-6790, Internet address gchristi@usia.gov.

TO DOWNLOAD A SOLICITATION PACKAGE VIA INTERNET: The entire Solicitation Package may be downloaded from USIA's website at <http://www.usia.gov/education/rfps>. Please read all information before downloading.

TO RECEIVE A SOLICITATION PACKAGE VIA FAX ON DEMAND: The entire Solicitation Package may be received via the Bureau's "Grants Information Fax on Demand System", which is accessed by calling 202/401-7616. Please request a "Catalog" of available documents and order numbers when first entering the system.

Please specify USIA Program Officer Gretchen Christison 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 10 copies of the application should be sent to: U.S. Information Agency, Ref.: Civic Education Institute E/AAS-97/12, Office of Grants Management, E/XE, Room 326, 301 4th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20547.

Applicants must also submit the "Executive Summary" and "Proposal Narrative" sections of the proposal on a 3.5" diskette, formatted for DOS. This material must be provided in ASCII text (DOS) format with a maximum line length of 65 characters. USIA will transmit these files electronically to USIS posts overseas for their review, with the goal of reducing the time it takes to get posts' comments for the Agency's grants review process.

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 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. 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", USIA "shall take

appropriate steps to provide opportunities for participation in such programs to human rights and democracy leaders of such countries." Proposals should account for advancement of this goal in their program contents, to the full extent deemed feasible.

Proposed Budget

Total USIA-funded budget award (program and administrative costs) should not exceed \$125,000. USIA-funded administrative costs should be as low as possible and should not exceed \$25,000. Please note: USIA will fund all international travel directly, therefore international travel costs should not be included in the budget submission. Grants awarded to eligible organizations with less than four years of experience in conducting international exchange programs will be limited to \$60,000. Applicants must submit a comprehensive budget for the entire program. There must be a summary budget as well as a breakdown reflecting both the administrative budget and the program budget. Please refer to the Program Objectives, Goals, and Implementation ("POGI") in the Solicitation Package for complete budget guidelines and formatting instructions for proposals.

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 offices for advisory review. All eligible proposals will be reviewed by the program office, as well as the USIA Office of North African, Near Eastern, and South Asian Affairs and the USIA post overseas, where appropriate. 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. These criteria are not rank ordered and all carry equal weight in the proposal evaluation:

1. Quality of the program idea: Proposals should exhibit originality, substance, precision, and relevance to Agency mission.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. Multiplier effect/impact: Proposed programs should strengthen long-term mutual understanding, including maximum sharing of information and establishment of long-term institutional and individual linkages.

5. Support of Diversity: Proposals should demonstrate substantive support of the Bureau's policy on diversity. Achievable and relevant features should be cited in both program administration (selection of participants, program venue and program evaluation) and program content (orientation and wrap-up sessions, program meetings, resource materials and follow-up activities).

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

7. 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 Agency grants as determined by USIA's Office of Contracts. The Agency will consider the past performance of prior recipients and the demonstrated potential of new applicants.

8. Follow-on Activities: Proposals should provide a plan for continued follow-on activity (without USIA support) which ensures that USIA supported programs are not isolated events.

9. Project Evaluation: Proposals should include a plan to evaluate the activity's success, both as the activities unfold and at the end of the program. A draft survey questionnaire or other technique plus description of a methodology to use to link outcomes to original project objectives is recommended. Successful applicants will be expected to submit intermediate reports after each project component is concluded or quarterly, whichever is less frequent.

10. 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.

11. *Cost-sharing*: Proposals should maximize cost-sharing through other private sector support as well as institutional direct funding contributions.

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: July 2, 1997.

James D. Whitten,

*Acting Deputy Associate Director for
Educational and Cultural Affairs.*

[FR Doc. 97-17856 Filed 7-9-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8230-01-M