USIA officers for advisory review. All eligible proposals will also be reviewed by the Agency contracts office, as well as the USIA Area Offices and the USIA post overseas, where appropriate. Proposals may also 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 grant 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. Overall Quality: Proposals should exhibit originality and substance, consonant with the highest standards of American teaching and scholarship. Program design should reflect the main currents as well as the contemporary debates within the discipline.
- 2. Program Planning: Proposals should demonstrate careful planning. The organization and structure of the Institute should be clearly delineated and be fully responsive to all program objectives. The travel component should be an integral and substantive part of the program, reinforcing and complementing its academic segment.
- 3. Institutional Capacity: Proposed personnel, including faculty and administrative staff as well as outside presenters, should be fully qualified to achieve the project's goals. Library and media resources should be accessible to participants; housing, transportation and other logistical arrangements should be fully adequate to the needs of participants and should be conducive to a collegial atmosphere.
- 4. Diversity: Proposals should demonstrate the recipient's commitment to promoting the awareness and understanding of diversity throughout the program. This can be accomplished through documentation, such as a written statement, summarizing past and/or on-going activities and efforts that further the principle of diversity within the organization and its activities. Program activities that address this issue should be highlighted.
- 5. Experience: The proposal should demonstrate an institutional record of successful exchange program activity, indicating the experience that the organization and its professional staff have had in working with foreign educators.

- 6. Evaluation and Follow-up: The proposal should include a plan for evaluating activities during the Institute and at its conclusion. Proposals should comment on provisions made for follow-up with returned grantees as a means of establishing longer-term individual and institutional linkages.
- 7. Administration and Management: The proposals should indicate evidence of continuous on-site administrative and managerial capacity as well as the means by which program activities will be implemented.
- 8. Cost Effectiveness: The proposals should maximize cost-sharing through direct institutional contributions, inkind support, and other private sector support. Overhead and administrative components of the proposal, including salaries and honoraria, should be kept as low as possible.

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

Notification

All applicants will be notified of the results of the review process on or about April 1, 1996. Awards made will be subject to periodic reporting and evaluation requirements.

Dated:

John P. Loiello,

Associate Director for Educational and Cultural Affairs.

[FR Doc. 95–29286 Filed 11–30–95; 8:45 am] BILLING CODE 8230–01–M

Summer Institute for the Study of the United States for Foreign Secondary School Educators

ACTION: Notice—Request for proposals.

SUMMARY: The Branch for the Study of the U.S. of the Office of Academic Programs of the United States Information Agency's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs announces an open competition for an assistance award program for the Summer Institute for the Study of the United States for Foreign Secondary School Educators. Public and private non-profit organizations meeting the provisions described in IRS regulation

26 CFR 1.501(c)(3)–1 may apply to develop a six-week graduate-level program designed for a group of 28 secondary school educators from around the world, in order to deepen their understanding of the United States so that American studies textbooks, curricula and teaching in foreign secondary schools and teacher training institutions will be improved.

USIA is seeking detailed proposals from colleges, universities, consortia of colleges and universities, and other notfor-profit academic organizations that have an established reputation in the disciplines and sub-disciplines that comprise American Studies, and that can demonstrate expertise in conducting graduate-level programs for foreign educators. Applicant institutions must have a minimum of four years' experience in conducting international exchange programs. The project director or one of the key program staff responsible for the academic program must have an advanced degree in American studies or a related discipline. Staff escorts traveling under the USIA cooperative agreement support must be U.S. citizens with demonstrated qualifications for this service.

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."

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 Name and Number: All communications with USIA concerning this announcement should refer to the above title and reference number E/AAS-96-03.

Deadline for Proposals: All copies must be received at the U.S. Information Agency by 5:00 p.m. Washington D.C. time on Monday, January 29, 1996. Faxed documents will not be accepted, nor will documents postmarked January 29, 1996 but received at a later date. It is the responsibility of each applicant to