

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, in-kind 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: December 5, 1995.

Dell Pendergrast,

Deputy Associate Director for Educational and Cultural Affairs.

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BILLING CODE 8230-01-M

Summer Institute on the U.S. Political System: Focus on Federalism

AGENCY: United States Information Agency.

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 on the U.S. Political System: Focus on Federalism. 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 18 foreign university educators from around the world on the subject of the U.S. political system, with a focus on federalism. The purpose of the Institute is to deepen the participants'

understanding of the foundations, development, and current functioning of the U.S. political system by concentrating particularly on the topic of federalism; the ultimate goal of the institute is to improve the teaching of political science and American government at the participants' home institutions.

USIA is seeking detailed proposals from colleges, universities, consortia of colleges and universities, and other not-for-profit academic organizations that have an established reputation in political science and related subdisciplines, 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 political science 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 to 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-96-05.

DEADLINE FOR PROPOSALS: All copies must be received at the U.S. Information Agency by 5:00 p.m. Washington D.C. time on Friday, February 9, 1996. Faxed documents will not be accepted, nor will documents postmarked February 9, 1996 but received at a later date. It is the responsibility of each applicant to

ensure that proposal submissions arrive by the deadline. Tentative program dates are June 29 to August 9, 1996. Participants will likely be booked to arrive in the U.S. on or about June 28, and depart on August 10, 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

To request a Solicitation Package, which includes more detailed award criteria; all application forms; and guidelines for preparing proposals, including specific criteria for preparation of the proposal budget, applicants should contact: U.S. Information Agency, Office of Academic Programs, Branch of the Study of the United States, E/AAS, Room 256, 301 4th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20547, Attn: Program Officer Susan Zapotoczny; telephone number (202) 619-4557; fax number (202) 619-6790; internet address szapotoc@usia.gov. Please specify USIA Program Officer Susan Zapotoczny on all inquiries and correspondence. Interested applicants should read the complete Federal Register announcement before addressing inquiries to the office listed above or submitting their proposals. Once the RFP deadline has passed, USIA staff may not discuss this competition in any way with applicants until after the Bureau proposal review process has been completed.

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, under "New RFPs on Educational and Cultural Exchanges."

SUBMISSIONS: Applicants must follow all instructions given in the RFP and the complete Solicitation Package. The original and 14 copies of the complete application should be sent to: U.S. Information Agency, Ref.: E/AAS-96-05, Office of Grants Management, E/XE, Room 326, 301 4th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20547.

Applicants are also requested to submit the "Executive Summary" and "Proposal Narrative" sections of each 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. If a proposal is selected for funding, USIA will transmit these files electronically to USIS posts overseas to assist in the program participant identification process.

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 and broad range of responsible views present in American political, social, and cultural