

mission in Kyiv which has made this a top priority.

For Uzbekistan

—Exchanges and Training for Working Journalists. Priority consideration will go to proposals for working journalists, particularly those covering economic issues. Acquisition of news gathering and reporting skills should be emphasized, along with other important skills such as effective writing, investigative reporting, objectivity, the clear labeling editorials and opinion pieces, intellectual property issues and ethics. US-based practical internships for journalists with a working knowledge of English are encouraged.

Selection of Participants

Proposals should describe clearly the type of persons who will participate in the program as well as the process by which participants will be selected. We recommend that programs with internships in the US include letters of commitment from host institutions, even if tentative. In the selection of foreign participants, USIA and USIS posts abroad retain the right to nominate all participants and to accept or deny participants recommended by grantee institutions. However, grantee institutions are often asked by USIA to suggest names of potential participants. Priority will be given to foreign participants who have not previously traveled to the United States.

Visa Regulations

Foreign participants on programs sponsored by the Office of Citizen Exchanges are granted J-1 Exchange Visitor visas by the American Embassy in the sending country.

Proposal Budget

Please refer to the Budget Guidelines in the Program Submission Instructions for complete information.

Applicants must submit a detailed line item budget based on the specific instructions in the Program and Budget Guidelines sections of the Instructions. Proposals for less than \$80,000 will receive preference. Programs with strong cost-sharing will be given priority.

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

considered ineligible if they do not fully adhere to the guidelines stated herein and in the Proposal Submission Instructions. Eligible proposals will be forwarded to panels of USIA officers for advisory review. All eligible proposals will also be reviewed by USIA's Office of East European and NIS Affairs and USIA posts in Moscow, Kyiv, and Tashkent. 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 Associate Director, Educational and Cultural Affairs, USIA. Final technical authority for grant awards 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.

1. Program Planning and Ability To Achieve Objectives

Program objectives should be stated clearly and precisely and should reflect the applicant's expertise in the subject area and the region. Objectives should respond to the priority topics in this announcement and should relate to the current conditions in each of the countries. They should be reasonable and attainable. A detailed work plan should explain step by step how objectives will be achieved, including a timetable for completion of major tasks. The substance of seminars, presentations, consulting, internships, and itineraries should be spelled out in detail. Responsibilities of in-country partners should be clearly described.

2. Institutional Capability

Proposed personnel and institutional resources should be adequate and appropriate to achieve the project's goals. The narrative should demonstrate proven ability to handle logistics. Proposal should reflect the institution's expertise in the subject area and knowledge of the conditions pertaining to it in Russia, Ukraine or Uzbekistan.

3. Cost Effectiveness

Overhead and administrative costs for the proposal, including salaries, honoraria, and subcontracts for services, should be kept low. While this announcement does not proscribe a rigid ratio of administrative to program costs, in general, priority will be given to proposals whose administrative costs are less than twenty-five (25) per cent of the total requested from USIA. Proposals should show cost-sharing, both contributions from the applicant and from other sources.

4. Support of Diversity

Proposals should demonstrate the recipient's commitment to promoting the awareness and understanding of diversity throughout the program.

5. Project Evaluation

USIA is results-oriented. Proposals must include a plan and methodology to evaluate the activity's success, both as the activities unfold and at the end of the program. USIA recommends that the proposal include a draft survey questionnaire and/or plan for use of another measurement technique (such as a focus group) to link outcomes to original project objectives. Award-receiving organizations/institutions will be expected to submit intermediate reports after each project component is concluded or quarterly, whichever is less frequent.

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

Awards made will be subject to periodic reporting and evaluation requirements.

Dated: October 4, 1996.

Dell Pendergrast,

Deputy Associate Director for Educational and Cultural Affairs.

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Veterans' Advisory Committee on Rehabilitation, Notice of Charter Renewal

This gives notice under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Public Law 92-463) of October 6, 1972, that the Veterans' Advisory Committee on Rehabilitation has been renewed for a 2-year period beginning September 30, 1996, through September 30, 1998.

Dated: October 1, 1996.

By direction of the Secretary.

Eugene A. Brickhouse,

Committee Management Officer.

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