

preceding sentence is not a multiple of 0.1¢, such amount is rounded to the nearest multiple of 0.1¢. Under the calculation required by section 45(b)(2), the renewable electricity production credit for calendar year 1999 under section 45(a) is 1.7¢ per kilowatt hour on the sale of electricity produced from closed-loop biomass and wind energy resources.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: David A. Selig, IRS, CC:DOM:P&SI:5, 1111 Constitution Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20224, (202) 622-3040 (not a toll-free call).

Dated: April 21, 1999.

Judith Dunn,

Associate Chief Counsel (Domestic).

[FR Doc. 99-10934 Filed 4-30-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4830-01-P

UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY

Youth Leadership Program for Bosnia and Herzegovina; Request for Concept Papers

SUMMARY: The Office of Citizen Exchanges, Youth Programs Division, of the United States Information Agency's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs announces an open competition for a Youth Leadership Program for Bosnia and Herzegovina. Public and private non-profit organizations meeting the provisions described in IRS regulation 26 CFR 1.501(c) may submit concept papers to conduct a minimum three-week program for B-H secondary school students in the United States in August/September 1999. The maximum amount of the grant is \$33,000.

Program Information

USIA is implementing a new project for youth from Bosnia-Herzegovina on the theme of leadership. As this project is being initiated on a small scale and with short lead time, USIA is seeking concept papers from organizations that can provide a substantive, U.S.-based program on leadership and civic education.

Concept papers should propose a project idea for the Youth Leadership Program. From the concept papers received, a USIA review panel will select the most highly qualified concept papers to be expanded into full proposals for an award that will contribute to the implementation of the proposed project. Please see the guidelines for preparing the concept paper later in this document.

The goals of this project are: (1) To provide a civic education program that

helps the students understand civic participation and the rights and responsibilities of citizens in a democracy; (2) to develop leadership skills among B-H secondary school students appropriate to their needs; and (3) to build personal relationships among high school students and teachers from Bosnia-Herzegovina and the United States.

Applicants: USIA invites concept papers from any eligible private or public non-profit organization or institution. The primary objective is to identify an organization that has the capability to provide a high-quality leadership and civic education program and that has experience conducting such programs for international participants. Secondly, USIA seeks an organization with experience working specifically with the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Applicants need not have a partner in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as the USIA post in Sarajevo will assume that role for this project; i.e., select and orient students and make international travel arrangements.

Guidelines

Participants: The participants will be (1) ten high school students between the ages of 14 and 18 who have demonstrated leadership in their schools and/or communities and who are high academic achievers, and (2) two teachers who have demonstrated leadership and are expected to remain in positions where they can continue to do so. Participants will be proficient in the English language.

Selection and orientation: USIS Sarajevo will select the participants. The CIVITAS network in Bosnia and Herzegovina will help publicize the program and help USIS identify current and potential civic leaders. USIS will also be responsible for providing a pre-departure orientation for the participants and arranging international air travel from Bosnia and Herzegovina to the specific destination in the United States.

Program dates: The grant should begin in July 1999 and conclude after the exchange program. The preferred time period for the program is August/September 1999. Alternatively, the participants would be able to travel in January of 2000, provided substantive programming can be arranged. The program should be no less than three weeks in duration.

Program: The program should focus primarily on interactive activities, practical experiences, and other hands-on opportunities to learn about the fundamentals of a civil society and

building leadership skills. Suggestions include simulations, a community service project, and leadership training exercises. Secondly, the program may include some briefings, discussions, and classroom visits (if local schools are in session). Programming should include American participants wherever possible. Cultural and recreational activities may be used to balance the schedule. The program need not be specifically arranged for the B-H participants; that is, arranging for them to participate in pre-established camp or workshop is acceptable. If this is proposed, however, it needs to fulfill all of the stated objectives or do so in conjunction with other activities scheduled just for this delegation.

Applicant organizations may propose a program along the lines described above. Additional suggestions for the student program include youth leadership workshops; exercises or simulations related to rule of law and citizen participation in government and in addressing societal problems (e.g., the environment, development, drug addiction prevention); meetings with government, community, and business leaders to see real-life examples of leadership in action; exposure to student government and peer mediation groups; team-building exercises; computer training for access to Internet resources and for follow-on communication; and cultural and historical tours.

Although some of their activities may overlap with the students, the educators should have some opportunities to work with their American peers and other professionals and volunteers to discuss civic education curricula, extracurricular youth leadership activities, volunteerism, civic participation activities for youth, and the organization and management of youth activities.

The recipient organization should conduct a welcome orientation for the participants upon arrival in the United States and host a closing meeting for them just prior to departure.

Sites of program: The delegation should spend its time in the United States in no more than two locations so that the participants have time to familiarize themselves with a community. Desirable locations are those with schools or community organizations that have a demonstrated interest in Bosnia and Herzegovina or those with universities involved in the USIA undergraduate program for B-H students. We will also consider proximity to state capitals and other sites of interest, access to organizations that can conduct appropriate

workshops, and representation of the geographic and ethnic diversity of the United States.

Housing: Homestays with local families are desirable for some or all of the exchange period. A dormitory or other inexpensive group housing is also an acceptable arrangement.

Overall responsibilities of the assistance award recipient include:

1. Design and planning of activities that provide a substantive program on civic education and leadership through both academic and extracurricular components;
2. Domestic travel and logistical arrangements
 - a. Homestay or group housing
 - b. Disbursement of per diem
 - c. Local travel
 - d. Travel between sites
 - e. Enrollment of the participants in USIA's accident and sickness insurance program
 - f. Confirmation of and changes in return international travel
3. timely reporting of progress to USIA
4. Monitoring, evaluation, and follow-on activities
5. Fiscal management of all accounting and contractual relations
6. Financial and program reporting

The grant recipient will not need to purchase international airline tickets for the participants nor will it need to arrange for visas for entry to the United States. USIA will issue IAP-66 forms so that participants may obtain J-1 visas.

Application process: USIA invites organizations to submit a concept paper, no less than three and no more than five pages, single-sided, single-spaced, that outlines a plan to conduct the above program.

Concept Paper Format: After clearly marking the title and number of this solicitation, please include all of the following information in your concept paper:

1. U.S. organization, department, and project director, with complete contact information including address, telephone, fax, and e-mail
2. Project summary
3. Dates of project
4. Project objectives and desired outcomes, based on the goals stated in this solicitation
5. Outline of proposed activities and sites
6. Details on proposed activities, including workshops, excursions, community service, welcome and closing sessions, opportunities to interact with Americans, etc.
7. Housing, transportation, and logistical arrangements
8. Project evaluation

9. Organization's capacity to implement proposed project

Budget Guidelines

The award may not exceed \$33,000. The budget must cover all participant expenses once they have arrived at the U.S. airport closest to the site of the activities. Administrative expenses should not exceed \$10,000. Significant cost-sharing will be expected; homestays are not allowed as a cost-share item. A detailed budget will be requested with the full proposal.

Announcement Title and Number

All correspondence with USIA concerning this RFP should reference the above title and number *E/PY-99-52*.

For Further Information, Contact

The Youth Programs Division, E/PY, Room 568, U.S. Information Agency, 301 4th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20547, Telephone: (202) 619-6299, Fax: (202) 619-5311, E-mail: clantz@usia.gov. Please specify USIA Program Officer Carolyn Lantz on all other inquiries and correspondence.

Please read the complete **Federal Register** announcement before making inquiries or submitting concept papers. Once the deadline has passed, Agency staff may not discuss this competition with applicants until the review process has been completed.

Deadline for Concept Papers

All copies of the concept papers must be received at the U.S. Information Agency by 5 p.m. Washington, DC time on *Friday, May 21, 1999*. Faxed documents will not be accepted at any time. Documents postmarked the due date but received on a later date will not be accepted. Each applicant must ensure that the concept papers are received by the above deadline.

The original and 7 copies of the application should be sent to: U.S. Information Agency, Ref.: *E/PY-99-52*, Office of Grants Management, Room 568, 301 4th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20547.

Applicants must also submit the concept paper on a 3.5" diskette, formatted for DOS. These documents must be provided in ASCII text (DOS) format with a maximum line length of 65 characters. USIA will transmit these files electronically to the USIS post 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. Pub. L. 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 reflect advancement of this goal in their program contents, to the full extent deemed feasible.

Review Process

All eligible concept papers will be reviewed by the program office, as well as the USIA Office of East European and NIS Affairs and the USIA post overseas. Eligible concept papers will be forwarded to panels of USIA officers for advisory review. USIA will notify respondents about the status of the concept papers by June 7, 1999.

Review Criteria

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

1. Quality of the program idea:

Concept papers should exhibit originality, substance, precision, and relevance to the Agency's mission.

2. Program planning: An 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. Institutional capacity/Ability to achieve program objectives: Objectives should be reasonable, feasible, and flexible. Concept papers should clearly demonstrate how the institution will meet the program's objectives and plan. The Agency will consider the past performance of prior recipients and the demonstrated potential of new applicants.

4. *Support of Diversity*: Concept papers should demonstrate substantive support of the Bureau's policy on diversity.

5. *Project Evaluation*: Concept papers should describe a plan to evaluate the activity's success, both as the activities unfold and at the end of the program.

Authority

Overall grant making authority for this program is contained in the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961, Pub. L. 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 above is provided through Support for Eastern European Democracies (SEED) legislation.

Notice

The terms and conditions published in this Request for Concept Papers 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 RFCP does not constitute an award commitment on the part of the Government. 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: April 26, 1999.

Judith S. Siegel,

Deputy Associate Director for Educational and Cultural Affairs.

[FR Doc. 99-10981 Filed 4-30-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8230-01-M