

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. The Bureau will transmit these files electronically to the Public Affairs Sections at U.S. Embassies for review, with the goal of reducing the time needed to make the comments of overseas posts available in the Bureau's grant review process.

Diversity, Freedom and Democracy Guidelines

Pursuant to the Bureau's authorizing legislation, projects 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," the Bureau "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.

Review Process

The Bureau 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. All eligible proposals will be evaluated by independent external reviewers.

The independent external reviewers, who will be professional, scholarly, or educational experts with appropriate regional and thematic knowledge, will provide recommendations and assessments for consideration by the Bureau. The Bureau will consider for funding only those proposals which are recommended for further consideration by the independent external reviewers.

Proposals will also be reviewed by Department staff as well as by the officers of the Office of the Coordinator of United States Assistance to the New Independent States and the public diplomacy sections of U.S. Embassies. Proposals may also be reviewed by the Office of the Legal Advisor or by other offices of the U.S. Department of State. Funding decisions will be made at the discretion of the Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs. Final technical authority for assistance awards (grants or cooperative agreements) will reside with a contracts officer with competency for Bureau programs.

Review Criteria

All reviewers will use the criteria below to reach funding recommendations and decisions. Technically eligible applications will be reviewed competitively according to these criteria, which are not rank-ordered or weighted.

(1) Broad Significance of Institutional Objectives: Project objectives should have significant but realistically anticipated ongoing consequences for the participating institutions that will also contribute to the transition of the New Independent States to market economies and democratic societies.

(2) Clarity and Relevance of Project Objectives to Institutional Needs: Proposed projects should outline clearly formulated objectives that relate specifically to the needs of the participating institutions.

(3) Creativity and Feasibility of Project Implementation: Plan to achieve project objectives should demonstrate the feasibility of doing so during a three-year period by utilizing and reinforcing exchange activities realistically and with creativity.

(4) Institutional Commitment to Cooperation: Proposals should demonstrate significant understanding at each institution of its own needs and capacities and of the needs and capacities of its proposed partner(s), together with a strong commitment, during and after the period of grant activity, to cooperate with one another in the mutual pursuit of institutional objectives.

(5) Project Evaluation: Proposals should outline a methodology for determining the degree to which a project meets its objectives, both while the project is underway and at its conclusion. The final project evaluation should include an external component and should provide observations about the project's influence within the participating institutions as well as their surrounding communities or societies.

(6) Cost-effectiveness: Administrative and program costs should be reasonable and appropriate with cost-sharing provided by all participating institutions within the context of their respective capacities and as a reflection of their commitment to cooperate with one another in pursuing project objectives. Although indirect costs are eligible for inclusion among costs to be contributed by the applicant, contributions should not be limited to indirect costs.

(7) Support of Diversity: Proposals should demonstrate substantive support of the Bureau's policy on diversity by explaining how issues of diversity relate to project objectives for all institutional partners and how these issues will be addressed during project implementation. Proposals should also outline the institutional profile of each participating institution with regard to issues of diversity.

Notice

The terms and conditions published in this RFP are binding and may not be modified by any State Department representative. Explanatory information provided by the Department of State 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 Bureau 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 Bureau procedures.

Dated: July 16, 2000.

Evelyn S. Lieberman,

Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs, U.S. Department of State.

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STATE JUSTICE INSTITUTE

Notice of Public Meeting

State Justice Institute

DATE: Saturday, July 29, 2000; 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

PLACE: Holiday Inn Rushmore Plaza, Rapid City, SD.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:

Consideration of proposals submitted for Institute funding and internal Institute business.

Portions open to the public: All matters.

Portions closed to the public: None.

CONTACT PERSON: David Tevelin, Executive Director, State Justice Institute, 1650 King Street, Suite 600, Alexandria, VA 22314, (703) 684-6100.

David I. Tevelin,
Executive Director.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Coast Guard

[USCG 2000-7222]

Information Collection Under Review by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB): OMB Control Numbers 2115-0017, 2115-0611, 2115-0573, and 2115-0630

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DOT.

ACTION: Request for comments.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this request for comments announces that the Coast Guard has forwarded four Information Collection Reports (ICRs) abstracted below to OMB for review and comment. Our ICRs describe the information that we seek to collect from the public. Review and comment by OMB ensure that we impose only paperwork burdens commensurate with our performance of duties.

DATES: Please submit comments on or before August 25, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Please send comments to both (1) The Docket Management System (DMS), U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), room PL-401, 400 Seventh Street SW., Washington, DC 20590-0001, and (2) the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA), Office of Management and Budget (OMB), 725 17th Street NW., Washington, DC 20503, to the attention of the Desk Officer for the USCG.

Copies of the complete ICRs are available for inspection and copying in public docket USCG 2000-7222 of the Docket Management Facility between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays; for inspection and printing on the internet at <http://dms.dot.gov>; and for inspection from the Commandant (G-SII-2), U.S. Coast Guard, room 6106, 2100 Second Street S.W., Washington, DC, between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Barbara Davis, Office of Information Management, 202-267-2326, for questions on this document; Dorothy Walker, Chief, Documentary Services Division, U.S. Department of Transportation, 202-366-9330, for questions on the docket.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Regulatory History

This request constitutes the 30-day notice required by OMB. The Coast Guard has already published [65 FR 19952 (April 13, 2000)] the 60-day notice required by OMB. That request elicited no comments.

Request for Comments

The Coast Guard invites comments on the proposed collections of information to determine whether the collections are necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Department. In particular, the Coast Guard would appreciate comments addressing: (1) The practical utility of the collections; (2) the accuracy of the Department's estimated burden of the collections; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information that is the subject of the collections; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of collections on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments, to DMS or OIRA, must contain the OMB Control Numbers of all ICRs addressed. Comments to DMS must contain the docket number of this request, USCG 2000-7222. Comments to OIRA are best assured of having their full effect if OIRA receives them 30 or fewer days after the publication of this request.

Information Collection Requests

1. *Title:* Regattas and Marine Parades.
OMB Control Number: 2115-0017.

Type of Request: Extension of currently approved collection.

Affected Public: Sponsors of marine events.

Form(s): N/A.

Abstract: The Coast Guard needs to determine whether a marine event may present a substantial threat to the safety of human life on navigable waters and determine which measures are necessary to ensure the safety of life during the events. Sponsors must notify the Coast Guard of the event and provide additional information, as required. This is an efficient means for the Coast Guard to learn of the events and to address environmental impacts.

Annual Estimated Burden Hours: The estimated burden is 1,540 hours a year.

2. *Title:* Boat Owner's Report, Possible Safety Defect.

OMB Control Number: 2115-0611.

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Affected Public: Owners of recreational boats.

Forms: CG-5578.

Abstract: Owners of recreational boats or engines who believe their product contains a defect or fails to comply with safety standards can call the Coast Guard Infoline, which will send them a copy of the "Boat Owner's Report", or they can file the report on-line at the website for the Office of Boating Safety.

Annual Estimated Burden Hours: The estimated burden is 80 hours a year.

Frequency: One time.

3. *Title:* Labeling Requirements in 33 CFR Parts 181 and 183.

OMB Control Number: 2115-0573.

Type of Request: Extension of currently approved collection.

Affected Public: Manufacturers and importers of recreational boats.

Form(s): N/A.

Abstract: The collection of information requires manufacturers or importers of recreational boats to apply for serial numbers from the Coast Guard and to display various labels on these boats.

Annual Estimated Burden Hours: The estimated burden is 382,798 hours a year.

4. *Title:* International Safety Management Code Audit Reports.

OMB Control Number: 2115-0630.

Type of Request: Extension of currently approved collection.

Affected Public: Owners and operators of vessels, and organizations authorized to issue ISM Code certificates for the United States.

Form(s): N/A.

Abstract: The Coast Guard uses this information collection to determine the compliance status of U.S. vessels, subject to SOLAS 74, engaged in international trade. Organizations recognized by the Coast Guard conduct ongoing audits of vessels' and companies' safety-management systems.

Annual Estimated Burden Hours: The estimated burden is 3,650 hours a year.

Dated: July 19, 2000.

Daniel F. Sheehan,

Director of Information and Technology.

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