

forms, record-keeping, reporting and other requirements.

The Grantee organization will be responsible for issuing DS-2019 forms to participants in this program.

A copy of the complete regulations governing the administration of Exchange Visitor (J) programs is available at <http://exchanges.state.gov> or from: United States Department of State, Office of Exchange Coordination and Designation, ECA/EC/ECD-SA-44, Room 734, 301 4th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20547. Telephone: (202) 401-9810. FAX: (202) 401-9809.

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 reviewed by the program office, as well as the public diplomacy section of the U.S. Embassy in Belgrade including the branch office in Podgorica. Eligible proposals will be subject to compliance with Federal and Bureau regulations and guidelines and forwarded to Bureau grant panels for advisory review. Proposals may also be reviewed by the Office of the Legal Adviser or by other Department elements. Final funding decisions are at the discretion of the Department of State's Assistant Secretary for Educational and Cultural Affairs. Final technical authority for an assistance grant award resides with the Bureau's Grants 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) Broad and Enduring Significance of Project Objectives

Project objectives should have significant and ongoing results for the participating institutions and for the surrounding communities by providing a deepened understanding of critical issues in public administration in Montenegro. Proposals should exhibit originality, substance, precision, and relevance to the Bureau's mission.

(2) Creativity and Feasibility of Strategy To Achieve Project Objectives

Strategies to achieve project objectives should be feasible and relevant to the transition process in the public sector of Montenegro and should be realistic within the projected budget and timeframe. A detailed agenda and

relevant work plan should demonstrate substantive undertakings and logistical capacity. The agenda and plan should be consistent with project objectives.

(3) Institutional Commitment to Cooperation

The proposed project should demonstrate significant understanding of the institutional and training needs and capacities of the partner institutions in Montenegro together with a strong commitment of the partner institutions, during and after the period of grant activity, to cooperate with one another in the mutual pursuit of institutional objectives.

(4) Project Impact

The proposed project should demonstrate significant potential long-term impact on public administration practices in Montenegro.

(5) Support of Diversity

Proposals should demonstrate substantive support of the Bureau's policy on diversity by explaining how issues of diversity are included in project objectives for all institutional partners. Issues resulting from differences of race, ethnicity, gender, religion, geography, socio-economic status, or physical challenge should be addressed during project implementation. In addition, project participants and administrators should reflect the diversity within the societies which they represent (*see* the section of this document on "Diversity, Freedom and Democracy Guidelines"). Proposals should also discuss how the various institutional partners approach diversity issues in their respective communities or societies.

(6) Project Evaluation

Proposals should include a plan and methodology to evaluate the degree to which project objectives have been addressed, both while the project is underway and at its conclusion. The final project evaluation should include an external evaluation component and should provide observations about the project's influence within the participating institutions as well as the surrounding communities.

(7) 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. We view cost sharing as a reflection of institutional commitment to the project.

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 legislation. The funding authority for the program cited above is provided through the Support for East European Democracies (SEED) Act of 1989.

Notice

The terms and conditions published in this RFGP are binding and may not be modified by any Bureau representative. Explanatory information provided by the Bureau that contradicts published language will not be binding. Issuance of the RFGP 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: April 3, 2003.

Patricia S. Harrison,

Assistant Secretary for Educational and Cultural Affairs, Department of State.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Office of the Secretary

In the Matter of the Commuter Air Carrier Authority of Samoa Aviation, Inc.

AGENCY: Department of Transportation.