

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.³

Jonathan G. Katz,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 03-1449 Filed 1-22-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 4251]

Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs Request for Grant Proposals: International Visitor Program Assistance Awards

SUMMARY: The Office of International Visitors of the Division of Professional and Cultural Exchanges, of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA/PE/V), United States Department of State (DoS) announces an open competition for assistance awards to develop and implement International Visitor Programs (IVP). The IVP seeks to increase mutual understanding between the U.S. and foreign publics through carefully designed professional programs for approximately 4,600 foreign visitors per year from all regions of the world. The awards will fund programming for a minimum of 100 and a maximum of 550 International Visitors (IVs). Funding will be for FY-2004 (October 1, 2003–September 30, 2004). Public and private non-profit organizations meeting the provisions described in Internal Revenue Code section 26 U.S.C. 501(c)(3) and not already receiving Office of International Visitor assistance awards for FY-2004 may submit proposals. [See Project Objectives, Goals and Implementation (POGI) for definitions of program-related terminology.]

The intent of this announcement is to provide the opportunity for organizations to develop and implement a variety of programs for International Visitors from multiple regions of the world or from a single region. (Please refer to POGI for breakdown of regions). The award recipients will function as national program agencies (NPAs) and will work closely with Department of State Bureau staff, who will guide them through programmatic, procedural and budgetary issues for the full range of IV programs. (Hereafter, the terms “award recipient” and “national program agency” will be used interchangeably to refer to the grantee organization(s).)

Program Information

Overview: The International Visitor program seeks to increase mutual

understanding between the U.S. and foreign publics through carefully designed professional programs. IV programs support U.S. foreign policy objectives. Participants are current or potential foreign leaders in government, politics, media, education, science, labor relations, NGOs, the arts, and other key fields. They are selected by officers of U.S. embassies overseas and approved by the DoS staff in Washington, DC. Since the program's inception in 1940, there have been more than 140,000 distinguished participants in the program. Almost 200 program alumni subsequently became heads of state or government in their home countries. All IV programs must maintain a non-partisan character.

The Bureau seeks proposals from non-profit organizations for development and implementation of professional programs for Bureau-sponsored International Visitors to the U.S. Once the awards are made, separate proposals will be required for each group project [Single Country (SCP)*, Sub-Regional (SRP)*, Regional (RP)*, and Multi-Regional (MRP)*] as well as less formal proposals for Individual and Individuals Traveling Together (ITT)* programs. At this time proposals are not required for Voluntary Visitor (VolVis)* programs. Each program will be focused on a substantive theme. Some typical IV program themes are: (1) U.S. foreign policy; (2) U.S. government and political system; (3) economic development; (4) education; (5) media; (6) information technology; (7) freedom of information; (8) NGO management; (9) women's issues; (10) tolerance and diversity; (11) counter-terrorism; (12) democracy and human rights; (13) rule of law; (14) international crime; and (15) environmental issues.* IV programs must conform to all Bureau requirements and guidelines. *Please refer to the Program Objectives, Goals, and Implementation (POGI) document for a more detailed description of each type of IV program.

Guidelines: Goals and objectives for each specific IV program will be shared with the award recipients at an appropriate time following the announcement of the assistance awards. DoS will provide close coordination and guidance throughout the duration of the awards. Award recipients will consult closely with the responsible ECA/PE/V Program Officer throughout the development, implementation, and evaluation of each IV program. They should demonstrate the potential to develop the following types of programs.

1. Programs must contain substantive meetings that focus on foreign policy

goals and program objectives and are presented by experts. Meetings, site visits, and other program activities should promote dialogue between participants and their U.S. professional counterparts. Programs must be balanced to show different sides of an issue.

2. Most programs will be 21 to 30 days in length and will begin in Washington, D.C., with an orientation and overview of the issues and a central examination of federal policies regarding these issues. Well-paced program itineraries usually include visits to four or five communities. Program itineraries ideally include urban and rural small communities in diverse geographical and cultural regions of the U.S., as appropriate to the program theme.

3. Programs should provide opportunities for participants to experience the diversity of American society and culture. Participants in RPs or MRPs are divided into smaller sub-groups for simultaneous visits to different communities, with subsequent opportunities to share their experiences with the full group once it is reunited.

4. Programs may provide opportunities for the participants to share a meal or similar experience (home hospitality) in the homes of Americans of diverse occupational, age, gender, and ethnic groups. Some individual and group programs might include an opportunity for an overnight stay (home stay) in an American home.

5. Programs should provide opportunities for participants to address student, civic and professional groups in relaxed and informal settings.

6. Participants should have appropriate opportunities for site visits and hands-on experiences that are relevant to program themes. The award recipients may propose professional “shadowing” experiences with U.S. professional colleagues for some programs; (A typical shadowing experience means spending a half- or full-workday with a professional counterpart.)

7. Programs should also allow time for participants to reflect on their experiences and, in group programs, to share observations with program colleagues. Participants should have opportunities to visit cultural and tourist sites; and

8. The award recipients must make arrangements for community visits through affiliates of the NCIV. In cities where there is no such council, the award recipients will arrange for coordination of local programs.

³ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(1).