

Agencies establish the means for measuring their progress in achieving agency-level goals, SSA established the Public Understanding Measurement System (PUMS) in 1998 as a tool for measuring its performance in meeting its strategic objectives in the area of public knowledge about and understanding of the Social Security program. The instrument used in PUMS is a national phone survey of adult Americans (age 18 and over) which will be conducted annually for SSA by a professional polling organization.

SSA has recently put in place a new strategic plan and established a new strategic performance objective, "the percent of adult Americans who are knowledgeable about the current Social Security program and related issues, including long-range financing." In line with the new plan, SSA is revising its public education program to include information about Social Security issues such as program solvency. SSA is also adjusting its PUMS process to collect baseline (initial) data on this revised measure. Once this baseline data is collected, SSA will set a strategic performance goal with yearly performance targets as required by the GPRA.

The survey instrument is designed to collect baseline knowledge data at the national level via 1,400 national surveys. Additionally, the survey is designed to assure a valid baseline knowledge measure for key populations toward which SSA has significant targeted education and outreach programs—African Americans, Hispanic Americans, and Asian Americans. This data is a crucial step in making SSA more focused and effective in its communication programs.

Without the data provided by the PUMS survey process, SSA would lack the capability to measure the actual level of public knowledge by which its performance is measured and would lack data to design effective public education programs in support of its strategic plan. The respondents will be randomly selected adults residing in the United States.

Type of Request: Reinstatement with change of an information collection.

Number of Respondents: 1400.

Frequency of Response: 1.

Average Burden Per Response: 15 minutes.

Estimated Annual Burden: 350 hours.

Dated: June 16, 2003.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 4383]

Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs Request for Grant Proposals: FY 2004 Freedom Support Educational Partnerships Program With Eurasia

Summary: The Office of Global Educational Programs of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs announces an open competition for the Freedom Support Educational Partnerships Program with Eurasia. Accredited, post-secondary educational institutions meeting the provisions described in Internal Revenue Code section 26 U.S.C. 501(c)(3) may submit proposals to pursue institutional or departmental objectives in partnership with foreign counterpart institutions with support from the Freedom Support Educational Partnerships Program with Eurasia. These objectives should directly support the overall goals of the Program: to support democratic systems and market economies in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan, and to strengthen mutual understanding and cooperation between these countries and the United States. The means of achieving these objectives may include faculty exchange, curriculum development, and outreach to professionals and other members of the communities served by the participating institutions.

Program Overview

The Freedom Support Educational Partnerships Program with Eurasia provides grants to U.S. colleges or universities of up to \$250,000 to support institutional linkages in higher education with partners in eligible countries. Other RFGPs for educational partnerships may also be published this fiscal year, with information available from: <http://exchanges.state.gov/education/rfgps/>.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to discuss their project ideas during the proposal development process with the relevant program officer (please see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section for contact details) who may be able to provide additional insight into priorities by country as well as background information on what types of projects are most competitive for funding.

Project Objectives

The purpose of the program is to support the development or revision of courses, curricula, outreach programs and programs of study at participating institutions in ways that strengthen

democracy and free markets in Eurasia as well as mutual understanding between the people of the United States and those of Eurasia. Applicants are invited to propose institutional objectives that support this purpose. Proposals should explain in detail how project activities will enable participants to achieve specific changes at the cooperating departments or institutions, whose objectives should be consistent with the Program's goal of supporting democratic systems based on market economies. While the benefits of the project to each of the participating institutions may differ significantly in nature and scope based on their respective needs and resource bases, proposals should outline well-reasoned strategies that are designed to meet specific objectives at each participating U.S. and foreign department or institution as a whole. In most cases a proposal to pursue a limited number of related thematic objectives at each institution will be stronger and more coherent than a proposal addressing a large number of unrelated objectives.

For example, proposals may outline the parameters and possible content of new courses; new teaching specializations or methodologies; new or revised curricula; and new programs for outreach to educators, professional groups, or the general public. Proposals should explain in substantial detail strategies to promote curriculum, faculty, and staff development, as well as administrative reform, at the foreign partner institution(s). Projects may result in the development of a new academic program or the restructuring of an existing program, and should equip institutions of higher education to contribute to democracy and/or open markets in the foreign partner country. Plans to extend the benefits of the project to larger audiences through outreach to foreign government, NGO, and business representatives are especially encouraged.

Projects focusing on curricular reform at the foreign partner institution should describe the existing curriculum, the courses targeted for revision, and how the current content will be restructured to incorporate the new academic themes. The proposal should additionally describe the topics and content of any new courses or educational materials that will be developed and introduced. If the project proposes to develop a new degree or certificate program, the proposal should detail the steps being taken to apply for approval for the new program from the foreign partner's Ministry of Education (or other appropriate agency). The