

activities and concrete descriptions of how goals will be achieved.

(3) *Institutional Commitment to Cooperation*: Proposals should demonstrate significant understanding by each institution of its own needs and capacities and of the needs and capacities of its proposed partner(s), together with a strong commitment by 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 Evaluation*: Proposals should describe 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.

(5) *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. The Bureau views cost sharing as a reflection of institutional commitment to the project. Contributions should not be limited to indirect costs.

(6) *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.

#### Authority

Overall grant making authority for this program is contained in the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961, Public Law 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 has previously been provided through the Freedom for Russia and Emerging Eurasian Democracies and Open Markets Support Act of 1992 (FREEDOM Support Act) legislation. The President's budget request for Educational and Cultural Exchanges for Fiscal Year 2004 includes funding for this purpose.

#### 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: June 13, 2003.

C. Miller Crouch,

Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, Department of State.

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## DEPARTMENT OF STATE

### [Public Notice 4382]

#### **Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs Request for Grant Proposals: Grants Competition for Political Leadership, Education, Small Business Development, and Disability Issues for the Near East, North Africa, and South Asia**

*Summary*: The Office of Citizen Exchanges of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs announces a Grants Competition designed to promote Political Leadership, Education, Disability Awareness, and Small Business Development, with priority given to proposals that address these themes as they relate to women. U.S.-based public and private non-profit

organizations meeting the provisions described in Internal Revenue Code, U.S.C. Title 26, Section 501(c)(3) may submit proposals that support international projects in the United States and overseas involving current or potential leaders. ECA seeks organizations that are interested in developing grassroots linkages and international exchanges in the Near East, North Africa, and South Asia.

Programs should be designed so that the exchanges will operate on two levels: (1) They should enhance institutional partnerships between U.S. organizations and partner organizations in the region, improving the institutional capacity of the partner organizations, and (2) they should offer practical information and useful materials to enable the partners to share skills and practical experience after the grant period is over.

We anticipate awarding six to twenty grants as a result of this competition, depending on the types and number of proposals received and *pending availability of FY04 funds*. More than one award may be made in some areas of focus and no awards may be made in others. Grant awards will range from \$60,000 to \$200,000.

ECA encourages new organizations that have not received previous bureau funding to apply; however, *grants awarded to eligible organizations with less than four years of experience as an incorporated non-profit entity conducting international exchange programs will be limited to \$60,000*.

Applicants must submit a comprehensive budget for the entire program. All proposals should present evidence of cost sharing, in cash or kind, representing at *least 50% of the amount requested*. For example, an organization requesting \$150,000 should demonstrate the ability to provide at least an additional \$75,000 in allowable cost sharing.

#### **Program Information**

##### *Overview*

The Office of Citizen Exchanges of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) consults with and supports American public and private nonprofit organizations in developing and implementing multi-phased, often multi-year exchanges of professionals, community leaders, scholars and academics, public policy advocates, etc. These exchanges address issues of critical importance to both the United States and to the countries with which the exchanges will be conducted. They encourage substantive and cooperative interaction among counterparts, and