

they entail both theoretical and experiential learning for all participants. A primary goal is the development of sustained, international institutional and individual linkages. In addition to providing a context for professional development and collaborative problem-solving, these projects are intended to introduce participants to one another's political, social, and economic structures, facilitating improved communication and enhancing mutual understanding. Two-way exchange travel is encouraged.

This competition is based on the premise that people-to-people exchanges focused on the enhancement of human capacity and the encouragement and strengthening of democratic initiatives nurture the social, political, and economic development of society. Priority will be given to proposals that address program themes as they relate to women.

Applicants should carefully review the following recommendations for proposals. Given budgetary considerations, projects in countries and for themes other than those listed will not be eligible for consideration and will be ruled technically ineligible. The themes listed below are important to the Office of Citizen Exchanges, but no guarantee is made or implied that grants will be made in all categories.

The countries/entities comprising the Near East/North Africa (NEA) and South Asia (SA) regions are listed below. Currently there is no U.S. mission in Iran, Iraq, or Libya. Please consider countries and specific themes listed below as guides to potential exchange partnerships. But note that all themes may be appropriate for single country, multi-country or regional proposals.

Countries/Entities of the Near East and North Africa (NEA)—Algeria; Bahrain; Egypt; Iran; Iraq; Israel; Jordan; Kuwait; Lebanon; Libya; Morocco; Oman; Qatar; Saudi Arabia; Syria; Tunisia; the United Arab Emirates (UAE); the West Bank and Gaza; Yemen.

Countries of South Asia (SA)—Afghanistan; Bangladesh; Bhutan; India; the Maldives; Nepal; Pakistan; Sri Lanka.

The Office of Citizen Exchanges solicits proposals for exchange projects that address one or more of the following priority themes:

#### *Program Themes*

##### 1. Political Leadership

Proposals should focus on promoting political leadership by (1) strengthening the capacity of grassroots organizations in developing the skills of current and future political leaders, and (2)

compiling a repertoire of skills and practical materials in the local language for use in workshops, mock elections and campaigns, educational sessions, or other activities. Proposals must indicate a practical knowledge of the political and legislative environment in the partner country. Projects may include, but are not limited to, components listed above and may also include the following: "Workshops for Political Leaders," "Political Awareness Campaigns" and "NGO Management," as described below.

*Workshops for Political Leaders* might include such topics as public speaking, message development, leadership, campaign management, accountability and constituencies, consensus building, lobbying, surveying, polling, advocacy, voter outreach, networking, working with the media, and fundraising. Mock campaigns and elections are encouraged.

*Political Awareness Campaigns* should provide education on the democratic political process and get participants actively involved in the political arena. Awareness campaigns should be jointly conducted with partner organizations, and should reach the widest possible audience in large and small cities, towns and villages.

*NGO Management.* Part of the program design may also include workshops on NGO management and capacity building, for NGOs whose work is linked to emerging or enhanced political leadership. NGO workshop topics might include: Strategic planning, managing volunteers, coalition building, public relations, facilitation training, peer education & outreach, public-private partners, information management, and website development.

##### 2. Promoting Educational Opportunities

The proposal should focus on exchanges and training for grassroots educational and community leaders. Priority will be given to proposals that engage organizations and individuals who are actively involved in developing or supporting strategies that promote increased formal and informal educational opportunities for women and girls. Emphasis should be on providing essential tools and support to educators for classes and leadership activities. Potential topics for activities include, but are not limited to, creating & reconstructing educational opportunities, teaching methodology & practice, curriculum development, the role of women & girls in society, leadership, civic responsibility, mentoring, conflict resolution, health education, and social issues. This

competition is NOT designed for youth exchanges and is NOT intended to provide substantive teacher training. Only adult professionals or grassroots practitioners may be selected to travel internationally for exchange activities. Individual university students may only take part in pilot sessions and in-country educational activities.

##### 3. Small Business Development

Projects should foster the development of local businesses in the partner country and create ongoing international partnerships. Priority will be given to proposals that seek to encourage women's entrepreneurship and develop women's managerial skills. Project components in the U.S. or overseas, with *examples* of possible topics, include: Seminars for those considering micro-enterprise (e.g. entrepreneurship, management, finance and registration issues); workshops (start-up, loan packages, marketing, staff training, appropriate technology); site visits (chambers of commerce, local governments, business associations, small business resource centers); mentoring; consultancies; internships; job-shadowing; or other activities. **Note:** Micro-loans are NOT permitted for these grants.

##### 4. Disability Awareness

Projects should focus on engaging disability NGOs and institutions; individuals with disabilities; and leaders in both the disability community and the community at large. The intent should be to improve opportunities and expand services for the disabled. Projects should seek to involve victims of civil wars and acts of terrorism where appropriate. Possible themes include: Professional and occupational training, accessibility issues, community involvement and public relations, association building, NGO management, leadership, entrepreneurship, and dealing with psychological trauma. Projects may be designed to cover a range of topics and/or methods, or may focus intensively on a specific area.

#### **Project Guidelines**

Applicants should state expected goals and objectives in the proposal narrative and describe a clear and convincing plan for carrying out project components. Bureau-supported exchanges may include internships; study tours; short-term, non-technical experiential learning, extended and intensive workshops and seminars taking place in the United States or overseas. Examples of possible program activities might include: