

duplicate—current assistance programs. Applicants are encouraged to contact the Office of Citizen Exchanges to discuss program concepts prior to proposal submission. In addition, applicants may contact the Public Affairs Sections in U.S. Embassies to discuss proposed activities and their relevance to mission priorities.

To the extent possible, exchanges should be *bilateral*, with *roughly equal numbers of participants* from the U.S. and foreign countries. If a bilateral exchange is not proposed, the reasons should be explained in the proposal.

Applicants should carefully review the following recommendations to tailor proposals to address issues of interest in specific geographical areas.

Grants awarded to eligible organizations with less than four years of experience in conducting international development or exchange programs will be limited to \$60,000. Applicants must submit a comprehensive budget for their entire proposed program. Grant awards will range from \$60,000 to \$200,000. Proposals must provide a summary budget as well as breakdowns reflecting both administrative and program budgets.

Proposals which clearly demonstrate a significant cost-sharing—with 50% of the amount requested from ECA as the preferred target—will be judged more competitive. For example, an organization requesting \$150,000 would be more competitive if the proposal presented at least \$75,000 in allowable cost sharing.

Sub-Saharan Africa (AF)

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1. Strengthen private sector approaches to generating economic growth and increasing productivity in Africa through expanded trade and investment, especially in countries where there are pro-growth economic policies that foster enterprise and entrepreneurship:

Proposals should focus on building an understanding of the impact of globalization on the national economy with emphasis on both the benefits of globalization and the inherent risks involved in participating in the global economy. Project themes may include orderly market compliance, intellectual property rights (IPR) enforcement, regulatory transparency, sector reforms and measures that government and business can take to ease the

displacement of workers in the process of economic liberalization. A sub-theme could include a discussion of how the U.S. implements commercial diplomacy including how we negotiate and plan our trade/commercial relations. Proposals should “jumpstart” the African Growth and Opportunities Act (AGOA) process by providing medium and small African business entrepreneurs and members of business associations an understanding of AGOA and of the American market place. Projects should enhance African understanding of U.S. business norms and actual practices, of U.S. customs operations, product distribution and retailing, and help them develop business linkages and relationships with manufacturers and business in their respective sectors. Of particular interest would be proposals for projects in AGOA approved countries

2. Increase African capacity to fight terrorism, and to prevent, mitigate and resolve crises, conflict and regional instability:

Proposals should promote constructive dialogue and the reduction of stereotyping, violence, hatred, and incitement among diverse groups. A proposal could address a particular conflict or develop a broadly applicable educational program to promote peaceful resolution of current or recent inter-communal conflicts or tensions. It could work through the media or educational institutions or NGOs or other implementation channels. It should build a valued working relationship between U.S. and African professionals in conflict management and resolution, and develop or result in a program that can continue after grant support is finished. Of particular interest would be a proposal on Moving Beyond Conflict to Recovery with emphasis on the Democratic Republic of the Congo/Great Lakes, Sierra Leone/Guinea/Liberia, Ethiopia/Eritrea, and Angola. Issues should include setting priorities and reconciliation methodologies after a long war, *i.e.* family reunification, land tenure, encouraging a return to the countryside, permanent resettlement in place vs. return to pre-conflict homes, de-mining and major infrastructure repair.

3. Increase democracy, good governance and respect for the rule of law, and help strengthen civil society:

Proposals should focus on working with African governments and NGOs to promote and strengthen civil societies, independent media, human rights, the rule of law and democratic development. Issues to be addressed might include the meaning of civil society, the separation of governmental

powers, the role of non-governmental organizations, promoting responsible and balanced journalism and media professionalism, political tolerance, social diversity, rule of law, democratic and team-centered approaches to decision-making. Proposals should include different ethnic and religious groups in order to expand the dialogue for coexistence. Among the themes of interest are: the development of an independent judiciary; the enforcement of commercial laws such as intellectual property rights protection, sanctity of contracts, and competition policy; labor rights; government accountability; and alternative dispute resolution. The objective is to acquaint officials, journalists, NGO leaders, lawyers and other relevant professionals with the concepts and practice of law in the U.S. and the applicability of the U.S. experience throughout Africa.

4. Decrease the spread of HIV/AIDS, malaria and other infectious diseases:

Proposals should outline exchange activities that would foster awareness of risk and promote behavior changes crucial to control and eventual eradication of HIV/AIDS or associated debilitating diseases such as malaria and multiple-drug resistant tuberculosis. Proposals should address a selection of the following topics: education strategies to teach prevention to people who don't believe it can happen to them or believe that infection is inevitable; stigma reduction strategies for people living with HIV/AIDS; engagement of political, religious, cultural and other leaders in public education efforts; grassroots mobilization and advocacy. **Note:** proposals must clearly support the “U.S. Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Act of 2003” and promote accomplishment of the goals set forth in the U.S. Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. Details on U.S. policy to combat HIV/AIDS can be found at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/infocus/hivaids/>

5. Preserve Africa's sustainable resource base:

Proposals should develop exchanges that focus public awareness on the threat posed by environmental deterioration, facilitate efforts to combat the threat by mobilizing governmental and/or non-governmental action, and work at multiple levels to educate and to develop solutions. Of special interest are proposals that would strengthen national park systems, that would clean up major cities, and that would make clean water much more widely available. ECA Bureau funds cannot be used for construction projects, but should be used for projects that increase