

DEPARTMENT OF STATE**[Public Notice 4284]****Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs Request for Grant Proposals: Partners in Education Program****AGENCY:** Department of State.**ACTION:** Notice.

SUMMARY: The Office of Global Educational Programs of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs announces an open competition for the Partners in Education (PiE) Program. The goal of PiE is for Eurasian educators to learn about secondary-level citizenship education, curriculum development, and teaching methodologies in the U.S., and to establish professional partnerships with U.S. teachers and teacher-trainers in schools, universities, and communities.

Public and private non-profit organizations meeting the provisions described in Internal Revenue Code section 26 USC 501(c)(3) may submit proposals to administer this citizenship education project, which includes the following four components: A U.S.-based six-week professional internship program for approximately 56 English-language proficient, secondary school teachers, administrators, and teacher trainers from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan; a two-week in-country workshop in each region, taught by Eurasian participants from the initial U.S.-based component for approximately 160 non-English-speaking social science educators; a two-week exchange for approximately 16 U.S. educators who hosted the Eurasians during their stay in the United States to travel to the Eurasian visitors' schools; and a three-week program for approximately 27 non-English-speaking Eurasian school directors. Please refer to the accompanying POGI for an exact breakdown of participant numbers. Proposals relating to the teaching of English or English as a foreign language (EFL) are not eligible.

Recruitment for the U.S.-based cycles should begin in fall 2003. The grantee organization will be expected to recruit in the Eurasian countries listed above in consultation with the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and the Public Affairs Sections within U.S. embassies in these Eurasian countries. Selection of Eurasian participants for all components will be merit-based with a fair representation of large and small "oblasts."

The program should encourage participants to establish contacts in the

U.S. that will foster ongoing school and community partnerships upon their return to Eurasia. It is intended to promote democratic relations in Eurasian schools, including parental involvement, and build upon the Bureau's existing linkages with Eurasian secondary schools. (Specific school information is not needed for purposes of the proposal.) Proposals should address benefits and impact of the various program components on the participants as well as the U.S. and Eurasian schools.

Program Information*U.S.-Based Educator Internship*

The grantee organization should coordinate a six-week U.S.-based program for English-speaking teachers of social studies, American studies or civic education, and administrators of secondary schools, professors or instructors at teacher training institutes, or other education professionals actively involved in citizenship education. After an academically-focused orientation in Washington, DC, Eurasian participants will be placed in small groups in school districts in the U.S. and provided with internships at local high schools to experience U.S. educational communities and related democratic institutions. Internships must include individual partnering with mentor teachers to observe social science classrooms, as well as confer and teach collaboratively with mentors. In addition, activities should include participation in at least five days of professional development (especially Training of Trainer seminars) designed by the host schools or by local/regional schools of education; working with a civic education consultant to develop an in-country workshop (detailed below) for non-English speaking colleagues; learning about citizenship education curriculum development, and computer-based and other teaching methods; delivering presentations to students and faculty at host schools and communities on Eurasian educational systems and cultures; gathering teaching materials for use in their home schools.

Participants should gain an understanding of the U.S. educational system and local control of education, as well as the relationship between the community and the educational system. The participants should visit various types of schools whenever possible (private, rural, inner city, Native American, charter, etc.), deliver presentations at those schools as well as to local civic and community groups, and attend Parent Teacher Association,

school board, city council or other local governance meetings.

During the internship component, the Eurasian educators should practice their knowledge of curriculum development by creating a citizenship education lesson plan or curriculum plan applicable to their home country context. They should be given an opportunity to present their plan to their colleagues at a debriefing workshop in Washington, DC at the end of the U.S. program.

The grantee organization should solicit U.S. host proposals from schools, school-university partnerships, or private-sector institutions that are academically oriented and foster long-term linkages between U.S. high schools and comparable schools in the Eurasian countries involved. Where possible, U.S. host proposals should include institutions that have successfully participated in other secondary-level Eurasia programs.

Eurasia Workshops

The proposal should describe the implementation of a Eurasia-based component in which each regional group of educators who comes to the U.S.: (1) Develops, tests, and evaluates their new lesson plans and other citizenship education materials in their home schools; and (2) assisted by the civic education consultant, prepares an intensive workshop (one session lasting two weeks or two sessions lasting one week each) for up to 20 non-English speaking history/social studies/civics teachers in their home region. The proposal should include a plan for recruitment of participants for these workshops. Candidates for the workshops must agree to implement the citizenship education lessons or other projects resulting from the workshops.

U.S. Educator Exchange

The grantee organization will also be responsible for facilitating the reciprocal exchange of secondary-level U.S. teachers, preferably two mentor teachers from each U.S. host site in the Eurasian educator internship. The U.S. educators will travel to the community(ies) of the Eurasian teachers, and will take part in a substantive two-week program to be designed by the Eurasian participants in collaboration with the grantee organization, to strengthen the partnerships established during the U.S.-based program and implement linkage activities between the U.S. and Eurasian educational communities. This component should not conflict with the in-country workshops.