

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 4898]

Secretary of State's Advisory Committee on Private International Law: Notice of Renewal of Charter

The Charter of the Secretary of State's Advisory Committee on Private International Law was renewed on January 11, 2005 and expires on January 10, 2007.

The Advisory Committee assists the State Department to monitor domestic and international developments in private international law, provides a means for state, local and private sector viewpoints to be made available to the Department, and provides information to assist in the development of positions for international efforts to harmonize or negotiate uniform rules of private law through model national laws, legal guidelines, treaties, and other means.

The Advisory Committee has focused on work undertaken or proposed for various international bodies, including but not limited to the Hague Conference on Private International Law; the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT), and the Organization of American States (OAS).

Topics reviewed by the Committee include, but are not limited to, jurisdiction and enforcement of foreign judgments; party choice of forum, enforcement of foreign arbitral awards; cross-border business insolvency law; the protection of minors; inter-country adoption; child abduction; electronic commerce; secured finance; carriage of goods by sea and by other modes of transportation; international franchising; and other topics of current interest in private law as they arise.

Meetings are open to the public, and participation by the public is relied on for the Committee's work. Interested persons, organizations, academic centers and others can participate pro bono in all aspects of the Committee's work. All interested parties can seek additional information from the Office of the Assistant Legal Adviser for Private International Law (L/PIL), Department of State, by contacting Jeffrey Kovar, Mary Helen Carlson or Hal Burman at 202-776-8420, fax 776-

8482, or by e-mail to Cherise Reid at reidcherised@State.gov.

Harold S. Burman,

Executive Director, Secretary of State's Advisory Committee on Private International Law, Department of State.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 5060]

Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) Request for Grant Proposals: Africa Workforce Development

Announcement Type: New Grant.
Funding Opportunity Number: ECA/PE/C/NEAAF-05-49.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number: 00.000.

Key Dates: Application Deadline: June 6, 2005.

Executive Summary: The Office of Citizen Exchanges of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, United States Department of State, announces an open competition for grants to support exchanges and training programs promoting "Africa Workforce Development." U.S. public and private non-profit organizations meeting the provisions described in Internal Revenue Code section 26 U.S.C. 501(c)(3) may submit proposals to develop and implement exchanges and training programs involving participants from Sub-Saharan Africa, including training conducted in Sub-Saharan Africa. These U.S. organizations should provide evidence of a current expertise in Sub-Saharan Africa, or experience working in Sub-Saharan Africa, and work in conjunction with Sub-Saharan African NGO partners. Three grants, not exceeding \$133,333 each, are anticipated, although more awards could be accommodated if they are at smaller amounts.

I. Funding Opportunity Description

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 is provided through the Conference Report accompanying the FY-2005 Consolidated Appropriations Act (Pub. L. 108-447) which earmarks \$400,000 to support Africa Workforce Development.

Purpose: The Bureau seeks proposals for an exchange program on African Workforce Development. U.S.-African partnership is emphasized as a mutually beneficial, direct and efficient method of promoting this goal. Partnerships promote the interests and long-term commitment of African and American participants going beyond U.S. government financing. The Bureau encourages applicants to consider carefully the choice of target countries. Applicants should research the work of development agencies (such as USAID, UN agencies) on the target themes, and select countries for which there has been limited investment on the issue. Applicants are encouraged to contact the Public Affairs Sections (PAS) in U.S. Embassies in Africa, and the Office of Citizen Exchanges, to discuss proposed activities and their relevance to mission priorities.

Proposals should focus on one or two countries rather than a large group so as to maximize impact. The Bureau offers the following programming ideas and suggestions.

Africa Workforce Development: The purpose of this program is to enhance Workforce Development efforts in Sub-Saharan Africa through Citizen Exchanges. ECA has set the following broad goals for the program this year:

- To foster a more productive and fully employed workforce in Africa through collaboration between U.S. and African workforce development specialists;
- To develop professional and personal linkages between African and U.S. host institutions and communities that will lead to sustained interaction;
- To promote mutual understanding between cultures and societies in the U.S. and Africa.

The Office realizes that there are many different approaches to workforce development, and is open to a wide variety of program plans. However, in order to be eligible for consideration, each proposal must explain its methodology for assessing workforce development needs and explain how its choice of needs to be addressed in the proposed program is relevant to the focus country(ies). In addition, the Office recommends that each applicant

consider addressing the following objectives in its plan:

- Assist citizens in making the transition from academic studies to participation in the workforce;
- Assist citizens in learning skills and attitudes which make them more employable;
- Guide citizens in seeking jobs and in carrying them out satisfactorily;
- Provide training in information technology;
- Assist Africans in identifying workforce needs and developing plans to ameliorate those needs;
- Develop programs which are adaptable to local and individual needs; and
- Develop programs that will attract and maintain the attention of citizens, encouraging their initiative and commitment.

The commitment of African partners will be important to long-term program success, and applicants should consider the possibility of selecting African partners through a competitive process to assess their commitment and capability.

II. Award Information

Type of Award: Grant Agreement.
ECA's level of involvement in this program is listed under number I above.

Fiscal Year Funds: 2005.

Approximate Total Funding:
\$400,000.

Approximate Number of Awards: 3.
Approximate Average Award:
\$133,333.

Anticipated Award Date: Pending availability of funds, September 1, 2005.

Anticipated Project Completion Date:
September 1, 2007.

III. Eligibility Information

III.1. Eligible Applicants

Applications may be submitted by public and private non-profit organizations meeting the provisions described in Internal Revenue Code section 26 U.S.C. 501(c)(3).

III.2. Cost Sharing or Matching Funds

Proposals that clearly demonstrate significant cost sharing—with 25% of the amount requested from ECA as the preferred target—will be judged more competitive under review criterion #10.

When cost sharing is offered, it is understood and agreed that the applicant must provide the amount of cost sharing as stipulated in its proposal and later included in an approved grant agreement. Cost sharing may be in the form of allowable direct or indirect costs. For accountability, you must maintain written records to support all

costs which are claimed as your contribution, as well as costs to be paid by the Federal government. Such records are subject to audit. The basis for determining the value of cash and in-kind contributions must be in accordance with OMB Circular A-110, (Revised), Subpart C.23—Cost Sharing and Matching. In the event you do not provide the minimum amount of cost sharing as stipulated in the approved budget, ECA's contribution will be reduced in like proportion.

III.3. Other Eligibility Requirements

Grants awarded to eligible organizations with less than four years of experience in conducting international exchange programs will be limited to \$60,000. If one or more grants are approved at or below that limit, it will affect the number and amounts of other grants; however, the total amount available to be awarded across all grants in this competition is \$400,000.

IV. Application and Submission Information

Note: Please read the complete **Federal Register** announcement before sending inquiries or submitting proposals. Once the RFGP deadline has passed, Bureau staff may not discuss this competition with applicants until the proposal review process has been completed.

IV.1. Contact Information to Request an Application Package

To obtain an application package for this competition, please see IV.2 below.

IV.2. To Download a Solicitation Package Via Internet

The entire Solicitation Package may be downloaded from the Bureau's Web site at <http://exchanges.state.gov/education/rfgps/menu.htm>. Please read all information before downloading.

IV.3. Content and Form of Submission

Applicants must follow all instructions in the Solicitation Package. The original and ten copies of the application should be sent per the instructions under IV.3e. "Submission Dates and Times section" below.

IV.3a. You are required to have a Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number to apply for a grant or cooperative agreement from the U.S. Government. This number is a nine-digit identification number, which uniquely identifies business entities. Obtaining a DUNS number is easy and there is no charge. To obtain a DUNS number, access <http://www.dunandbradstreet.com> or call 1-866-705-5711. Please ensure that your

DUNS number is included in the appropriate box of the SF-424 which is part of the formal application package.

IV.3b. All proposals must contain an executive summary, proposal narrative and budget.

Please Refer to the Solicitation Package. It contains the mandatory Proposal Submission Instructions (PSI) document for additional formatting and technical requirements.

IV.3c. You must have nonprofit status with the IRS at the time of application. If your organization is a private nonprofit which has not received a grant or cooperative agreement from ECA in the past three years, or if your organization received nonprofit status from the IRS within the past four years, you must submit the necessary documentation to verify nonprofit status as directed in the PSI document. Failure to do so will cause your proposal to be declared technically ineligible.

IV.3d. Please take into consideration the following information when preparing your proposal narrative:

IV.3d.1. Adherence to All Regulations Governing the J Visa. The Office of Citizen Exchanges of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs is the official program sponsor of the exchange program covered by this RFGP, and an employee of the Bureau will be the "Responsible Officer" for the program under the terms of 22 CFR part 62, which covers the administration of the Exchange Visitor Program (J visa program). Under the terms of 22 CFR part 62, organizations receiving grants under this RFGP will be third parties "cooperating with or assisting the sponsor in the conduct of the sponsor's program." The actions of grantee program organizations shall be "imputed to the sponsor in evaluating the sponsor's compliance with" 22 CFR part 62. Therefore, the Bureau expects that any organization receiving a grant under this competition will render all assistance necessary to enable the Bureau to fully comply with 22 CFR part 62 *et seq.*

The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs places great emphasis on the secure and proper administration of Exchange Visitor (J visa) Programs and adherence by grantee program organizations and program participants to all regulations governing the J visa program status. Therefore, proposals should *explicitly state in writing* that the applicant is prepared to assist the Bureau in meeting all requirements governing the administration of Exchange Visitor Programs as set forth in 22 CFR part 62. If your organization has experience as a designated Exchange Visitor Program Sponsor, the