

Dated: December 6, 2000.

Allan I. Hoberman,

Acting Associate Administrator for Disaster Assistance.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 3506]

Bureau of Consular Affairs; Designation of Certain Posts for Special Fee Payment Procedures

This public notice identifies the initial ten posts designated by the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Visa Services for two purposes related to the payment of immigrant visa fees. The first purpose relates to the revised procedure for payment of the fee for the processing of an application for an immigrant visa set forth in the **Federal Register** on September 8, 2000, (65 FR 54598). That regulation is being stayed in a public notice today until a new effective date of January 1, 2001.

The second purpose is to identify the posts for which a fee pursuant to Item 61 of the Schedule of Fees for Consular Services (22 CFR 22.1) will be assessed for advance review of and assistance with the Affidavit of Support that is required in certain immigrant visa cases. Notice of this fee requirement is being added to the visa regulation pertaining to the Affidavit of Support requirement in 22 CFR 40.41(b), being published today with an effective date of January 1, 2001.

The Department will publish further public notices as additional designations are made, until such time as both procedures have been made applicable worldwide.

The Deputy Assistant Secretary for Visa Services hereby designates the Foreign Service posts in the following cities: for participation in the initial stage of the new immigrant visa application processing fee payment system and the fee for review of and assistance with the Affidavit of Support required under section 213A of the Immigration and Nationality Act

Bogota, Colombia
Ciudad Juarez, Mexico
Freetown, Sierra Leone
Georgetown, Guyana
Guangzhou, China
Manila, Philippines
Montreal, Canada
Port au Prince, Haiti
Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic
Tirana, Albania.

Dated: November 28, 2000.

George C. Lannon,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Visa Services.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 3507]

Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs Request for Grant Proposals: NIS Secondary School Partnership Program

SUMMARY: The Office of Citizen Exchanges, Youth Programs Division, of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs announces an open competition for the NIS Secondary School Partnership Program. Public and private non-profit organizations meeting the provisions described in IRS regulation 26 CFR 1.501(c) may submit proposals to either enhance or expand existing partnerships or develop new school partnership programs with Russia or Ukraine. All proposals must have a thematic focus and feature on-going joint project activity between the schools, a student exchange component, and an educator (teacher/administrator) exchange component. The maximum grant award will be \$150,000.

Program Information: The Secondary School Partnership Program is funded under the Freedom Support Act to assist young people in building an open society and developing democratic processes and institutions in the New Independent States (NIS). This program provides grants to link schools in the three countries noted above with schools in the United States. The U.S. recipient of the grant is responsible for recruiting, selecting, and organizing a U.S. network of a minimum of two secondary schools; strengthening an existing working relationship with an organization or agency of government in the NIS responsible for a network of at least two schools there; and linking the two networks in one-to-one school partnerships through thematic projects and substantive exchange activities.

Overview: The short-term goal of the school partnership program is to provide partial funding for linkages between U.S. and NIS schools featuring collaborative substantive projects and reciprocal student and educator exchanges with strong academic content. The long-term goals are to: (1) Develop lasting, sustainable institutional ties between U.S. and NIS schools and communities; (2) support democracy and educational reform in the NIS; (3) advance mutual understanding between the youth and

teachers of the U.S. and the NIS; and (4) promote partnerships developed through governmental, educational, and not-for-profit sector cooperation that serve the needs and interests of the schools.

The program has several defining features to help the participating schools develop their partnership:

- Each partnership has a project theme and the students and teachers in the two paired schools work on a joint project throughout the school year related to this theme;
- The two schools develop a relationship over the course of an academic year, through the planning process and the work on their joint project, which is highlighted by exchanges from three weeks to ten months in duration. Exchanges take place while the host school is in session.
- The student and teacher exchanges must be reciprocal.
- The program includes educators (teachers and/or administrators) in order to involve them in all aspects of the partnership and to provide them access to resources for curriculum development and educational training.
- During the exchange, participants attend class, are involved in school-based activities, work on their joint project, perform community service, visit educational and cultural sites, and reside with host families.

DATES: Grants may begin on or about July 15, 2001, and cover the 2001–2002 academic year. The exact starting date of the grant will be dependent on availability of funds.

Guidelines: A competitive proposal will present a project that builds upon previous contacts and interaction between the proposed schools to help ensure a solid foundation for the partnership. Partnerships should have an existence beyond the scope of this initiative; that is, there should be an inherent reason for the linkage apart from the availability of grant funds. Organizers and school networks in the U.S. and NIS should collaborate in planning and preparation. Applicants must have an NIS organizational partner that has its base of operation in the partner country and not in another country. Proposals should support a working relationship that will produce something tangible and lasting in addressing the interests of both sides, beyond the confines of the funded project, such as the development of educational materials. The proposal should specify measurable goals and objectives of the program.