

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
U.S. CONSULATE GENERAL HO CHI MINH CITY**

NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Program Office: Public Affairs Section
Funding Opportunity Title: University & High School Guidance Counselor Training Workshop
Announcement Type: Grant or Cooperative Agreement
Funding Opportunity Number: SVM700-20-PAS-009
Deadline for Applications: May 31, 2020 (11:59 p.m., Vietnam Time)
CFDA Number: 19.022
CFDA Title: ECA Programs Appropriation Overseas Grants

CONTACT INFORMATION

For assistance with the requirements of this solicitation, please contact the following office:

Ho Chi Minh City EducationUSA
Public Affairs Section, U.S. Consulate General Ho Chi Minh City
Email: HCMCGrants@state.gov

SUMMARY

This document contains detailed instructions and information about the proposal process. Please read it carefully.

Please submit proposals via email to HCMCGrants@state.gov. Only activities implemented/conducted in Ho Chi Minh City (outside the U.S. Consulate), Hue and Can Tho will be funded. Proposals in the \$1,000 -\$18,000 range will be considered.

All grantees must include the following downloadable forms:

1. Mandatory application form: SF424 (for Organizations) OR SF424I (for Individuals)
2. Mandatory budget information form: SF424A
3. Grant proposal form;
4. Detailed budget narrative spreadsheet; and
5. A DUNS number and proof of SAM & NCAGE registration (not required for individuals)

Registration for DUN, SAM and NCAGE can take up to four weeks. Please plan accordingly.

Due to the volume of applicants and inquiries, the Public Affairs Section does not accept requests for meetings or phone calls prior to the submission of an application.

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A. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The U.S. Mission in Vietnam Public Affairs Section (PAS) of the U.S. Department of State is pleased to announce funding is available for *University and High school Guidance Counselor Education USA Training* through the Public Diplomacy Federal Assistance Awards program in Ho Chi Minh City. **The programs must be held in Ho Chi Minh, Hue and Can Tho. Programs must focus on counselors or staff of educational institutions who assist students in pursuing study abroad, specifically to the United States.**

Proposals for projects must focus on one of the priority programs and target audiences specified below:

- Train guidance counselors from international high schools/international universities in Ho Chi Minh City, Hue, and Can Tho City.
- Improve the capacity of English language teachers who serve in the counseling capacity and are new to the concept of guidance counseling from major local high schools (including high schools for the gifted) in Ho Chi Minh City, Hue, and Can Tho.
- Train staff responsible for overseas study programs at the international relations departments at local universities and major counseling agencies.
- Total number of selected participants in Ho Chi Minh City, Hue and Can Tho: 30-40/per city.

Goal: To improve the capacity of guidance counselors, administrative staff, or English teachers educational institutions who assist students in pursuing study abroad, specifically to the United States. By helping to improve their counseling skills and their understanding of U.S. higher education, they will in turn provide better guidance to their students who are considering pursuing higher education programs in the United States.

Activities and expenses that are not funded include, but are not limited to:

- individual travel to conferences;
- scholarships to support educational opportunities or study for individuals¹;
- support personal business
- funding ongoing projects, which would otherwise be funded through other means;
- financial support for fundraising or fund development projects without a clear public diplomacy component;
- cash prizes for competitions;
- networking events;
- business-class travel;
- translations
- alcoholic beverages.

Length of performance period

Competitive proposals should contain one workshop in Ho Chi Minh City, one in Hue, and one

¹ Please access <https://vn.usembassy.gov/exchange-scholarship>

in Can Tho. Each workshop will be at least one and a half day long. Projects should conclude before the end of 2020 and dates will be determined (preferably November 2020) in coordination with the U.S. Consulate General Ho Chi Minh City.

Priority Topics:

U.S. higher education system
Different types of schools in the United States
How students can use the internet to find a suitable school
Admission process
Writing an application essay
Letter of recommendation
Scholarships and financial aid
Visa procedure

Other Criteria:

- Grantees are responsible for obtaining Vietnam business visas, if applicable, and workshop permits from the relevant local government authorities in Ho Chi Minh City, Hue and Can Tho in advance of conducting the training workshops.
- Trainers of the workshop must be familiar with the educational context in Vietnam
- Grantees must be able to conduct research/use grantees' contact database to reach out to local institutions/send out invites
- Grantees must be able to recruit the appropriate audience for the workshop and coordinate with local institutions on logistical arrangements if needed.
- Grantees must have a list of service providers/venues in order to carry out the workshops
- Participants will be selected by the grantee in close consultation with the EDUSA Team.
- The language of instruction is preferably English. The final presentation or capstone project must be in English.
- Trainers of the workshop must be experienced/working professionals familiar with or working in the U.S. higher education community.
- Budget in the proposal must include:
 - Workshop venues
 - Cost of distributing advising materials/training handouts for participants
 - Salary of trainers
 - Marketing and recruiting costs.
 - Cost for certificate ceremony.
 - Monitoring and evaluation costs.
 - Refreshments during the workshop and/or networking activities.
- The proposal must also include a plan for course monitoring and overview, trainers' profiles, a reference list of educational institutions in each city that will be contacted for participant recruitment and marketing strategies. It must provide post-workshop feedback on the participants' performance.

Successful projects will be eligible for renewal. The Public Affairs Section will entertain applications for continuation grants funded under these awards on a non-competitive basis,

subject to availability of funds, satisfactory progress of the program, and a determination that continued funding would be in the best interest of the U.S. Department of State.

Award Amount

Award amount for these programs will vary between \$1,000 and \$18,000.

The Public Affairs Section reserves the right to award less or more than the amount of funds described in the absence of worthy applications or under such other circumstances as they may deem to be in the best interest of the U.S. government.

Priority Region:

Ho Chi Minh City, Hue and Can Tho. Specifically, in Ho Chi Minh City, only activities implemented/conducted at a venue outside of the U.S. Consulate General HCMC (e.g. at a hotel or partner university identified by the grantee) will be funded.

B. ELIGIBILITY ENTITY

Submissions are encouraged from **U.S. and Vietnamese** entities with relevant programming experience. This experience should be documented in the proposal. Eligible entities include:

- not-for-profit, civil society/non-governmental organizations
- universities or non-profit English teaching institutions; non-profit educational institutions
- individuals

For-profit entities are ineligible to apply. Previous federal award recipients who are not/were not in compliance with the terms of their financial and program reporting requirements are ineligible to apply. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure they are in compliance with all applicable terms, conditions, and Office of Management and Budget guidance and requirements. Those organizations found to be in non-compliance may be found ineligible for funding or designated high risk if selected for funding.

C. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

1. Application Deadline

Applications may be submitted for consideration at any time before the closing date of this opportunity; however, all submission must be received by **May 31, 2020 at 11:59 p.m.** For the purposes of determining if an award is submitted on time, officials will utilize the time-stamp provided by email. Late applications will not be considered.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that an application has been received in its entirety. The U.S. Mission in Vietnam bears no responsibility for applications not received before the due date or for data errors resulting from transmission.

2. Content of Application

Please follow all instructions below carefully. Proposals that do not meet the requirements of this announcement or fail to comply with the stated requirements will be deemed ineligible. Please ensure:

1. The proposal clearly addresses the goals and objectives of this funding opportunity
2. All documents are in English
3. All budgets are in U.S. dollars
4. All pages are numbered
5. All documents are formatted to 8 ½ x 11 paper, and
6. All Microsoft Word documents are single-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font, with a minimum of 1-inch margins.

Step 1: Mandatory forms:

- SF424 (Application for Federal Assistance - Organizations) at <https://vn.usembassy.gov/sf424> OR SF424I (Application for Federal Assistance - Individuals) at <https://vn.usembassy.gov/sf424i>
- SF424A (Budget Information for Non-Construction programs) at <https://vn.usembassy.gov/sf424a>
- Budget narrative spreadsheet (to describe each of the budget expenses in detail) at https://vn.usembassy.gov/budget_narrative (See section *F. Other Information: 1. Guidelines for Budget Submissions* below for further information)

Step 2: Proposal

Our suggested proposal form can be found on our website: <https://vn.usembassy.gov/proposal>. You may use your own proposal format, but it must include all the items below.

- **Summary page:** include the applicant name and organization, project title, project period proposed start and end date, and brief purpose of the project
- **Introduction to Organizational or Individual and the Capacity:** a description that shows ability to carry out the project, including information on all previous grants from the U.S. Consulate and/or U.S. government agencies.
- **Project Justification/Needs Statement:** clear, concise and well-supported statement of the problem to be addressed and why the proposed project is needed
- **Project Goals, Objectives:** the “goals” describe what the project is intended to achieve. The “objectives” refer to the intermediate accomplishments on the way to the goals. These should be achievable and measurable.
- **Project Activities:** describe the project activities and how they will help achieve the objectives.

- **Implementation Timeline:** the proposed timeline for the project activities. Include the dates, times, and locations of planned activities and events.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation Plan:** this is an important part of successful grants. Throughout the timeframe of the grant, how will the activities be monitored to ensure they are happening in a timely manner, and how will the program be evaluated to make sure it is meeting the goals of the grant?
- **Future Funding or Sustainability:** applicant’s plan for continuing the program beyond the grant period, or the availability of other resources, if applicable
- **Key Personnel:** names, titles, roles and experience/qualifications of key personnel involved in the project. What proportion of their time will be used in support of this project?
- **Project Partners:** list the names and type of involvement of key partner organizations and sub-awardees.

Step 3: Required Registrations

All organizations applying for grants (except individuals) must obtain these registrations. All are free of charge:

Step 3a Apply for a DUNS number²

Organizations must have a Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number from Dun & Bradstreet. If your organization does not have one already, you may obtain one by calling 1-866-705-5711 or visiting <http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform>

Step 3b: Apply for NCAGE code (this can be completed simultaneously with DUNS)

NCAGE application³: Application page here (but need to click magnifying glass and then scroll down to click new registration)

<https://eportal.nspa.nato.int/AC135Public/scage/CageList.aspx>

Step 3c: Register in System for Award Management (SAM). You must have DUNS number and NCAGE code before proceeding to this step. SAM registration must be renewed annually.

SAM Account	Create SAM Individual User Account at www.SAM.gov
SAM Registration⁴	Log in the account and select “Register New Entity”

² For DUNS support: <http://support.dnb.com/>

³ Instructions: <https://eportal.nspa.nato.int/AC135Public/Docs/US%20Instructions%20for%20NSPA%20NCAGE.pdf>
For NCAGE help from within the U.S., call 1-888-227-2423. For NCAGE help from outside the U.S., call 1-269-961-7766. Email NCAGE@dlis.dla.mil for any problems in getting an NCAGE code.

⁴ Quick Guide is available at https://www.sam.gov/sam/transcript/Quick_Guide_for_Grants_Registrations.pdf. For support on SAM, please access <https://fsd.gov/>

Please note: Only DUNS, NCAGE, and SAM can assist with technical questions or problems applicants may experience during the registration process.

Step 4: Submit your complete package to

- HCMCGrants@state.gov. DO NOT WinZar or WinZip your application otherwise it may not be reviewed.
- DO include “Application for SVM700-20-PAS-009 EducationUSA - Counselor Training.

A formal decision on your proposal will normally be made within 60 days but may take longer. Once a decision is made to fund your proposal, and all documentation is complete we will begin the process of funding.

D. REVIEW AND SELECTION PROCESS

Each technically eligible application submitted under this announcement will be evaluated and rated by a panel on the basis of the criteria detailed above, cost, feasibility, and reputation of the implementer.

E. FEDERAL AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

1. Federal Award Notices

The successful applicant will be notified via email that its proposal has been selected to move forward in the review process; this email IS NOT an authorization to begin performance. The notice of Federal award signed by the Grants Officer (or equivalent) is the authorizing document. It shall be written, signed, awarded, and administered by the Grants Officer. The Grants Officer is the Government Official delegated the authority by the U.S. Department of State Procurement Executive to write, award, and administer grants and cooperative agreements. The assistance award agreement is the authorizing document and it will be provided to the Recipient through email transmission. The recipient may only incur obligations against the award beginning on the start date outlined in the DS-1909 award document that has been signed by the Grants Officer. Organizations whose applications will not be funded will also be notified via email, usually within 60 days, but may take longer.

2. Policy requirements

Before submitting an application, applicants should review all the terms and conditions and required certifications which will apply to this award, to ensure that they will be able to comply. These include:

- **Department of State Standard Terms and Conditions**, available at <https://vn.usembassy.gov/terms>
- All applicants must adhere to the regulations found in **2 CFR 200, 2 CFR 600 Uniform Administrative Requirements, Costs Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards**.

- **Branding Requirements:** As a condition of receipt of a grant award, all materials produced pursuant to the award, including training materials, materials for recipients or materials to communicate or promote with foreign audiences a program, event, project, or some other activity under an agreement, including but not limited to invitations to events, press materials, and backdrops, podium signs, etc. must be marked appropriately with the standard, rectangular U.S. flag in a size and prominence equal to (or greater than) any other logo or identity.

3. Reporting Requirements

Recipients are required to submit a program impact report electronically, in English, to the U.S. Mission in Vietnam within 30 days of the conclusion of your proposed program or activity.

The report should include the below elements:

- Demonstrate how your program or activity has contributed to the U.S. Mission in Vietnam's mandate of promoting study in the United States.
- Provide information about measurable outcomes of the program or activity, including any new programs or partnerships that are generated as a result.
- Include a final agenda, where appropriate, and a final participant list.
- Provide a summary of actual expenditures.
- We recommend that you invite participants to complete a survey to provide feedback on your program or activity. Please include a one-page summary of participant feedback as an appendix to the evaluation summary.

Awardees that are deemed high risk may be required to submit more extensive and frequent reports until their high-risk designation has been removed.

The Awardee must also provide the Consulate and the Embassy on an annual basis an inventory of all the U.S. government provided equipment using the SF428 form.

Failure to comply with the reporting requirement may result in a loss of funds and will adversely affect your ability to apply for future grants.

F. OTHER INFORMATION

1. Guidelines for Budget Justification

Personnel and Fringe Benefits: Describe the wages, salaries, and benefits of temporary or permanent staff who will be working directly for the applicant on the project, and the percentage of their time that will be spent on the project.

Travel: Estimate the costs of travel and per diem for this project, for both program staff, consultants or speakers, and participants/beneficiaries. If the project involves international travel, include a brief statement of justification for that travel.

Equipment: Describe any machinery, furniture, or other personal property that is required for the project, which has a useful life of more than one year (or a life longer than the duration of the project), and costs at least \$5,000 per unit.

Supplies: List and describe all the items and materials, including any computer devices, that are needed for the project. If an item costs more than \$5,000 per unit, then put it in the budget under Equipment.

Contractual: Describe goods and services that the applicant plans to acquire through a contract with a vendor. Also describe any sub-awards to non-profit partners that will help carry out the project activities.

Other Direct Costs: Describe other costs directly associated with the project, which do not fit in the other categories. For example, shipping costs for materials and equipment or applicable taxes. All “Other” or “Miscellaneous” expenses must be itemized and explained.

Indirect Costs: These are costs that cannot be linked directly to the project activities, such as overhead costs needed to help keep the organization operating. If your organization has a Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate (NICRA) and includes NICRA charges in the budget, attach a copy of your latest NICRA. Organizations that have never had a NICRA may request indirect costs of 10% of the modified total direct costs as defined in 2 CFR 200.68.

“**Cost Sharing**” refers to contributions from the organization or other entities other than the U.S. Embassy. It also includes in-kind contributions such as volunteers’ time and donated venues.

Alcoholic Beverages: Please note that award funds cannot be used for alcoholic beverages.

2. Disclaimers

The Federal government is not obligated to make any Federal award as a result of the announcement. Issuance of this NOFO does not constitute an award commitment on the part of the U.S. government, nor does it commit the U.S. government to pay for costs incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals. Further, the U.S. government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals received. The U.S. government also reserves the right to make an award in excess of the award ceiling.

If a proposal is funded, the Department of State has no obligation to provide any additional future funding in connection with the award. Renewal of an award to increase funding or extend the period of performance is at the total discretion of the Department of State.

This NOFO is subject to funds availability. Awards may be granted only if appropriated funds are allocated to the United States Consulate General by Department of State central budget authorities.

3. Copyrights and Proprietary Information

If any of the information contained in your application is proprietary, please note in the footer of

the appropriate pages that the information is Confidential – Proprietary. Applicants should also note what parts of the application, program, concept, etc. are covered by copyright(s), trademark(s), or any other intellectual property rights and provide copies of the relevant documentation to support these copyrights.