



**NSLI-Y Subgrantee competition conference call questions
10/15/09**

- 1) **Are school districts eligible to receive funding?** Yes.
- 2) **Can interested parties apply for funding for more than one language program?** Yes, though separate proposals for each language program being proposed must be submitted.
- 3) **Are homestays a required program component?** No, although homestay components are the preferred accommodation as they can offer a true language immersion experience. Homestays may be offered as a supplement to other types of accommodations. Participants may stay with families for short durations of time, for example on weekends or for a one-week period. If homestays are not part of your proposed program, please explain how students will be offered interaction with host country peers.
- 4) **In India, would a hermitage be a suitable living arrangement for participants?** Living arrangements that provide a sufficient level of safety and adult supervision while offering students ample opportunity to use their classroom language learning informally are viewed positively by the selection committee.
- 5) **Are there restrictions on the contact that participants have with older, university students while on program, as there were last summer in Jordan?** Restrictions regarding the intermingling of NSLI-Y participants and host country university students are not program-wide. This condition was the result of Department of State decision making in consultation with Embassy-Amman. It is recommended that those submitting proposals be in contact with the U.S. Embassy in the program country to assess the suitability of the proposed program and any conditions that may be relevant to programs.
- 6) **Does the 20 participant cap include chaperones and staff?** No, this cap refers only to students.
- 7) **What is the suggested ratio of students to chaperones traveling overseas with the group?** American Councils does not have a suggested ratio, as the number will vary across institutions and will depend upon the level of in-country support offered by overseas partners and institutions. Please be sure to explain in your proposal the number of chaperones you intend to have.
- 8) **The RFGP states that organizations with less than four years experience conducting international exchanges are restricted to receiving a maximum of \$60,000 in**

funding—how exactly is “experience” defined? Typically, funding is limited for those organizations that do not have experience administering international exchange programs, specifically under federal grants. For such organizations, alternative sources of funding may be required or smaller programs may be proposed.

- 9) **Our organization has been a State Departments subgrantee recipient for several years—does this qualify as experience?** Yes.
- 10) **What is cost-sharing? Is it required?** Cost sharing refers to the resources contributed by the organization to the project that are not included in funds being requested. Cost sharing is not required. These contributions may be monetary or in-kind, but must be documented.
- 11) **For organizations selected as partner subgrantees, when would participant rosters become available from American Councils?** Participants will be selected by late March and lists will be available shortly thereafter.
- 12) **When deciding whether to apply as a local or partner subgrantee, how is local defined?** There is no strict geographic definition of local, though in the past, local partners have selected participants from particular school districts or from a single state.
- 13) **Is there any data yet available on the level of language achievement of former NSLI-Y participants, for example, AP test results?** Such data is not yet available.
- 14) **Are there many heritage speakers participating?** Heritage speakers, while present on most programs, overall comprise a small percentage of participants.
- 15) **If we apply as a local subgrantee, can we select participants from our own pool of students AND request students from the nationwide pool that live in our area?** Yes. Be sure to describe your organization’s selection process in the proposal and state whether you wish to accept students selected by American Councils from the nationwide pool.
- 16) **Do students have to be in high school?** Yes, participants must be 15 to 18 years old at the start of their program and enrolled in high school or recently graduated.
- 17) **When will grants be awarded?** Awards will be announced in January 2010.
- 18) **Can we submit our proposal electronically?** Yes, though five hard copies must also be submitted. Please see RFGP for detailed submission instructions.
- 19) **If selected, do we have to have host families assigned before students depart for their program?** Yes, this information must be entered by subgrantees into the NSLI-Y database prior to students departing for their programs.

- 20) **How are formal and informal language instruction defined?** Typically, formal instruction refers to classroom learning, though organizations are encouraged to use creative venues for language instruction. Informal instruction is commonly thought of as cultural excursion, free time spent with peers and host families, etc.
- 21) **Is it possible to view Culture Trek before submitting our proposals?** Yes. Please contact Loren Kupferschmid (lkupferschmid@americancouncils.org) if you would like to log-on.