



**NSLI-Y Subgrantee competition conference call questions
10/27/09**

- 1) **Is there a required minimum number of students per program?** There is no minimum, though some organizations do not find programs for groups under 10 to be cost-effective. Last year's groups ranged in size from 15 to 24 students.
- 2) **Our organization would like to apply as a partner subgrantee. How can we adequately complete a budget if we do not know the final number of students we will be assigned?** You should propose a budget with the number of participants you feel your organization can effectively accommodate. If selected for an award, budgets are usually adjusted.
- 3) **What was the range of awards last year?** Subgrantee awards for summer 2009 programs ranged from \$60,000 to \$218,000.
- 4) **Does the U.S.-based organization or the international partner have to have the four years of international exchange experience to receive more than \$60,000 in funding?** The U.S. entity must have significant experience conducting international exchanges and a financial structure that can meet U.S. Government requirements.
- 5) **A set of materials is mentioned in the RFGP to assist with organizing pre-departure orientations (PDOs). What is this?** American Councils is presently working on a set of guidelines for PDOs which will include module suggestions. This will be made available to subgrantees in the winter. The State Department stresses that it is crucial for all PDOs to have a substantial safety and security session in addition to other PDO programming.
- 6) **How long should a pre-departure orientation last?** Subgrantees are responsible for coordinating PDOs, which typically last one or two days. Washington, DC is the preferred location for PDOs, though other cities will be considered if the subgrantee provides reasoning. For example, a local subgrantee with an applicant pool that lives outside the metropolitan Washington, DC area could reasonably request for their PDO to take place locally.
- 7) **We are interested in offering a program for students who already have language experience (e.g. STARTALK alumni). How do we do this?** If your organization is interested in becoming a partner subgrantee but would like to request a certain level of language knowledge from students, please explain this in your proposal. American Councils will do its best to assign such students to your program. You may also wish to

promote the program to your desired participants directly and encourage them to apply for NSLI-Y.

- 8) **Are students born in other countries eligible for NSLI-Y?** Yes, if they are naturalized U.S. citizens.
- 9) **The RFGP mentions “diversity.” How should this be interpreted?** American Councils strives to have a diverse group of participants and would like for programs to offer a diverse view of the host country. Often, contact with host-country nationals during many international exchange programs is limited to groups with high socio-economic standing. Ideal NSLI-Y programs will be those that provide participants with a broad view of life in the host country.
- 10) **We would like to apply for two language programs. We understand that we have to submit two proposals. Do we have to use the same selection mechanism for both?** No, though you will have to describe each selection process thoroughly in the proposals.
- 11) **How detailed should the budget be?** Your budget may be general, e.g. there is no need to include individual admission costs for field trips that are part of a cultural program. Page 7 of the RFGP contains a suggested list of allowable costs that you may wish to include in your budget.
- 12) **Should we pay host families? Are there any guidelines for this?** Families are often given stipends to help defray the costs incurred from hosting a student. If there are other programs utilizing host families in the proposed community, we suggest finding out how much they offer host families as a way to help determine a suitable stipend.
- 13) **Is there a limit to the number of students per host family?** American Councils does not have a preferred number. If you are proposing more than one student per family, please explain how you will prevent the students from speaking too much English. Having more than two students per family is discouraged.
- 14) **If we are selected as a partner subgrantee, will we receive participants with a variety of language levels? Can we request a certain level?** If your organization wishes to offer a program designed for students with a specified language level, please clearly explain this in your proposal. Please keep in mind that most of the NSLI-Y languages are not commonly taught in U.S. high schools and most applicants will be at the beginner level.
- 15) **How much formal language instruction is the program required to offer?** Programs should contain 120 total hours of formal language instruction. Keep in mind that formal learning is not exclusive to the classroom, though it should take place in an environment conducive to learning and include a teacher.
- 16) **If awarded a grant, will we be expected to pay for budget items out of pocket and then be reimbursed?** Yes, payments are made on a reimbursement basis. To minimize

outlay, subgrantees are not limited to the frequency they submit invoices to American Councils. If an invoice is received by Wednesday morning, a check will be issued by the following Friday (approximately 9 days processing). Invoice processing closes on Wednesday afternoons, so, for example, invoices submitted on Thursdays will be paid after 16 days processing.

- 17) **Can we propose a program for September and October?** No, students expect to travel during their summer vacations. Programs typically start in June or July and end in July or August. Keep in mind the school calendar that your program participants follow when proposing program dates.
- 18) **Will it be easy to find students for our language?** Last year, American Councils received more applications from highly motivated and academically talented students for each of the seven NSLI-Y languages than there were scholarships available. With increased exposure this year, we anticipate an even higher response rate.