



## **Responses to questions on Open World Leadership Center 2009 Russia and Ukraine Civic Program Grant Guidelines:**

### **Hosting/Theme Dates**

Several applicant organizations who will be submitting a proposal to the Open World Leadership Center have inquired about the calendar of potential hosting dates included in the 2009 Russia/Ukraine Grant Guidelines. The Center will decide the program themes (Accountable Governance, Social Issues, Civic Rule of Law), etc. for the hosting dates only after grants have been awarded. The Center will determine the themes for each date based the overall demand for each theme and the availability of hosts on a given date.

Applicant organizations are encouraged to include up to three preferred hosting dates for each local program proposed. However, this will not be a determining factor when awarding grants to winning organizations. The general list of hosting dates can be found on page 19 of the 2009 Grant Guidelines. As always, selected local hosts will need to maintain a degree of flexibility regarding hosting date. Given the large number of programs planned in 2009, the Center cannot guarantee that all dates will be available for all hosts.

The Center will make efforts to accommodate specific hosting programs that it finds particularly compelling, but for which limited flexibility exists on the part of the grantee, but no guarantees can be made.

### **Other Questions submitted by potential applicants:**

**1. When will grantees be informed of the OW decision regarding their proposed delegations?**

We plan to make our selections by the end of November. Since Open World is currently operating under a Continuing Resolution that funds us at last year's level, our decisions on hosting levels under these grant guidelines will be tentative and may have to be adjusted when we know our actual funding for FY2009 (may be as late as March 2009.)

**2. If it's possible that the announcement will come many months after the submission deadline, why are the submissions due so early (and in the midst of the busy fall travel season)? Is it possible the deadline will be extended?**

At this point, we do not expect to extend the deadline. We published these guidelines earlier than usual to allow organizations awarded grants to have more time to identify possible specific delegate nominees, communicate with partners in Russia or Ukraine, and/or prepare for in-depth hosting that will strengthen partnerships or projects.

We welcome feedback from applicants on the timing of our grant announcements and awards process.

**3. If a project is deemed fundable but the dates do not coincide with the dates that have (by that point) been designated for the associated thematic area, will there be some discussion between OW and the national grantee, allowing them to see if their hosts are available to take the delegation on those dates, even if it was not one of their top three proposed dates?**

The short answer is “yes.” (See last paragraph in statement regarding “**Hosting/Theme Dates.**”) We foresee a couple of rounds of negotiations with successful awardees before assigning the actual hosting dates.

**4. Is there something to be gained by proposing multiple communities in the same thematic areas for the same dates?**

If all other ranking factors listed in the guidelines are equal, then yes, this would help us in scheduling thematic dates.

**5. When are the cultural leaders and expansion grant guidelines slated to be released?**

The Russia Cultural Leaders guidelines should be released in February 2009. We plan to release the Expansion Program guidelines in late November 2008.