



Center for Faith-Based & Community Initiatives Newsletter

AUGUST 1, 2008

Letter from the Director

Dear Newsletter Recipients,

This week we saw a major milestone in HIV/AIDS relief legislation with the signing of the H.R. 5501. In light of this event, this week's newsletter includes articles and press releases about the fight against HIV/AIDS.

Catholic Relief Services is highlighted this week along with information from their June Orphans and Vulnerable Children's Forum. Another conference on the horizon is the 2008 Global Corporate Citizenship Conference. Look for information in our "Articles of Interest" section.

The most up-to-date Federal funding opportunities are listed this week. Do not miss out on the chance to apply!

Warmest regards,

Terri

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USAID Press.....*Three Rs and HIV/AIDS Mark New Haiti Literacy Plan, Signing of H.R. 5501, USAID Calls on Zimbabwe to Allow Humanitarian Access to Needy People*

Helpful Links.....Freedom Agenda Fact Sheet and remarks by President George W. Bush

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Grant Opportunities..... USAID and U.S. Department of State

If you would like to sign up to receive regular updates from the USAID Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, or if you would like to discontinue receiving the newsletter, please [click here](#).

USAID PRESS

Three Rs and HIV/AIDS Mark New Haiti Literacy Plan

For more information about USAID and its programs in Haiti, visit www.usaid.gov.

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Increasing literacy and curbing HIV/AIDS is the centerpiece of the U.S. Agency for International Development's (USAID) new three-year effort designed to stabilize parts of Haiti plagued by community unrest.

The Haiti Basic Education Project—a \$19 million investment—will target public and private primary schools as well as youths no longer in school, according to Rebecca Adams, who manages a worldwide education and health program for USAID.

"In Haiti, 50 percent of children and adolescents have never attended or didn't complete primary school and can't read, which means there is little chance they can escape the intergenerational cycle of poverty," Adams said. "It's not something you remedy overnight."

Through this program, youths who are out of school will be offered accelerated learning at community centers and HIV/AIDS prevention will be added to the curriculum—mainly reading, math, decision-making and problem-solving courses—for grades one through nine. The program, Adams explained, also provides books and supplies and reaches beyond public schools because most of Haiti's primary education is private or church-sponsored.

Bringing educational services to troubled areas is intended to keep youths away from crime, draw parents into the community and improve schools. While the plan increases literacy, it also perfects administrative skills and training for teachers and school inspectors so education officials can better manage schools and resources.

The American Institutes for Research, a Washington, D.C.-based behavioral and social science organization along with Catholic Relief Services and The Mitchell Group, a company that provides guidance to developing countries, are contracted to carry out the program.

A database will track student progress and document the licensing of non-public schools and teacher certification.

A HISTORIC AND LIFESAVING COMMITMENT TO FIGHT HIV/AIDS

President Bush Signs Bipartisan Legislation To Reauthorize PEPFAR To Combat Global HIV/AIDS

Today, President Bush signed into law H.R. 5501, the Tom Lantos and Henry J. Hyde United States Global Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Reauthorization Act.

This legislation responds to the President's call last year to expand our commitment to this successful program for five additional years. In 2003, President Bush launched the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) to combat global HIV/AIDS — the largest commitment by any nation to combat a single disease in human



President Bush greets members of the African Children's Choir. The choir performed at the White House after the signing of H.R. 5501.

history. Today's legislation will dramatically increase the financial commitment to this fight – authorizing up to \$48 billion to combat global HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria.

For the Fact Sheet: A Historic and Lifesaving Commitment to Fight HIV/AIDS, [click here.](#)

To read President George W. Bush's remarks from this event, [click here.](#)

USAID Calls On Zimbabwe to Allow Humanitarian Access to Needy People

"For two months now, humanitarian workers have been ordered to stay in their offices instead of delivering aid to vulnerable children and families...", Luu said.

For more information about USAID's emergency humanitarian assistance programs in Zimbabwe, please visit: [click here.](#)

WASHINGTON, D.C. - USAID calls for the Government of Zimbabwe to immediately and completely rescind the June 4 NGO suspension order. In addition to this rescission, USAID also calls upon the Government of Zimbabwe to:

Communicate to all levels and divisions of Zimbabwean authorities—including national, provincial, district, and ward—that the suspension of NGOs has been completely rescinded.

Guarantee the safety and security of all humanitarian aid workers.

Guarantee unimpeded access for humanitarian organizations to provide impartial, need-based assistance to affected populations and to monitor aid programs.

Respect the right of affected populations to move freely to seek and receive protection and assistance without fear of intimidation or unlawful seizure of humanitarian aid.

According to the United Nations, nearly 5 million Zimbabweans will require emergency food aid in the coming months, and as a result of election-related violence, thousands of people have been displaced from their homes. A humanitarian crisis looms, yet the Government of Zimbabwe continues to suspend most non-governmental organizations' (NGO) access to vulnerable people in dire need of life-saving humanitarian assistance.

After traveling to Zimbabwe and consulting with humanitarian organizations, UN agencies, donor representatives, and Zimbabwean citizens, Ky Luu, USAID's Director of the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance, has seen first-hand the impact of this suspension of humanitarian access. "For two months now, humanitarian workers have been ordered to stay in their offices instead of delivering aid to vulnerable children and families. UN agencies have been blocked when trying to access areas of greatest need. Humanitarian workers are routinely harassed and intimidated, and the financial resources of

many organizations have been impounded by the Zimbabwean authorities," Luu said.

HELPFUL LINKS



+ more photos | White House Photo by Chris Greenberg

President Bush Discusses Freedom Agenda, Lays Out Plans To Ensure That America Continues To Offer Hope To Those Languishing In Tyranny, July 24, 2008

To view President Bush's remarks on the Freedom Agenda, [click here.](#)

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE FREEDOM AGENDA FACT SHEET IN ITS ENTIRETY.](#)

HELPFUL TOOLS

Sustaining Grassroots Community-Based Programs: A Toolkit for Community- and Faith-Based Service Providers



Organizational Assessment and Readiness

Every organization needs an effective organizational assessment procedure in order to determine its overall success in meeting its goals and recognizing problematic areas. This assessment should not replace the strategic plan of an organization, but rather should be created as a first step in the strategic planning process.

Here are some points to consider when drawing strategic plans and outlines for an organization:

- Determine the leadership, skill, and amount of time that are needed to carry out the assessment.
- Identify major conflicts that may bog down the process.
- Determine what resources (e.g. staff, time, technology, and money) must be committed to the process.
- Develop recommendations for change, getting agreement about change strategies from all affected people within the organization. This may be done best through a full-day meeting.
- Make sure that the vision or strategy points to where you desire to go.

The following describe key areas to consider including in the assessment:

- Mission
- Board Governance
 - Duty of care, loyalty, and obedience
- Program Management
- Financial Management
- Financial Management
- Planning
- Human resources management

The assessment team, usually consisting of two people, should have

Upcoming Topics

- ✓ Effective Marketing Strategies
- ✓ Financial Management
- ✓ Sustainability Strategies: Funds Development and Fund Raising
- ✓ Results- Oriented Evaluations

several important qualities, including credibility, technical understanding, objectivity, communication skills, interpersonal skills, and availability. It is also important to conduct an assessment using the SWOT method, examining the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats of the organization.

Catholic Relief Services



The CRS Orphans and Vulnerable Children's Forum was held in Washington, DC on June 25 and 26, 2008.

The CRS Orphans and Vulnerable Children Forum took place June 25-26, 2008. Nearly 150 people attended, including practitioners, activists, policy makers, donors and former OVC beneficiaries. We are pleased to have facilitated two days of lively discussion and exchange of ideas.

All the conference presentations are available below. You can download a video of each presentation, along with the slides that were used.

For more information and to view the presentations, [click here.](#)

MISSION STATEMENT

"Catholic Relief Services was founded in 1943 by the Catholic Bishops of the United States to assist the poor and disadvantaged outside the country. Working under the auspices of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, CRS is administered by a board of bishops and lay people, and is staffed by men and women committed to the Catholic Church's apostolate of helping those in need. It maintains strict standards of efficiency and accountability.

The fundamental motivating force in all activities of CRS is the Gospel of Jesus Christ as it pertains to the alleviation of human suffering, the development of people and the fostering of charity and justice in the world. The policies and programs of the agency reflect and express the teaching of the Catholic Church. At the same time, Catholic Relief Services assists persons on the basis of need, not creed, race or nationality. Catholic Relief Services gives active witness to the mandate of Jesus Christ to respond to human needs in the following ways:

- By responding to victims of natural and man-made disasters
- By providing assistance to the poor to alleviate their immediate needs
- By supporting self-help programs which involve people and communities in their own development
- By helping those it serves to restore and preserve their dignity and to realize their potential
- By collaborating with religious and nonsectarian persons and groups of goodwill in programs and projects which contribute to a more equitable society
- By helping to educate the people of the United States to fulfill their moral responsibilities in alleviating human suffering, removing its causes and promoting social justice."

ARTICLES OF INTEREST

UNAIDS Report

The UNAIDS report was released on Tuesday, July 29 on the eve of the International AIDS Conference in Mexico City. The press release below summarizes a 357-page UNAIDS document prepared every two years to report on the status of the global AIDS pandemic. The press release, as well as the full report in four languages, can be downloaded from the UNAIDS website, www.unaids.org.

The report acknowledges the important role played by faith-based organizations, citing that in some countries 40% of AIDS services are provided by FBOs, mentioning as one example the Churches Health Association of Zambia, a CCIH member.

An AIDS Victory Up Close

It is my intention to celebrate a legislative and moral victory -- the reauthorization and expansion of America's massive effort to fight global AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria -- with an apology.

Washington Post

By Michael Gerson

Two months ago, I made a rather vivid attack on a group of U.S. senators I called "the Coburn Seven," who were blocking consideration of this measure. I was convinced that Tom Coburn -- known in the Senate as "Dr. No" for objecting to nearly all spending increases -- intended to kill the bill.

Then I made the worst mistake of the commentator: actually meeting the object of your scorn. I found, as usual, that disdain is easier from a distance. Though we remained at odds on some issues, Coburn politely assured me that his motivation was not stinginess. His main goal was to increase the number of people receiving treatment. So let the record show: After a compromise that accommodated his concerns, Coburn not only supported the bill but urged other conservatives to do the same.

The bipartisan expansion of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) -- along with the President's Malaria Initiative -- is significant in a number of ways.

First, it is the congressional affirmation of a major legacy of George W. Bush -- a grand, aggressive international compassion that dwarfs the Peace Corps and is unequaled since the Marshall Plan. Despite charges of simplistic militarism, the Bush Doctrine actually includes three elements: the preemption of emerging threats, the encouragement of responsible self-government, and the promotion of development and health as alternatives to despair and bitterness. In service of this third goal, Bush has more than quadrupled aid to sub-Saharan Africa. Americans are only dimly aware of this fact. Men and women in the remotest African villages are better informed. Historians will find it undeniable.

Second, the passage of the PEPFAR expansion displayed the reviled Democratic Congress at its best. When I asked one administration official to identify some heroes in this legislative fight, he responded: "Joe Biden." "Biden was unbelievably professional," he said, "patient with the hysterics of other senators and always looking for compromise." Along with Howard Berman in the House, Biden achieved a bipartisan agreement during an election year, in a branch of government overwhelmed by cynicism and bitterness. This is the way government is supposed to work.

Third, this legislation served to isolate and discredit that element of American politics that refines hatred of government to a toxic purity. Sens. Coburn and Richard Burr eventually accepted a reasonable compromise. Others, such as Jon Kyl, refused to support the bill but allowed it to be considered. Finally, the Coburn Seven came down to Sen. Jim DeMint -- the DeMint One. To block the AIDS bill, he insisted on keeping the Senate in session on a Friday evening, forcing some of his colleagues to cancel family plans to stay in Washington. When it turned out that DeMint himself had not bothered to stay, he was booed on the floor of the Senate.

It is now obvious that opposition to AIDS spending is a minority within a conservative minority. And, as G.K. Chesterton observed, sometimes a minority can be a monstrosity.

The largest significance of this bill, of course, is human. Traveling in Rwanda last week, I saw the effect that American health funding can have in a well-run, well-intentioned country. With an infusion of bed nets and effective drugs, child malaria deaths were cut by two-thirds

in less than two years. In 2003, about 4 percent of Rwandans in need of AIDS drugs were receiving them. In 2007, that figure was about 92 percent.

These are some of the most extraordinary gains in the history of public health -- and these figures eventually come down to a face and a voice. Visiting one tidy, two-room Rwandan home, I met a family of eight, in which the mother and father and their youngest daughter -- a shy and beautiful 10-year-old named Esther -- were HIV positive and on treatment. Under prompting, Esther told me that her favorite subjects were English and math, and, warming with pride, that she stood sixth in her class of 54. Without the amazing generosity of America, the challenge faced by that family would be a private holocaust of abandonment, mourning and despair. Indifference, it turns out, is also easier from a distance.

2008 Global Corporate Citizenship Conference September 18-19, 2008



For more information on the GCLC and the Global Corporate Citizenship Conference, [click here.](#)

Don't miss this opportunity. To register, [click here.](#)

Public-Private Partnerships for Emerging-Market Development

The accelerated pace of world trade has expanded the influence of business abroad and has brought significant social and economic challenges that require multi-stakeholder approaches and solutions.

BCLC's Global Corporate Citizenship Conference: Public Private Partnerships for Emerging Market Development will bring over 250 business, government and nonprofit leaders together to address these issues and to showcase the many ways that businesses are having a constructive impact on the communities in which they operate.

Participants will:

- Develop important contacts in the international aid community including within government agencies, NGOs, multilateral institutions, and other businesses;
- Learn about the trends and new strategies driving global corporate citizenship;
- Share best practices about the positive contributions businesses are making to society.

A Pre-Conference welcome reception will be held on September 17 at the Royal Netherlands Embassy, Washington, DC.

On September 18, conference sessions will focus on facilitating public-private partnerships, humanitarian issues, sustainability, micro-finance, global food crisis, post-earthquake recovery in China, farmer development, supply chain management, water shortage and much more.

On September 19 NGO and advocacy organizations representing a variety of viewpoints about globalization will make their arguments in a moderated debate to be held in the Chamber's Hall of Flags. The

debate will be followed by a panel of corporate commentators who will respond to the questions raised in the debate.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Development Grants Program

USAID is seeking comments on draft Annual Program Statement (APS) that will be released in final in summer 2008 to implement the Development Grants Program (DGP). The authority for the DGP is found in Section 674 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2008. USAID invites comments from Non-Governmental Organizations (hereafter referred to as NGOs) interested in the newly established Development Grants Program. The United States Government, through USAID, will seek applications from prospective NGO partners to implement development activities in support of USAID programmatic goals in specified countries. It is anticipated that selected USAID Missions in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Latin America and Europe and Eurasia regions will participate. Please see draft APS (pdf file) document attached to this synopsis. As of August 1, 2008, this announcement is inviting comments until the closing date of August 15, 2008. To view this announcement, [click here](#).

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USAID FUNDING

El Salvador USAID-San Salvador is seeking applications for the implementation of a Program Aimed at strengthening the capacity of the National Response for the prevention and provision of HIV/AIDS program in El Salvador. As of August 1, 2008, the closing date on this announcement is September 5, 2008. For more information, [click here](#).

USAID is seeking applications from eligible institution as described in Section A.1.e., that promote democracy, human rights, and the rule of law in Iran. Applications should advance one or more of the following objectives: strengthening civil society organization and advocacy; increasing awareness of and strengthening the rule of law; and expanding freedom of information. USAID intends to make several awards under this APS for a total of up to \$20 million. Applicants can request \$100,000 to \$3,000,000 for expenditure for a maximum of two years. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis and all applications must be submitted by June 30, 2009. For more information, [click here](#).

Sudan USAID seeks observation applications covering the entirety of

the electoral process, from establishment of the National Election Commission through resolution of post-polling disputes. As of August 1, 2008, the closing date on this announcement is February 16, 2009. For more information, [click here](#).

USAID is seeking applications from eligible institution as described in Section A.1.e., that promote democracy, human rights, and the rule of law in Iran. Applications should advance one or more of the following objectives: strengthening civil society organization and advocacy; increasing awareness of and strengthening the rule of law; and expanding freedom of information. USAID intends to make several awards under this APS for a total of up to \$20 million. Applicants can request \$100,000 to \$3,000,000 for expenditure for a maximum of two years. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis and all applications must be submitted by June 30, 2009. USAID reserves the right to fund any or none of the applications submitted. As of August 1, 2008, the closing date for this announcement is June 30, 2009. For more information, [click here](#).

Kosovo USAID would like to make a special call for concept papers that relate to the health sector in Kosovo. Specifically, USAID is seeking to partner with qualified institutions willing to devote resources that will help improve the health of women and children in Kosovo. As of August 1, 2008, the closing date of this announcement is September 30, 2008. For more information, [click here](#).

Hungary USAID-Budapest Kosovo Partnership for Sustainable Resettlement of Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian (PSR-RAE) Communities Program. As of August 1, 2008, the closing date of this announcement is September 3, 2008. For more information, [click here](#).

Thailand USAID-Bangkok With this request for applications, USAID/RDMA seeks innovative proposals for a rule of law project (or projects) which correspond to the fluid environment in China and that ensure sufficient flexibility to provide assistance appropriately. This RFA focuses on the area of Administrative Law and Procedure. As of July 25, 2008, the closing date of this announcement is August 21, 2008. For more information, [click here](#).

Thailand USAID-Bangkok With this request for applications, USAID/RDMA seeks innovative proposals for a rule of law project (or projects) which correspond to the fluid environment in China and that ensure sufficient flexibility to provide assistance appropriately. This RFA focuses on Criminal Justice and Procedure. As of August 1, 2008, the closing date of this announcement is August 21, 2008. For more information, [click here](#).

Hungary USAID-Budapest seeks innovative proposals for the Kosovo Partnership for Sustainable Resettlement of Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian (PSR-RAE) Communities Program. As of August 1, 2008, the closing date of this announcement is September 3, 2008. For more information, [click here](#).

Peru USAID-Lima The USAID Peru Mission intends to support an associate award to strengthen civil society's understanding of corruption and improve its capacity to monitor transparency and accountability in public administration and the fight against corruption. Civil society, as defined in this award, includes not only non-governmental organizations (NGOs), but the media, business associations, professional organizations, universities, private sector institutions, etc. The award will be made to one local Peruvian organization identified as the lead civil society representative. The organization chosen as the award recipient will ensure funding is appropriately allocated to other partners, results are achieved, and deliverables are met. As of August 1, 2008, the closing date of this announcement is August 18, 2008. For more information, [click here](#).

Bangladesh USAID-Dhaka is requesting applications to restore livelihoods and provide increased and sustained livelihood opportunities for the cyclone-affected population in southern Bangladesh. As of August 1, 2008, the closing date of this announcement is January 15, 2009. For more information, [click here](#).

Kazakhstan USAID-Almaty This USAID/Central Asian Republics (CAR) Annual Program Statement (APS) solicits applications from prospective partners to implement maternal and child health activities in Tajikistan. USAID expects that the total level of funding available under this APS for activities in Tajikistan would be up to \$3.5 million. Based on these figures, funding requests are expected to range from a minimum of \$200,000 up to a maximum of \$3.5 million (if activities are proposed to cover all program objectives), for expenditure over a period of up to five years. Funding will not exceed \$700,000 per year; awards for projects of more than one year will be funded incrementally. All awards are subject to the availability of funding. As of August 1, 2008, the closing date of this announcement is June 24, 2009. For more information, [click here](#).

Ukraine USAID-Kiev The primary goal of the USAID Ukraine SCSU program will be to strengthen and assist leading pro-reform Ukrainian non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to sustain and consolidate democratic gains. The program will address systemic sector-wide challenges to civil society as well as support NGO monitoring and advocacy initiatives from various spheres of public life which are essential in advancing Ukraine's reform process. As of August 1, 2008, the closing date of this announcement is August 04, 2008. For more information, [click here](#).

Georgia USAID-Tbilisi is seeking applications for a Cooperative Agreement to fund a program that will address the challenge of the extreme shortage of professionally qualified staff needed to effectively manage the new, predominantly private sector health services and the dramatic expansion of private health insurance companies by expanding graduate level opportunities for training in health and insurance management in Georgia. Implementation of the

activity will increase supply of professionally qualified health service and health insurance managers needed to manage Georgia's newly privatized health care sector and the public health sector in Georgia. Program implementation will begin around September 15, 2008. As of August 1, 2008, the closing date of this announcement is August 04, 2008. For more information, [click here](#).

Thailand USAID-Bangkok is currently seeking concept papers from qualified non-governmental organizations capable of designing and implementing model projects that will provide support to people with disabilities in Danang and surrounding areas. Programs and activities could include, but are not limited to enhancing earlier intervention for those who are disabled, providing support to existing rehabilitation clinics and services, expanding access of people with disabilities to essential health and education services, initiating or strengthening community based rehabilitation services and support, improving income generation and employment opportunities, strengthening the capacity of local organizations to provide services, improved community-based information around reducing risk exposure, and surveillance and prevention of disability. As of August 1, 2008, the closing date for this announcement is Dec 04, 2008. For more information, [click here](#).

Iraq USAID-Baghdad is seeking applications from qualified organizations to implement the next phase of the Iraq Community Action Program (CAP III). CAP will promote diverse and representative citizen participation throughout Iraq, will engage and assist local government in articulating and acting on needs identified by communities and will assist innocent victims of military operations. As of August 1, 2008, the closing date for this announcement is Sep 30, 2008. For more information, [click here](#).

USAID has posted a grant notice for conflict mitigation and reconciliation programs (with possible multiple awards). The Office of Conflict Management and Mitigation (DCHA/CMM) within USAID's Bureau for Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance (DCHA) invites applications from U.S. and non-U.S. non-profit or for-profit non-governmental organizations (NGOs), international organizations (IOs) and other qualified non-U.S. Government (USG) organizations (including faith-based organizations and community based organizations) to carry out activities, under grants or cooperative agreements, that support conflict mitigation and reconciliation programs and activities that bring together individuals of different ethnic, religious or political backgrounds from areas of civil conflict and violence. A program performance period of up to twenty-four (24) months is anticipated for each award -- between \$100,000 to \$600,000 each. As of August 1, 2008, the closing date for this announcement is August 12, 2008. For more information as well as contact information for the acquisition specialist, [click here](#).

USAID has posted a grant notice for Public Private Partnerships in Ethiopia. The USAID/Nigeria Economic Growth, Partnership and Private Sector (PPS) Team is strongly committed to building public-

private partnerships that mobilize resources, expertise, creative approaches, and technologies that address development issues in Nigeria under the Global Development Alliance (GDA) Annual Program Statement (APS). [Click here](#) to view the entire announcement. As of August 1, 2008, the closing date for this announcement is September 30, 2008. For more information as well as contact information for the acquisition specialist, [click here](#).

Nigeria USAID-Abuja has posted a cooperative agreement for registered Nigerian indigenous organizations, U.S. and non-U.S. non-governmental organizations (NGO), faith-based organizations (FBO), community-based organizations (CBO), foundations, private organizations affiliated with public academic institutions, parastatals, professional organizations, non-profit organizations, and for-profit organizations willing to forego profit. They are looking for proposals to strengthen civil society to combat HIV/AIDS in Nigeria. As of August 1, 2008, the closing date for this announcement is January 31, 2009. For more information as well as contact information for the acquisition specialist, [click here](#)

USAID Office of Natural Resources Management, located in the Bureau of Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade (EGAT/NRM) in Washington, is seeking to engage with interested parties to develop an initiative that can pool funds, talent and resources from both USAID and the private sector to address global threats to forests and biodiversity. As of August 1, 2008, the closing date for this announcement is August 15, 2008. Please see full announcement for details. For more information as well as contact information for the acquisition specialist, [click here](#).

U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT FUNDING

The Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor (DRL) announces a Request for Proposals (RFP) from organizations interested in submitting proposals to support the advancement of democracy and human rights inside Iran. Due to current sanctions on Iran, United States Government funds may not be used for activities involving the Government of Iran. As of August 1, 2008, the closing date of this announcement is August 6, 2008. For more information, [click here](#).

Youth Ambassadors Program-The Department of State's Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs, Office of Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs (WHA/PDA) is pleased to announce an open competition for a federal assistance award through this Request for Grant Proposals (RFGP) for the 2009 Youth Ambassadors Program. The Youth Ambassadors Program is a two-week educational exchange opportunity in the U.S. for disadvantaged high school students from the public school system with good English skills, outstanding profiles, great leadership skills, and who are engaged in volunteer work in their communities. WHA/PDA invites all accredited U.S. educational institutions, and non-profit/non-governmental organizations with substantial and proven successful experience in

working with comparable youth exchange programs and which can effectively develop a program as described below to submit proposals to administer a U.S.-based two-week cultural and educational immersion program for 8-12 public high school students, and an appropriate number of adult chaperones from each of the following countries: Venezuela, Chile, Bolivia, Argentina, and Paraguay. WHA/PDA anticipates providing one federal assistance award to support this program; however, the applicant must be capable of increasing the number of youths included in the Youth Ambassadors Program accordingly if additional funds become available. Should an increase in funding occur one or more of the following countries should be included in the program: Colombia, Nicaragua, Peru, Ecuador, Uruguay, with 8-12 additional public high school students and an appropriate number of adult chaperones per country. As of August 1, 2008, the closing date for this announcement is August 8, 2008. For more information about this grant opportunity, as well as contact information for the acquisition specialist, [click here](#).

International Religious Freedom Programs- The Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor (DRL) announces a Request for Proposals from organizations interested in submitting proposals for projects that promote international religious freedom as part of overall good governance in the countries in: Near East, with a particular interest in Bahrain, Egypt, Israel and the Occupied Territories, Jordan, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, and Yemen; South/Central Asia, with a particular interest in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Maldives, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan; East Asia and the Pacific, with a particular interest in Burma, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, North Korea, and Vietnam; Africa, with a particular interest in Eritrea, Ethiopia, Nigeria, and Sudan; and Europe, with a particular interest in Azerbaijan, Kosovo, the Russian Federation, and Turkey. As of August 1, 2008, the closing date for this announcement is September 2, 2008. For more information about this grant opportunity, as well as contact information for the acquisition specialist, [click here](#).

The Office of the Middle East Partnership Initiative (NEA/PI) announces an open competition for proposals to support women's empowerment, political leadership, and social participation in the Middle East. Through the Women Leaders Program, NEA/PI seeks to strengthen the ability of women leaders in selected MENA countries to engage effectively with counterparts regarding issues related to enhancing women's rights, legal status, political participation, and economic empowerment. This is a request for applications (RFA) from organizations with functional and regional experience in the areas of women's empowerment, civil society strengthening, and leadership development in the Gulf, as well as in North Africa, to include the countries of Algeria, Libya, and Tunisia. Applications should specify organizations' key competencies in specific areas of women's empowerment and outline their regional and country-specific expertise. As of August 1, 2008, the closing date for this announcement is August 15, 2008. For more information about this

grant opportunity, as well as contact information for the acquisition specialist, [click here](#).