

ANNUAL ECA ALUMNI OUTREACH PROJECT COMPETITION
FY2014 CALL FOR PROPOSALS

SUMMARY

The State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) Office of Alumni Affairs invites U.S. exchange program alumni to submit proposals for the FY2014 ECA Alumni Outreach Project Competition. **The deadline for submission of project proposals is January 15, 2014.**

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Applications must include the following:

- A. Completed project proposal form.
- B. Detailed budget with mandatory cost-sharing.
- C. Submission by January 15, 2014 deadline via email to Albion Abdullai at abdullaia@state.gov

PROJECT PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

A. Projects should support one or more of the following ECA Alumni Program goals:

- 1) To enable alumni to work collectively to share the benefits of their exchange experience with home country audiences, and to "give back" to the program in which they participated.
- 2) To foster implementation and sharing of concepts exchange participants explored during their exchange programs;
- 3) To provide training that will improve ability of alumni to implement ideas;
- 4) To involve alumni in recruiting exchange participants and/or promoting their exchange program or study in the U.S.,

B. Projects should involve the global State Alumni website.

All alumni involved in the project should register for the State Alumni website, <https://alumni.state.gov>. Alumni receiving program funds must share their experiences with the global community by posting articles/blogs about ongoing activities on <https://alumni.state.gov>

C. Project proposals should be detailed, demonstrating:

- 1) Clear goals
- 2) Reliable partner institutions
- 3) Transparent evaluation process
- 4) Realistic timeline and project steps

D. Project proposals must include a detailed budget, demonstrating:

- 1) Reasonable costs
- 2) Cost-sharing or in-kind support
- 3) Achievable sustainability once funding has ceased.

PROJECT PROPOSAL FORMAT AND SUBMISSION

Proposals must be submitted using the "FY2014 ECA Alumni Outreach Project Competition" proposal and budget forms, available upon request from Albion Abdullaia, abdullaia@state.gov.

FUNDING GUIDELINES

Budget requests cannot exceed USD \$20,000. All budgets must be submitted using the budget form (provided upon request).

Cost-sharing and/or in-kind support is mandatory. Applicants are encouraged to take advantage of in-kind support from businesses, universities, NGOs, and other public-private partnership opportunities.

Cost-sharing can also include resources available through the Embassy Public Affairs Section, including the following:

- 1) Existing or donated space for events (i.e., American Corners)
- 2) Donated or borrowed equipment for one-time only events
- 3) Use of American Fulbrighters, English Language Fellows, or other American visitors in the region to serve as speakers
- 4) Use of alumni volunteers to assist in project mission (i.e., recruiting new exchange participants, mentoring youth)

Alumni Program funds CANNOT be used:

- 1) To cover costs for representational events
- 2) To support research projects of individual alumni

- 3) To pay salaries to those working on alumni projects or administrative overhead for the alumni project
- 4) To pay for international travel outside of post's region, including travel to/from the United States
- 5) To pay for speakers traveling from the United States

Alumni are discouraged from requesting funding for alumni websites separate from <https://alumni.state.gov>.

Alumni Program funds CAN be used:

- 1) To cover the reasonable cost of food if it is an integral part of the program
- 2) To pay for national and regional travel within post's country and region
- 3) For regional or in-country speaker honoraria

SUSTAINABILITY AND STRATEGY BUILDING

Project proposals lacking a clear progression toward sustainability will be deemed less competitive. As alumni associations expand outreach efforts, they should work toward greater self-reliance. Requests for new activities, however, can be considered for full funding.

Project proposals focused on the areas below will be deemed more competitive:

- **Empowering Women**
- **Outreach to Underserved Communities**
- **Entrepreneurship and Youth Employment**
- **Expanded Access to Education**
- **Government Transparency**
- **Freedom of Expression**
- **Conflict Resolution**
- **Citizen Security**
- **Promoting Civil Society**