

## **The Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy The Hague Request for Grant Proposals: English Access Microscholarship Program**

The Public Affairs Section (PAS) of U.S. Embassy The Hague, the Netherlands, announces an open competition for grant proposals for the administration of the English Access Microscholarship Program (Access), which provides English-language instruction to students aged 13 to 20 from underserved or disadvantaged communities, including from urban, rural and/or minority regions of the Netherlands.

The Access Program is expected to fund two years of after-school classes and enhancement activities for approximately 25 students, at a cost of no more than a total of \$50,000 USD. Local and international non-governmental organizations and educational institutions may submit grant proposals to design, implement, and administer the Access Program in the Netherlands.

### **Program Information**

*Description:* The Access Program is designed to increase English language skills and capabilities among economically disadvantaged youth. It is also designed to introduce students to American culture and ideals.

The English Access Microscholarship Program (Access) provides enhanced English language skills to 13-20-year-old students from economically disadvantaged areas through after-school classes and enhancement activities. Access students gain an appreciation for American culture and democratic ideals, increase their ability to participate successfully in the socio-economic development of their country, and gain the ability to compete for and participate in future U.S. exchange and study programs.

*Project Overview:* The grantee organization will be expected to provide selected groups of students with two years of after-school English language instruction and enhancement activities, e.g. at least 180 hours of instruction per year or a minimum 360 hours, aimed at improving students' overall English language proficiency in the four basic skills: speaking, listening, writing, and reading. In addition to providing quality instruction in the English language to Access students, grantees will be encouraged to conduct enhancement activities with content that gives the participants insights into, and an appreciation for, U.S. culture and ideals. These activities could involve such things as public speaking or debate clubs; lessons on U.S. society and culture (celebrations of American holidays); leadership and community awareness, including civic education classes; community service and advocacy discussions and activities; and English-language summer camps.

*Objectives:* The overall objective of the Access Program is to enhance the English-language skills of youth from disadvantaged communities, thereby increasing their self-confidence, critical thinking skills, and opportunities to study and/or obtain jobs.

*Specific objectives include:* 1) Providing students from socially/economically disadvantaged areas with English language classes at no cost; 2) Enabling these students to develop leadership and interpersonal skills through enhancement activities; 3) Increasing students'

understanding of U.S. culture and ideals through enrichment activities; 4) Enabling students with improved English language skills to successfully participate in U.S. government-funded academic exchange programs and other public diplomacy initiatives.

*Administration:* Grantee organizations are expected to keep administration costs to no more than 10% of the total budget. Grantee organizations are also encouraged to consider cost-sharing.

**Application Submission Process:** Applicants must submit their applications electronically using the organizational forms listed here - <http://thehague.usembassy.gov/news/offices/public-affairs/u.s.-embassy-grant-program.html>. Please state Request for Proposal English Access Microscholarship Program in the subject line.

### **Program Coordination**

The Access Program will be administered by the Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy. For Program questions contact Robert Anderson, Assistant Public Affairs Officer, at [AndersonRE@state.gov](mailto:AndersonRE@state.gov) or to submit your Grant Proposals, please contact Greg Mabry, Project Resource Coordinator, at [MabryGA@State.gov](mailto:MabryGA@State.gov) .

### **Program Deadline**

Please submit your Grant Proposals before **May 15, 2015**.