



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Center for Faith-Based & Community Initiatives

JANUARY 25, 2008

Dear Newsletter Recipients,

Warmest regards,

Terri

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Economic Development Administration's Excellence in Economic Development Awards

EDA's Excellence in Economic Development Awards recognize innovative economic development strategies of national significance, showcase best practices, achievements and outstanding results, and promote knowledge of achievement and communication among economic developers throughout the country. There are seven categories of EDA Excellence in Economic Development Awards. The Excellence in Community and Faith-Based Social Entrepreneurship Award highlights an organization each year that effectively advances community and faith-based social entrepreneurship in redevelopment strategies for areas of chronic economic distress.

To access the 2008 Excellence in Economic Development Awards nomination brochure, [click here](#).

Department of State Launches a New Website for Foreign Audiences

The Bureau of International Information Programs is pleased to announce the launch of "America.gov," the Department's newest portal reaching out to foreign audiences. "America.gov" is a cutting-edge public diplomacy tool that offers the latest in multi-media, video, forum discussions, polls and quizzes to effectively tell America's story overseas.

"America.gov" provides a wealth of material on U.S. policies, culture, and values and can be used as an outreach tool by Embassy staff on a multitude of programs. For example, "America.gov" delivers more than 50 videos on topics ranging from volunteers in presidential campaigns to space shuttle footage to Ramadan on campus.

Language versions of "America.gov" will be developed in the early spring and language versions of the RSS feeds will continue for the foreseeable future. Regional pages can be accessed [here](#).

Notes from "Religion and Public Policy"

By Louay M. Safi, *The American Muslim*, January 20, 2008

Recent developments in the political discourse on the relevance of religion to public life have reinforced the general impression, shared by scholars the world over, that religion is making a comeback to the public sphere. One example of this renewed interest in religion is the new **Faith-Based and Community Initiatives**, announced by President Bush. These initiatives are presented as a way to enhance the welfare and social programs of the United State government, which were challenged in the late eighties, and were seriously disrupted the nineties.

The revitalization of religion in the last few decades, and the increased recognition of the need for acknowledging the vital role played by religion and religious consciousness in maintaining the moral cohesiveness of public life, have ignited a new public debate in the West over the extent to which religion can be allowed to venture into the public square without violating the principle of separation of church and state.

Muslim scholars, on the other hand, are adamant on the inseparability of religion and state in an Islamic society, where an organized religion is absent. Needless to say, such a position is usually received with great amusement and suspicion by western scholars and thinkers, often concerned about the possible stifling of the rational debate of public policy and the likely infringement of the rights of religious minorities. The conflicting positions of Muslim and western scholars is at one level a problem of incommensurability between two political cultures. On a deeper level, the incongruence between the two positions reveals a need for more profound analysis of the relevance of religion to public life in a globalizing world that is increasingly yearning for meaning and direction...

...But while religion ceased to have a visible influence in the public sphere, it continued to be an important force in shaping public policy and public life. This is true because rational arguments about the nature of public order have to start from a transcendental understanding of the meaning of public life and social interaction. The notions of right and wrong, good and evil, and the tolerable and the intolerable are the result of both religious conviction and political compromise...

...The rise and expansion of the West has created a novel situation in Muslim society. Modern political ideas have displaced traditional views of politics and society. This ironically has not generated modern political practices and institutions in the Muslim world. Democracy, constitutionalism, and the rule of law are no more than a show, a political façade in most Muslim societies. The roots of the problem can better be understood when one realizes that modern political structures are superimposed on an intrinsically traditional political culture.

There is a dire need to evolve a new understanding of how religion relates to the public sphere form within the Muslim experience, instead of relying on notions borrowed from the historical West and superimposed on society. The western world, which continues to experience an erosion of the moral and transcendental core of its social life, stands, on the other hand, to learn a great deal by opening itself to the remarkably different mode of interplay between religion and public life in the world of Islam.

To read the full article, [click here](#).

Faith-Based and Community Initiatives at the World Economic Forum

"We know that you cannot have modernization without values and these values are universal across all religions." - Theodore Cardinal McCarrick, Archbishop Emeritus Archdiocese of Washington

Over the last 38 years, The Forum has developed many activities and initiatives, serving the world as a distinctive multitask-holder platform for addressing the issues on the global agenda and for acting as a catalyst for public-private partnerships, always with one mission in mind: To improve the state of the world.

On January 23, 2008 this year's World Economic Forum began its first day of talks with global leaders. Though most topics discussed at the forum are relevant to faith and community-based organizations, there were two forums of direct interest to the Faith-Based and Community Initiatives.

On January 25 a meeting titled, "The Power of Collaborative Innovation" convened. A summary of this meeting and one titled "Faith and Modernization" is made available in the text box below. The Secretary of State, His Eminence Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone was asked to head this discussion, but had to decline. However, he did send a letter from His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI, in which he encouraged all participants to collaborate more. To view this letter [click here](#).

The Power of Collaborative Innovation

Industries are discovering that much of their future growth depends on the ability to collaborate with different actors to build public-private partnerships, galvanize multiple stakeholders and work with fast-growing competitors.

What is the framework for the modern MNC to evaluate and initiate alliances and partnerships across multiple countries, interests and sectors worldwide?

Faith and Modernization

Faith is playing an increasingly influential role in this century's political, economic and social landscape, while intercultural divides are diverting valuable resources away from addressing the pressing global issues of today.

Are the religious mores of faith-based societies an impediment to, or an asset to, social progress, political order and economic development? What prospects exist for collaboration between the West and the Islamic world on fulfilling the economic agenda of the Makkah Declaration of the Organization of the Islamic Conference?

[Click here](#) for a complete outline of this year's meetings at the World Economic Forum.

Federal Funding Opportunities

USAID

Ethiopia USAID-Addis Ababa has posted a cooperative agreement. To qualify, applicants must have demonstrated technical skills, experience, and the necessary management competence to plan and efficiently execute a Family Planning/Maternal, Newborn and Child Health assistance program. The new Family Planning/Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (FP/MNCH) Program will directly contribute to the USAID Investing in People Objective and the goal of Improved Family Health through Increased use of high impact family planning, maternal, newborn and child health practices, products and services. As of January 24, 2008 the closing date for this announcement is February 8, 2008. For more information as well as contact information for the acquisition specialist, [click here](#).

Philippines USAID-Manila has posted a cooperative agreement for U.S. or Non-U.S. non-profit and for-profit entities. They are seeking programs that: a) promote the inclusion of people with disabilities (PWDs) in development promotion; b) find solutions that break down existing as well as potential barriers, and; c) ensure inclusion of PWDs in USAID activities and programs. Concept papers of no more than ten (10) pages in length may be submitted from January 8, 2008 to February 8, 2008, though USAID reserves the right to close this APS before then if it chooses to do so. Funding requests should range from \$20,000 to \$300,000 for programs with periods of implementation of 12 to 24 months. For more information as well as contact information for the acquisition specialist, [click here](#).

Tanzania USAID-Dar es Salaam has posted a cooperative agreement for nonprofits having 501(C)(3) status, private institutions of higher education, and for profit organizations other than small businesses. This RFA is seeking plans for counseling and testing services in Tanzania, particularly through, but not limited to, the mobilization of the nongovernmental sector, and linking to care, treatment and prevention services. As of January 24, 2008 the closing date for this announcement is February 19, 2008. For more information as well as contact information for the acquisition specialist, [click here](#).

US Agency for International Development has posted an unrestricted cooperative agreement. The purpose of this Leader with Associates Award cooperative agreement is to provide technical leadership, long-term support activities, and make progress towards advancing the following elements of the rule of law and human rights. Activities may aim to reform legal frameworks and/or strengthen actors and institutions within and beyond the justice sector, including but not limited to the judiciary, prosecutors, legal defense, investigators, civilian police, traditional authorities, civil society, and citizens. As of January 24, 2008 the closing date for this announcement is February 19, 2008. For more information as well as contact information for the acquisition specialist, [click here](#).

US Agency for International Development has posted an unrestricted cooperative agreement seeking quality community-oriented health projects to significantly improve the health status of children under five and women of reproductive age in developing countries with a focus on innovation in delivery strategies for new, underused and high impact MCH interventions. For more in-depth information on this RFA please contact the acquisition specialist, [click here](#). As of January 24, 2008 the closing date for this announcement is February 29, 2008.

Dominican Republic USAID-Santo Domingo has posted an APS announcing USAID's intention to awarding multiple grants. Eligible applicants are Dominican NGOs operating legally under Dominican law, foreign organizations operating under the relevant Dominican laws and that have the required clearance to operate in the Dominican Republic from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The RFA is seeking project proposals to administer aid for the Out of School and At Risk Children and Youth program. Applicants must specify the length of time and requested funding level in the submitted concept paper. As of January 24, 2008 the closing date for this announcement is April 30, 2008. For more information as well as contact information for the acquisition specialist, [click here](#).

The US Agency for International Development Food for Peace grant announcement has been posted on Grants.gov. Eligible applicants include U.S. non-profit organizations and Public International Organization (PIO). Applications may request a maximum of 75 metric tons (MT) of commodities (currently valued at approximately \$173,000) and up to \$100,000 of funding. It is not mandatory, however, that these exact levels be requested or in this proportion. (Note: Funding is available for costs directly associated with the movement, management and monitoring of IFRP commodities. Funding will

not be considered for the following costs: vehicle purchase, project materials, tools and office equipment.) To read more about USAID's Office of Food for Peace (FFP) and to obtain a link to fiscal year 2008 IFRP Guidelines and Procedures, [click here](#). To access the announcement on Grants.gov and for contact information for the acquisition specialist, [click here](#). As of January 24, 2008 the closing date for this, the second cycle of FY08 FFP funding, will be June 2, 2008.

US Agency for International Development has posted an unrestricted cooperative agreement to solicit partners to implement activities in support of creative and timely responses to encourage the abandonment of traditional practices that promote and condone gender-based violence. USAID is specifically interested in those traditional harmful practices that have received limited attention from the development community. The geographic focus under consideration is USAID's geographic definitions of Africa and Asia & the Near East (ANE). To access the announcement as well as contact information for the acquisition specialist, [click here](#). As of January 24, 2008 the closing date for this announcement is June 12, 2008.

Kazakhstan USAID-Almaty has posted an unrestricted cooperative agreement designed to support activities that promote the protection of human rights. USAID/CAR encourages submissions that creatively address the human rights development priorities and issues in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. To access the announcement as well as contact information for the acquisition specialist, [click here](#). As of January 24, 2008 the closing date for this announcement is June 13, 2008.

US Agency for International Development has posted an unrestricted grant announcement seeking partners to meet the critical basic needs of internally displaced people and returnee populations (both old and new caseload) in Kabul Province. To access the announcement as well as contact information for the acquisition specialist, [click here](#). As of January 24, 2008 the closing date for this announcement is June 21, 2008.

US Agency for International Development has posted a cooperative agreement for registered U.S. and non-U.S. NGOs, non-profit, and for profit organizations willing to forego profit. The purpose of the Annual Program Statement is to solicit applications for funding. The United States Government, through USAID/Washington and in close collaboration with USAID/Cotonou, USAID/Nairobi, USAID/Pretoria, and USAID/Lusaka, is seeking full applications from prospective partners to implement activities in support of creative and timely responses to the USAID-related components of the Presidential Women's Justice and Empowerment Initiative (WJEI). To access the announcement as well as contact information for the acquisition specialist, [click here](#). As of January 24, 2008 the closing date for this announcement is July 23, 2008.

Ethiopia USAID-Addis Ababa has posted an unrestricted cooperative agreement to solicit applications for funding from prospective new partners to support implementation of the United States Government's President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (hereafter referred to as Emergency Plan or also referred to as PEPFAR) in Ethiopia. The United States Government, through USAID/Ethiopia, is seeking, from prospective partners, concept papers to be followed by full applications (if concept papers are selected) to implement activities in support of the Prevention for at Risk Populations in High Prevalence Urban Areas in Ethiopia. The U.S. Government Mission in Ethiopia anticipates awarding a limited number of grants or cooperative agreements (hereafter called Agreements) for a period of no less than one year and no more than three years. Meanwhile, depending on successful implementation, needs and availability of funds, the period of performance could be extended by one or two additional years. To access the announcement as well as contact information for the acquisition specialist, [click here](#). As of January 24, 2008 the closing date for this announcement is July 31, 2008.

Department of State

The Bureau Of Educational and Cultural Affairs has posted a grant for nonprofits having 501(c)(3) status and private institutions of higher education. They are seeking proposals to conduct a three- to four-week program in the United States focusing on leadership and civic education. The 21 participants will be secondary school students and teachers from Bosnia and Herzegovina. To access the

announcement as well as contact information for the acquisition specialist, [click here](#). As of January 24, 2008 the closing date for this announcement is January 31, 2008.

The Department of State has posted a grant for nonprofits having 501(c)(3) status. Organizations must first submit an SOI before they are asked to submit a proposal. They are seeking interest in projects that promote democracy, human rights and the rule of law for countries in Africa (Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Mauritania, Sudan), East Asia Pacific (Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines), South Asia (Regional South Asia, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Pakistan), Europe (Azerbaijan, Russia/North Caucasus) and Central Asia (Regional Central Asia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan). To access the announcement as well as contact information for the acquisition specialist, [click here](#). As of January 24, 2008 the closing date for this announcement is February 5, 2008.

The Bureau of Cultural and Educational Affairs has posted two grants for nonprofits having 501(c)(3) status and private institutions of higher education. They are seeking proposals to administer the Global Connections and Exchange program in (1) Afghanistan and/or (2) the Palestinian Territories, West Bank only. The Bureau will award one grant for each program. The grantee organizations and/or their partners will select overseas schools and provide them with access to the Internet and related training to develop collaborative partnerships with U.S. schools. Thematic online projects will enhance mutual understanding as they encourage learning, research and free expression among participating schools. To access the announcement as well as contact information for the acquisition specialist, [click here](#). As of January 24, 2008 the closing date for this announcement is February 8, 2008.

The Department of State has posted a grant with the intentional of awarding several grants to different organizations. Eligibility is unrestricted. They are requesting anti-trafficking in persons proposals for protection, prevention, and prosecution projects. These projects can be regional or global in nature, or be focused in one specific country. Applicants can request up to \$500,000 to support programming for 12-36 months. To access the announcement as well as contact information for the acquisition specialist, [click here](#). As of January 24, 2008 the closing date for this announcement is February 12, 2008.

Department of State Mission to Turkey has posted a grant for a youth innovation and entrepreneurship program. NGOs must register under Turkey's "Law on Associations." The lead organization must have been registered for a minimum of 1 year and demonstrate institutional capacity by documenting the successful completion of related projects. The NGO will help stimulate innovations and mutual relations by partnering Anatolian High Schools in Turkey with High Schools in the United States. The program may include components such as distribution of educational materials, a series of trainings, web-based education, information fairs, media events, and a student exchange to nurture the innovation and entrepreneurship skills of students. To access the announcement as well as contact information for the acquisition specialist, [click here](#). As of January 24, 2008 the closing date for this announcement is February 29, 2008.

The Department of State has posted a grant, with the intentional of awarding several grants to different organizations, for nonprofits having 501(c)(3) status and private institutions of higher education. They are requesting anti-trafficking in persons proposals for capacity-building programs with locally-based organizations abroad. Programs must include mentoring and partnerships concerning such topics as: developing models for providing comprehensive and effective services for adult and child victims; training initiatives with a focus on identifying and understanding the complex needs of victims; building working relationships with law enforcement responders and other community stakeholders; and, strengthening advocacy skills and public awareness-raising efforts. To access the announcement as well as contact information for the acquisition specialist, [click here](#). As of January 24, 2008 the closing date for this announcement is March 3, 2008.

The Bureau of Cultural and Educational Affairs has posted two grants for nonprofits having 501(c)(3) status and private institutions of higher education. They are seeking proposals to administer this semester-long program for Chilean pre-service teachers. Post-secondary educational institutions may apply independently or in a consortium with other post-secondary institutions. The program will include academic coursework and practicum/student teaching for Chilean EFL student teachers in their

penultimate year of undergraduate study. The program will take place during the fall semester of 2008. To access the announcement as well as contact information for the acquisition specialist, [click here](#). As of January 24, 2008 the closing date for this announcement is March 13, 2008.

PRM Thailand has posted a cooperative agreement for nonprofits having 501(c)(3) status and international organizations. They are accepting applications from non-governmental organizations and international organizations for assistance to refugee populations in Thailand. This program will have three deadlines: Dec. 16 for proposals for health care/other assistance in Ban Mae Nai Soi and Ban Mae Surin camps (Mae Hong Son sites 1&2); Feb. 1 for proposals for food assistance; and Apr. 1 for health care services/water/sanitation/other assistance in Umpiem Mai, Nu Po, and Ban Don Yang camps. To access the announcement as well as contact information for the acquisition specialist, [click here](#).

Please visit grants.gov to review these and other US Government funding opportunities.

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