Overview
The U.S. Department of State’s National Security Language Initiative for Youth (NSLI-Y) program was launched in 2006 to promote critical language learning among American youth. The U.S. Department of State, in cooperation with American Councils for International Education, awards and administers merit-based scholarships to high school students for participation in summer and academic year immersion programs in locations where the eight NSLI-Y languages are spoken. NSLI-Y immerses participants in the cultural life of the host community, giving them formal and informal language practice and sparking a lifetime interest in foreign languages and cultures. Participants receive intensive language instruction, live with a host family for all or part of the program, and participate in a variety of cultural activities.

American Councils for International Education has served as lead organization in the administration and implementation of NSLI-Y since 2009. American Councils manages the application and selection process, program-wide evaluation activities, and alumni activities, as well as coordination and oversight of partner organizations. In addition, American Councils implements some overseas NSLI-Y programs and Virtual NSLI-Y.

Participants
Partner organizations provide programming for participants selected through a national competition for NSLI-Y Scholarships administered by American Councils.

Participants must be:
- U.S. citizens
- Enrolled in high school (including home school) at the time of application
- Between 15 and 18 years of age at the start of the program (eligible birthdates will be provided in the application)
- Grade Point Average (GPA) of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale
- See more details related to eligibility here

Scholarship Coverage
To ensure that the scholarship award is comprehensive and consistent across all NSLI-Y programs, sub-grantees must include designated program costs for all participants in the sub-grant budget. Covered program costs include round-trip travel, transportation, visa, tuition and related academic preparation, support, three meals per day, cultural enrichment programming, and accommodations (with a host family for at least a portion of the program). ASPE health benefits are provided directly by the Department of State at no cost to the NSLI-Y implementing organizations.

Below is an overview of the responsibilities of partner organizations. Additional details and requirements will be provided in the RFP if invited to submit a full proposal.

Pre-Program Preparation
1. Pre-program language preparation: Provide pre-program language preparation to participants in advance of departure.
2. Program descriptions and schedules: Provide American Councils with program descriptions and schedules by the specified deadlines using templates provided by American Councils.
3. Medical review: All NSLI-Y finalists must meet medical and placement requirements to participate in NSLI-Y. Medical and placement considerations are not considered during the selection process. American Councils will facilitate a medical review with contracted medical professionals for all NSLI-Y finalists. Sub-grantees should also review applicant medical forms to understand placement needs. Partner sub-grantees must work with American Councils to assess any health or placement concerns and determine an appropriate placement.
4. Pre-program preparation: Provide participants with preparatory materials, either printed or electronic, including cultural information and logistical information.
5. Pre-departure orientation: Provide substantive pre-departure orientations (PDOs) for participants. A list of required topics will be provided to sub-grantees.
6. **Accommodations:** Inform participants of the specific details of their accommodations and institutional placement at least two weeks prior to the program. Conduct pre-screening for host families. Orient host families to the program goals and anticipated outcomes and provide intercultural training and support to both staff and host families.

7. **Participant travel:** Arrange all necessary air travel for participants. All travel arrangements must include roundtrip travel for participants from the home of record to the pre-departure orientation site (if applicable), and onward to the international gateway city and overseas site. Arrange international flights on U.S. carriers to the greatest extent possible and adhere to the “Fly America” and “Open Skies” regulations. Participants must be accompanied by an English-speaking adult chaperone on all international flights.

8. **U.S. Embassy coordination:** Ensure pre-program communication with and approval of the program site by the Public Affairs Section (PAS) of the local U.S. Embassy or Consultate.

9. **Visas:** Obtain all visas needed for travel and entrance to the host-country, including any required transit visas.

10. **Teacher orientation:** Provide teachers with information on U.S. classrooms and communicative teaching methodology and conduct an orientation to NSLI-Y programming and American students. Ensure host country staff supporting NSLI-Y participants are capable of communicating cultural differences which American participants must navigate in order to have a successful exchange.

### Program Activities

1. **Program design and implementation:** Design, plan, and implement an intensive overseas language program for U.S. high school students. The program duration should be six to seven weeks (42 days in country at minimum; departures should take place mid-late June) and provide language instruction in formal and informal settings, coordinating language lessons with enhancement activities. Instruction should be an average of four hours per day and include the four skills (speaking, listening, reading, and writing). Programs should provide an average of 20 hours of language instruction per week and a program total of a minimum of 120 hours. Programs may be designed for beginning, intermediate, and/or advanced students of the target language and must accommodate the special learning needs of heritage speakers as needed. In general, classes with should be limited to no more than 12 NSLI-Y students of similar language levels. Instruction should provide a solid foundation for future study of the language. All activities must promote program goals.

2. **Arrival orientation:** Organize and provide an in-country arrival orientation for participants to reinforce the topics and information covered during PDOs and to further inform participants about in-country procedures and operations.

3. **Cell phone and emergency phone numbers:** Provide each participant with a cell phone and local emergency numbers.

4. **Connections with host country peers:** Provide opportunities to interact with host country peers in the target language, such as peer tutoring or cultural exploration.

5. **Housing arrangements:** Make all housing arrangements for participants throughout the program. All proposed programs should include accommodations with well-screened host families for at least a short-term of the program. While full-time host family placements are preferred, participants may also be placed in a dormitory or group housing setting that includes adult resident supervision to ensure the safety and security of the participants. Monitoring of participants in host families should be carried out in person and periodically throughout the program. In the case of any homestay issues, overseas staff should be prepared to visit the participant in his/her host family and make an alternative family placement if necessary. In either case (homestay or dormitory living), the participant must be ensured his or her own bed.

6. **Room and board:** Provide all accommodations and three meals a day.

7. **Monitoring:** Provide regular and consistent monitoring of participants, including academic counseling, cultural adjustment, and medical and emotional support. English-speaking staff (in the form of a Resident Director or Local Coordinator) must be physically present and available to support participants throughout the course of the program, including on an emergency basis.

8. **Participant Support:** Provide participants with support to ensure a successful program experience for medical issues, cultural adjustment, etc. in accordance with NSLI-Y expectations.

9. **Cultural activities:** Arrange appropriate community, cultural, social, and civic activities, including formal education about the host country through lectures, discussions, and site visits. Coordinate these activities with classroom language learning to the greatest degree possible.

10. **End of stay orientation:** Conduct an end of stay orientation to review program activities, prepare participants for their return home, discuss strategies and opportunities to continue language learning, and inform participants how to become involved with alumni activities (facilitated by American Councils and the U.S. Department of State).
Follow-on Activities

1. **Assessments:** Assist in supporting the completion of post-program evaluation activities administered by American Councils or the Department of State, including Oral Proficiency Interviews (OPIs), post-program surveys, and any other language assessment measures.

Management and Administration

1. **Communication and reporting:** Work in close consultation with American Councils on the implementation of the program, provide timely reporting of progress, and comply with all financial and program reporting requirements. During the time participants are overseas, sub-grantees will be expected to respond regularly and promptly to any inquiries from American Councils or ECA.

2. **Financial management:** Manage all financial aspects of the program, including stipend disbursements to the participants according to federal program guidelines.

3. **Evaluation:** Design and implement an evaluation plan that assesses the impact of the program as outlined in the Monitoring and Evaluation section.

4. **Overall program:** Be responsible for the entire program implementation cycle including management of travel arrangements, staffing, preparation, and oversight of all program components in the U.S. and overseas. Attend the annual NSLI-Y Partner Meeting.