September 2020

Colleagues,

American Councils for International Education is seeking new partnerships (sub-grantees) with non-profit organizations or educational institutions to implement short-term (six- to seven-week) overseas language programs for U.S. high school and recently-graduated students (ages 15-18), during the summer of 2021, as part of the National Security Language Initiative for Youth. Partnerships are needed for immersive overseas Chinese or Korean language programs in China (PRC), South Korea, or Taiwan. There is a potential for renewal based on successful implementation in summer 2021.

National Security Language Initiative for Youth (NSLI-Y) is a program of the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA). NSLI-Y was launched in 2006 to promote critical language learning among American youth. NSLI-Y awards and administers merit-based scholarships to high school students for summer and academic year immersion programs. The program immerses participants in the life of the host community, giving them formal and informal language practice and an understanding of the host country culture. 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. NSLI-Y program goals are:

- To improve the ability of Americans to engage with the people of countries where Arabic, Chinese (Mandarin), Hindi, Indonesian, Korean, Persian, Russian, and Turkish are spoken through shared language
- To develop a cadre of Americans with advanced linguistic skills and related cultural understanding who are able to use their linguistic and cultural skills to advance international dialogue and compete effectively in the global economy
- To provide a tangible incentive for the learning and use of foreign language by creating overseas language study opportunities for U.S. high school students
- To spark a lifetime interest in foreign languages and cultures among American youth.

American Councils for International Education seeks partnerships with U.S.-based non-profit organizations or educational institutions equipped to collaborate with an institution or organization abroad to implement immersive language programs. Students on Chinese programs will have pre-program proficiency levels of Novice High to Intermediate High. Korean programs will accommodate students with pre-program proficiency levels of Novice Low to Intermediate Low. Programs under this new partnership will be for groups of 20-25 students with funding levels from $175,000 to $250,000.

Attached is more information about the NSLI for Youth program.

If your institution or organization is interested, please submit a letter of interest detailing your organization/institution's:

- Experience in implementing student exchange and language learning programs
- Interest in serving as a partner organization by collaborating with other NSLI-Y stakeholders and complying with federal and program requirements
- Demonstrated commitment to and experience with diversity and inclusion in student support and program design
- Potential program location(s) and overseas partner(s)
- Brief overview of your potential program concept, indicating how language instruction will be delivered, possible cultural activities, and confirmation that host families could be recruited by in-country partners (for the entirety or a portion of the period of the program)
- Capacity to fully support and ensure the safety and well-being of participants throughout the duration of the program for a meaningful exchange experience

Letters of interest (no more than three single-spaced pages, 10 point font) will be accepted by email attachment to ematts@americanCouncils.org until October 18, 2020. American Councils will invite selected organizations to submit full proposals and budgets for consideration in early December 2020. Final determination on sub-grant recipients and funding levels will be confirmed by early January 2021.
Note that ECA will determine the viability of summer travel in early 2021; if travel is not possible, implementing organizations will be invited to offer virtual programming.

Any questions about NSLI-Y can be addressed to nsly@americancouncils.org or by phone to 202-833-7522.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Emily Matts Henry
Senior Program Manager, NSLI-Y Administration