

From: Su Ryden [su@suryden.com]
Sent: Friday, February 04, 2011 7:58 PM
To: jane.feldman@state.co.us
Subject: Opinion request
Attachments: LFP One Pager & FAQ.pdf; ATT00007.htm; Reciprocal Travel FAQ.pdf; ATT00010.htm

I would like to get an advisory opinion from the IEC regarding the program described below.
thanks,
Rep. Ryden

Su Ryden
State Rep. HD 36-Aurora

Mobile: 303-898-5797
su@suryden.com
www.suryden.com

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Wendy McGill** <wendylumcgill@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Feb 3, 2011 at 10:27 AM
Subject: Legislative Fellows Program
To: su.ryden.house@state.co.us

Dear Representative Ryden:

I am writing to submit information about a State Department program that may be of interest for your office.

The Legislative Fellows Program offers a chance to host a talented, mid-career public-sector professional from Georgia, Ukraine or Russia for a one-month mini-fellowship. Host organizations then have a chance to travel to the fellow's home country. This is a great opportunity to share your experience and learn from the fellow.

Please find information attached to this email, as well as a short blurb about the program below my signature.

Please let me know if you have any questions about or interest in hosting a fellow via the Legislative Fellows Program. I will follow up this email with a phone call and thank you in advance for your consideration.

--

Best Regards,

Wendy Lu McGill
Legislative Fellows Program Placement Consultant
1-303/883-1121

American Councils for International Education
<https://apps.americancouncils.org/lfp/>

Host a talented mid-career, public-sector professional from Georgia, Ukraine or Russia and get a chance to travel to their home country!

In collaboration with the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, American Councils for International Education is seeking government themed mini-fellowships across the country from April 4 – April 30, 2011 for English-speaking, talented mid-career, public-sector professionals from Georgia, Ukraine, and Russia. Prospective Fellows will be traveling to the United States under the auspices of the federally-funded Legislative Fellows Program (LFP).

LFP is seeking interested federal, state, and local government offices and officials, as well as related non-profits nationwide who are interested in hosting a fellow this spring.

LFP Fellows are competitively-selected public servants between 25 and 35 years of age from Georgia, Russia, and Ukraine. They are college educated (many have advanced degrees), speak fluent English as demonstrated by a TOEFL exam, and are eager to learn how Americans address issues such as access to information, transparency in government, rule of law, civil society, work in advocacy, and other related topics, so that they may better their own societies.

While in the United States, Fellows will be available to work a full-time schedule and will be fully supported by American Councils and the U.S. Department of States in terms of compensation, health insurance, etc.

feldman, jane

From: Janak Joshi [janakjoshi.house@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2011 11:46 AM
To: jane.feldman@state.co.us
Subject: Legislative Fellows Program

Dear Jane,

I understand the Ethics Committee will be reviewing the Legislative Fellows Programs on the 23rd. Please put my name on the list of interested legislators and after the program is reviewed please send me your opinion.

Thank you,

Representative Janak Joshi

LFP also offers a unique possibility for US supervisors to participate in a professionally-related reciprocal project in the fellow's home country.

If you are interested in learning more about the Program, please contact LFP Placement Consultant, Wendy Lu McGill, at wendylumcgill@gmail.com or 303/883-1121. You can also read more at <https://apps.americancouncils.org/lfp/>

feldman, jane

From: Wendy McGill [wendylumcgill@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 08, 2011 11:07 AM
To: jane.feldman@state.co.us
Subject: Legislative Fellows Program
Attachments: DC SALES TAX EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE.pdf

Dear Ms. Feldman:

Please find the below information about the travel portion of the Legislative Fellows Program. Let me know if you need any further information or clarification.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and I look forward to receiving the Commission's decision later this month.

—
Best Regards,

Wendy Lu McGill
Legislative Fellows Program Placement Consultant
1-303/883-1121

American Councils for International Education
<https://apps.americancouncils.org/lfp/>

----- Forwarded message -----
From: Leslie Ryan <LRyan@americancouncils.org>
Date: Tue, Feb 8, 2011 at 10:51 AM
Subject: RE: LFP reciprocal travel question
To: Wendy McGill <wendylumcgill@gmail.com>

Hi Wendy,

This does come up from time to time, but all of our state legislators have ultimately been able to get this travel approved through their ethics committees (CA, FL, NM, SD, MA, etc.). However, I understand that it is a tricky issue.

American Councils pays for the transportation, visas, health insurance, etc. directly. Nothing is reimbursed. We submit the visa applications to the embassies, order plane tickets through our travel agent, etc.

Each fellow is allocated a small budget (up to \$500) for the project in his or her country (this covers local transportation, perhaps light refreshments at a meeting set up with members of Parliament, etc.). That money is wired from American Councils directly to the fellow.

The only money that is ever paid to the US participant is per diem, for which we use the government rates. However, there have been a few situations where the legislator could not accept per diem, and therefore, American Councils wired additional money to the fellow to cover the cost of meals for the US participant. In that case, no money was paid from American Councils to the US participant.

US participants are housed in home family stays (just like the fellows are in the US), so there is no cost associated with their housing.

American Councils is a tax exempt non-profit organization. I've attached a copy of our DC Sales Tax Exemption Certificate as proof, although I can get something more substantial if necessary.

Lastly, I would add that reciprocal travel is not required in order to host a fellow at a worksite. So, they could still have a fellow at their office if they were interested.

Hope this helps!

Leslie

Leslie Ryan

Legislative Fellows Program | Program Manager
American Councils for International Education: ACTR/ACCELS
1828 L St. NW, Suite 1200
Washington DC 20036-5104
phone: 202.833.7522
fax: 202.833.7523
email: lryan@americancouncils.org
web: <http://www.americancouncils.org>; and <http://apps.americancouncils.org/LFP>
twitter: www.twitter.com/ac_lfp

From: Wendy McGill [<mailto:wendylumcgill@gmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, February 08, 2011 12:30 PM
To: Leslie Ryan
Subject: LFP reciprocal travel question

Hi Leslie,

Hope all is well on your end! I continue to reach out and follow up with organizations.

In the meantime, the CO Independent Ethics Commission (<http://www.colorado.gov/ethicscommission>) is determining if state legislators can participate in the reciprocal travel. They asked me to find out how the

reciprocal travel costs are paid for, i.e. is air fare provided in the form of a ticket or a reimbursement and do participants receive a per diem, if so, how much? Basically, what specific form are payments made to cover the travel?

Apparently CO has some of the strictest ethics rules for state legislators. I was in PC when this ballot measure was approved.

Let me know if this isn't clear and TIA!

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Best Regards,

Wendy Lu McGill

1-303/883-1121