

intends to ensure adequate capacity of its EWN II system.

Nasdaq has requested that the Commission approve this proposed rule change on an accelerated basis. Nasdaq believes that accelerated approval of this proposal is necessary to ensure that the costs associated with the expansion of its network are allocated uniformly among all NWII subscriber, regardless of whether they are members or non-members. The Commission finds good cause for approving the proposed rule change (SR-NASD-01-11) prior to the thirtieth day after the date of publication of notice thereof in the **Federal Register** in that non-members have been on notice since October 2000 that Nasdaq was proposing to pass along the additional costs as described above and no comments were received by the Commission on SR-NASD-00-74.

It is Therefore Ordered, pursuant to section 19(b)(2) of the Act,¹⁴ that the proposed rule change (SR-NASD-01-11) is hereby approved on an accelerated basis.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.¹

Margaret H. McFarland,
Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 01-4355 Filed 2-21-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010-01-M

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

[Declaration of Economic Injury Disaster #9K78]

State of Florida

Citrus County and the contiguous counties of Hernando, Levy, Marion and Sumter in the State of Florida constitute an economic injury disaster loan area as a result of freezing temperatures beginning in December 2000 and continuing. Eligible small businesses and small agricultural cooperatives without credit available elsewhere may file applications for economic injury assistance as a result of this disaster until the close of business on November 13, 2001 at the address listed below or other locally announced locations: U.S. Small Business Administration, Disaster Area 2 Office, One Baltimore Place, Suite 300, Atlanta, GA 30308.

The interest rate for eligible small businesses and small agricultural cooperatives is 4 percent.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program No. 59002.)

Dated: February 13, 2001.

John Whitmore,

Acting Administrator.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 3578]

Language and Cultural Enhancement Program; Request for Grant Proposals

AGENCY: Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs; State.

SUMMARY: The Office of Citizen Exchanges, Youth Programs Division of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs announces an open competition for a Language and Cultural Enhancement Program. Public and private non-profit organizations meeting the provisions described in IRS regulation 26 CFR 1.501(c) may submit proposals to conduct a four-week homestay-based, English Language and Cultural Enrichment program from mid-July to mid-August, 2001 for 50 students from the New Independent States (NIS) of the former Soviet Union selected for the Freedom Support Act (FSA) Future Leaders Exchange (FLEX) program. Approximately 15 of the participants will be students with physical disabilities who were specially recruited and selected. The remaining 35 students will be from more isolated regions of the NIS, where there is less opportunity for quality English instruction. The purpose of the program is to raise the English capability of these students to the level where they are able to attend regular classes when their academic program starts in the fall. Additionally, this program will ease the acculturation process when students transit to their permanent host families and communities. Only one grant will be awarded. Funds requested for this project may not exceed \$100,000.

Program Information

Objectives: To prepare a select group of students with special needs to attend school in the fall and perform at a level closer to that of those FSA/FLEX students who make up the majority of the program finalists. To provide students with cultural tools and strategies that will foster a successful exchange experience.

Background: Academic year 2001/2002 will be the ninth year of the FSA/FLEX program, which now includes over 8,000 alumni. This component of the NIS Secondary School Initiative was originally authorized under the FREEDOM Support Act of 1992 and is

funded by annual allocations from the Foreign Operations and Department of State appropriations. The goals of the program are to promote mutual understanding and foster a relationship between the people of the NIS and the U.S.; assist the successor generation of the NIS to develop the qualities it will need to lead in the transformation of those countries in the 21st century; and to promote democratic values and civic responsibility by giving NIS youth the opportunity to live in American society for an academic year.

During the program's early years, there was concern that students from the more remote regions of the NIS might be underrepresented because the lack of English competence in those regions could prevent applicants from meeting the rigorous English language requirements of the FLEX recruitment process, including attaining a reasonable score on the Secondary Level English Proficiency (SLEP) examination. To address this concern, a pre-academic year English language enrichment program was developed so that some students from the remote areas could be selected whose SLEP scores were slightly lower than average. In 1996, the FLEX program added a component incorporating students with disabilities, who do have a need for some special language and cultural training before initiating their academic year program. The enhancement program for which proposals are being solicited here is in support of both groups of students.

The essential components of the enhancement program are:

- A four-week course of study in English, approximately 5.5 hours a day, to build on the language skills that the students already have.
- Programming that builds on cultural issues that will have been introduced at the pre-departure orientation for all FSA FLEX students.
- Orientation programming that addresses the special needs of the students with disabilities and their unique adjustment issues.
- Accommodation with volunteer host families for the period of the workshop.
- Preparing the students for the transition to their permanent host families and communities.

Other Components: Two organizations have already been awarded grants to perform the following functions: recruitment and selection of all FLEX students; preparation of cross-cultural materials; pre-departure orientation; international travel from home to host community and return; facilitation of ongoing communication between the natural parents and

¹⁴ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2).

¹⁵ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).