Franklin Fellows Program

September 2012

About the Franklin Fellows Program: President Obama has stated that "government does not have all the answers, and…public officials need to draw on what citizens know." Therefore, he directed the Administration "to find new ways of tapping the knowledge and experience of ordinary Americans – scientists and civic leaders, educators and entrepreneurs – because the way to solve the problems of our time…is by involving the American people in shaping the policies that affect their lives."

The range and complexity of issues facing Americans and the international community is immense. To strengthen their ability to deal with these issues and to involve Americans in creating the policies to confront them, the Department of State and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) created the **Franklin Fellows Program.** This program provides **unique opportunities** for experts with a minimum of five years of relevant, professional-level experience to perform a year of public service as Franklin Fellows at the Department of State or USAID. The **goal** of the program is for Fellows to provide valuable and pertinent advice, views, opinions, alternatives or recommendations on foreign policy and development issues facing the nation, while participating in the implementation of those policies.

Such critical international security challenges include: bilateral and multilateral diplomacy; foreign assistance implementation; nonproliferation; human rights and democracy promotion; protecting the environment; global women's issues; terrorism; public diplomacy; consular services to U.S. citizens; promoting trade; war crimes issues; the global scourges of HIV/AIDS and other trans-national diseases; and many more.

Who Is Eligible? The **Franklin Fellows Program** is open to mid/upper-level professionals from both private-sector and non-profit entities. It is not open to U.S. Government employees. Applicants must have a minimum of five years of professional-level experience relevant to the requested assignment. Applicants must be U.S. citizens and be able to obtain a security clearance. The security clearance will be processed prior to the start of the Fellowship. Candidates do not have to have a security clearance before applying. The Department or USAID will make the final selection and placement of Fellows but will take into account candidates' preferences and suggestions from the nominating/funding entity.

The Franklin Fellows Program welcomes seasoned professionals with a broad range of backgrounds and experiences. In addition to their duties at State or USAID, Fellows may interact via the interagency process with other government and international entities, such as the NSC, the Departments of Defense and Homeland Security and other Executive Branch agencies and the United Nations. Fellows will enhance their own knowledge of government and of global issues, gaining valuable professional experience and enriching their nominating organizations and communities upon their return.

Program Details: Fellows will be matched with State Department and USAID offices that can utilize their expertise. The expected duration of the Fellowship will be approximately one year, with a maximum of a one-year extension. During the Fellowship, Fellows must recuse themselves from matters that might directly and predictably affect the financial interests of their employers and must

comply with other federal ethics regulations. Applicants must submit a financial disclosure form and receive an ethics clearance, prior to serving.

Please Note: The Franklin Fellows Program is not designed to lead to permanent federal employment and does not convey preference in seeking such employment. Nor does it convey the ability to convert non-competitively to a competitive service federal position.

Information for Organizations Interested in Funding/Nominating Fellows: Approved, non-federal entities may participate in the Franklin Fellows Program as follows:

- Such entities, once approved by the State Department or USAID, may continue the salaries/benefits of their selected nominees. Remuneration for Fellows funded directly by their nominating organizations shall remain the sole jurisdiction of the Fellow and the home organization. These Fellows will serve as unpaid consultants/experts.

- Approved entities may donate funds as a gift to the Department of State for support of otherwise-unfunded Fellows in either agency.

- Approved entities may nominate Fellows whom they fund partially or not at all. The program would rely on donations, if available, to support unfunded or partially-funded State or USAID Fellows. At present, no funds are available.

***Individuals* may self-nominate**, if a sponsoring organization is not available. Such Fellows would serve as unpaid consultants/experts. Funds are not available for this program. The Franklin Fellows Program cannot financially support self-nominated/self-funded Fellows. It cannot provide relocation expenses, nor can it provide or find accommodations in the city of assignment.

Security Clearance: The Department of State or USAID will pay for the security investigation and clearance. Applicants cover costs for fingerprinting, document preparation and mailing.

Official In-Service Travel: Once the Fellow begins service, the Department of State or USAID may choose to send the Fellow on official domestic or international travel. There is no promise or guarantee of such travel. If there is such travel, the host office will fund it, including transportation, lodging and per diem.

Contacts/Website: Additional information about the Franklin Fellows Program can be found at www.careers.state.gov/FF. Points of contact are:

William P. Pope, Senior Advisor for Fellows, 202-261-8863, popewp@state.gov.

Inquiries from academia: Robert Dry, Academic Liaison and Advisor for Fellows, 202-261-8871, dryrw@state.gov.

Other candidates: John Moran, Advisor for Fellows, 202-261-8867, moranjg@state.gov

Program Manager: Mayra Robinson, 202-261-8865, robinsonml@state.gov

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