Sponsor/Title: Department of State (DOS) - FY26 Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study (YES)

External Link: https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/361678

Funding Opportunity Number: DFOP0017979

Submission Limitation per Institution: One (1)

Notre Dame Limited Submissions Listing:
https://research.nd.edu/our-services/funding-opportunities/faculty/limited-submissions-program/

Internal Expression of Interest Deadline: 2026-04-13

Sponsor Application Deadline: 2026-05-26

Purpose: The FY 2026 Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study (YES) advances America's interests by building a network of young leaders who understand and support U.S. culture and America First priorities. The program forges lasting relationships between Americans and peers worldwide, develops leadership skills, and showcases the United States as a global leader in innovation, governance, and economic prosperity.

Goals and Objectives: YES advances Administration priorities by engaging high school-aged youth in exchange programs. By reaching participants at a formative age and shaping the next generation of leaders, these programs promote pro-American networks, showcase American excellence, strengthen U.S. global influence, and build strategic partnerships that support America's long-term economic and national security interests.

Program Goals:

1. **Advance U.S. Interests and Principles**
    - Build a global network of young leaders who understand and support America First principles, priorities, and policies.
    - Strengthen linkages and lasting ties between the United States and participating countries.
2. **Develop Leadership and Entrepreneurial Skills**
    - Equip participants with leadership and entrepreneurship skills that foster future innovation, prosperity, and security.
    - Showcase American excellence in governance, business, and civic engagement.
3. **Promote Cultural Exchange and Community Engagement**
    - Facilitate meaningful cultural immersion experiences for international and American (if proposed) high school participants.
    - Encourage active participation in host communities through volunteer service, extracurricular activities, and cultural events.

Program Objectives:

- YES inbound participants will develop an appreciation for U.S. culture and gain a deeper understanding of foundational American principles, including freedom of speech, civic engagement, and excellence in innovation.
- YES and YES Abroad (if proposed) participants will develop an appreciation for their host cultures and broaden their perspectives and language abilities through direct engagement and exchange.

- YES and YES Abroad (if proposed) participants will actively share information about their home cultures with their hosts and local communities while building lasting relationships.
- YES Abroad (if proposed) participants will demonstrate and share U.S. ideals, including freedom of speech, civic engagement, and business principles, in their host communities.
- YES and YES Abroad (if proposed) participants will develop leadership skills that empower them, as alumni, to initiate development and community service activities in their home countries.

Internal Application Requirements: Upload the following information to the Google Form at https://forms.gle/guNroKiT4sNfmwjcA by the internal deadline:

- Name of the Principal Investigator (PI)
- Project Title
- All ND Collaborators:
    - For each ND Collaborator listed, include name, department or unit, and specific role for this project in three sentences (maximum).
- Project Summary: Three (3) pages (maximum) addressing the following Review Criteria as outlined on pages 28-29, in the NOFO.
    - Quality of the program idea and program planning
    - Ability to achieve program aims and purpose
    - Multiplier effect/impact
    - Performance Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

Questions: Contact Notre Dame Research Limited Submissions at limited@nd.edu.

Unless otherwise noted, all internal applications are due by 11:59 PM Eastern Time on the internal expression of interest deadline.

Applications submitted after the deadline will not be accepted.