

October 8, 2009

Dear Colleague:

The National Foreign Language Center solicits proposals from eligible schools, post-secondary institutions, or community-based organizations to participate in the STARTALK project. STARTALK is part of a federal initiative to enhance the national capacity for critical need languages. The goal of the STARTALK program is to increase the number and expertise of students and teachers in critical languages. For more information on STARTALK please visit: [startalk.umd.edu](http://startalk.umd.edu)

In 2010, the STARTALK project will provide funding for programs that occur primarily in the summer in the following categories:

- Programs that offer professional development opportunities for current or prospective teachers of Arabic, Chinese, Dari, Hindi, Persian, Russian, Swahili, Turkish, and/or Urdu. Teacher programs are strongly encouraged to provide a student component to allow classroom observation and/or teaching practicum or micro-teaching.
- Programs that offer Arabic, Chinese, Hindi, Persian, Swahili, Turkish, and/or Urdu language study for students within the K-16 range. Please note that student programs will NOT be funded for Dari or Russian in 2010 except in conjunction with teacher development programs.

STARTALK funding for 2010 programs is currently at the same level as for 2009, with a mandate to add teacher programs in two additional languages and to reach an additional seven states. We therefore expect greater competition for funding this year. Awards per program will be capped at \$100,000. The electronic application form will NOT accept budgets with totals above \$100,000. Please note that budgets should include the cost of sending at least two representatives to mandatory pre- and post-program meetings, planned for the Atlanta, GA area.

STARTALK funds cannot be used to fund study abroad programs; all instruction must occur in the United States (with the potential for U.S. territorial or tribal participation).

If funded, programs will be expected to adhere to STARTALK “best practice” principles in implementing the program. Specifically, programs will be required to:

- a. have all instructors and curriculum planners complete the Online Curriculum Design Guidelines tutorial: [startalk.umd.edu/curriculum-guide](http://startalk.umd.edu/curriculum-guide)
- b. submit for approval curriculum plans *for each level of language instruction* in student programs and for teacher training programs
- c. attend the April 2010 Pre-program Network Meeting and October 2010 Post-program Summative Meeting.

Research is an important part of the STARTALK Program. If funded, programs will be required to:

- a. participate in STARTALK Central pre- and post-program online surveys for student and teacher participants;
- b. participate in LinguaFolio Online for student programs, middle school and higher;
- c. respond promptly to all requests for reports, data, and program information.

STARTALK Central will provide consultation and advice for programs selected for funding. Guidance will also be provided in the preparation of documents that will be required prior to program implementation, such as detailed curricula, lesson plans, and descriptions of expected participant outcomes.

The 2010 STARTALK application is online and located at [startalk.umd.edu/proposals](http://startalk.umd.edu/proposals). We strongly encourage all applicants to apply online. If you are unable to submit or complete an online application form, please contact us at [startalk@nflc.org](mailto:startalk@nflc.org). All applications must be submitted by 11:59 pm, **November 5, 2009**.

Information on the STARTALK proposal and selection criteria is attached, and is also available at [startalk.umd.edu/proposals](http://startalk.umd.edu/proposals). If you have a question about the online application or the application process itself, please submit it in writing to [startalk@nflc.org](mailto:startalk@nflc.org), no later than Friday, October 16, 2009. Responses will be posted at [startalk.umd.edu/proposals/faq](http://startalk.umd.edu/proposals/faq) Friday, October 23, 2009. Additionally, tech support for the STARTALK proposal process will be provided from October 8<sup>th</sup> to October 28<sup>th</sup>, weekdays, from 9am-5pm (Eastern time) and from 9am-9pm weekdays from October 29<sup>th</sup> to November 5<sup>th</sup>, (Eastern time). For assistance with any technological issues, please email: [startalk-support@nflc.org](mailto:startalk-support@nflc.org). You may wish to include a phone number where you can be reached.

Sincerely,



Catherine Ingold  
Director, NFLC