

SGA amount for non-blind individuals is \$800 for 2003.

Trial Work Period Earnings Threshold

General

During a trial work period, a beneficiary receiving Social Security disability benefits may test his or her ability to work and still be considered disabled. We do not consider services performed during the trial work period as showing that the disability has ended until services have been performed in at least 9 months (not necessarily consecutive) in a rolling 60-month period. In 2002, any month in which earnings exceed \$560 is considered a month of services for an individual's trial work period. In 2003, this monthly amount increases to \$570.

Computation

The method used to determine the new amount is set forth in our regulations at 20 CFR 404.1592(b). Monthly earnings in 2003, used to determine whether a month is part of a trial work period, is such amount for 2001 multiplied by the ratio of the national average wage index for 2001 to that for 1999, or, if larger, such amount for 2002. If the amount so calculated is not a multiple of \$10, we round it to the nearest multiple of \$10.

Amount

Multiplying the 2001 monthly earnings threshold (\$530) by the ratio of the national average wage index for 2001 (\$32,921.92) to that for 1999 (\$30,469.84) produces the amount of \$572.65. We then round this amount to \$570. Because \$570 is larger than the current amount of \$560, the monthly earnings threshold is \$570 for 2003.

Domestic Employee Coverage Threshold

General

The minimum amount a domestic worker must earn so that such earnings are covered under Social Security or Medicare is the domestic employee coverage threshold. For 2003, this threshold is \$1,400. Section 3121(x) of the Internal Revenue Code provides the formula for increasing the threshold.

Computation

Under the formula, the domestic employee coverage threshold amount for 2003 shall be equal to the 1995 amount of \$1,000 multiplied by the ratio of the national average wage index for 2001 to that for 1993. If the resulting amount is not a multiple of \$100, it shall be rounded to the next lower multiple of \$100.

Domestic Employee Coverage Threshold Amount

Multiplying the 1995 domestic employee coverage threshold amount (\$1,000) by the ratio of the national average wage index for 2001 (\$32,921.92) to that for 1993 (\$23,132.67) produces the amount of \$1,423.18. We then round this amount to \$1,400. Accordingly, the domestic employee coverage threshold amount is \$1,400 for 2003.

Election Worker Coverage Threshold

General

The minimum amount an election worker must earn so that such earnings are covered under Social Security or Medicare is the election worker coverage threshold. For 2003, this threshold is \$1,200. Section 218(c)(8)(B) of the Act provides the formula for increasing the threshold.

Computation

Under the formula, the election worker coverage threshold amount for 2003 shall be equal to the 1999 amount of \$1,000 multiplied by the ratio of the national average wage index for 2001 to that for 1997. If the amount so determined is not a multiple of \$100, it shall be rounded to the nearest multiple of \$100.

Election Worker Coverage Threshold Amount

Multiplying the 1999 election worker coverage threshold amount (\$1,000) by the ratio of the national average wage index for 2001 (\$32,921.92) compared to that for 1997 (\$27,426.00) produces the amount of \$1,200.39. We then round this amount to \$1,200. Accordingly, the election worker coverage threshold amount is \$1,200 for 2003.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance: Program Nos. 96.001 Social Security-Disability Insurance; 96.002 Social Security-Retirement Insurance; 96.004 Social Security-Survivors Insurance; 96.006 Supplemental Security Income)

Dated: October 18, 2002.

Jo Anne B. Barnhart,

Commissioner of Social Security.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Bureau of Consular Affairs

[Public Notice 4173]

Extension of Certain Foreign Passports Validity

In accordance with section 212(a)(7)(B) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(7)(B)), a nonimmigrant alien who makes an application for a visa or for admission into the United States is required to possess a passport that:

(1) Is valid for a minimum of six months beyond the date of the expiration of the initial period of the alien's admission into the United States or contemplated initial period of stay and,

(2) Authorizes the alien to return to the country from which he or she came, or to proceed to and enter some other country during such period. Because of the foregoing requirement, the governments of certain countries (and other competent authorities) have agreed that their passports will be recognized as valid for the return of the bearer for a period of six months beyond the expiration date specified in the passport, thereby effectively extending the validity period of the foreign passport an additional six months beyond its expiration date, see 22 CFR 41.104(b).

This public notice adds Romania to the list of competent authorities that have provided the necessary assurances to the Government of the United States. This notice also adds Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Guatemala and Guyana to the list. These countries have had agreements in place for some time, but were inadvertently dropped from the list in previous notices. The updated list of competent authorities that have made the necessary assurances is shown below:

Table of Foreign Passports Recognized for Extended Validity

Algeria
Antigua & Barbuda
Argentina
Australia
Austria
Bahamas, the
Bangladesh
Barbados
Belgium
Bolivia
Bosnia-Herzegovina
Brazil
Canada
Chile
Colombia
Costa Rica

Cote D'ivoire
Croatia
Cuba
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Denmark
Dominica
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
Egypt
El Salvador
Ethiopia
Finland
France
Germany
Greece
Grenada
Guatemala
Guinea
Guyana
Hong Kong (Certificates of identity & passports)
Hungary
Iceland
India
Ireland
Israel
Italy
Jamaica
Sweden
Switzerland
Syria
Taiwan
Thailand
Togo
Trinidad & Tobago
Japan
Jordan
Korea
Kuwait
Laos
Latvia
Lebanon
Liechtenstein
Luxembourg
Macau
Madagascar
Malaysia
Malta
Mauritius
Mexico
Monaco
Netherlands
New Zealand
Nicaragua
Nigeria
Norway
Oman
Pakistan
Panama
Paraguay
Peru
Philippines
Poland
Portugal
Qatar
Romania
Russia
Senegal

Singapore
Slovak Republic
Slovenia
South Africa
Spain
Sri Lanka
St. Kitts & Nevis
St. Lucia
St. Vincent & the Grenadines
Sudan
Suriname
Tunisia
Turkey
United Arab Emirates
United Kingdom
Uruguay
Venezuela
Zimbabwe

Public Notice 4075 of August 6, 2002 published at 67 FR 50973 hereby superseded.

Dated: October 20, 2002.

George C. Lannon,

Acting Assistant Secretary for Consular Affairs, Department of State.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 4177]

Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs Request for Grant Proposals: Future Leaders Exchange (FLEX) Disability Reentry Workshop; Notice: Request for Grant Proposals

Summary: The Office of Citizen Exchanges, Youth Programs Division, of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs announces an open competition for the FLEX Disability Reentry Workshop. Public and private non-profit organizations meeting the provisions described in Internal Revenue Code section 26 U.S.C. 501(c)(3) may submit proposals for the conduct of a special reentry workshop to be held in April 2003 for students with disabilities participating in the 2002/03 Future Leaders Exchange (FLEX) program. Approximately 16-18 students will participate in this workshop. All programs must comply with J-1 visa regulations. Please refer to the Solicitation Package for further information.

Budget Guidelines: Applicants must submit a comprehensive budget for the entire program. Awards may not exceed \$35,000. There must be a summary budget as well as breakdowns reflecting both administrative and program budgets. Applicants may provide separate sub-budgets for each program component, phase, location, or activity to provide clarification. Administrative

costs should be kept as low as possible. Cost sharing is encouraged. Allowable costs for the program include the following:

- (1) Round-trip transportation for participants from their host communities to/from the workshop site.
- (2) Daily travel at workshop site location as necessary.
- (3) Accommodations and meals for participants during the time of the workshop.
- (4) Rental of facilities and equipment.
- (5) Fees for relevant excursions and cultural activities.
- (6) Honoraria for speakers/trainers, as appropriate.
- (7) Necessary reasonable accommodations.
- (8) Materials development.

Please refer to the Solicitation Package for complete budget guidelines and formatting instructions.

The Future Leaders Exchange (FLEX) program brings secondary school students from Eurasia to the U.S. for an academic year. During their time in the U.S., FLEX students live with American host families and attend U.S. high schools.

Note: For more information on the FLEX program, you may refer to the Youth Programs Division Web site: [<http://exchanges.state.gov/education/citizens/students/>].

Since 1995, the FLEX program has included a component for students with disabilities. This has been challenging since individuals with disabilities are treated very differently in Eurasia than they are in the U.S. In Eurasia, most disabled young people attend special schools, largely institutions, and being disabled carries a major stigma. Most young, disabled individuals either are ignored by parents who are ashamed of them or are overprotected by parents who are concerned that they cannot function independently.

Generally, FLEX participants with disabilities adjust well to American life and culture and realize the same positive effects as non-disabled participants. However, after having enjoyed the accessibility and other disability supports that exist in the U.S., they frequently are not well-prepared to return to the less disability-friendly environments of their Eurasian home countries. The major purpose of this special reentry workshop is to help prepare them to readjust to their home cultures. It is Bureau policy that recruitment of people with disabilities at every level should be a priority in all sponsored programming. If this is to be done effectively, it becomes equally important to adequately prepare