

Note from the UAA Board, March 12, 2025

Colleagues,

From the Board of UAA, we are sending out a mid-month Newsletter to keep alumni informed about recent events affecting USAID and foreign assistance.

IMMEDIATE ACTION

1. The U.S Global Leadership Coalition (USGLC) is an umbrella organization formed by businesses and NGOs, national security and foreign policy experts, faith-based and community leaders from across the U.S. The USGLC THIS WEEK is sponsoring a letter-writing campaign in support of the "150 Account" which is the Congressional Budget account that funds a number of U.S. international activities, including foreign assistance. During this week USGLC would like USAID alumni to join in letter writing, especially to our Representatives in each of our states. You can get more details by going to the USGLC site: www.usglc.org and/or to www.saferstronger.org. We must do what we can to inform the budget resolution discussion going on right now, and before the Continuing Resolution expires on Friday.

2. If you are in the DMV and are able to attend, please note that on Wednesday March 12, Thursday 13, and Friday 14 the USAID staff at the Annex will be allowed to go in and gather their personal effects. The timing is as follows: Wednesday 12th, from 8-10 and 11-1; 400 C St. SW. Thursday 13, from 8 - 4:30; 500 D St. SW. Friday 14, from 8 - 4; 500 D St. SW.

ONGOING EFFORTS

1. Staff Repatriation. It now appears that all staff overseas must prepare their travel requests and submit them no later than March 20. Travel will begin shortly thereafter, picking up steam o/a May 30. Staff may request exceptions, and those deemed essential may stay on. At this point the destination of their travel is not clear, though the two likely choices (not necessarily made by staff) will be either Washington DC or Home Leave of Record.

2. Media and Hill Engagement. We have sent out messages to our regional points of contact to engage with alumni in their regions, and through them to their elected representatives. The Ad-Hoc Advocacy group OneAID would be interested in greater involvement by USAID alumni on Hill engagement, regardless of political party or preference. If you would like to participate, please communicate with Tony Prior or Ken Yamashita via office@usaidalumni.org. You can learn more about OneAID on their site: www.oneaidcommunity.org. Separately, there is a team looking for alumni to submit Letters to the Editor and Op-Eds in towns and communities across the U.S. outside of the DMV. They have a team that supports this effort by drafting the letters. If you are interested, please contact NancyFBlackett@gmail.com. The team will reply to you, usually within 24 - 48 hours, with a draft letter that you can submit. It will even include the mailing address and word count. Alumni are free to tweak the letters as

they see fit but are asked to respect the papers' word count limits. Also on a local level, there is interest in engaging with community radio interviews on the impact of USAID and foreign assistance. Local radio is an especially important media in small communities as the radio hosts are often trusted sources of news. If you are interested, please contact **Hoosier.USA@proton.me**

3. Staff Support. We have been looking into how we might financially support staff across all hiring categories. There are a couple of different components to staff support. One is that UAA has a team looking at providing financial support to both GS and FS who are terminated/RIFed. That support may be in the form of grants and/or loans, and if the latter we are looking to partner with Lafayette Federal Credit Union (LFCU). We are continuing discussions about fundraising and about how decisions will be made for distributions from the fund that is created. We are consulting with former administrators as part of this effort. Another component is the provision of non-financial services, such as job search, counseling, housing, financial planning, relocation, etc., and that is being managed outside of UAA by other individuals and organizations. We will report on that significant and active effort later.

4. Multiple organizations are interested in a variety of areas related to knowledge management and legacy, or, as we call it, "Keeping the Flame." The interests range from preservation of key documents to continuing to highlight the importance of assistance, to discussions around how assistance might be delivered from a State platform. As there are many aspects to this area, UAA is taking part in several lines of action to better understand what interested parties are doing and what is the most useful role for UAA. Keep in mind that UAA has traditionally had a strong program with the Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training (ADST) and their Oral Histories program, along with the American Universities Archives program. We have also partnered with DACOR to host numerous events around topics of interest to the development community and the UAA membership.

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