

# Proposed J1 Changes

In an effort to keep you abreast of all industry news related to the J-1 Work and Travel Program, we want to inform you of the recent proposed changes from The Department of State to the General Provisions of the J-1 visa regulations (RIN 1400-AC36; Exchange Visitor Program-General Provisions). Below is a summary of the proposed changes and the impact they could have on the J-1 Work and Travel Program. ***We are opposed to the first two points mentioned, and are in favor of the third point.***

We ask that you send a letter to the Department of State and to your Congressional Representative addressing the following issues:

- 1. In an effort to vet host sites (employers) and overseas partners (each of our offices) the State Department has requested that all U.S. employers have a Dun & Bradstreet number and profile (report).**
  - a. The cost of a report is \$65.00 per partner and per host site
  - b. Such reports do not exist for some partners and could jeopardize their participation
  - c. Sponsor organizations already have their own vetting process. Some sponsors are arguing that using Employer Identification Numbers (EIN), which are free, is one alternative to Dun & Bradstreet Reports.
  
- 2. The State Department is requesting yearly audits of all private sector programs.**
  - a. If every program in every season is audited separately each year it will be enormously time consuming and expensive.
  - b. Some sponsor organizations are recommending that the audits be consolidated so that the programs can be audited simultaneously (audits are currently phased), and that audits take place less frequently.
  
- 3. The State Department is requesting that all sponsors verify a placement (has a job offer) before the DS-2019 form can be issued.**
  - a. This would eliminate participants traveling to the United States without a job offer. As we all experienced last year, in tough economic times, failure to secure a job in advance causes additional stress on employers and participants, and generates negative sentiments towards the program.

Best Regards,

Employer Services Team

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