The Open World Leadership Center, a Legislative Branch agency, supports Congressional efforts in international outreach.

It is a unique but no less powerful tool for Congress to engage local leaders and legislatures in critical regions of the world.

Authentic communication and enduring relations are established and then fostered through the Center’s expansive alumni network.
Board of Trustees

Chairman E. Benjamin Nelson
Senator for Nebraska (2001-2013)

Dr. Carla Hayden
Librarian of Congress

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Subcommittee on Legislative Branch

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Chairman, House Appropriations
Subcommittee on Legislative Branch

Hon. David Price
United States House of Representatives

Hon. Jeff Fortenberry
United States House of Representatives

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Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

Hon. David Dreier
Chairman of the Board, Tribune Publishing Company

Hon. Catherine O’Malley
Baltimore City District Judge

***

Ms. Jane Sargus, Executive Director
Message from the Executive Director

The Open World Leadership Center (the Center) conducts a one-of-a-kind program in the U.S. legislative branch that has hosted more than 29,000 emerging leaders from Russia, Ukraine and other post-Soviet states. Participants engage in authentic communication with Members of Congress and constituents. The highly-regarded Open World program has also played an increasingly vital role in the political landscapes of many countries throughout Eurasia. The Center works in close collaboration with its Board of Trustees, Members of Congress and their staff, the Subcommittees on Legislative Branch Appropriations, and our embassies across Eurasia, to support and promote Congressional outreach through its unique Open World program, one of the most effective U.S. exchange programs for countries in transition.

As one of the support agencies of Congress, the Center strives daily to be a model agency worthy of the Legislative Branch. To that end, we operate on a fully transparent, cost-effective, and efficient basis. We keep our overhead rate at around 7% and seek more cost sharing opportunities with our partners in Open World countries. Open World’s emerging leaders stay in private homes in an American community equivalent to their own. The Open World program nurtures civic and political environments where civil society develops not only from the top down, but also from the ground up and the periphery in. Because of this network, these future leaders form positive views of the United States and come to recognize the value of good relations.

As we enter our third decade, the Center continues to support Congressional efforts in international outreach by providing relevant, informative, and timely programs for foreign legislators and the best and brightest young professionals in Open World program countries.

Sincerely,

Jane Sargus
Executive Director
Program Objectives

The Open World Leadership Center is committed to a strategy designed to strengthen our work in support of Congress and to cement our legislative identity. To that end, the Center adopted four goals that are both measurable and attainable.

Goals

- Ensure that the Center is a resource, an asset, and an investment for Congress: Under this goal, the Center specifically addresses Congressional interests and requests. In addition, delegations of legislators at the national and local levels comprise a substantial portion of the total number of participants. Finally, Members of Congress and their staff receive first-hand actionable information of interest during face to face meetings with rising leaders from these countries.

- Enhance the reach of the Center to strategically important countries by enabling legislation and with the approval of the Board of Trustees, the Center is able to respond quickly to Congressional requests to engage emerging leaders of strategically important countries.

- Operate as a model, cost-effective, responsive agency: The Center is keenly aware of the importance of being an effective and efficient fiscal steward. In that capacity, interagency agreements, low overhead and responsible grant making are hallmarks of the Center’s high impact, low cost operations.

- Intensify the Center’s outreach to U.S. missions abroad, to grantees, and to other stakeholders: The Center has begun the implementation of a communications strategy as well as increased efforts to secure private funding for alumni programming.
Measures of Success

The Center continues to focus its programming on a geographically and professionally broad cross-section of emerging leaders who might not otherwise have the opportunity to visit the United States:

➤ Participants have come from every political region of the former Soviet sphere of influence.
➤ More than 11,000 federal, regional, and local government officials have participated, including 713 Members of Parliament and Parliamentary Staff; 3,758 regional legislators and staff; and 4,394 judges and judicial/legal professionals.
➤ The average age of an Open World program participant is 33, with 34% of the participants under the age 30 and under.
➤ More than 15% of all participants were national and regional legislators and staff.
➤ The average cost per participant of the Open World program is $8,800-9,200.

Interest in the Open World program remains robust within American hosting communities. The demand for hosting Open World delegations is more than triple the supply of available slots due to funding limitations. Delegates are hosted by a large and dedicated group of American citizens who live in state capitals, other large cities, small towns, and rural communities throughout the United States.
Participating Countries

Armenia
Azerbaijan
Belarus
Estonia
Georgia
Kazakhstan
Kosovo
Kyrgyzstan
Moldova
Mongolia
Peru
Russia
Serbia
Tajikistan
Turkmenistan
Ukraine
Uzbekistan
Staff

Executive Director
Jane Sargus

Deputy Executive Director
Maura Shelden

Program Managers
Lewis Madanick, Matt Tucker, Alexa King

Program Assistants
John P. Johanson and Ryland Penta

Alumni Outreach Assistant
Christina Filipovich

Office Manager
Grace Barnhill

Country Director for the Russian Federation
Alexander Khilkov
**Calendar Year 2019 Highlights**

In 2019, the Open World Leadership Center hosted a total of 1,020 delegates from 16 countries in more than 121 American host communities in 48 states. In a climate of uncertainty in the international arena, the Center continues to serve as a resource of unvarnished information for Members of Congress and their constituencies throughout the United States. Our three signature 10-day exchanges – Members of Parliament, Judicial Rule of Law, and Civic Programs – have resulted in the creation of a vital network of more than 29,000 emerging leaders that have had first-hand, peer-to-peer exposure to the United States. In 2019, the Open World Leadership Center brought its 20,000th participant from Russia and its 4,000th participant from Ukraine. With support from the Department of State and the Agency for International Development (USAID), the Center anticipates bringing approximately 1,000 emerging leaders to communities throughout the United States in 2020\(^1\). Country highlights from 2019 follow the chart below.

### Participation by Country

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>As Of 12/31/2019</th>
<th>2019 Completed</th>
<th>2020 Scheduled</th>
<th>Fiscal 2021 Projected</th>
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<td>Armenia</td>
<td>157</td>
<td>24</td>
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<td>Egypt</td>
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<td>Estonia</td>
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<td>Uzbekistan</td>
<td>185</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other programs</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>29,073</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,020</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,071</strong></td>
<td><strong>862</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^1\) Other programs include the Rumsfeld Foundation Fellows from most Open World countries; House Democracy Partnership delegations; and other special delegations formed as a result of significant costsharing.

\(^2\) This number is the most that can be hosted with appropriated funds only (including recovered funds, revenue, and other offsets). The number will grow if USAID funds are transferred during the course of the fiscal year.

* Countries in *italics* are inactive.

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\(^1\) Due to the international COVID-19 pandemic, Open World programming in 2020 was primarily virtual.
Open World Leadership Center Celebrates 20 Years

Dr. James H. Billington
The Librarian of Congress

&

Founding Chairman of the Open World Leadership Center

In celebration of its 20th year, the Open World Leadership Center (the Center) held an event to commemorate this significant milestone and legacy of Dr. James H. Billington. It was a joy to assemble Open World’s stakeholders – from Members of Congress, program alumni, including one gentleman for the very first cohort of Russians who traveled in 1999, to representatives from our grantees – and to hear about the impact the Open World program has had on their careers and in their communities. In addition to our core stakeholders, we were also pleased to host a delegation of newly elected Members of Parliament from Ukraine.

Dr. James H. Billington, founded the Open World Leadership Center with the support of the U.S. Congress in 1999. The Center administers the Open World program, one of the most effective U.S. exchange programs with post-Soviet countries. The Center is the first and only international exchange agency in the U.S. Legislative Branch. Dr. Billington, the Librarian of Congress for 28 years, played a unique role in preserving, promoting, and sharing America’s rich cultural heritage. He was one of our country’s foremost Russian experts, and spent more than 50 years helping America’s leaders and citizens better understand the former Soviet Union and its successor states. As the founding chairman of the Open World Leadership Center, which has brought thousands of emerging Eurasian leaders to the United States, Dr. Billington contributed to a greater appreciation of America’s values and institutions in countries stretching across one-third of the globe.
Congressional Outreach

The Open World Leadership Center made great strides in 2019 to strengthen its relationship with the U.S. Congress and further engage Members of Congress in our parliamentary programs. To that end, 2019 was the first year that the Center cooperated with congressional caucuses to put on joint events to introduce Open World delegations of Members of Parliament. In November 2019, the Center paired with the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues to hold a reception for a delegation of Members of Parliament from Armenia. Also in November 2019, the Center paired with the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus to hold reception for a delegation of newly elected members of the Ukrainian Parliament. The Center plans to increase the number of congressional events held in conjunction with congressional caucuses and committees in 2020.

Open World’s Parliamentary program is profoundly effective because it provides the participants the opportunity to present their country and its issues to Members of Congress. The connection established during this program leads to great ongoing relationships with Open World parliamentary alumni. These parliamentary alumni are eager to nominate other strong candidates and to help develop programmatic themes for future delegations based on the necessities of their country. This one-on-one contact and unrivaled access, and the fact that the Center individually tailors each program, has made these exchanges beneficial for both the visiting Parliamentarians and the Members of Congress with whom they meet and whom the Open World Leadership Center serves. The Center plans to continue and enhance this important programming in 2020.
Highlights from Ukraine

From 2003 to 2019, the Center hosted 4,037 Ukrainian emerging leaders. The Center’s objective in Ukraine is to further democratic and free-market processes by providing a new generation of Ukrainian leaders with the vision, skills, and tools needed to develop their country at this critical juncture in its history and while it faces Russian aggression in its South and East. Open World programming in Ukraine is aimed at furthering the reform efforts of the new government, furthering legislative reform, assisting in the decentralization process, promoting the rule of law, improving transparency in the public and private sectors, responding to the humanitarian needs of a war-torn society, and providing a secure safety net to a population demanding change.

In the past year, the Center has seen many of its alumni take critical positions in the new government and take the vanguard on reform. Among the Center’s more than 4,000 alumni in Ukraine are the Minister and Deputy Minister of Healthcare; the Deputy Minister of Veteran Affairs/Temporarily Occupied Territories; two Deputy Ministers of Education and Science; the Deputy Minister of Youth and Sports; and the First Deputy Prosecutor General. The Center also works closely with four additional alumni that are close advisors to Ukraine’s President. In addition, twenty-one Members of the Parliament of Ukraine (Verkhovna Rada) are alumni, including fifteen new Members. These alumni include the Heads of the Committees on Legal Policy, Education, and on Science and Innovation; the First Deputy Heads of the Committees on Anticorruption Issues and on Budgeting; and the Secretaries of the Committees on Foreign Policy, Inter-parliamentary Cooperation, and Health. In addition, five Open World alumni have been appointed to the newly formed High Anti-Corruption Court, three in the General Chamber and two in the Appeals division.

The power of the Center’s alumni network can be gauged by the success of recent alumni programs such as those on Health Care/Medical Reform Issues, Veterans Affairs, and Decentralization/Economic Development in Eastern Ukraine. Altogether, the Center conducted 11 alumni events in Ukraine.
throughout 2019 with the participation of more than 450 program alumni. At the February 2019 Medical Reform event, the former Acting Minister of Healthcare of Ukraine, an active nominator of the program, expressed admiration for Open World program alumni and spoke about the long-term successful cooperation the Ministry of Health has had with the Center, even indicating that she specifically looks for Open World program alumni when she is hiring. At the Veterans Affairs event in October 2019, Open World alumna, Member of Parliament and wounded warrior Yana Zinkevych spoke about her Open World program experience and shared how her participation gave her the courage to join the election campaign and run successfully to become a Member of Parliament. She was followed by Deputy Minister of Veteran Affairs/Temporarily Occupied Territories and wounded warrior Oleksandr Tereshchenko who spoke about how the Open World program inspired him on his professional accomplishments having risen from the director of a small NGO in Mykolaiv to the Deputy Head of the Academy of Patrol Police to his current position.

Open World program results are widespread among emerging Ukrainian leaders in many sectors. Open World program alumni teams have received U.S. Embassy grants aimed at transparency in educational budgeting, empowering youth in remote areas, supporting socially responsible youth startups, promoting women in politics, and furthering best practices in education and academic integrity. From the NGO Director working to develop and transform the war-torn Donetsk region awarded an Honorable Service medal personally by President Zelensky to small scale woman agriculture leaders expanding the use of greenhouses to an alumna winning international grants to install solar panels on the roof of a rural school, the Center is proud of the achievements of its more than 4,000 alumni in Ukraine. The Center hosted its 4,000th participant from Ukraine in October 2019. This delegate from Kharkiv was also able to participate in the celebration of the 30th Anniversary of the Cincinnati-Kharkiv sister city partnership, which the Center has been supporting since program inception in 2003.

Due to Ukraine’s strategic significance, the Center regularly consults with House and Senate Ukraine Caucus members and works closely with the leadership of the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv to design
programming that is responsive to the needs of a new government promising reform and that is still facing aggression and the occupation of about seven percent (7%) of its territory. In 2020, the Center will focus its programming on new Members of the Ukrainian Parliament/Legislative Processes, Decentralization/Regional Government, Health System and Education Reform, Rule of Law, Media/Investigative Journalism, Minority Inclusion Issues, Anti-Corruption Efforts, Entrepreneurship and Business Development, Agriculture, Energy Issues, Veteran’s Programs and other Social Safety Net Issues. All programming is aimed at strengthening democratic institutions and promoting good governance. As part of the 2020 planning efforts, the Center is embarking on an initiative to provide as many of the 323 new Members of Ukraine’s Parliament as calendars permit with programming aimed at providing them exposure to the U.S. Congress and legislative processes at all levels of governance. Four new members of Ukraine’s Parliament, including two high-ranking members representing President Zelensky’s party, one representing the “Fatherland” party, and one independent representative of the “For the Future” faction, visited with the Center in November 2019, to work on the design of this ambitious initiative. The Open World Leadership Center’s Executive Director Jane Sargus and Deputy Executive Director Maura Shelden followed up this visit by traveling to Ukraine in December on a program planning mission and met with the leadership at the U.S. Mission, the Speaker of the Parliament, and other stakeholders, such as the USAID implementer of the Responsible Accountable Democracy Assembly (RADA) program, with which the Center has worked very closely.
Highlights from Russia

From 1999 to 2019, the Open World Leadership Center hosted 20,134 young Russian leaders. In calendar year 2019, the Center hosted 341 Russian participants in 57 exchanges. Delegates came from 67 of Russia’s 89 administrative subjects, included a wide range of ethnic groups, and were hosted in 42 host communities in 30 U.S. states. Women made up 56% of the delegates.

The Center has maintained a robust program in Russia, despite the continued deterioration of U.S.-Russia relations. In 2019, the Center welcomed its 20,000th Russian participant. The alumni community in the country continues to show a willingness to meet with their American counterparts in Russia, and recommend the program to their colleagues and professional contacts. Russian alumni have self-organized an alumni association and elected leadership to plan activities and networking opportunities.

In 2020, Open World programs will focus on maintaining partnerships, increasing people-to-people contacts in order to counter disinformation, and foster greater mutual understanding. We will prioritize programs that reinforce long standing partnerships, such as sister city relationships and Rotary club partnerships. The program will counter anti-American propaganda and promote a positive image of the United States by linking professionals with their U.S. counterparts and providing a host family experience for each participant. Program themes will also focus on areas of mutual interest, such as health issues, business and innovation, entrepreneurship, education, national parks/conservation, and inclusion. Many program themes will also include local legislators and those seeking to run for local office.

Open World program alumni occupy a wide array of positions at various levels across the country and are willing and eager to help sustain the U.S.-Russia relationship. For example, a delegation of zoologists visited the Henry Doorly Zoo in Omaha, Nebraska in September 2018. Zoo staff mentioned to the group that they had been trying to acquire an Amur tiger from Russia and how difficult it was. The Center’s
delegates from the Moscow Zoo pledged to help on their side. After returning to Moscow the alumni advocated for the transfer of a tiger to the Omaha Zoo and the progress picked up quickly, after having been stalled for some time. In November 2019, the tiger made his arrival to Omaha. This is a great example of American and Russian scientists working together on a conservation program to save the Amur tiger, an endangered species.

Another strong area of cooperation between the U.S. and our Russian delegations stems from sister city partnerships. In 2019, there were many events held that showed the strong dedication each city has to maintain, or revitalize, their partnerships. The Zelenograd-Tulsa Sister City partnership was reinvigorated in March, when an event was held to organize the Zelenograd City Cultural Center, with 32 participants in attendance, including alumni, city administration officials, local NGO leaders, and local media and journalists. A videoconference was held to include their counterparts in Tulsa, and they decided to set up a Tulsa informational stand in Zelenograd’s local museum. A Portland, ME delegation traveled to Archangelsk over the summer, where they held 5 alumni Sister City partnership-focused events. The Cleveland-Volgograd Sister City partnership held an alumni conference in Volgograd, which was attended by alumni and representatives from several other Sister City committees. This completely revitalized the Cleveland-Volgograd Sister City partnership. The success of these partnerships comes from the genuine desire from the Open World program delegates and their American partners to continue a friendship that continuously grows stronger with each year that a new group visits these Sister Cities.
2019 National Grantees

The Archangel Committee (Portland, ME)
Council of International Programs USA (Chagrin Falls, OH)
FHI 360 (Durham, NC)
Friendship Force International (Atlanta, GA)
Georgia to Georgia Foundation (Atlanta, GA)
International Focus Inc. (Raleigh, NC)
Linkages of Rochester Inc. (Rochester, NY)
Maryland Sister State Committee of Sister States of Maryland Inc. (Annapolis, MD)
Rotary International (Evanston, IL)
Supporters of Civil Society in Russia (St. Louis, MO)
U.S.-Ukraine Foundation (Washington, DC)
2019 Local Host Organizations

Alabama
Birmingham Sister Cities Commission
Global Ties Alabama

Alaska
Homer-Kachemak Bay Rotary Club

Arizona
Empower International
Kingman Route 66 Rotary Club
Lake Havasu Rotary Club
People to People

Arkansas
Global Ties Arkansas

California
Concord Rotary Club
International Visitors Council of Los Angeles
Modesto Sister States
Rotary Club of Santa Barbara North and Cinco de Mayo
Santa Clara/Moscow Sister County Commission

Colorado
Boulder-Dushanbe Sister Cities
Friendship Force of Denver
Pagosa Springs Rotary Club
Parker Rotary Club

Connecticut
Devon Rotary Club

Florida
GlobalJax
Friendship Force of Orlando
Seminole County South Rotary Club

Georgia
Friendship Force of Atlanta
Georgia to Georgia Foundation

Idaho
Boise Sunshine Rotary Club

Illinois
Chicago Sister Cities International
Council of International Programs Chicago
Springfield Commission on International Visitors
Supporters of Civil Society in Russia
WorldChicago

Indiana
Lafayette Rotary Club

Iowa
Council Bluffs Sister Cities Association
Friendship Force of Des Moines

Kansas
West Wichita Rotary Club
Kentucky
World Affairs Council of Kentucky and Southern Indiana

Louisiana
Metairie Rotary Club

Maine
The Archangel Committee

Maryland
Maryland Leningrad Sister State Commission

Michigan
Colleagues International
Global Ties Detroit

Minnesota
White Bear Lake Rotary Club

Missouri
Supporters of Civil Society in Russia
World Affairs Council of St. Louis

Montana
WorldMontana

Nebraska
Friendship Force of Lincoln
University of Nebraska Medical Center

New Jersey
Rider University

New Mexico
Global One to One
Santa Fe Council on International Relations

New York
Grand Island Rotary Club
International Center of the Capital Region
International Institute of Buffalo
Linkages of Rochester
Mercy College
Rochester Global Connections

Nevada
Elko Desert Sunrise Rotary Club
Friendship Force of Reno-Tahoe
Northern Nevada International Center

North Carolina
Friendship Force of Western North Carolina
International Focus
League of Women Voters of Henderson County
North Carolina/Moldova Bilateral Partnership

Ohio
Council of International Programs USA
Cincinnati-Kharkiv Sister City Partnership
Global Ties Akron
Friendship Force of Dayton
International Visitors Center of Columbus

Oklahoma
Tulsa Global Alliance
Oregon
Grants Pass Sister City Committee
Umpqua Community College

Pennsylvania
Citizen Diplomacy International
GlobalPittsburgh
Northampton Community College

South Carolina
The Palmetto Club

South Dakota
Dacotah Territory International Visitor Program

Tennessee
Friendship Force of Memphis
Sister City Support Organization of Blount County

Texas
Friendship Force of Austin
Friends of Ukraine
Mid-Cities Pacesetters Rotary Club

Vermont
Vermont Council on World Affairs

Virginia
Norfolk Sister Cities Association
Virginia Commonwealth University

Washington
Columbia Center Rotary Club
Community College of Spokane
World Affairs Council of Seattle

West Virginia
International Understanding

Wisconsin
American Association of University Women
Friendship Force of Greater Milwaukee
Fox Valley Technical College
Oconomowoc Rotary Club
Stevens Point-Rostov Veliky Sister City Project

Wyoming
Friendship Force of Cheyenne
Financial Information

In fiscal year 2019, the Open World Leadership Center received $5.6 million in appropriated funds, $1.4 million in interagency transfers and $79 thousand in direct private donations. In calendar year 2019, the accumulated value of cost-sharing with the Open World program community of grantees, local host organizations, and individual local hosts totaled an estimated $2.18 million. The Center submitted a complete set of financial statements for fiscal year 2019 to the independent public accounting firm of Kearney and Company for a full audit. Kearney and Company issued an unmodified (clean) audit opinion on the financial statements. With the 2019 audit, the Center has received thirteen clean opinions since the first year of audits.
## Financial Information

(Continued)

### BALANCE SHEETS - As of September 30, 2019 and 2018

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FY 2019</th>
<th>FY 2018</th>
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<td>Intragovernmental Liabilities</td>
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<td>Accounts Payable and Accrued Payroll &amp; Benefits</td>
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<td>Total Intragovernmental</td>
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<td>Cumulative Results of Operations</td>
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<td><strong>Total Net Position</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities and Net Position</strong></td>
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<td>$3,528,612</td>
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The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.
Financial Information
(Continued)

Note 1: Investments, Net
Funds that are not needed to finance current activities are invested in interest-bearing obligations of the United States. The Center has directed the Library to invest funds derived from contributions in Treasury securities. Due to the short-term nature of the investments, the cost of investments in conjunction with accrued interest approximates their fair market values. Investments outstanding were $1,400,546 and $3,275,253 for fiscal years 2019 and 2018. Average annual investment rates were 2.3% and 2.1% in fiscal years 2019 and 2018.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FY 2019</th>
<th>FY 2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Face Value</td>
<td>$1,392,000</td>
<td>$3,262,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest Receivable</td>
<td>8,546</td>
<td>13,253</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments, Net</td>
<td>$1,400,546</td>
<td>$3,275,253</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note 2: Prepayments
The Center awards grants to approximately 12-16 organizations with exchange-program expertise that are competitively selected for the purpose of hosting the foreign delegates. In fiscal years 2019 and 2018, $11,068 and $8,746 had been paid to but not yet used by these organizations to carry out their services.

Note 3: Liabilities Not Covered by Budgetary Resources

Liabilities covered by budgetary resources include accounts payable and accrued funded payroll and benefits. Liabilities not covered by budgetary resources include accrued unfunded annual leave and benefits.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FY 2019</th>
<th>FY 2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Liabilities Not Covered by Budgetary Resources:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intragovernmental</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>43,576</td>
<td>53,139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liabilities Covered by Budgetary Resources</td>
<td>542,171</td>
<td>573,407</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Liabilities</td>
<td>$585,747</td>
<td>$626,546</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>