

Date: February 2010
To: School Principals/Chief School Administrators
Region: Southern California, Nevada, New Mexico and Arizona

**RE: INCENTIVE FUNDING FOR ITALIAN LANGUAGE PROGRAMS
2010-2011 SCHOOL YEAR**

Over the past ten years, the government of Italy has been offering incentive grants to public and private elementary and middle schools in an effort to promote the teaching and learning of the Italian language and culture outside of Italy. The objective of these grants is to help schools offer an Italian language program to their students in grades K through 8th, either as part of their curriculum, or as an elective or enrichment course. The grants are awarded by the Consulates of Italy to schools in their respective regions, and are distributed through local non-profit organizations. Fondazione Italia is one of the organizations that works closely with the Consulate General of Italy in Los Angeles for this purpose.

Elementary and middle schools (grades K through 8th) throughout Southern California, Nevada, Arizona and New Mexico are invited to apply for these grants by submitting an application to Fondazione Italia. The application form is enclosed with this letter or can be downloaded from our website at www.fondazione-italia.org (select "Start Italian in Your School"). The application deadline for the 2010-11 school year is **FRIDAY, APRIL 30, 2010**.

All applications received will be forwarded to the Education Office at the Italian Consulate in Los Angeles for consideration. Grants will be awarded based on the merits of the application and on availability of funds from the government of Italy. Grants are awarded with the expectation that the program will become gradually self-sustaining. Beginning programs may be offered during the regular school day or during an extended school day, however, highest funding priority will be given to schools that show an interest to include the study of the Italian language as part of their regular school curriculum. The grant cannot be awarded for fee-based after-school programs. The cash grant amount is a contribution toward the school's cost of an hourly instructor for the program and is calculated based on actual in-class instruction time at the rate of \$40 for each hour of instruction, and cannot be applied towards benefits, teacher prep-time, travel time, administrative time, photocopies, or any other school's costs. Should the number of hours of actual classroom instruction diminish after disbursement of the grant, the school will be required to reimburse Fondazione Italia accordingly, based on the hourly rate of \$40, within 60 days of termination of classes.

Depending on availability of funds, your school may also be eligible to receive textbooks for the program. If books cannot be offered, they may be purchased from Fondazione Italia. Your Italian instructor will be able to borrow a wide variety of books, didactic games and supplementary materials from the Italian Resource Center at UCLA (www.international.ucla.edu/languages/italian) or from the Graziadio Center for Italian Studies library at CSULB.

For questions, please contact Fondazione Italia's Program Coordinator, Hilary Stern, at (310) 739-9350 or by e-mail at hstern@fondazione-italia.org. You may also contact the Education Office of the Italian Consulate General in Los Angeles directly at (310) 979-5273 or by e-mail at scuola.losangeles@esteri.it.