



History and Timeline

- 1981** Ayusa International founded as a non-profit in San Francisco. Offices are located in the "Icehouse," a renovated warehouse near the Embarcadero in San Francisco.
- 1982** Ayusa begins offering J-1 visa programs as a U.S. Designated Exchange Visitor Program Sponsor.
- 1983** Ayusa receives a grant from the U.S. Information Agency (USIA) to expand exchanges with the Intermountain States.
- 1984** Ayusa becomes a founding member of the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET). Ayusa is approved for listing by CSIET, and has been approved for listing each year since.
- 1985** Ayusa receives a grant from USIA to open a Regional Center in Tokyo, Japan. Asian programs begin.
- 1988** Ayusa launches Study Abroad programs for American students to travel to Japan and Western Europe.
- 1989** Ayusa Central and Eastern Europe Regional Center (AICEE) opens in Belgrade, Yugoslavia.
- 1990** Ayusa opens Ayusa Germany in Stuttgart, Germany.
- 1993** Ayusa selected by USIA to operate the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange (CBYX) with Germany.
- 1994** Ayusa selected by USIA to operate Freedom Support Act/Future Leaders Exchange (FSA/FLEX) with Russia and the independent states of the former Soviet Union.
- 1996** Ayusa Germany moves to Berlin, Germany.
- 1997** Ayusa selected as the international youth exchange provider to Kiwanis International and Key Club International service clubs worldwide. Ayusa Andean Regional Center opens in Quito, Ecuador.
- 1999** USIA incorporated into the U.S. Department of State. Ayusa programs operate under the auspices of U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.
- 2000** Ayusa selected by the U.S. Department of State to operate The Serbian Youth Leadership Program.
- 2001** Twenty-year total: Ayusa exceeds \$13,000,000 in U.S. Department of State grant scholarships, awarded to more than 3000 participants. Ayusa selected by the U.S. Department of State to operate the Brcko District Academic Semester Program serving the United Nations administered district of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

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- 2003** Ayusa awarded major grant from the U.S. Department of State to administer the Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study Program (YES), an academic year program for students from predominantly Islamic countries. This initiative was created as a result of Congressional discussions following the events of September 11, 2001, to build bridges of understanding between the United States and countries with significant Muslim populations. The first YES participants arrive in the U.S. in August 2003.
- 2007** With generous funding from the U.S. Department of State, Ayusa awards eight full scholarships to Seattle public school students for a four-week exchange in Rabat, Morocco. Recipients of the prestigious Linking Individuals, Knowledge and Culture (LINC) scholarship live with host families and participate in community service projects.
- 2009** Ayusa is selected to pilot a new U.S. Department of State program, YES Outbound, sending select U.S. students to Mali, Oman, and Morocco for the fall academic semester 2009. Scholarship recipients live with a local host family, attend a local school, and undergo intensive French and Arabic lessons.
- 2010** Ayusa administers the Emerging Youth Leaders Program, a U.S. Department of State grant program, consisting of a two-way exchange involving 30 high school students from the U.S. and Senegal. Ayusa receives a grant to conduct the Mexico Youth Leadership Program or Jóvenes en Acción. Jointly sponsored by the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City, the Mexican Ministry of Education, and private sector companies in Mexico, 50 Mexican students participate in the pilot program. Ayusa World Leaders, a three-week summer leadership experience for high school students from around the world launches on the campus of the University of California, Berkeley.
- 2011** Thirty-year total: Ayusa has been recipient to more than 50 prestigious grants sponsored by the U.S. Department of State and other organizations totaling more than \$75,000,000. Ayusa adopts new logo and identity and stops using acronym Academic Year in the U.S.A. as diverse program offerings now far exceed original program scope.
- 2012** Ayusa is selected to administer and operate the Tomodachi Softbank Leadership program, a partnership led by the U.S. Embassy in Japan and the U.S.-Japan Council and funded by Softbank Corporation. 301 Japanese high school students affected by the earthquake and tsunami in eastern Japan participate in the three-week program at the University of California, Berkeley.

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