

CENTER FOR MIDDLE EASTERN-WESTERN DIALOGUE

Resource Summary

(\$ in thousands)

Appropriations	FY 2011 Actual	FY 2012 Estimate	FY 2013 Request	Increase / Decrease
Funds	1,304	840	798	(42)

Program Description

The FY 2004 Consolidated Appropriations Act (P.L. 108-199) created the Center for Middle Eastern-Western Dialogue Trust Fund to support the operations of the Center.

The Center's mission is to promote dialogue between the United States and the nations of the Middle East, Turkey, North Africa, and Central, Southwest, and Southeast Asia, as well as other countries with predominantly Muslim populations in order to open channels of communication, deepen cross-cultural understanding, expand people-to-people contacts, generate new thinking on important international issues, and identify solutions.

The Center has fully established itself as an independent nonprofit and is convening meetings for U.S. and regional experts about key issues of Middle Eastern-Western concern. Conference topics have focused on universities and higher education through special colloquiums; two-part "Next Generation" dialogues bringing together emerging political, cultural, business and community leaders under the age of 40 from the United States and other countries; and regional topics including the Caspian Sea and its neighbors, unity and diversity in Iraq, and the future of Afghanistan. The Center will actively serve as a bridge between Iranian and U.S. scholars and experts by including Iranian citizens in its conferences when possible. The Center's Board of Directors continues to work to identify potential partners in the U.S. and in the broader Middle East and North Africa region, and make recommendations for program activities and institutional management of the Center. Conferences have led to follow-on initiatives and other outcomes and results, including generating ideas and recommendations for policy debates; informing participants' research, writing, and public appearances; and building new relationships, networks, and collaboration between participants.

The Center has conducted program activities in Istanbul while seeking to establish a permanent office there. As of FY 2011, the Center is an officially recognized foreign organization operating in Turkey and plans include establishment of a permanent office in FY 2013.

Justification of Request

The FY 2013 request seeks appropriation authority to spend \$798,000 in estimated earnings of the Center for Middle Eastern-Western Dialogue Trust Fund. These funds will be used for operations of the Center.

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Funds by Object Class

(\$ in thousands)

	FY 2011 Actual	FY 2012 Estimate	FY 2013 Request	Increase / Decrease
4100 Grants, Subsidies & Contributions	1,304	840	798	(42)
Total	1,304	840	798	(42)