



Administration for Children and Families

Office of Community Services

Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Training and Technical Assistance (T/TA) Program: Regional
Performance and Innovation Consortia (RPIC)

HHS-2012-ACF-OCS-EQ-0293

Application Due Date: 08/06/2012

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**Department of Health & Human Services
Administration for Children & Families**

Program Office: Office of Community Services
Funding Opportunity Title: Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Training and Technical Assistance (T/TA) Program: Regional Performance and Innovation Consortia (RPIC)
Announcement Type: Initial
Funding Opportunity Number: HHS-2012-ACF-OCS-EQ-0293
CFDA Number: 93.569
Due Date for Applications: **08/06/2012**

Notice: On January 1, 2012, the Administration for Children and Families implemented required electronic application submission via www.Grants.gov for discretionary grant applications. (76 Fed. Reg. 66721-66723, October 27, 2011, [New Policies and Procedural Requirements for the Electronic Submission of Discretionary Grant Applications](#)). Please see *Section III.3. Disqualification Factors*, *Section IV.2. Content and Form of Application Submission* and *Application Submission Options*, and *Section IV.3. Explanation of Due Dates and Times* for information on electronic application submission and the availability of exemptions allowing applicants to submit applications in paper format.

Executive Summary:

The Office of Community Services (OCS) within the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) announces that competing applications will be accepted for a cooperative agreement to expand the existing Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Training and Technical Assistance (T/TA) Network. This cooperative agreement will support an ongoing State, regional, and National T/TA Strategy for collaboration, capacity-building, and exemplary practice in CSBG and among State Community Action Agency Associations, hereafter referred to as State Associations.

This two-year cooperative agreement will fund 11 Regional Performance and Innovation Consortia (RPIs) to serve as regional focal points and lead the development of a comprehensive and integrated system of T/TA capacity-building activities. Each Regional Performance and Innovation Consortia (RPIC) will coordinate regional T/TA activities among State Associations with the central mission of ensuring that all CSBG-eligible entities are able to meet high-quality performance standards and utilize evidence-informed service approaches to address the identified needs of low-income people in communities.

The core functions of the RPIs are *Training and Technical Assistance Coordination and Information Dissemination*. These efforts will be focused on the following central objectives:

- 1) Assuring that all CSBG-eligible entities within each region participate in a Results Oriented Management and Accountability (ROMA) Next Generation effort that includes attention to the complete ROMA cycle of performance management, including high-quality, comprehensive needs assessments, community CSBG plans that utilize evidence-informed service approaches targeted to the highest priority needs, setting challenging outcome goals, and documentation and analysis of progress and results according to a consistent set of criteria;
- 2) Assuring that all CSBG-eligible entities within each region are able to meet high-quality performance standards for organizational operations in areas such as organizational leadership, human

resource management, financial operations, consumer input and involvement, community engagement, and governance;

3) Assuring that all CSBG-eligible entities have access to updated national information on evidence-based and evidence-informed service approaches; and

4) Assuring that T/TA efforts are coordinated in an efficient and responsive manner utilizing Federal T/TA resources, State T/TA support, and resources from local CSBG-eligible entities.

It is expected that the RPIs will institute a regional approach in implementing their primary mission of T/TA coordination and information dissemination. RPIs will work in partnership with OCS and established national CSBG technical assistance centers focused on performance management, risk mitigation and quality improvement, legal compliance, as well as new Centers of Excellence focused on ROMA Next Generation practices and organizational performance standards.

For purposes of this funding opportunity, the well-defined geographic areas will align with established ACF regions (see *Appendices - Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Training and Technical Assistance (T/TA) Program: Regional Performance and Innovation Consortia, Administration for Children and Families (ACF) Regions*, and the ACF Regional Map at http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/oro/regions/acf_regions.html).

With the exception of ACF Region IV, funding will be limited to one award per region. In Region IV, awards will be made for two separate service areas (one award will be made to serve Florida, Georgia, Alabama and Mississippi, and a separate award will be made to serve South Carolina, North Carolina, Tennessee and Kentucky). The applicant organization must be physically located in the ACF region or service area they propose to serve and describe this service area as part of its application. A single applicant organization will serve as the grantee within each region or service area. However, eligible applicants in each region may coordinate efforts and apply as consortia.

This program is not appropriate for projects proposing stand-alone services that affect and target areas outside the aforementioned well-defined geographic areas. Priority will be given to applicant organizations with proven expertise in technical assistance and non-profit management, as well as activities that are related to the primary mission and core functions of RPIs. Letters of support for this project from other State Associations in the region and the applicant's respective State CSBG Lead Agency will be one factor considered in award decisions.

Each RPIC must meet the following requirements regarding allocation of funds:

- ***Minimum Distribution to State Associations*** - The lead grantee for the RPI consortia will collaborate with State Associations to support technical assistance focused on performance management, organizational excellence, and evidence-informed practice. The lead grantee for the RPI consortia will be required to provide at least 40 percent of grant funds, through contracts, to other State Associations in the grantee's defined geographic region. Participating State Associations will be required to provide a letter of support from the State CSBG Lead Agency and demonstrate membership, or letters of support, from the majority of CSBG-eligible entities in the State.
- ***Minimum Allocation for Performance Management Efforts*** - Each RPIC will be required to demonstrate that at least 25 percent of the total Federal funds among the consortia of State Associations will support the regional input and implementation of a national ROMA Next Generation performance effort. Key activities will include: 1) obtaining and providing regional input on performance management requirements and expectations; 2) participating in national work groups; 3) facilitating and providing training on performance standards and measurement techniques; and 4) assisting State Associations and CSBG-eligible entities to utilize the ROMA cycle to analyze community needs assessment data, set challenging service goals, identify evidence-informed service plans, and document outcomes.

The two allocation requirements described above are not mutually exclusive. This means that a contract to a State Association can count toward the Minimum Distribution Requirement for State Associations, as well as the Minimum Allocation for Performance Management Efforts. However, the grant budget and program plan must clearly indicate that the minimum requirements will be met in both categories.

In addition to the ROMA Next Generation performance effort, the Project Director and other technical assistance staff supported through this grant are also expected to participate in a national effort to develop and implement core Federal performance standards for CSBG grant efforts. Grantees are not required to allocate a specific portion of funds toward this effort, but instead will be expected to provide input in the development of core Federal performance standards, and assist in the dissemination and implementation of these standards as part of their overall communication and coordination efforts within each region. In addition, the associations within each regional consortia are expected to be familiar with and support all State performance standards within the region.

Each RPIC will establish partnerships with State Associations through contracts supported by the ACF award it receives. It is anticipated that the RPIs' role in the partnerships with State Associations will be to serve as a fiscal agent and provide technical assistance, including assisting State Associations in planning RPIC-funded activities administered in their defined geographic area. Recipients of ACF awards (i.e., RPIs) are accountable for the Federal grant funds received, including those dispersed to project partners, and responsible for the oversight of the various projects, programs, and activities supported by this award.

I. Funding Opportunity Description

Statutory Authority

This program is authorized by Sections 674(b)(2)(A) and 678A of the CSBG Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§ 9903(b)(2)(A) and 9913).

Description

BACKGROUND

The Office of Community Services (OCS) provides assistance to States and local communities working through a network of CSBG-eligible entities for the reduction of poverty, the revitalization of low-income communities, and the empowerment of low-income families and individuals to become self-sufficient. CSBG provides States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, U.S. Territories, and Federal and State-recognized Indian Tribes and tribal organizations, Community Action Agencies, migrant and seasonal farmworkers, or other organizations designated by the States, funds to alleviate the causes and conditions of poverty in communities. The funds provide a range of services and activities to assist the needs of low-income individuals, including the homeless, migrants, and the elderly. Grant amounts are determined by a formula based on each State's and Indian Tribe's poverty population. Grantees receiving funds under CSBG are required to provide services and activities addressing employment, education, better use of available income, housing, nutrition, emergency services, and/or health.

As providers of T/TA supported by CSBG funds, State Associations are expected to increase the capacity of CSBG-eligible entities to carry out the mandate of the CSBG Act and measure results. They play a critical role in the provision of T/TA services throughout the CSBG T/TA Network and have a strong presence in their States. State associations should collaborate with State CSBG Lead Agencies and jointly plan on how best to utilize all available T/TA resources. State associations must coordinate their efforts with State CSBG Lead Agencies, as it is the State CSBG Lead Agencies that are responsible for administration and oversight of CSBG-funded eligible entities. The size, scope of activities, services provided, and budget of each State Association is unique. Each State Association provides training focused on specific needs identified by CSBG-eligible entities in their States. While the types of training

vary from State-to-State and year-to-year, most Associations provide T/TA in fiscal accountability, improving local board governance, strengthening case management systems, modernizing information technology, and being effective anti-poverty advocates.

The funding OCS provides to State Associations serves as a cornerstone, enabling these organizations to secure additional resources, provide targeted T/TA, and build internal and external partnerships within the CSBG T/TA Network. In an effort to build capacity within the CSBG T/TA Network, OCS previously provided grant awards to individual State Associations at various amounts. However, the previous approach of funding individual grants to State Associations did not provide strong mechanisms for coordination and dissemination of exemplary practices. In addition, T/TA efforts among the State Associations were uneven, with some State Associations organizing and implementing innovative statewide projects while others played a more limited convening role. At the same time, the standards and expectations for management of Federal programs changed significantly over the past three decades.

In FY 2011, OCS determined that increased attention to accountability, transparency, and performance outcomes demanded a new strategy to assure the most efficient and effective use of CSBG T/TA resources. It is critical that OCS employs a strategic approach that enhances the infrastructure, capacity, and sustainability of State Associations. It was expected that a new strategy would ensure that State Associations administer T/TA to help CSBG-eligible entities and State CSBG Lead Agencies meet standards of accountability for Federal programs. OCS indicated that the new strategy must promote the long-term viability of State Associations, support activities that encourage sustainability beyond the life of specific grants, and ensure State Associations are self-sustaining and financially independent organizations.

DEFINITIONS OF TERMS

For the purposes of this announcement, the following definitions apply:

CSBG Network - The various organizations involved in planning and implementing programs funded through CSBG. The Network includes local CSBG-eligible entities, State CSBG Lead Agencies, State Community Action Agency Associations, and related organizations that collaborate and participate with CSBG-eligible entities in their efforts on behalf of low- income people.

Consortium Agreement - A formal agreement whereby a project is carried out by a recipient and one or more other organizations that are separate legal entities. Under the agreement, the recipient must perform a substantive role in the conduct of the planned project or program activity and not merely serve as a conduit of funds to another party or parties. (1)

Cooperative Agreement - An award instrument of financial assistance used when substantial involvement is anticipated between the awarding office (the Federal Government) and the recipient during performance of the contemplated project. Substantial involvement may include collaboration or participation by OCS staff in activities specified in the award and, as appropriate, decision-making at specified milestones related to performance.

Evidence-Based Practice - Approaches to prevention or treatment that are validated by some form of documented scientific evidence. These could be findings established through scientific research, such as controlled clinical studies, or other comparable and rigorous methods.

Evidence-Informed Practice - Approaches that use the best available research and practice knowledge to guide program design and implementation within context. This informed practice should allow for innovation and incorporate the lessons learned from the existing research literature.

Expenditure Reporting - An accounting of funds spent, including those funds spent on administrative costs and the direct delivery of T/TA activities and services.

Knowledge Management (KM) - The process of gathering, classifying, analyzing, and sharing information so that an organization can collectively pursue its objectives efficiently. Components of KM include

people, processes, and technology. The process of KM should be supported by an appropriate investment in training and technology. (2)

Regional Performance and Innovation Consortia (RPIC) Grantee - Used in the singular, an RPIC refers to a single consortia of CSBG-eligible entities who submits an application under this funding announcement and is awarded a grant under this announcement, e.g. "each RPIC grantee is required to...."

RPIs - Used when referring to the collective group of 11 RPI consortia, or "RPIs" expected to be funded under this announcement, e.g. "the RPIs will disseminate information...."

Results Oriented Management and Accountability (ROMA) Cycle - A performance management framework specific to CSBG that focuses on the utilization of community information for the planning, implementation, and analysis of community services for low-income people. Key phases include community needs assessment, use of needs assessment data to identify service strategies and projected results, implementation of strategies and services, observation and reporting on progress, and analysis of data according to original benchmarks.

State CSBG Lead Agency - The agency designated by the Governor or Chief Executive Officer of a State to submit the State's official CSBG plan, monitor the activities of eligible entities, and assure compliance with all statutory and regulatory requirements for CSBG.

State Community Action Agency Associations (State Associations) - The organizations that provide T/TA designed to increase the capacity of local CSBG-eligible entities to carry out the mandate of the CSBG Act and measure results.

Sustainability - The ability of an eligible entity (or one of its programs) to continue to meet the needs of the community on an ongoing basis - beyond the life of specific grants or with diminishing support.

Technical Assistance - An activity, generally using the services of an expert (often a peer), aimed at enhancing capacity, improving programs and systems, or solving specific problems. Such services may be provided proactively to improve systems or as an intervention to solve specific problems.

Training - An educational activity or event that is designed to impart knowledge and understanding or increase the development of skills. Such training activities may be in the form of assembled events such as workshops, seminars, conferences, or programs of self-instructional activities.

Well-Defined Geographic Areas - Regional geographic areas that align with ACF regions. See *Appendices - Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Training and Technical Assistance (T/TA) Program: Regional Performance and Innovation Consortia, ACF Regions*, and the ACF Regional Map at http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/oro/regions/acf_regions.html.

CSBG NATIONAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE STRATEGY

In FY 2011, OCS determined that increased attention to accountability, transparency, and performance outcomes demanded a new strategy to assure the most efficient and effective use of all CSBG T/TA resources. It is critical that OCS employ a strategic approach to enhance the coordination and effectiveness of the overall CSBG T/TA grant portfolio. The National T/TA Strategy for Promoting Exemplary Practices and Risk Mitigation for CSBG, published in 2011, is a strategic plan designed to stimulate and strengthen accountability within CSBG. A copy of this strategy is available at <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/csbg/guidance/im123.html>.

The Goals of the CSBG National T/TA Strategy outlined in 2011 were to: mitigate risks associated with the use of CSBG funds; promote exemplary practices and innovative programming that stimulates the creation and sharing of information and knowledge in the CSBG T/TA Network; measure and document performance in accordance with CSBG reporting requirements; work with States to help ensure that CSBG-eligible entity boards know, understand, and meet their fiduciary responsibilities to CSBG (i.e., participation in the development, planning, implementation, and evaluation of CSBG-funded activities and services); and ensure the management and delivery of CSBG-funded services creates and strengthens

sustainable economic resources in communities.

FY 2011 RPIC Grants

In September of 2011, OCS awarded grants to establish 10 RPICs. Grant funds were provided to support the coordination of T/TA activities designed to strengthen the ability of State Associations to leverage resources, promote and sustain relationships between State Associations and the corresponding State CSBG Lead Agencies, and increase the capacity of State Associations to address the broad T/TA needs of CSBG-eligible entities.

FY 2012 Technical Assistance Approach and Changes from FY 2011 Efforts

OCS is now building upon the overall regional technical assistance coordination strategy initiated in 2011 with this two-year funding opportunity announcement. The general structure and approach are consistent with the approach utilized in 2011. However, OCS is increasing RPIC coverage for Region IV in this announcement due to the large number of States and State Associations in this region. OCS has also outlined new priorities and national T/TA efforts focused on performance standards and a Results Oriented Management and Accountability (ROMA) Next Generation project.

Building on the President's budget request to target CSBG resources to high-performing, innovative agencies, ACF plans to work with Congress and a wide variety of organizational stakeholders to establish a set of core Federal standards that States will be required to use to assess whether an eligible entity is meeting a high standard of service delivery. These standards of service delivery will include a focus on compliance with basic requirements of the CSBG Act, and will also go beyond basic compliance to focus on high-quality performance across the CSBG Network.

The core performance standards will focus on organizational management issues, as well as the strategic process for performance management. OCS plans to fund two new Centers of Excellence that will support efforts to identify performance standards. These new Centers of Excellence will work in close partnership with the RPIC grantees on an integrated national effort, and will be funded under a separate announcement.

One new Center of Excellence - referred to as the CSBG T/TA Organizational Standards Center of Excellence, funding opportunity number (FON) HHS-2012-ACF-OCS-ET-0539 - will play a lead role in developing recommended standards related to organizational management issues. Categories of organizational management issues considered in the development of core standards may include areas such as organizational leadership, human resource management, financial operations, consumer input and involvement, community engagement, and governance.

The second new Center of Excellence - referred to as the CSBG T/TA ROMA Next Generation Center of Excellence, FON HHS-2012-ACF-OCS-ET-0301 - will focus on the strategic process for performance management, and will build upon and refine materials and training related to the ROMA performance cycle. This cycle includes high-quality, comprehensive needs assessments, community CSBG plans that utilize evidence-informed service approaches targeted to the highest priority needs, challenging outcome goals, and documentation and analysis of progress and results according to a consistent set of criteria.

Both of these new Centers will be expected to work in close partnership with the RPIC grantees funded through this announcement. In addition, RPICs will be expected to set aside resources and assist directly in the development and implementation of a ROMA Next Generation performance management effort, which will focus on the measurement of results across the CSBG Network.

ROMA PRINCIPLES AND CORE PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

CSBG currently uses National Performance Indicators (NPIs), which are based upon the six national goals under the ROMA performance management system. The ROMA system was initiated in 1994 by a task force of Federal, State and local CSBG Network officials. Based upon principles contained in the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 (GPRA), ROMA provides a framework for continuous

growth and improvement among local Community Action Agencies (CAAs) and a basis for State leadership and assistance. In 1998, the CSBG Reauthorization Act made ROMA implementation a requirement for receiving Federal CSBG funds, and established October 1, 2001, as the start date for reporting CSBG Network outcomes in the context of ROMA performance-based management principles. This statutory mandate changed both the nature and pace of ROMA implementation throughout the CSBG Network. Eligible entities have been encouraged to undertake a number of ROMA implementation actions.

Management principles associated with ROMA include the following:

- Assess poverty needs and conditions within the community;
- Define a clear agency anti-poverty mission for the CSBG Network and a strategy to address those needs, both immediate and longer-term, in the context of existing resources and opportunities in the community;
- Identify specific improvements or results to be achieved among low-income people and the community; and
- Organize and implement programs, services, and activities, such as advocacy within the agency and among partnering organizations, to achieve anticipated results.

Accountability principles associated with ROMA include the following:

- Develop and implement strategies to measure and record improvements in the condition of low-income people, and the communities in which they live, that result from CSBG Network intervention;
- Use information about outcomes, or results, among agency tripartite boards and staff to determine overall effectiveness, inform annual and long-range planning, and support agency advocacy, funding, and community partnership activities; and
- Encourage State CSBG Lead Agencies and State Associations to work as a team to advance ROMA performance-based concepts among local agencies through ongoing training and technical assistance.

The NPIs - which create a common set of reporting categories - have improved the ability of the CSBG Network to report work on program administration and the outcomes of State and CSBG-eligible entities that serve low-income individuals and communities. Fiscal year 2004 was the first year that the Network reported using the NPI format, which includes measures of activities funded in whole or in part by CSBG dollars. Through the NPIs, CSBG tracks the Network's performance indicators with respect to low-income individuals, families, and communities. The CSBG Network uses CSBG funds to leverage other Federal, State, and local resources to conduct this important work.

Currently, ROMA and the NPIs serve primarily as a system of national accountability for the overall efforts of CAAs and other eligible entities. Progress has been made in recent years in the quality and breadth of State and local performance reporting systems through ROMA. Local entities and States now have a common framework for collection and reporting on local service delivery. The ROMA framework can provide a foundation for additional targeting of resources based on outcomes and effectiveness of services.

Building on the ROMA system, OCS plans to work over the next year to implement a ROMA Next Generation system. Key goals of this effort will be: 1) to review and strengthen the current performance measures and performance indicators with input from experienced CSBG organizations, as well as performance management experts from outside the CSBG Network; 2) to work with State CSBG lead agencies to communicate consistent standards for performance management throughout the ROMA cycle, including community needs assessment, program planning, and performance measurement, including documentation of outcomes; 3) to assure a coordinated national strategy for nationwide implementation of updated performance standards; and 4) to assure that performance standards can be used, as necessary, for comparison of the effectiveness of a local entity's use of CSBG resources.

Development of Core Performance Standards

The RPIC grantees funded under this announcement will play a key role in this new efforts related to organizational standards as well as new implementation standards for ROMA. Critical functions for RPIs will include:

1. Obtaining and providing regional input on performance measurement and performance standards;
2. Participating in national work groups;
3. Facilitating and providing training on performance standards and measurement techniques; and
4. Assisting State Associations and CSBG-eligible entities in analyzing community needs assessment data, setting challenging service delivery goals, identifying evidence-informed service plans, and documenting outcomes based on the ROMA cycle of performance management.

DETAILS OF REGIONAL CONSORTIA MODEL

Projects funded through this announcement will:

1. Support 11 RPIs that serve as the regional focal points to lead the development of a comprehensive and integrated system of T/TA activities for State Associations;
2. Employ a regional approach to T/TA coordination and information dissemination utilizing consortia of State Associations; and
3. Coordinate T/TA information focused on high-quality performance standards and evidence-informed service approaches among State Associations and throughout the regional CSBG T/TA Network.

RPIs will work in partnership with OCS and established national CSBG T/TA Centers focused on performance management, risk mitigation and quality improvement, and quality assurance utilizing a Web-based system to coordinate training and technical assistance efforts. The successful grantees under this announcement will establish RPIs to support an enhanced local, State, and National T/TA Strategy for collaboration, capacity-building, and exemplary practice in CSBG and among State Associations.

RPIC CORE FUNCTIONS

The core functions of the RPIC grants supported through this announcement are outlined below.

Training and Technical Assistance (T/TA) Coordination

This core function includes planning, organizing, and communicating regional T/TA activities designed to address the collaboration, capacity-building, and exemplary practice needs of State Associations. These T/TA coordination efforts promote activities that strengthen the ability of State Associations to leverage resources, promote and sustain relationships between State Associations and the corresponding State CSBG Lead Agencies, and increase the capacity of State Associations to address the broad T/TA needs of CSBG-eligible entities. T/TA coordination efforts also create a platform for: (a) helping to ensure State Associations communicate relevant information and resources to staff and leadership (i.e. knowledge management); (b) promoting transparency, information exchange, and accountability between State Associations and State CSBG Lead Agencies; (c) fostering support and innovation through peer-to-peer exchanges; (d) reflecting the varying types of State Associations and CSBG-eligible entities they serve (e.g., public versus private); (e) accounting for the diversity within the region, including State and local resources, as well as working relationships between State Associations and State CSBG Lead Agencies, State Associations and CSBG-eligible entities, and CSBG-eligible entities and State CSBG Lead Agencies; and (f) preparing State Associations and their member organizations to meet the appropriate high-quality performance standards necessary for oversight of public funds.

Information Dissemination

This core function includes the distribution of knowledge and resources that identify the RPIs as regional resources within the CSBG T/TA Network. Information dissemination is accessible, applicable, and accountable to the diversity of State Associations within the region. Information dissemination efforts

support the purpose of the CSBG Act and National T/TA Strategy for Promoting Exemplary Practices and Risk Mitigation, increase access to and availability of relevant and high-quality T/TA materials focused on strategic performance management and organizational performance standards. These efforts promote high-quality practices and procedures (i.e., evidence-based, evidence-informed, exemplary, and/or promising practices) that help State Associations increase organizational capacity.

RPIC Objectives

Within these broad core functions, it is expected that RPIs will build partnerships with other CSBG T/TA organizations and with State CSBG Lead Agencies, as appropriate, focused on the following central objectives:

- 1) Assuring that all CSBG-eligible entities within each region participate in a ROMA Next Generation effort that includes attention to the complete ROMA cycle of performance management. This includes high-quality, comprehensive needs assessments, community CSBG plans that utilize evidence-informed service approaches targeted to the highest priority needs, setting challenging outcome goals, and documentation and analysis of progress and results according to a consistent set of criteria;
- 2) Assuring that all CSBG-eligible entities within each region are able to meet high-quality performance standards for organizational operations in areas such as organizational leadership, human resource management, financial operations, consumer input and involvement, community engagement, and governance;
- 3) Assuring that all CSBG-eligible entities have access to updated national information on evidence-based and evidence-informed service approaches; and
- 4) Assuring that training and technical assistance efforts are coordinated in an efficient and responsive manner utilizing Federal T/TA resources, State T/TA support, and resources from local CSBG-eligible entities.

COORDINATION WITH STATE CSBG LEAD AGENCIES AND NATIONAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANTEES

As a block grant to States, the CSBG statute speaks to OCS' role with States and States' role with CSBG-eligible entities. The States' role of oversight and accountability is critical to the administration and success of this program. In addition, many States utilize discretionary resources available to States through CSBG to support extensive T/TA efforts. A key focus for the successful grantee under this announcement will be to recommend strategies for enhanced coordination of T/TA supported at Federal, State, and local levels to ensure the use of exemplary practices across the CSBG Network.

OCS considers CSBG T/TA providers an integral part of the CSBG T/TA Network. To help ensure CSBG achieves sustainable and systemic change that improves the overall administration of CSBG by State CSBG Lead Agencies, CSBG-eligible entities, and other CSBG T/TA Network partners, each CSBG T/TA provider must:

- Collaborate with other T/TA providers and State CSBG Lead Agencies to help maximize CSBG resources;
- Communicate with other T/TA providers to help ensure the seamless provision of T/TA to States and CSBG-eligible entities;
- Consult with appropriate T/TA provider(s) and OCS, as needed, to be responsive to the needs of States and CSBG-eligible entities;
- Coordinate T/TA efforts so that project activities complement one another; and
- Support the goals of the National T/TA Strategy for CSBG.

PRE-APPLICATION TELECONFERENCE AND/OR WEBINAR

A pre-application teleconference and/or webinar will be offered in advance of the application due date for

this funding opportunity announcement. The purpose of this teleconference and/or webinar is to review the funding opportunity announcement. For information on the date and time for this pre-application teleconference and/or webinar, please visit <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/csbg/index.html> and look for a teleconference and/or webinar posted under *What's New* on the right-hand side of the web page. Alternatively, click on the link for *CSBG Training and Technical Assistance (T/TA) Program* under *About CSBG*.

Please see *Section II: Award Information* for a description of ACF's Anticipated Substantial Involvement Under the Cooperative Agreement.

For more information on program components specific to this funding opportunity announcement, please reference *Section IV.2, The Project Description: General Instructions for Preparing a Full Project Description*.

(1) [Department of Health and Human Services \(HHS\) Grants Policy Statement \(GPS\)](#), Office of the Assistant Secretary for Resources and Technology, Office of Grants, January 1, 2007.

(2) [Knowledge Management White Paper: Maximizing Human Potential and Organizational Performance](#). Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center (ECLKC), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)/ Administration for Children and Families (ACF)/ Office of Head Start (OHS), 2006.

II. Award Information

Funding Instrument Type:	Cooperative Agreement
Estimated Total Funding:	\$4,400,000
Expected Number of Awards:	11
Award Ceiling:	\$400,000 Per Budget Period
Award Floor:	\$400,000 Per Budget Period
Average Projected Award Amount:	\$400,000 Per Budget Period

Length of Project Periods:

24-month project with two 12-month budget periods

Additional Information on Awards:

Awards made under this announcement are subject to the availability of Federal funds.

Applications requesting an award amount that exceeds the *Award Ceiling* per budget period or per project period, as stated in this section, will be disqualified from competitive review and from funding under this announcement. This disqualification applies only to the *Award Ceiling* listed for the first 12-month budget period for projects with multiple budget periods. If the project and budget period are the same, the disqualification applies to the *Award Ceiling* listed for the project period. Please see *Section III.3. Application Disqualification Factors*.

Note: For those programs that require matching or cost sharing, grantees will be held accountable for projected commitments of non-Federal resources in their application budgets and budget justifications, even if the projected commitment exceeds the required amount of match or cost share. A grantee's failure to provide the required matching amount will result in the disallowance of Federal funds.

Continuation grant applications will be considered on a non-competitive basis and are subject to the satisfactory progress of the grantee, availability of funds, and a determination that continued funding would be in the best interest of the Federal government. Grants will be awarded for one-year budget periods throughout the project.

Description of ACF's Anticipated Substantial Involvement Under the Cooperative Agreement

In order to ensure that OCS meets its compliance and T/TA responsibilities for CSBG and continues its partnership with the CSBG Network, grants awarded under this funding opportunity announcement will be funded in the form of Cooperative Agreements. Federal involvement may include the following:

- Convening in-person planning and coordination meetings involving CSBG T/TA providers to share information about proposed T/TA projects, identify areas for potential coordination of efforts, and identify priority areas for T/TA projects;
- Convening routine (e.g. monthly) conference calls among CSBG T/TA providers, State CSBG Lead Agencies, and other key stakeholder organizations;
- Reviewing recommendations and implementation plans for T/TA projects to assure coordination with other CSBG T/TA projects and activities; and
- Participation in a Web-based technical assistance (TA) coordination system, operated by grantees under the CSBG Risk Mitigation and Quality Improvement T/TA Center, and the CSBG State Performance Management Clearinghouse, to assure that all State CSBG Lead Agencies and CSBG-eligible entities have access to updated national information on evidence-based and evidence-informed service approaches.

Please see *Section IV.5 Funding Restrictions* for limitations on the use of Federal funds awarded under this announcement.

III. Eligibility Information

III.1. Eligible Applicants

Non-profit organizations with or without 501(c)(3) Internal Revenue Service status, other than institutions of higher education. As prescribed by Section 678A(c)(2) of the CSBG Act, eligible applicants are CSBG-eligible entities, or Statewide or local organizations or associations, with demonstrated expertise in providing training on methods of effectively addressing the needs of low-income families and communities.

Additional Information on Eligibility

For purposes of this funding opportunity, the well-defined geographic areas will align with established ACF regions (see Appendices - Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Training and Technical Assistance (T/TA) Program: Regional Performance and Innovation Consortia, Administration for Children and Families (ACF) Regions, and the ACF Regional Map at http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/oro/regions/acf_regions.html). With the exception of ACF Region IV, funding will be limited to one award per region. In Region IV, awards will be made for two separate service areas (one award will be made to serve Florida, Georgia, Alabama and Mississippi, and a separate award will be made to serve South Carolina, North Carolina, Tennessee and Kentucky). The applicant organization must be physically located in the ACF region or service area they propose to serve and describe this service area as part of its application. A single applicant organization will serve as the grantee within each region or service area. However, eligible applicants in each region may coordinate efforts and apply as consortia.

Individuals, foreign entities, and sole proprietorship organizations are not eligible to compete for, or receive, awards under this announcement. See *Section III.3. Other*.

Faith-based and community organizations that meet eligibility requirements are eligible to receive awards under this funding opportunity announcement.

See "Legal Status of Applicant Entity" in *Section IV.2* for documentation required to support eligibility.

III.2. Cost Sharing or Matching

Cost Sharing / Matching Requirement: No

III.3. Other

DUNS Number (Universal Identifier) and Central Contractor Registration (CCR) Requirements

DUNS Number Requirement

Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) Number is the nine-digit, or thirteen-digit (DUNS + 4), number established and assigned by Dun and Bradstreet, Inc. (D&B) to uniquely identify business entities.

All applicants and subrecipients must have a DUNS number at the time of application in order to be considered for a grant or cooperative agreement. A DUNS number is required whether an applicant is submitting a paper application or using the Government-wide electronic portal, www.Grants.gov. A DUNS number is required for every application for a new award or renewal/continuation of an award, including applications or plans under formula, entitlement, and block grant programs. A DUNS number may be acquired at no cost online at <http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform>. To acquire a DUNS number by phone, contact the D&B Government Customer Response Center:

U.S. and U.S Virgin Islands: 1-866-705-5711

Alaska and Puerto Rico: 1-800-234-3867 (Select Option 2, then Option 1)

Monday - Friday 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., CST

The process to request a D-U-N-S Number by telephone will take between 5 and 10 minutes.

Central Contractor Registration (CCR) Requirement

Central Contractor Registration (CCR) is the Federal registrant database and repository into which an entity must provide information required for the conduct of business as a recipient. CCR, managed by the General Services Administration, collects, validates, stores, and disseminates data in support of agency financial assistance missions.

Effective October 1, 2011, HHS required all entities that plan to apply for, and ultimately receive, Federal grant funds from any HHS Agency, or receive subawards directly from recipients of those grant funds to:

- Be registered in the CCR prior to submitting an application or plan;
- Maintain an active CCR registration with current information at all times during which it has an active award or an application or plan under consideration by an OPDIV; and
- Provide its DUNS number in each application or plan it submits to the OPDIV.

ACF is prohibited from making an award until an applicant has complied with these requirements. At the time an award is ready to be made, if the intended recipient has not complied with these requirements, ACF:

- May determine that the applicant is not qualified to receive an award; and
- May use that determination as a basis for making an award to another applicant.

Additionally, all first-tier subaward recipients (i.e., direct subrecipient) must have a DUNS number at the time the subaward is made

CCR registration may be made online at www.ccr.gov or by phone at 1-866-606-8220. CCR registration must be updated annually. CCR registration must be active and maintained with current information at all times during which an organization has an active award or an application under consideration.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to register at the CCR well in advance of the application due date.

APPLICATION DISQUALIFICATION FACTORS

Applications from individuals, foreign entities, or sole proprietorship organizations will be disqualified from competitive review and from funding under this announcement.

Award Ceiling Disqualification

Applications that request an award amount exceeding the *Award Ceiling* per budget period, or per project period, as stated in *Section II. Award Information*, will be disqualified from competitive review and from funding under this announcement. This disqualification applies only to the *Award Ceiling* listed for the first 12-month budget period for projects with multiple budget periods. If the project and budget period are the same, the disqualification applies to the *Award Ceiling* listed for the project period.

Application Submission Disqualifications

Beginning January 1, 2012, ACF requires electronic submission of applications at www.Grants.gov. Applicants that do not have an Internet connection or sufficient computing capacity to upload large documents (files) to the Internet may contact ACF for an exemption that will allow these applicants to submit an application in paper format. Information on requesting an exemption from electronic application submission is found in *Section IV.2. Application Submission Options*.

The deadline for electronic application submission is 11:59 p.m., ET, on the due date listed in the *Overview* and in *Section IV.3. Submission Dates and Times*. Electronic applications submitted to www.Grants.gov after 11:59 p.m., ET, on the due date, as indicated by a dated and time-stamped email from www.Grants.gov, will be disqualified from competitive review and from funding under this announcement. That is, applications submitted to www.Grants.gov, on or after 12:00 a.m., ET, on the day after the due date will be disqualified from competitive review and from funding under this announcement.

Please Note: Applications submitted to www.Grants.gov at any time during the open application period, and prior to the due date and time, which fail the Grants.gov validation check, will not be received at ACF. These applications will not be acknowledged. Applications that fail the Grants.gov validation check are not transmitted to ACF though they may have been submitted on time.

Each time an application is submitted via www.Grants.gov, the application will receive a new date and time-stamp email. Only those applications with on-time date and time stamps that result in a

validated application, which are transmitted to ACF, will be acknowledged.

The deadline for receipt of paper applications is 4:30 p.m., ET, on the due date listed in the *Overview* and in *Section IV.3. Submission Dates and Times*. Paper applications received after 4:30 p.m., ET, on the due date will be disqualified from competitive review and from funding under this announcement.

Paper applications received from applicants that have not requested an exemption from required electronic submission will be disqualified from competitive review and from funding under this announcement. See "*Request an Exemption from Required Electronic Application Submission*" in *Section IV.2. Content and Form of Application Submission*.

Applications that are disqualified under any of these circumstances will receive written notification by letter or by email.

Read and observe the formatting instructions for application submissions in *Section IV.2. Content and Form of Application Submission*.

Section IV. Application and Submission Information

IV.1. Address to Request Application Package

Seth Hassett
Administration for Children and Families
Office of Community Services
Grant Operations Center
1400 Key Boulevard, Suite 910
Arlington, VA 22209
Phone: (800) 281-9519
Email: OCS@lcgnet.com

Electronic Application Submission:

The electronic application submission package is available at www.Grants.gov.

Applications in Paper Format:

For applicants that have received an exemption to submit applications in paper format, Standard Forms, assurances, and certifications are available at the ACF Funding Opportunities Forms webpage at http://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/grants_resources.html. See *Section IV.2. Request an Exemption from Required Electronic Application Submission* if applicants do not have an Internet connection or sufficient computing capacity to upload large documents (files) to www.Grants.gov.

Standard Forms that are compliant with Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act (29 U.S.C. § 794d):

Available at the [Grants.gov Forms Repository](http://www.Grants.gov) website and at http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants_forms.

Federal Relay Service:

Hearing-impaired and speech-impaired callers may contact the Federal Relay Service for assistance at 1-800-877-8339 (TTY - Text Telephone or ASCII - American Standard Code For Information Interchange).

Section IV.2. Content and Form of Application Submission

FORMATTING ACF APPLICATIONS

For All ACF Applications:

Authorized Organizational Representative (AOR)

The individual(s), named by the applicant/recipient organization, who is authorized to act for the applicant/recipient and to assume the obligations imposed by the Federal laws, regulations, requirements, and conditions that apply to grant applications or awards.

Each applicant must designate an Authorized Organizational Representative (AOR). An AOR is named by the applicant, and is authorized to act for the applicant, to assume the obligations imposed by the Federal laws, regulations, requirements, and conditions that apply to the grant application or awards.

AOR Authorization is part of the registration process at www.Grants.gov where the AOR will create a short profile and obtain a username and password from the Grants.gov Credential Provider. AORs will only be authorized for the DUNS number registered in the Central Contractor Registration (CCR).

Point of Contact

In addition to the AOR, a point of contact on matters involving the application must also be identified. The point of contact, known as the Project Director or Principal Investigator, should not be identical to the person identified as the AOR. The point of contact must be available to answer any questions pertaining to the application.

Application Checklist

Applicants may refer to *Section VIII. Other Information* for a checklist of application requirements that may be used in developing and organizing application materials. Details concerning acknowledgment of received applications are available in *Section IV.3. Submission Dates and Times* of this announcement.

Follow the instructions provided in the formatting section to ensure that your application can be printed efficiently and consistently for the competitive review.

Observe page limitations.

All applicants must follow the instructions provided in this section. Be sure to print all attachments (components) on paper and count the number of pages before submission. Keep the printed copy as a hard copy of your application for your files.

Application Package Components

Applications must be divided into the sections listed in the table. (The order in which components are submitted electronically via www.Grants.gov or included in a paper application may not be the same as listed in the table.) Page limitations apply to the Project Description document and the Appendices and the following:

- The Project Summary/Abstract is limited to one single-spaced page.
- The Budget Justification should be no more than 10 single-spaced pages and will not count against page limitations.

Application Package Components	Page Limitations
--------------------------------	------------------

Required Standard Forms (SFs) and/or OMB-approved Forms	No page limitations.
Required Certifications and Assurances	No page limitations.
Project Summary/Abstract	Limited to one single-spaced page.
Project Description	Page Limitations and included items are listed later in this section.
Budget Justification	No more than 10 single-spaced pages and will not count against page limitations.
Proof of Legal Status/Proof of Non-Profit Status	No page limitations.
Appendices	Page Limitations and included items are listed later in this section.

ELECTRONIC APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED VIA www.Grants.gov:

Notice: The Administration for Children and Families has implemented required electronic application submission via www.Grants.gov. Applicants are now required to submit their applications electronically unless they have requested and received an exemption that will allow submission in paper format. See Section IV.2. Application Submission Options.

Electronic applications will only be accepted via www.Grants.gov. ACF will not accept applications submitted via email or via facsimile. Only applications, which pass the Grants.gov validation check, will be acknowledged.

Please read this section carefully before beginning application submission. It is mandatory to follow the instructions provided in this section to ensure that your application can be printed efficiently and consistently for review.

Copies Required

Applicants must submit one complete copy of the application package electronically. Applicants submitting electronic applications need not provide additional copies of their application package.

NOTE: Applications submitted via www.Grants.gov will undergo a validation check. See Section IV.2. Application Submission Options and Section IV.3. Submission Due Dates and Times, Explanation of Due Dates. The validation check can affect whether the application is accepted for review. Applications that fail the www.Grants.gov validation check will not be transmitted to ACF. If the application fails the validation check and is not resubmitted by 11:59 p.m., ET, on the due date, it will be disqualified.

Signatures

Follow the AOR Authorization and E-Biz POC instructions provided at www.Grants.gov.

Required OMB-Approved and Standard Forms (SFs)

www.Grants.gov provides its own protocols for the submission of OMB-approved and Standard Forms (SFs) such as the SF-424 application and budget forms and the SF-P/PSL, Project/Performance Site Location form. See Section IV.2. Required Forms, Assurances, and Certifications for required OMB-approved Standard Forms and required assurances and certifications.

Application Package Components

Applications must be divided into the sections listed in the table. **It is important that each component is submitted in a separate electronic file.** Page limitations apply to the Project Description document and the Appendices and the following:

- The Project Summary/Abstract is limited to one single-spaced page.
- The Budget Justification should be no more than 10 single-spaced pages.

Application Package Components	Page Limitations
Required Standard Forms (SFs) and/or OMB-approved Forms	No page limitations.
Required Certifications and Assurances	No page limitations.
Project Summary/Abstract	Limited to one single-spaced page.
Project Description	Page Limitations and included items are listed later in this section.
Budget Justification	No more than 10 single-spaced pages and will not count against page limitations.
Proof of Legal Status/Proof of Non-Profit Status	No page limitations.
Appendices	Page Limitations and included items are listed later in this section.

The required content of the Project Description and any Appendices, and their page limits, are listed later in this section.

With the exception of the required Standard Forms (SFs), all application materials must be formatted so that they will print out onto 8 ½" x 11" white paper with 1-inch margins. **All pages of the application component, i.e., Project Description, Budget Justification, Appendices, must be sequentially numbered.** Applicants should print all attachments on paper and count the number of pages before submitting the application. Applicants should keep a hard copy of the submitted application package for their files. The font size on any scanned documents must be large enough so that it is readable.

All elements of the application submission, with the exception of the one-page Project Summary/Abstract, the Budget Justification, required Assurances and Certifications, and proof of legal status/non-profit status, must be in double-spaced format in 12-point font. The Project Summary/Abstract is required to be one single-spaced page in 12-point font. The Budget Justification may be single-spaced page in 12-point font and should be no more than 10 pages. The font size on any scanned documents must be large enough so that it is readable.

Applicants must follow the instructions provided in this section:

Carefully observe the file naming conventions required by www.Grants.gov.

Limit file names to 50 characters and do not use special characters (example: &, -, *, %, /, #) including periods (.), blank spaces, and accent marks, within application form fields, and file attachment names. An underscore (_) may be used to separate a file name.

Use only file formats supported by ACF.

It is critical that applicants only submit application components using the supported file formats listed here. Documents in file formats that are not supported by ACF will be removed from the application and will not be used in the competitive review. This may make the application incomplete and ACF will not make any awards based on an incomplete application.

ACF supports the following file formats:

- Adobe PDF – Portable Document Format (.pdf)
- Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx)
- Microsoft Excel (.xls or .xlsx)
- Microsoft PowerPoint (.ppt)
- Corel WordPerfect (.wpd)
- Image Formats (.JPG, .GIF, .TIFF, or .BMP only)

Do not encrypt or password protect the electronic application files!

If ACF cannot access submitted electronic files because they have been encrypted or are password protected, the affected file will be removed from the application and will not be used in the competitive review. This may make the application incomplete and ACF will not make any awards based on an incomplete application.

PAPER APPLICATION SUBMISSIONS:

The following requirements are only applicable to applications submitted in paper format. Applicants must receive an exemption from ACF in order to submit an application in paper format. See Section IV.2. Request an Exemption from Required Electronic Application Submission later in this section under Application Submission Options.

Application Package Components	Page Limitations
Required Standard Forms (SFs) and/or OMB-approved Forms	No page limitations.
Required Certifications and Assurances	No page limitations.
Project Summary/Abstract	Limited to one single-spaced page.
Project Description	Page Limitations and included items are listed later in this section.
Budget Justification	No more than 10 single-spaced pages and will not count against page limitations.
Proof of Legal Status/Proof of Non-Profit Status	No page limitations.
Appendices	Page Limitations and included items are listed later in this section.

Copies Required

Applicants must provide one original and two copies of all application materials when submitting an application in paper format.

Signatures

An original signature of the AOR is required only on the original copy of paper application submissions. A point of contact on matters involving the application must also be identified on the SF-424 at item 8f. The point of contact, known as the Project Director or Principal Investigator, should not be identical to the person identified as the AOR.

Format Requirements for Paper Applications

Applicants must follow the instructions provided in this section.

All application materials must be submitted on 8 ½" x 11" white paper with 1-inch margins. **All pages of the paper application submission must be sequentially numbered.** Application materials must be printed on one side only of each page so that they may be easily reproduced. If two-sided pages are submitted, only the "front" page will be used.

All elements of the application submission, with the exception of the one-page Project Summary/Abstract, the Budget Justification, required Assurances and Certifications, and proof of legal status/non-profit status, must be in double-spaced format in 12-point font. The Project Summary/Abstract is required to be one single-spaced page in 12-point font. The Budget Justification may be single-spaced, in 12-point font, and should be no more than 10 pages. The font size on any scanned documents must be large enough so that it is readable.

All copies of a mailed or hand-delivered paper application must be submitted in a single package. A separate package must be submitted for application under a single funding opportunity. The package must be clearly labeled for the specific funding opportunity it is addressing.

Because each application will be duplicated, do not use or include separate covers, binders, clips, tabs, plastic inserts, maps, brochures, or any other items that cannot be processed easily on a photocopy machine with an automatic feed. Do not bind, clip, staple, or fasten in any way separate subsections of the application, including supporting documentation. Use a clip (not a staple) to securely bind the application together. Applicants are advised that the copies of the application submitted, not the original, will be reproduced by the Federal government for review. Application materials must be one-sided for duplication purposes.

Instructions on the order of assembly for paper application submissions are available under this formatting section.

Addresses for Submission of Paper Applications

See *Section IV.6. Other Submission Requirements* for addresses for paper application submissions.

Page Limitations for Paper Format Application Submissions

Page limitations do not include OMB-approved Standard Forms (SFs), the one-page Project Summary/Abstract, proof of legal status/non-profit status, required Assurances and Certifications, and the Budget Justification, which should be no more than 10 single-spaced pages.

If an application exceeds the cited page limitation for double-spaced pages in the Project Description or the double-spaced page limitation cited for the Appendices, the extra pages will be removed and will not be reviewed. In addition, if an application narrative is single-spaced and/or one-and-a-half spaced (in whole or in part) the total number of these lines will be doubled. This adjustment may result in an increased total number of pages, which will be removed so that the application conforms to the cited double-spaced page limitation.

The Project Summary/Abstract is limited to one single-spaced page with 12-point font. Any pages over the one-page limit will be removed.

Page Limitations and Content of The Project Description and Appendices for All Application Formats:

The Project Description is limited to 50 pages and must include the following:

- Table of Contents
- Objectives and Need for Assistance
- Outcomes Expected
- Approach
- Evaluation
- Geographic Location
- Logic Model
- Protection of Sensitive and/or Confidential Information
- Dissemination Plan

Appendices are limited to 50 pages and must include the following:

- Organizational Charts
- Financial statements adhering to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP)
- Contact persons and telephone numbers
- Documentation of experience in the program area
- Personnel policies
- Third-Party Agreements
- Letters of Support
- Any other pertinent information the applicant deems relevant

Tips for Preparing a Competitive Application

It is essential that applicants read the entire funding opportunity announcement carefully before preparing an application and include all of the required application forms and attachments. The application must reflect a thorough understanding of the purpose and objectives of the applicable legislation.

Reviewers expect applicants to understand the goals of the legislation and OCS interest in each topic. A "responsive application" is one that addresses all of the evaluation criteria in ways that demonstrate this understanding. Applications that are considered to be "unresponsive" generally receive very low scores and are rarely funded.

Required Forms, Assurances, and Certifications

Applicants seeking grant or cooperative agreement awards under this announcement must submit the listed Standard Forms (SFs), assurances, and certifications with the application. All required Standard Forms, assurances, and certifications are available at [ACF Funding Opportunities Forms](#) or at the [Grants.gov Forms Repository](#) unless specified otherwise.

Forms / Assurances / Certifications	Submission Requirement	Notes / Description
SF-424A - Budget Information - Non-Construction Programs and SF-424B - Assurances - Non-Construction Programs	Submission is required for all applicants when applying for a non-construction project. Standard Forms must be used. Forms must be submitted by the application due date.	Required for all applications when applying for a non-construction project. By signing and submitting the SF-424B, applicants are making the appropriate certification of their compliance with all Federal statutes relating to nondiscrimination.

<p>Certification Regarding Lobbying</p>	<p>Submission required of all applicants with the application package. If it is not submitted with the application package, it may also be submitted prior to the award of a grant.</p>	<p>Submission of this Certification is required for all applications.</p>
<p>SF-424 - Application for Federal Assistance and SF-P/PSL - Project/Performance Site Location(s)</p>	<p>Submission is required for all applicants by the application due date.</p>	<p>Required for all applications.</p>
<p>Survey on Ensuring Equal Opportunity for Applicants</p>	<p>Submission is voluntary. Submission may be made with the application by the application due date listed in the <i>Overview</i> and <i>Section IV.3. Submission Dates and Times</i>. Or, it may be submitted prior to the award of a grant.</p>	<p>Non-profit private organizations (not including private universities) are encouraged to submit the survey with their applications. Submission of the survey is voluntary. Applicants applying electronically may submit the survey along with the application as part of an appendix or as a separate document. Hard copy submissions should include the survey in a separate envelope.</p>
<p>SF-LLL - Disclosure of Lobbying Activities</p>	<p>If submission of this form is applicable, it is due prior at the time of application. It may also be submitted prior to the award of a grant.</p>	<p>If any funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this commitment providing for the United States to insure or guarantee a loan, the applicant shall complete and submit the SF-LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying," in accordance with its instructions. Applicants must furnish an executed copy of the Certification Regarding Lobbying prior to award.</p>

PROGRAM ASSURANCES

The acceptance of funds for projects responsive to this announcement will signify the applicant's assurance that it will comply with tasks as described above, and the following requirements:

- Coordinate activities and disseminate information to address the T/TA needs of specific State Associations in the region, taking into account the primary mission of RPIs, and the roles and responsibilities of State CSBG Lead Agencies;
- Promote T/TA that focuses on knowledge management for purposes of assisting State Associations with integrating ROMA Next Generation implementation efforts, as well as high-quality performance standards;
- Collaborate with other CSBG T/TA providers, as identified by OCS, to identify and solicit resources that support collaboration, capacity-building, and evidence-based and evidence-informed practices;
- Convene regular meetings, webinars, or conference calls for State Associations in the region to assure effective communication regarding the goals and activities of the RPIs, and pending T/TA coordination and information dissemination activities.

Identification of Federal Support

Whenever T/TA projects are either entirely or partially supported by CSBG funds, the CSBG T/TA provider (grantee) must clearly identify the associated activities, services, or resources as part of the National T/TA Strategy for Promoting Exemplary Practices and Risk Mitigation for CSBG. Furthermore, the grantee should include a certification statement as follows:

This publication was created by [grantee organization name] in the performance of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Community Services, Grant Number [90EQXXXX]. Any opinion, findings, and conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families."

Implementation Plans and Consultation Process

Within one month (30 days) of receiving a Notice of Award (NoA), the project director must participate in a call with the identified OCS program liaison staff member responsible for oversight of the cooperative agreement. During this period, the OCS program liaison staff member will provide updates on any new project requirements. The OCS program liaison staff member may also facilitate a call or conference call with the project director(s) for the CSBG Centers of Excellence to discuss expected areas of coordination and collaboration.

Within two months (60 days) of receiving a NoA, the project director will submit an implementation plan based on the expectations of the cooperative agreement, program updates, and information provided by the OCS program liaison staff.

Within three months (90 days) of receiving a NoA, the project director and other key staff of the regional consortia must participate in a implementation planning meeting in Washington, D.C. or via teleconference with the Federal Project Officer and other OCS staff. Details of the project implementation plan and cooperative agreement will be discussed during this teleconference.

The regional consortia grantee should be prepared to make an oral presentation to OCS staff that describes and defends the implementation plan. The oral presentation should include details on the T/TA coordination activities, information dissemination approach, support of and collaboration with national CSBG T/TA Centers of Excellence to promote regionally based ROMA Next Generation input and implementation, as well as support for the implementation of new organizational performance standards. Applicants are advised to propose two project staff members, for up to two days, to make the presentation: the project director and financial officer. In addition, applicants may propose one other key partner to make the presentation, which may include a lead representative for the ROMA Next Generation implementation effort.

Participation in Web-Based Technical Assistance Coordination System

As a component of this cooperative agreement, and as stated in *Section IV.2 Project Description: Approach*, participation in the *CSBG T/TA Resource Center* will assure that all State CSBG Lead

Agencies and CSBG-eligible entities have access to updated national information on evidence-based and evidence-informed service approaches.

Non-Federal Reviewers

Since ACF will be using non-Federal reviewers in the review process, applicants have the option of omitting from the application copies (not the original) specific salary rates or amounts for individuals specified in the application budget as well as Social Security Numbers, if otherwise required for individuals. The copies may include summary salary information. If applicants are submitting their application electronically, ACF will omit the same specific salary rate information from copies made for use during the review and selection process.

The Project Description

The Project Description Overview

The project description provides the majority of information by which an application is evaluated and ranked in competition with other applications for available assistance. The project description should be concise and complete. It should address the activity for which Federal funds are being requested. Supporting documents should be included where they can present information clearly and succinctly. In preparing the project description, information that is responsive to each of the requested evaluation criteria must be provided. Awarding offices use this and other information in making their funding recommendations. It is important, therefore, that this information be included in the application in a manner that is clear and complete.

General Expectations and Instructions

ACF is particularly interested in specific project descriptions that focus on outcomes and convey strategies for achieving intended performance. Project descriptions are evaluated on the basis of substance and measurable outcomes, not length. Extensive exhibits are not required. Cross-referencing should be used rather than repetition. Supporting information concerning activities that will not be directly funded by the grant or information that does not directly pertain to an integral part of the grant-funded activity should be placed in an appendix.

General Instructions for Preparing a Full Project Description

Introduction

Applicants that are required to submit a full project description shall prepare the project description statement in accordance with the following instructions while being aware of the specified evaluation criteria. The topics listed in this section provide a broad overview of what the project description should include while the Criteria in *Section V.I.* identify the measures that will be used to evaluate applications.

Table of Contents

List the contents of the application including corresponding page numbers.

Project Summary/Abstract

Provide a summary of the application's project description. The summary must be clear, accurate, concise, and without reference to other parts of the application. The abstract must include a brief description of the proposed grant project including the needs to be addressed, the proposed services, and the population group(s) to be served.

Please place the following at the top of the abstract:

- Project Title
- Applicant Name

- Address
- Contact Phone Numbers (Voice, Fax)
- E-Mail Address
- Web Site Address, if applicable

The project abstract must be single-spaced and limited to one page in length.

Objectives And Need For Assistance

Clearly identify the physical, economic, social, financial, institutional, and/or other problem(s) requiring a solution. The need for assistance, including the nature and scope of the problem, must be demonstrated, and the principal and subordinate objectives of the project must be clearly and concisely stated. Supporting documentation, such as letters of support and testimonials from concerned interests other than the applicant, may be included. Any relevant data based on planning studies or needs assessments should be included or referred to in the endnotes/footnotes. Incorporate demographic data and participant/beneficiary information, as needed. In developing the project description, the applicant may volunteer or be requested to provide information on the total range of projects currently being conducted and supported (or to be initiated), some of which may be outside the scope of the funding opportunity announcement.

Outcomes Expected

Identify the outcomes to be derived from the project.

Based on the Goals of the CSBG National T/TA Strategy provided in *Section I. Funding Opportunity Description*, describe in detail how the proposed project demonstrates the applicant's ability to:

- Mitigate risks associated with the use of CSBG funds;
- Promote exemplary practices and innovative programming that stimulates the creation and sharing of information and knowledge in the CSBG T/TA Network;
- Measure and document performance in accordance with CSBG reporting requirements;
- Work with States to help ensure that CSBG-eligible entity boards know, understand, and meet their fiduciary responsibilities to CSBG (i.e., participation in the development, planning, implementation, and evaluation of CSBG-funded activities and services);
- Ensure the management and delivery of CSBG-funded services creates and strengthens sustainable economic resources in communities;
- Facilitate regional input in the development of updated models of Results Oriented Management and Accountability (ROMA) and disseminate ROMA training and technical assistance in partnership with a national center of excellence; and
- Facilitate regional input in the development of high-quality organizational performance standards and provide technical assistance to assist States and eligible entities in meeting these standards.

In describing the outcomes expected, demonstrate how the proposed project will meet the T/TA needs of the region proposed to be served. Identify how the activities will be coordinated with State CSBG Lead Agencies. Explain how the proposed activities will help address immediate regional T/TA needs, as well as the ways in which it will help OCS address long-term T/TA needs related to national T/TA coordination in the CSBG Network.

Approach

Outline a plan of action that describes the scope and detail of how the proposed work will be accomplished. Account for all functions or activities identified in the application. Cite factors that might accelerate or decelerate the work and state your reason for taking the proposed approach rather than other approaches. Describe any unusual features of the project such as design or technological innovations, reductions in cost or time, or extraordinary social and community involvement.

Provide quantitative monthly or quarterly projections of the outcomes to be achieved for each function or activity in such terms as the number of people to be served and the number of activities accomplished.

Data may be organized and presented as project tasks and subtasks with their corresponding timelines during the project period. For example, each project task could be assigned to a row in the first column of a grid. Then, a unit of time could be assigned to each subsequent column, beginning with the first unit (i.e., week, month, quarter) of the project and ending with the last. Shading, arrows, or other markings could be used across the applicable grid boxes or cells, representing units of time, to indicate the approximate duration and/or frequency of each task and its start and end dates within the project period.

When accomplishments cannot be quantified by activity or function, list them in chronological order to show the schedule of accomplishments and their target dates.

Provide a list of organizations, cooperating entities, consultants, or other key individuals who will work on the project, along with a short description of the nature of their effort or contribution.

PROJECT PLAN

Applicants must propose a plan that clearly and concisely addresses the overall goals of this project as described in *Section I. Funding Opportunity Description*. The strategies employed should describe and include:

1. A systematic approach to satisfying the regional consortia's (RPI's) roles, responsibilities, and core functions;
2. Collaboration and coordination efforts with State Associations and State CSBG Lead Agencies in the region;
3. Strategic partnerships with industries that intersect with community action efforts, particularly those that may play a role in leveraging resources (i.e., potential avenues for collaborations);
4. Principles of knowledge management across T/TA coordination and information dissemination efforts; and
5. A clear approach to fostering and strengthening communication, coordination, information dissemination, and other T/TA activities with national CSBG T/TA service providers.

ROMA NEXT GENERATION IMPLEMENTATION EFFORT

As described in *Section I. Funding Opportunity Description*, a key focus of RPIC activities should be on the participation in a ROMA Next Generation performance effort. Applicants should describe a preliminary approach to support regional input and implementation, including a commitment to:

1. Obtain and provide regional input on current performance measurement and performance standards based on the ROMA cycle of performance management, including high-quality, comprehensive needs assessments, community CSBG plans that utilize evidence-informed service approaches targeted to the highest priority needs, setting challenging outcome goals, and documentation and analysis of progress and results according to a consistent set of criteria;
2. Participate in national CSBG T/TA work groups to share current practice information, review input, and provide service examples and other assistance in development and implementation of ROMA Next Generation guidance, training, and materials in partnership with a national CSBG T/TA Center of Excellence;

3. In collaboration with State CSBG Lead Agencies, facilitate and provide training on performance standards and measurement techniques based on the ROMA cycle; and
4. Assist State Associations and CSBG-eligible entities in analyzing community needs assessment data, setting challenging service delivery goals, identifying evidence-informed service plans, and documenting outcomes based on the ROMA cycle of performance management.

Applicants should propose activities that promote T/TA coordination within the region, with a particular emphasis on enhancing the effectiveness of CSBG-eligible entities in performance measurement and high-quality organizational performance standards.

All States located within the applicant's region must be included as part of the proposed work plan and subsequent implementation plan.

Successful grantees will work with OCS in modification of a work plan for direct coordination with national CSBG Centers of Excellence and other CSBG T/TA grantees and contractors in this effort.

Activities allowed under this grant may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Collaboration with national CSBG Centers of Excellence, the CSBG State Performance Management Clearinghouse, and the CSBG Risk Mitigation and Quality Improvement T/TA Center on dissemination of information and T/TA materials such as toolkits, fact sheets, resource handbooks, publications on promising practices, and, when possible, existing TA materials for activities related to collaboration, capacity-building, and exemplary practice;
- Facilitation of workshops and training events;
- Coordination of webinars and T/TA conference calls; and
- Recommendations to OCS regarding ongoing T/TA needs in the CSBG Network.

Applicants must demonstrate the capacity to coordinate regional T/TA activities for State Associations, and a clear understanding of components and strategies related to collaboration, capacity-building, and exemplary practice.

Participation in Web-Based Technical Assistance Coordination System

The applicant must describe a preliminary plan for participation in a Web-based technical assistance coordination system, the *CSBG T/TA Resource Center*, operated by CSBG T/TA grantees under the Risk Mitigation and Quality Improvement T/TA Center and the State Performance Management Clearinghouse programs. Participation in the *CSBG T/TA Resource Center* will assure that all State CSBG Lead Agencies and CSBG-eligible entities have access to updated national information on evidence-based and evidence-informed service approaches.

Evaluation

Provide a narrative addressing how the conduct of the project and its results will be evaluated. In addressing the evaluation of results, state what measures will be used to determine the extent to which the project has achieved its stated objectives and the extent to which the accomplishment of objectives can be attributed to the project. Discuss the criteria to be used to evaluate results, and explain the methodology that will be used to determine if the needs identified and discussed are being met and if the project results and benefits are being achieved. With respect to the conduct of the project, define the procedures to be employed to determine whether the project is being conducted in a manner consistent with the work plan presented and discuss the impact of the project's various activities that address the project's effectiveness.

Describe plans for evaluating effectiveness in disseminating T/TA materials such as toolkits, fact sheets, resource handbooks, publications on promising practices, and, when possible, existing technical assistance materials for activities related to collaboration, capacity-building, and exemplary practice.

Describe plans for evaluating outcomes from workshops and training events.

Describe plans for evaluating the impact of technical assistance activities on the management, strategic planning, performance assessment, and service delivery practices of organizations that receive technical assistance.

Geographic Location

Describe the precise location of the project and boundaries of the area to be served by the proposed project. Maps or other graphic aids may be attached.

Legal Status of Applicant Entity

Applicants must provide the following documentation of their legal status:

Proof of Non-Profit Status

Non-profit organizations applying for funding are required to submit proof of their non-profit status. Proof of non-profit status is any one of the following:

- A reference to the applicant organization's listing in the IRS's most recent list of tax-exempt organizations described in the IRS Code.
- A copy of a currently valid IRS tax-exemption certificate.
- A statement from a State taxing body, State attorney general, or other appropriate State official certifying that the applicant organization has non-profit status and that none of the net earnings accrue to any private shareholders or individuals.
- A certified copy of the organization's certificate of incorporation or similar document that clearly establishes non-profit status.
- Any of the items in the subparagraphs immediately above for a State or national parent organization and a statement signed by the parent organization that the applicant organization is a local non-profit affiliate.

When applying electronically, proof of non-profit status may be submitted as an attachment; however, proof of non-profit status must be submitted prior to award.

Logic Model

Applicants are expected to use a model for designing and managing their project. A logic model is a one-page diagram that presents the conceptual framework for a proposed project and explains the links among program elements. While there are many versions of logic models, for the purposes of this announcement the logic model should summarize the connections between the:

- Goals of the project (e.g., objectives, reasons for proposing the interventions, if applicable);
- Assumptions (e.g., beliefs about how the program will work and its supporting resources. Assumptions should be based on research, best practices, and experience);
- Inputs (e.g., organizational profile, collaborative partners, key staff, budget);
- Activities (e.g., approach, listing key intervention, if applicable);
- Outputs (i.e., the direct products or deliverables of program activities); and
- Outcomes (i.e., the results of a program, typically describing a change in people or systems).

Organizational Capacity

- Organizational charts
- Financial statements adhering to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP)
- Contact persons and telephone numbers
- Documentation of experience in the program area
- Personnel policies
- Any other pertinent information the applicant deems relevant.

Provide a biographical sketch or resume for each key person appointed. Resumes should be no more than two pages in length. Job descriptions for each vacant key position should be included as well. As new key staff are appointed, biographical sketches or resumes will also be required.

Protection of Sensitive and/or Confidential Information

If any confidential or sensitive information will be collected during the course of the project, whether from staff (e.g., background investigations) or project participants and/or project beneficiaries, provide a description of the methods that will be used to ensure that confidential and/or sensitive information is properly handled and safeguarded. Also provide a plan for the disposition of such information at the end of the project period.

Dissemination Plan

Provide a plan for distributing reports and other project outputs to colleagues and to the public. Applicants must provide a description of the method, volume, and timing of distribution.

Third-Party Agreements

Provide written and signed agreements between grantees and subgrantees, or subcontractors, or other cooperating entities. These agreements must detail the scope of work to be performed, work schedules, remuneration, and other terms and conditions that structure or define the relationship.

Letters Of Support

Provide statements from community, public, and commercial leaders that support the project proposed for funding. All submissions should be included in the application package or by the application deadline.

The Project Budget and Budget Justification

All applicants are required to submit a project budget and budget justification with their application. The project budget is input on the Budget Information Standard Form, either SF-424A or SF-424C. The budget justification is a line-item detail that includes detailed calculations for "object class categories" identified on the Budget Information Standard Form. Calculations must include estimation methods, quantities, unit costs, and other similar quantitative detail sufficient for the calculation to be duplicated. If matching or cost sharing is a requirement, applicants must include a detailed listing of any funding sources identified in Block 18 of the SF-424 (Application for Federal Assistance).

Project budget Standard Forms and the budget justification will not count toward page limitations; however, the justification should be no more than 10 single-spaced pages with fonts of no less than 12-points.

Special Note: *The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2012 (Pub.L. 112-74), enacted December 23, 2011, limits the salary amount that may be awarded and charged to ACF grants and cooperative agreements. Award funds issued under this announcement may not be used to pay the salary, or any percentage of salary, to an individual at a rate in excess of Executive Level II. The Executive Level II salary of the Federal Executive Pay scale is \$179,700*

*(<http://www.opm.gov/oca/12tables/html/ex.asp>). This amount reflects an individual's base salary **exclusive** of fringe and any income that an individual may be permitted to earn outside of the duties to the applicant organization. This salary limitation also applies to subawards/subcontracts under a ACF grant or cooperative agreement.*

Provide a narrative budget justification for the first year of the proposed project. The narrative budget justification should describe how the categorical costs are derived. Discuss the necessity, reasonableness, and allocation of the proposed costs.

The budget for the project should also include funding for at least one key staff person to attend two in-person national technical assistance coordination meetings, and funding for at least one key staff person to attend and present at one of the 2012-2013 CSBG T/TA Network partner conferences (e.g., National Association for State Community Services Programs Fall Conference).

General

Use the following guidelines for preparing the budget and budget justification. Both Federal and non-Federal resources (when required) shall be detailed and justified in the budget and budget narrative justification. "Federal resources" refers only to the ACF grant funds for which you are applying. "Non-Federal resources" are all other non-ACF Federal and non-Federal resources. It is suggested that budget amounts and computations be presented in a columnar format: first column, object class categories; second column, Federal budget; next column(s), non-Federal budget(s); and last column, total budget. The budget justification should be in a narrative form.

Personnel

Description: Costs of employee salaries and wages.

Justification: Identify the project director or principal investigator, if known at the time of application. For each staff person, provide: the title; time commitment to the project in months; time commitment to the project as a percentage or full-time equivalent; annual salary; grant salary; wage rates; etc. Do not include the costs of consultants, personnel costs of delegate agencies, or of specific project(s) and/or businesses to be financed by the applicant.

Fringe Benefits

Description: Costs of employee fringe benefits unless treated as part of an approved indirect cost rate.

Justification: Provide a breakdown of the amounts and percentages that comprise fringe benefit costs such as health insurance, Federal Insurance Contributions Act (FICA) taxes, retirement insurance, taxes, etc.

Travel

Description: Costs of project-related travel by employees of the applicant organization. (This item does not include costs of consultant travel).

Justification: For each trip show: the total number of traveler(s); travel destination; duration of trip; per diem; mileage allowances, if privately owned vehicles will be used to travel out of town; and other transportation costs and subsistence allowances. If appropriate for this project, travel costs for key staff to attend ACF-sponsored workshops should be detailed in the budget.

Equipment

Description: "Equipment" means an article of nonexpendable, tangible personal property having a useful life of more than one year and an acquisition cost that equals or exceeds the lesser of: (a) the capitalization level established by the organization for the financial statement purposes, or (b) \$5,000. (Note: Acquisition cost means the net invoice unit price of an item of equipment, including the cost of any modifications, attachments, accessories, or auxiliary apparatus necessary to make it usable for the purpose for which it is acquired. Ancillary charges, such as taxes, duty, protective in-transit insurance, freight, and installation, shall be included in, or excluded from, acquisition cost in accordance with the organization's regular written accounting practices.)

Justification: For each type of equipment requested provide: a description of the equipment; the cost per unit; the number of units; the total cost; and a plan for use on the project; as well as use and/or disposal of the equipment after the project ends. An applicant organization that uses its own definition for equipment should provide a copy of its policy, or section of its policy, that includes the equipment definition.

Supplies

Description: Costs of all tangible personal property other than that included under the Equipment category.

Justification: Specify general categories of supplies and their costs. Show computations and provide other information that supports the amount requested.

Contractual

Description: Costs of all contracts for services and goods except for those that belong under other categories such as equipment, supplies, construction, etc. Include third-party evaluation contracts, if applicable, and contracts with secondary recipient organizations, including delegate agencies and specific project(s) and/or businesses to be financed by the applicant.

Justification: Demonstrate that all procurement transactions will be conducted in a manner to provide, to the maximum extent practical, open and free competition. Recipients and subrecipients, other than States that are required to use 45 C.F.R. Part 92 procedures, must justify any anticipated procurement action that is expected to be awarded without competition and exceeds the simplified acquisition threshold fixed at 41 U.S.C. § 403(11), currently set at \$100,000. Recipients may be required to make pre-award review and procurement documents, such as requests for proposals or invitations for bids, independent cost estimates, etc. available to ACF.

Note: Whenever the applicant intends to delegate part of the project to another agency, the applicant must provide a detailed budget and budget narrative for each delegate agency, by agency title, along with the same supporting information referred to in these instructions.

Other

Description: Enter the total of all other costs. Such costs, where applicable and appropriate, may include but are not limited to: local travel; insurance; food; medical and dental costs (noncontractual); professional services costs; space and equipment rentals; printing and publication; computer use; training costs, such as tuition and stipends; staff development costs; and administrative costs.

Justification: Provide computations, a narrative description and a justification for each cost under this category.

Indirect Charges

Description: Total amount of indirect costs. This category should be used only when the applicant currently has an indirect cost rate approved by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) or another cognizant Federal agency.

Justification: An applicant that will charge indirect costs to the grant must enclose a copy of the current rate agreement. If the applicant organization is in the process of initially developing or renegotiating a rate, upon notification that an award will be made, it should immediately develop a tentative indirect cost rate proposal based on its most recently completed fiscal year, in accordance with the cognizant agency's guidelines for establishing indirect cost rates, and submit it to the cognizant agency. Applicants awaiting approval of their indirect cost proposals may also request indirect costs. When an indirect cost rate is requested, those costs included in the indirect cost pool should not be charged as direct costs to the grant. Also, if the applicant is requesting a rate that is less than what is allowed under the program, the authorized representative of the applicant organization must submit a signed acknowledgement that the applicant is accepting a lower rate than allowed.

Paperwork Reduction Disclaimer

As required by the Paperwork Reduction Act, 44 U.S.C. §§ 3501-3520, the public reporting burden for the Project Description is estimated to average 40 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and reviewing the collection information. The Project Description information collection is approved under OMB control number 0970-0139, which expires 11/30/2012. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Application Submission Options

Electronic Submission via www.Grants.gov

- Electronic applications must be submitted to www.Grants.gov by 11:59 p.m., ET, on the due date.
- A DUNS Number and current registration at the Central Contractor Registry (CCR) are required. DUNS and CCR registration are part of the www.Grants.gov registration process. See “Get Registered” at http://grants.gov/applicants/get_registered.jsp.
- ACF will not accept applications via facsimile or email.
- The electronic application can be downloaded from www.Grants.gov.
- It is to an applicant's advantage to submit their applications **at least 24 hours** in advance of the application due date and time in order to correct any failures found during the application validation check.
- Electronic submission at www.Grants.gov is two-step process:
 - Submission by the due date and time; and
 - Application validation check.
- Electronically submitted applications will not pass the validation check at Grants.gov if the AOR does not have a current CCR registration and electronic signature credentials.
- **Read and observe all application submission requirements provided at http://www.grants.gov/applicants/apply_for_grants.jsp.**
- Observe the formatting requirements and page limitations provided in the *Section IV.2. Formatting ACF Applications* section for electronic applications.
- Carefully read and observe electronic file naming conventions provided in the application submission instructions at http://www.grants.gov/applicants/apply_for_grants.jsp.
- Use only file formats supported by ACF. See *Section IV.2. Formatting ACF Applications*.
- Additional guidance on the submission of electronic applications can be found at <http://www.grants.gov/assets/Organization Steps Complete Registration.pdf>.

- If applicants encounter any technical difficulties in using www.Grants.gov, contact the Grants.gov Contact Center at: 1-800-518-4726, or by email at support@grants.gov, to report the problem and obtain assistance. Hours of Operation: 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The Grants.gov Contact Center is closed on Federal holidays.
- Applicants should retain Grants.gov Contact Center service ticket number(s) as they may be needed for future reference.
- Applicants that submit their applications electronically should retain a hard copy of their application package.
- **Contact with the Grants.gov Contact Center prior to the listed due date and time does not ensure acceptance of your application. If difficulties are encountered, the Grants Management Officer listed in *Section VII. Agency Contacts* will determine whether the submission issues are due to Grants.gov system errors or user error.**

Application Validation at www.Grants.gov

After an applicant submits an application; Grants.gov generates a submission receipt via email and also sets the application status to "Received." This receipt verifies the application has been successfully delivered to the Grants.gov system.

Next, Grants.gov verifies the submission is valid by ensuring it does not contain viruses, the funding opportunity announcement is still open, and that the applicant login and applicant DUNS number match. If the submission is valid, Grants.gov generates a submission validation receipt via email and sets the application status to "Validated."

If the application is not validated, the application status is set to "Rejected." The system sends a rejection email notification to the applicant and the applicant must re-submit the application package. See "[What to Expect After Submitting](#)" at www.Grants.gov for more information.

Each time an application is submitted, or re-submitted, via www.Grants.gov, the application will receive a new date and time stamp. Only those applications with on-time date and time stamps, which result in a validated application and are transmitted to ACF, will be acknowledged.

Applicants will be provided with an acknowledgement from www.Grants.gov that the submitted application package has passed, or failed, a series of checks and validations. Applications that are submitted on time that fail the validation check will not be transmitted to ACF and will not be acknowledged.

Request an Exemption from Required Electronic Application Submission

ACF recognizes that some applicants may have limited or no Internet access, and/or limited computer capacity, which may prohibit them from uploading large files to the Internet at www.Grants.gov. To accommodate such applicants, ACF offers an exemption from required electronic submission. The exemption will allow applicants to submit hard copy, paper applications by hand-delivery, applicant courier, overnight/express mail couriers, or by other representatives of the applicant.

To receive an exemption from required electronic application submission, applicants must submit a written request to ACF stating that the applicant qualifies for the exemption for one of two reasons:

- Lack of Internet access or Internet connection, or
- Limited computer capacity that prevents the uploading of large documents (files) to the Internet at www.Grants.gov.

Applicants may request and receive the exemption from required electronic application submission by either:

- Submitting an email request to electronicappexemption@acf.hhs.gov, or
- Sending a written request to the Office of Grants Management Contact listed in *Section VII. Agency Contacts* in this announcement.

An exemption is applicable to all applications submitted by the applicant organization during the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) in which it is received. Applicants need only request an exemption once in a FFY. Applicants will need to request a new exemption from required electronic submission for any succeeding FFY.

Please Note: electronicappexemption@acf.hhs.gov may be used only to request an exemption from required application submission. All other inquiries must be directed to the appropriate Agency Contact listed in *Section VII.* of this announcement. Queries submitted to this email address that make requests for any reason other than a request for an exemption will not be acknowledged or answered.

Exemption requests by email to electronicappexemption@acf.hhs.gov and by postal mail must include:

- Funding Opportunity Announcement Title,
- Funding Opportunity Number (FON),
- The listed Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number,
- Name of Applicant Organization and DUNS Number,
- AOR name and contact information,
- Name and contact information of person to be contacted on matters involving the application, and
- The reason for which the applicant is requesting an exemption from electronic application submission. The reason must be either the lack of Internet access or connection, or lack of computer capacity that prevents uploading large documents (files) to the Internet.

Exemption requests must be **received by** ACF no later than two weeks before the application due date, that is, 14 calendar days prior to the application due date listed in the *Overview* and in *Section IV.3. Submission Dates and Times*. If the fourteenth calendar day falls on a weekend or Federal holiday, the due date for receipt of an exemption request will move to the next Federal business day that follows the weekend or Federal holiday.

Applicants may refer to *Section VIII. Other Information* for a checklist of application requirements that may be used in developing and organizing application materials. Details concerning acknowledgment of received applications are available in *Section IV.3. Submission Dates and Times* of this announcement.

Paper Format Application Submission

An exemption is now required for the submission of paper applications. See "*Request an Exemption from Required Electronic Application Submission.*"

Applicants with exemptions that submit their applications in paper format, by mail or delivery, must submit one original and two copies of the complete application with all attachments. The original and each of the two copies must include all required forms, certifications, assurances, and appendices, be signed by the AOR, and be unbound. The original copy of the application must have original signature(s). See *Section IV.6* of this announcement for address information for paper format application submissions.

Applications submitted in paper format must show a DUNS Number. A DUNS Number is a nine-digit number established and assigned by Dun and Bradstreet, Inc. (D&B) to uniquely identify business entities. A DUNS number may be acquired at no cost online at <http://www.dnb.com>. To acquire a DUNS number by phone, contact the D&B Government Customer Response Center: U.S. and U.S Virgin Islands: 1-866-705-5711; Alaska and Puerto Rico: 1-800-234-3867 (Select Option 2, then Option 1). Monday through Friday 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., CST.

As of October 1, 2010, all applicants for Federal grants and cooperative agreements, including those that apply in paper format, are required to have Central Contractor Registration (CCR). CCR registration is also required for organizations that will receive subawards under Federal grants and cooperative agreements. CCR registration may be made online at www.ccr.gov or by phone at 1-866-606-8220.

CCR registration must be updated annually from the date of the initial registration. CCR registration is required to be active throughout the period of award. Lack of CCR registration will prevent ACF from making an award to a recommended applicant.

There is the possibility of heavy traffic at the CCR website on application due dates. Applicants are strongly encouraged to register at the CCR well in advance of the application due date. CCR registration must be active and maintained with current information at all times during which an organization has an active award or an application under consideration.

Applicants may refer to *Section VIII. Other Information* for a checklist of application requirements that may be used in developing and organizing application materials. Details concerning acknowledgment of received applications are available in *Section IV.3. Submission Dates and Times* in this announcement.

IV.3. Submission Dates and Times

Due Date for Applications: **08/06/2012**

Explanation of Due Dates

The due date for receipt of applications is listed in the *Overview* section and in this section. See *Section III.3. Application Disqualification Factors*.

Electronic Applications

The deadline for submission of electronic applications via www.Grants.gov is 11:59 p.m., ET, on the due date. Electronic applications submitted at 12:00 a.m., ET, on the day after the due date will be considered late and will be disqualified from competitive review and from funding under this announcement.

Applicants are required to submit their applications electronically via www.Grants.gov unless they received an exemption through the process described in *Section IV.2. Request an Exemption from Required Electronic Application Submission*.

ACF does not accommodate transmission of applications by email or facsimile.

Instructions for electronic submission via www.Grants.gov are available at http://www.grants.gov/applicants/apply_for_grants.jsp.

Please note:

Applications submitted to www.Grants.gov at any time during the open application period, and prior to the due date and time that fail the Grants.gov validation check will not be received at ACF. **These applications will not be acknowledged.** Applications that fail the Grants.gov validation check will not be transmitted to ACF though they may have been submitted on time.

Each time an application is submitted via www.Grants.gov, the application will receive a new date and time-stamp. Only those applications with date and time-stamps that result in a validated application, which is transmitted to ACF, will be acknowledged.

Mailed Paper Format Applications

The deadline for mailed paper applications is 4:30 p.m., ET, on the due date. Mailed paper applications received after the due date and deadline time will be considered late and will be disqualified from competitive review and from funding under this announcement.

Paper format application submissions will be disqualified if the applicant organization has not received an exemption through the process described in *Section IV.2. Request an Exemption from Required Electronic Application Submission*.

Hand-Delivered Paper Format Applications

Applications that are hand-delivered by applicants, applicant couriers, by overnight/express mail couriers, or other representatives of the applicant must be received on, or before, the due date listed in the *Overview* and in this section. These applications must be delivered between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., ET, Monday through Friday (excluding Federal holidays). Applications should be delivered to the address provided in *Section IV.6. Other Submission Requirements*.

Hand-delivered paper applications received after the due date and deadline time will be considered late and will be disqualified from competitive review and from funding under this announcement.

Hand-delivered paper format application submissions will be disqualified if the applicant organization has not received an exemption through the process described in *Section IV.2. Request an Exemption from Required Electronic Application Submission*.

No appeals will be considered for applications classified as late under the following circumstances:

- Applications submitted electronically via www.Grants.gov are considered late when they are dated and time-stamped after the deadline of 11:59 p.m., ET, on the due date.
- Paper format applications received by mail or hand-delivery after 4:30 p.m., ET, on the due date will be classified as late and will be disqualified.
- Paper format applications received from applicant organizations that were not approved for an exemption from required electronic application submission under the process described in *Section IV.2. Request an Exemption from Required Electronic Submission* will be disqualified.

Extensions and/or Waiving Due Date and Receipt Time Requirements

ACF may extend an application due date and receipt time when circumstances make it impossible for applicants to submit their applications on time. These events include natural disasters (floods, hurricanes, tornados, etc.), or when there are widespread disruptions of electrical service, or mail service, or in other rare cases. The determination to extend or waive due date and/or receipt time requirements rests with the Grants Management Officer listed as the Office of Grants Management Contact in *Section VII. Agency Contacts*.

Acknowledgement from www.Grants.gov of an electronic application's submission:

Applicants will receive an initial email upon submission of their application to www.Grants.gov. This email will provide a **Grants.gov Tracking Number**. Applicants should refer to this tracking number in all communication with Grants.gov. The email will also provide a **date and time stamp**, which serves as the official record of the application's submission. The date and time-stamp must reflect a submission time on, or before, 11:59 p.m., ET, on the application due date. Receipt of this email does not indicate that the application is accepted or that it has passed the validation check.

Each time an application is submitted, or resubmitted, via www.Grants.gov, the application will receive a new date and time-stamp. Only those applications with on-time date and time-stamps that result in a validated application, which is transmitted to ACF, will be acknowledged.

Applicants will be provided with an acknowledgement from www.Grants.gov that the submitted application package has passed, or failed, a series of checks and validations. Applications that are submitted on time that fail the validation check will not be transmitted to ACF and will not be acknowledged.

See "[What to Expect After Submitting](#)" at www.Grants.gov for more information.

Acknowledgement from ACF of an electronic application's submission:

Applicants will be sent additional email(s) from ACF acknowledging that the application has been retrieved from www.Grants.gov by ACF. Receipt of these emails is not an indication that the application is accepted for competition.

Acknowledgement from ACF of a paper format (hard copy) application's submission:

ACF will not provide acknowledgement of receipt of hard copy application packages submitted via mail or courier services.

IV.4. Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs

This program is not subject to Executive Order (E.O.) 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs," or 45 CFR Part 100, "Intergovernmental Review of Department of Health and Human Services Programs and Activities." No action is required of applicants under this announcement with regard to E.O. 12372.

IV.5. Funding Restrictions

Costs of organized fund raising, including financial campaigns, endowment drives, solicitation of gifts and bequests, and similar expenses incurred solely to raise capital or obtain contributions, are considered unallowable costs under grants or cooperative agreements awarded under this funding opportunity announcement.

Grant awards will not allow reimbursement of pre-award costs.

Construction is not an allowable activity or expenditure under this grant award.

Purchase of real property is not an allowable activity or expenditure under this grant award.

Cooperative agreement funds may not be used to cover costs incurred in connection with any criminal, civil, or administrative proceeding commenced by the Federal Government or a State or local government if the proceeding relates to a violation of, or failure to comply with, a Federal, State, or local statute or regulation by the organization and results in the imposition of a monetary penalty or a final decision to debar or suspend the organization, rescind or void an award, or to terminate an award (OMB Circular A-122, Att. B, paragraph 10.2, 2 CFR Part 230, App. B, paragraph 10.b.). Moreover, costs of legal, accounting, and consultant services, and related costs, incurred "in connection with defense against Federal Government claims or appeals . . . or the prosecution of claims or appeals against the Federal Government, are unallowable" (OMB Circular A-122, Att. B, paragraph 10.7, 2 CFR Part 230, App. B, paragraph 10.g.).

State Association Partnerships to Support Capacity-Building and Exemplary Practices

Each RPIC must meet the following requirements regarding allocation of funds:

- *Minimum Distribution to State Associations* - Each RPIC will collaborate with State Associations to support technical assistance focused on performance management, organizational excellence, and evidence-informed practice. The lead grantee for the RPI consortia will be required to provide at least 40 percent of grant funds, through contracts, to other State Associations in the grantee's defined geographic region. Participating State Associations will be required to provide a letter of support from the State CSBG Lead Agency and demonstrate membership, or letters of support, from the majority of CSBG-eligible entities in the State.
- *Minimum Allocation for Performance Management Efforts* - Each RPIC will be required to demonstrate that at least 25 percent of the total Federal funds among the consortia of State Associations will support the regional input and implementation of a national ROMA Next Generation performance project. Key activities will include: 1) obtaining and providing regional input on high-quality performance standards; 2) participating in national work groups; 3) facilitating and providing training on performance standards and measurement techniques; and 4) assisting State Associations and eligible entities to analyze community needs assessment data, set challenging service goals, identify evidence-informed service plans, and document outcomes.

The two allocation requirements described above are not mutually exclusive, meaning that a contract to a State Association can count toward the Minimum Distribution Requirement for State Associations, as well as the Minimum Allocation for Performance Management Efforts. However, the grant budget and program plan must clearly indicate that the minimum requirements will be met in both categories.

RPIs will establish partnerships with State Associations through contracts supported by the ACF award it receives. It is anticipated that the RPIs' role in the partnerships with State Associations will be to serve as fiscal agent and provide technical assistance, including assisting State Associations in planning RPIC-funded activities administered in their defined geographic area. Recipients of ACF awards are accountable for the Federal grant funds received, including those dispersed to project partners, and responsible for monitoring the various projects, programs, and activities supported by this award.

Public Access to Work Products Free of Charge

All publications, written products, tool kits, webinars, and educational materials developed using grant funds must be free of charge to CSBG-eligible entities. The grantee may not charge fees for training activities. However, the grantee may provide training at conferences or activities that include a registration fee, as long as the activity or workshop is part of a larger conference agenda and no specific or additional fees are charged to participate in the workshop. In addition, State or local recipients may support travel expenses to provide on-site training tools upon notifying their Federal OCS program liaison staff.

IV.6. Other Submission Requirements

Submit paper applications to one of the following addresses. See *Section IV.2. Request an Exemption from Required Electronic Application Submission*.

Submission By Mail

Seth Hassett
Administration for Children and Families
Office of Community Services
Grant Operations Center
1400 Key Boulevard, Suite 910
Arlington, VA 22209

Hand Delivery

Seth Hassett

Administration for Children and Families

Office of Community Services

Grant Operations Center

1400 Key Boulevard, Suite 910

Arlington, VA 22209

Electronic Submission

See *Section IV.2* for application requirements and for guidance when submitting applications electronically via <http://www.Grants.gov>.

For all submissions, see *Section IV.3* for information on due dates and times.

V. Application Review Information

V.1. Criteria

Applications competing for financial assistance will be reviewed and evaluated using the criteria described in this section. The corresponding point values indicate the relative importance placed on each review criterion. Points will be allocated based on the extent to which the application proposal addresses each of the criteria listed. Applicants should address these criteria in their application materials, particularly in the project description and budget justification, as they are the basis upon which competing applications will be judged during the objective review. The required elements of the project description and budget justification may be found in *Section IV.2* of this announcement.

Objectives and Need for Assistance

Maximum Points: 15

In reviewing the objectives and need for assistance, reviewers will consider the extent to which the application:

Project Objectives (3 Points)

1. Describes a clear and concise vision for developing and implementing the proposed project, including project objectives, and how the applicant will coordinate T/TA activities among State Associations, focused on ensuring that CSBG-eligible entities most effectively address the needs of low-income people.
2. Demonstrates objectives that are S.M.A.R.T. (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, and Timely).
3. Supports the purposes set forth in this announcement to address the core functions of the RPIs, *Training and Technical Assistance Coordination* and *Information Dissemination*, with specific objectives related to the following project areas:
 - a) Assuring that all CSBG-eligible entities within each region participate in a ROMA Next Generation effort that includes attention to the complete ROMA cycle of performance management, including high-quality, comprehensive needs assessments, community CSBG plans that utilize evidence-informed service approaches targeted to the highest priority needs, setting challenging outcome goals, and documentation and analysis of progress and results according to a consistent set of criteria;
 - b) Assuring that all CSBG-eligible entities within each region are able to meet high-quality performance standards for organizational operations in areas such as organizational

leadership, human resource management, financial operations, consumer input and involvement, community engagement, and governance;

c) Assuring that all CSBG-eligible entities have access to updated national information on evidence-based and evidence-informed service approaches; and

d) Assuring that training and technical assistance efforts are coordinated in an efficient and responsive manner utilizing Federal T/TA resources, State T/TA support, and resources from local CSBG-eligible entities.

Coordination Needs of State Associations in Well-Defined Geographic Area (10 Points)

1. Demonstrates an understanding of CSBG, the role of State Associations, State CSBG Lead Agencies, CSBG-eligible entities, and applicable statutory requirements and regulations regarding T/TA, as described by the CSBG Act.
2. Describes the specific needs related to coordination of State Associations to address the broad T/TA needs of CSBG-eligible entities in their proposed service area.
3. Provides documentation of those needs from third-party sources, as available.
4. Demonstrates knowledge and understanding of factors that influence the organizational sustainability of State Associations, to include the ability of State Associations to leverage resources, promote and sustain relationships with their corresponding State CSBG Lead Agencies, and increase their capacity to address the broad T/TA needs of CSBG-eligible entities.
5. Demonstrates that the needs of the State Associations are linked to the proposed national strategy for a system of performance standards and measurement in CSBG.
6. Demonstrates an understanding of the history of the ROMA system, including examples of current ROMA practices within the region and potential areas for improvements in the development of needs assessments, outcome goals, and documentation and analysis of progress and results according to a consistent set of criteria.

Well-Defined Geographic Area (2 Points)

1. Identifies a specific, well-defined service area for project implementation.
2. Demonstrates a prior history of involvement in and connectedness to the proposed service area to ensure that the impact of services provided is regional and sustained.

Approach

Maximum Points: 40

In reviewing the approach, reviewers will consider the extent to which the application:

General Training and Technical Assistance Coordination and Information Dissemination Strategy (25 Points)

1. Provides a sound timeline for effectively implementing the proposed project, including major milestones and target dates.
2. Describes a clear strategy for executing the core functions, including *Training and Technical Assistance Coordination* and *Information Dissemination*.
3. Describes a clear plan of work that includes collaboration with existing CSBG National T/TA Centers, including the CSBG Risk Mitigation and Quality Improvement T/TA Center, the CSBG State Performance Management Clearinghouse, the CSBG Legal Technical Assistance Center, and new CSBG Centers of Excellence focused on ROMA Next Generation and high-quality organizational performance standards.
4. Describes a plan to participate in a web-based technical assistance coordination system operated by the CSBG Risk Mitigation and Quality Improvement T/TA Center and the CSBG State Performance Management Clearinghouse to assure that all CSBG-eligible entities have access to updated national information on evidence-based and evidence-informed service approaches.
5. Describes a plan to assure that T/TA efforts are coordinated in an efficient and responsive manner

utilizing Federal T/TA resources, State T/TA support, and resources from local CSBG-eligible entities.

6. Provides a proposed logic model demonstrating a linkage between and among project objectives, the proposed project approach, assumptions, inputs, activities, outputs, and outcomes expected.
7. Describes a work plan that is results oriented and related to the T/TA legislative mandate for CSBG.
8. Describes performance targets that the project is committed to achieving, and discusses how the project will verify the achievement of these targets.
9. As applicable, identifies the anticipated number and types of participants (e.g. State or community program staff) engaged in various T/TA activities (e.g. conference calls, meetings, etc.).

ROMA Next Generation Support Plan (15 Points)

1. Describes a plan to help assure that all CSBG-eligible entities within each region participate in a ROMA Next Generation effort that includes attention to the complete ROMA cycle of performance management, including high-quality, comprehensive needs assessments, community CSBG plans that utilize evidence-informed service approaches targeted to the highest priority needs, setting challenging outcome goals, and documentation and analysis of progress and results according to a consistent set of criteria.
2. Describes plans to collaborate with State CSBG Lead Agencies, and facilitate regional input in a national process to review and strengthen the current performance measures and performance indicators with input from experienced CSBG organizations.
3. Describes plans to work with State CSBG Lead Agencies within the service area to communicate consistent standards for performance management throughout the ROMA cycle, including community needs assessment, program planning, and performance measurement, and documentation of outcomes.

Outcomes Expected

Maximum Points: 20

In reviewing the outcomes expected, reviewers will consider the extent to which the application:

1. Describes how the project will assure long-term coordination and information dissemination improvements for State Associations.
2. Conveys the strategies for achieving intended outcomes.
3. States what measures will be used to determine the extent to which the project has achieved its stated objectives and the extent to which the accomplishment of objectives can be attributed to the project.
4. Outlines the procedures to be employed to determine whether the project is being conducted in a manner consistent with the work plan presented.
5. Describes how the project will collaboratively assess its coordination and dissemination information on approaches among State Associations.
6. Identifies the expected number and types of participants (e.g. State or community program staff) engaged in various T/TA activities (e.g., conference workshops, training) and describes methods for securing participant feedback and evaluations of activities.
7. Describes how outcomes for proposed T/TA coordination and information dissemination activities will be evaluated and explains the methodology that will be used to determine if the needs identified and discussed are being met and if the project results and benefits are being achieved.
8. Identifies how the activities proposed will be coordinated with State CSBG Lead Agencies.

Organizational Capacity

Maximum Points: 15

In reviewing the organizational capacity, reviewers will consider the extent to which the application:

1. Demonstrates that the organization has experience and a successful record of accomplishments relevant to the specific activities it proposes to accomplish.
2. Details the applicant's ability to provide proposed T/TA activities and services on a regional basis. If applicable, information provided by the applicant should address the related achievements and competency of each cooperating or sponsoring organization.
3. Describes the experience and skills of the proposed project director and primary staff members, and demonstrates specific qualifications and professional experiences that are relevant to the successful implementation of the proposed project.
4. Demonstrates that the applicant and staff assigned to this project possess experience and expertise in T/TA coordination, particularly in the areas of technical assistance coordination, performance management, and performance standards.
5. If applicable, documents the willingness and capacity of the subcontracting organization(s) to participate as described.
6. Provides a description of the agreement between the applicant and subcontractors that addresses the scope of work, terms and conditions of the agreement, etc.
7. Demonstrates that the organization has experience with monitoring the activities of project partners.

Budget and Budget Justification

Maximum Points: 10

In reviewing the budget and budget justification, reviewers will consider the extent to which the application:

Project Budget (4 Points)

1. Describes a budget that is clear and provides a detailed budget justification.
2. Requests resources that are reasonable and adequate to accomplish the goals of the project, to include the cost of travel-related expenses for at least one key staff person to attend two in-person national technical assistance coordination meetings, as well as at least one staff person to present at one of the 2012-2013 CSBG T/TA Network partners' conferences (e.g., National Association for State Community Services Programs Fall Conference).

Financial Support to State Associations (6 Points)

1. Provides a comprehensive budget reflecting the first 12-month budget period that includes and specifies:
 - *Minimum Distribution to State Associations* - The lead grantee for the RPI consortia has provided at least 40 percent of grant funds, through contracts, to other State Associations in the grantee's defined geographic region.
 - *Minimum Allocation for Performance Management Efforts* - Each RPI has demonstrated that at least 25 percent of the total Federal funds among the consortia of State Associations will support the regional input and implementation of a national ROMA Next Generation performance project.

Applicants should review *Section I. Funding Opportunity Description*, regarding eligibility requirements of State Associations for financial support.

Applicants should refer to the budget information presented in the SF-424 and SF-424A, and to the instructions in *Section IV.2.*, "Part II. General Instructions for preparing a Full Project Description."

V.2. Review and Selection Process

No grant award will be made under this announcement on the basis of an incomplete application. No grant award will be made to an applicant that does not have an active CCR registration (www.ccr.gov or 1-866-606-8220).

Initial ACF Screening

Each application will be screened to determine whether it meets one of the following disqualification criteria as described in *Section III.3. Application Disqualification Factors*:

- Applications that are designated as late according to *Section IV.3. Submission Dates and Times*,
- Applications that are submitted in paper format without prior approval of an exemption from required electronic submission (*Section IV.2. Request an Exemption from Required Electronic Application Submission*), or
- Applications with requests that exceed the award ceiling stated in *Section II. Award Information*.

For those applications that have been disqualified under the initial ACF screening, notice will be provided by postal mail or by email. See *Section IV.3. Explanation of Due Dates* for information on Grants.gov's and ACF's acknowledgment of received applications.

Objective Review and Results

Applications competing for financial assistance will be reviewed and evaluated by objective review panels using the criteria described in *Section V.1. Criteria* of this announcement. Each panel is composed of experts with knowledge and experience in the area under review. Generally, review panels include three reviewers and one chairperson.

Results of the competitive objective review are taken into consideration by ACF in the selection of projects for funding; however, objective review scores and rankings are not binding. They are one element in the decision-making process.

ACF may elect not to fund applicants with management or financial problems that would indicate an inability to successfully complete the proposed project. Applications may be funded in whole or in part. Successful applicants may be funded at an amount lower than that requested. ACF reserves the right to consider preferences to fund organizations serving emerging, unserved, or under-served populations, including those populations located in pockets of poverty. ACF will also consider the geographic distribution of Federal funds in its award decisions.

ACF expects to fund only one lead RPIC grantee from each ACF region, with the exception of Region IV, where awards will be made for two separate service areas, i.e. Region IVA and Region IVB. OCS will only select applicants that are physically located in the ACF region or service area they propose to serve, and those that describe this service area as part of their application.

OCS will select a single applicant organization to serve as the grantee within each region or service area. However, CSBG-eligible applicants in each region may coordinate efforts and apply as a consortium. Applications competing for financial assistance will be reviewed using the criteria described in *Section V.1 Criteria*, and will rank highest those applicants that demonstrate their commitment and capacity to coordinate activities within their region as a consortium.

In the event of competing applications from consortia, the consortium that wins the award will be required to reach out to those State Association partners that provided letters of support to any other consortium applicant in the same region that lost the award. Letters of support for this project from other State Associations in the region and the applicant's respective State CSBG Lead Agency will be one factor considered in award decisions.

As previously stated, preference in funding will be given to applicants that include all States in their region as part of the proposed work plan and subsequent implementation plan. Priority will be given to applicant organizations with proven expertise in capacity-building and non-profit management, as well as activities that are related to the primary mission and core functions of RPIs.

This program is not appropriate for projects proposing stand-alone services that affect and target areas outside the aforementioned well-defined geographic areas. OCS will not fund any project where the role of the applicant is primarily to serve as a conduit for funds to organizations other than the applicant. The applicant must have a substantive role in the implementation of the project for which funding is requested. This prohibition does not bar subcontracts for specific services or activities that are needed to conduct the project.

Please refer to *Section IV.2.* of this announcement for information on non-Federal reviewers in the review process.

Approved but Unfunded Applications

Applications recommended for approval that were not funded under the competition because of the lack of available funds may be held over by ACF and reconsidered in a subsequent review cycle if a future competition under the program area is planned. These applications will be held over for a period of up to one year and will be re-competed for funding with all other competing applications in the next available review cycle. For those applications that have been deemed as approved but unfunded, notice will be given of such determination by postal mail.

V.3. Anticipated Announcement and Award Dates

Announcement of awards and the disposition of applications will be provided to applicants at a later date.

VI. Award Administration Information

VI.1. Award Notices

Successful applicants will be notified through the issuance of a Notice of Award (NoA) that sets forth the amount of funds granted, the terms and conditions of the grant, the effective date of the grant, the budget period for which initial support will be given, the non-Federal share to be provided (if applicable), and the total project period for which support is contemplated. The NoA will be signed by the Grants Officer and transmitted via postal mail or email. Following the finalization of funding decisions, organizations whose applications will not be funded will be notified by letter signed by the cognizant Program Office head. Any other correspondence that announces to a Principal Investigator, or a Project Director, that an application was selected is not an authorization to begin performance.

Project costs that are incurred prior to the receipt of the NoA are at the recipient's risk and may be reimbursed only to the extent that they are considered allowable as approved pre-award costs. Information on allowable pre-award costs and the time period under which they may be incurred is available in *Section IV.5. Funding Restrictions.*

VI.2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

Awards issued under this announcement are subject to the uniform administrative requirements and cost principles of 45 C.F.R. Part 74 (Awards And Subawards To Institutions Of Higher Education, Hospitals, Other Nonprofit Organizations, And Commercial Organizations) or 45 C.F.R. Part 92 (Grants And Cooperative Agreements To State, Local, And Tribal Governments). The Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.) is available at <http://www.gpo.gov>.

An application funded with the release of Federal funds through a grant award does not constitute, or imply, compliance with Federal regulations. Funded organizations are responsible for ensuring that their activities comply with all applicable Federal regulations.

Prohibition Against Profit

Grantees are subject to the limitations set forth in 45 C.F.R. Part 74, Subpart E-Special Provisions for Awards to Commercial Organizations (45 C.F.R. Part 74.81_Prohibition against profit), which states that, "... no HHS funds may be paid as profit to any recipient even if the recipient is a commercial organization. Profit is any amount in excess of allowable direct and indirect costs."

Equal Treatment for Faith-Based Organizations

Grantees are also subject to the requirements of 45 C.F.R. Part 87.1(c), Equal Treatment for Faith-Based Organizations, which says, "Organizations that receive direct financial assistance from the [Health and Human Services] Department under any Department program may not engage in inherently religious activities such as religious instruction, worship, or proselytization as part of the programs or services funded with direct financial assistance from the Department." Therefore, organizations must take steps to completely separate the presentation of any program with religious content from the presentation of the Federally funded program by time or location *in such a way that it is clear that the two programs are separate and distinct*. If separating the two programs by time but presenting them in the same location, one program must *completely* end before the other program begins.

A faith-based organization receiving HHS funds retains its independence from Federal, State, and local governments, and may continue to carry out its mission, including the definition, practice, and expression of its religious beliefs. For example, a faith-based organization may use space in its facilities to provide secular programs or services funded with Federal funds without removing religious art, icons, scriptures, or other religious symbols. In addition, a faith-based organization that receives Federal funds retains its authority over its internal governance, and it may retain religious terms in its organization's name, select its board members on a religious basis, and include religious references in its organization's mission statements and other governing documents in accordance with all program requirements, statutes, and other applicable requirements governing the conduct of HHS funded activities.

Regulations pertaining to the Equal Treatment for Faith-Based Organizations, which includes the prohibition against Federal funding of inherently religious activities, "Understanding the Regulations Related to the Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships Initiative" are available at <http://www.hhs.gov/partnerships/about/regulations/>. Additional information, resources, and tools for faith-based organizations is available through The Center for Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships website at <http://www.hhs.gov/partnerships/index.html> and at the [Administration for Children & Families: Toolkit for Faith-based and Community Organizations](#).

Award Term and Condition under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000

Awards issued under this announcement are subject to the requirements of Section 106 (g) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, as amended (22 U.S.C. § 7104). For the full text of the award

term, go to http://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/award_term.html. If you are unable to access this link, please contact the Grants Management Contact identified in *Section VII. Agency Contacts* of this announcement to obtain a copy of the term.

Requirements for Drug-Free Workplace

The Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988 (41 U.S.C. § 8102 et seq.) requires that all organizations receiving grants from any Federal agency agree to maintain a drug-free workplace. By signing the application, the Authorizing Official agrees that the grantee will provide a drug-free workplace and will comply with the requirement to notify ACF if an employee is convicted of violating a criminal drug statute. Failure to comply with these requirements may be cause for debarment. Government wide requirements for Drug-Free Workplace for Financial Assistance are found in 2 C.F.R. part 182; HHS implementing regulations are set forth in 2 C.F.R. part 382.400. All recipients of ACF grant funds must comply with the requirements in Subpart B - Requirements for Recipients Other Than Individuals, 2 C.F.R. part 382.225. The rule is available at [Requirements for Drug-Free Workplace](#).

Debarment and Suspension

HHS regulations published in 2 CFR part 376 implement the governmentwide debarment and suspension system guidance (2 CFR part 180) for HHS' non-procurement programs and activities. "Non-procurement transactions" include, among other things, grants, cooperative agreements, scholarships, fellowships, and loans. ACF implements the HHS Debarment and Suspension regulations as a term and condition of award. Grantees may decide the method and frequency by which this determination is made and may check the Excluded Parties List System (EPLS) located at <https://www.epls.gov/>, although checking the EPLS is not required. More information is available at http://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/grants_resources.html.

Pro-Children Act

The Pro-Children Act of 2001, 20 U.S.C. §§ 7181 through 7184, imposes restrictions on smoking in facilities where federally funded children's services are provided. HHS grants are subject to these requirements only if they meet the Act's specified coverage. The Act specifies that smoking is prohibited in any indoor facility (owned, leased, or contracted for) used for the routine or regular provision of kindergarten, elementary, or secondary education or library services to children under the age of 18. In addition, smoking is prohibited in any indoor facility or portion of a facility (owned, leased, or contracted for) used for the routine or regular provision of federally funded health care, day care, or early childhood development, including Head Start services to children under the age of 18. The statutory prohibition also applies if such facilities are constructed, operated, or maintained with Federal funds. The statute does not apply to children's services provided in private residences, facilities funded solely by Medicare or Medicaid funds, portions of facilities used for inpatient drug or alcohol treatment, or facilities where WIC coupons are redeemed. Failure to comply with the provisions of the law may result in the imposition of a civil monetary penalty of up to \$1,000 per violation and/or the imposition of an administrative compliance order on the responsible entity.

HHS Grants Policy Statement

The HHS Grants Policy Statement (HHS GPS) is the Department of Health and Human Services' single policy guide for discretionary grants and cooperative agreements. ACF grant awards are subject to the requirements of the HHS GPS, which covers basic grants processes, standard terms and conditions, and points of contact, as well as important agency-specific requirements. Appendices to the HHS GPS include a glossary of terms and a list of standard abbreviations for ease of reference. The general terms and conditions in the HHS GPS will apply as indicated unless there are statutory, regulatory, or award-specific

requirements to the contrary that are specified in the Notice of Award (NoA). The HHS GPS is available at http://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/grants_related.html.

VI.3. Reporting

Grantees under this funding opportunity announcement will be required to submit performance progress and financial reports periodically throughout the project period. The frequency of required reporting is listed later in this section. Final reports may be submitted in hard copy to the Grants Management Office Contact listed in *Section VII. Agency Contacts* of this announcement. Instructions on submission of reports electronically will be provided with award documents.

Performance Progress Reports (PPR)

ACF grantees are required to submit the SF-PPR Cover Page. ACF Program Offices that utilize reporting forms or formats in addition to, or instead of, the SF-PPR have listed the reporting requirements later in this section.

Grant award documents will inform grantees of the appropriate performance progress report form or format to use. Grantees should consult their award documents to determine the appropriate performance progress report format required under their award. Performance progress reports are due 30 days after the end of the reporting period.

Final program performance reports are due 90 days after the close of the project period. The SF-PPR may be found at http://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/grants_resources.html.

Federal Financial Reports (FFR)

As of February 1, 2011, HHS began the transition from use of the SF-269, Financial Status Report (Short Form or Long Form) to the use of the SF-425 Federal Financial Report for expenditure reporting. SF-269s will no longer be accepted for expenditure reports due after that date. If an SF-269 is submitted, the ACF will return it and require the recipient to complete the SF-425.

The transition strategy is allowing individual HHS Operating Divisions to select--from a limited number of options--the approach that best fits their programs and business process. This transition does not affect completion or submission of the cash reporting to the HHS Division of Payment Management's Payment Management System (PMS). The primary features of this transition for recipients are that OPDIVs that previously required electronic submission of the SF-269 will receive the SF-425 expenditure reports electronically and, until further notice, OPDIVs that have been receiving expenditure reports in hard copy will continue to do so.

All expenditure reports will be due on one of the standard due dates by which cash reporting is required to be submitted to PMS or at the end of a calendar quarter as determined by the Operating Division. As a result, a recipient that receives awards from more than one OPDIV may be subject to more than one approach, but will not be required to change its current means of submission or be subjected to more than eight standard due dates.

Beginning with budget periods which end from January 1 - March 31, 2011, and for all budget periods thereafter, all affected ACF grantees will be required to submit an SF-425 report as frequently as is required in the terms and conditions of their award using due dates for reports to PMS.

For budget periods ending in the months of: The FFR (SF-425) is due to ACF on:

January 01 through March 31	April 30
April 01 through June 30	July 30
July 01 through September 30	October 30
October 01 through December 31	January 30

Fillable versions of the SF-425 form in Adobe PDF and MS-Excel formats, along with instructions, are available at http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants_forms, www.forms.gov, and on the [ACF Funding Opportunity Website Forms](#) page.

Further instructions will be provided, as necessary, with award terms and conditions that will address specific reporting periods and due dates on an award-by-award basis. Additional information on frequency of reporting is available on the ACF Funding Opportunities website at http://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/msg_sf425.html.

For planning purposes, ACF reporting periods for awards made under this announcement are as follows:

Program Progress Reports: Semi-Annually

Financial Reports: Semi-Annually

Awards issued as a result of this funding opportunity may be subject to the Transparency Act subaward and executive compensation reporting requirements of 2 C.F.R. Part 170. See ACF's [Award Term for Federal Financial Accountability and Transparency Act \(FFATA\) Subaward and Executive Compensation Reporting Requirement](#) implementing this requirement and additional award applicability information.

SF-428 Tangible Property Report and SF-429 Real Property Status Report

As of April 1, 2012, the Administration for Children and Families will begin requiring the use of the SF-428 (Tangible Personal Property Form) as well as the SF-429 (Real Property Status Report).

The SF-428 is a standard form to be used by awarding agencies to collect information related to tangible personal property (equipment and supplies) when required by a Federal financial assistance award. The form consists of the cover sheet (SF-428) and three attachments to be used as required: Annual Report; Final (Award Closeout) Report and a Disposition Request/Report. A Supplemental Sheet, SF-428S, may be used to provide detailed individual item information.

The SF-429 is a standard report to be used by recipients of Federal financial assistance to report real property status (Attachment A) or to request agency instructions on real property (Attachments B, C) that was/will be provided as Government Furnished Property (GFP) or acquired (i.e., purchased or constructed) in whole or in part under a Federal financial assistance award (i.e., grant, cooperative agreement, etc.). This includes real property that was improved using Federal funds and real property that was donated to a Federal project in the form of a match or cost share donation. This report is to be used for awards that establish a Federal Interest on real property.

Beginning with budget periods ending September 30, 2012 and for all budget periods thereafter, all ACF grantees will be required to submit (as applicable) an SF-428 and SF-429 report as frequently as is required in the terms and conditions of their award.

The forms are available at http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants_forms.

Successful applicants will be subject to reporting requirements consistent with current CSBG regulations.

VII. Agency Contacts

Program Office Contact

Seth Hassett
Administration for Children and Families
Office of Community Services
Grant Operations Center
1400 Key Boulevard, Suite 910
Arlington, VA 22209
Phone: (800) 281-9519
Email: OCS@lcgnet.com

Office of Grants Management Contact

Katrina Morgan
Administration for Children and Families
Division of Discretionary Grants
Grant Operations Center
1400 Key Boulevard, Suite 910
Arlington, VA 22209
Phone: (800) 281-9519
Email: OCS@lcgnet.com

Federal Relay Service:

Hearing-impaired and speech-impaired callers may contact the Federal Relay Service for assistance at 1-800-877-8339 (TTY - Text Telephone or ASCII - American Standard Code For Information Interchange).

VIII. Other Information

Reference Websites

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) on the Internet <http://www.hhs.gov/>.

Administration for Children and Families (ACF) on the Internet <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/>.

Administration for Children and Families - ACF Funding Opportunities homepage <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/>.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (C.F.D.A.) <https://www.cfda.gov/>.

Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.) <http://www.gpo.gov>.

United States Code (U.S.C) <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/uscode/>.

All required Standard Forms, assurances, and certifications are available on the ACF Forms page at http://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/grants_resources.html.

Grants.gov Forms Repository webpage at http://www.grants.gov/agencies/aforms_repository_information.jsp.

Versions of other Standard Forms (SFs) are available on the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Grants Management Forms web site at http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants_forms/.

For information regarding accessibility issues, visit the Grants.gov Accessibility Compliance Page at http://www07.grants.gov/aboutgrants/accessibility_compliance.jsp

Sign up to receive notification of ACF Funding Opportunities at www.Grants.gov http://www.grants.gov/applicants/email_subscription.jsp.

The OCS website, <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/>, provides a wide range of information and links to other relevant websites. Before preparing an application, OCS suggests the applicant learn more about the mission and programs of OCS by exploring the website.

Application Checklist

Applicants may use the checklist below as a guide when preparing your application package.

What to Submit	Where Found	When to Submit
SF-424 - Application for Federal Assistance and SF-P/PSL - Project/Performance Site Location(s)	Referenced in <i>Section IV.2.</i> and found at http://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/grants_resources.html and at the Grants.gov Forms Repository at http://www.grants.gov/agencies/aforms_repository_information.jsp .	Submission is due by the application due date found in the <i>Overview</i> and in <i>Section IV.3. Submission Dates and Times</i> .
SF-424A - Budget Information - Non-Construction Programs and SF-424B - Assurances - Non-Construction Programs	Referenced in <i>Section IV.2.</i> and found at http://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/grants_resources.html .	Submission is due by the application due date found in the <i>Overview</i> and in <i>Section IV.3. Submission Dates and Times</i> .
Certification Regarding Lobbying	Referenced in <i>Section IV.2.</i> of the announcement and found at http://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/grants_resources.html .	Submission is due with the application package. If it is not submitted with the application package, it may also be submitted prior to the award of a grant.

<p>SF-LLL - Disclosure of Lobbying Activities</p>	<p>"Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying" is referenced in <i>Section IV.2.</i> and found at http://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/grants_resources.html.</p> <p>Submission of this form is required if any funds have been paid, or will be paid, to any person for influencing, or attempting to influence, an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this commitment providing for the United States to insure or guarantee a loan.</p>	<p>If submission of this form is applicable, it is due prior at the time of application. It may also be submitted prior to the award of a grant.</p>
<p>Survey on Ensuring Equal Opportunity for Applicants</p>	<p>Non-profit private organizations (not including private universities) are encouraged to submit the survey with their applications. Applicants applying electronically, may submit this survey along with the application as part of the appendix or as a separate document. Applicants submitting in paper, please place the completed survey in an envelope labeled "Applicant Survey." Seal the envelope and include it along with the application package.</p> <p>The survey is referenced in Section IV.2. of the announcement. The survey may be found at http://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/grants_resources.html.</p> <p>The survey will not count in the page limitations.</p>	<p>Submission is voluntary. Submission may be made with the application by the application due date listed in the <i>Overview</i> and <i>Section IV.3. Submission Dates and Times</i>. Or, it may be submitted prior to the award of a grant.</p>
<p>Table of Contents</p>	<p>Referenced in <i>Section IV.2. The Project Description</i>. This is an element of the Project Description and will usually be counted in page limitations listed in <i>Section IV.2. Formatting Requirements</i>.</p>	<p>Submission is due as part of the Project Description by the application due date found in the <i>Overview</i> and in <i>Section IV.3. Submission Dates and Times</i>.</p>

Project Summary/Abstract	Referenced in <i>Section IV.2. The Project Description</i> of the announcement. It is an element of the Project Description and will be counted in page limitations that are stated in <i>Section IV.2. Formatting Requirements</i> .	Submission is due by the application due date found in the <i>Overview</i> and in <i>Section IV.3. Submission Dates and Times</i> .
The Project Description	Referenced in <i>Section IV.2. The Project Description</i> . This is the title for the project narrative that describes the applicant's plan for the project.	Submission is due by the application due date found in the <i>Overview</i> and in <i>Section IV.3. Submission Dates and Times</i> .
The Project Budget and Budget Justification	Referenced in <i>Section IV.2. The Project Budget and Budget Justification</i> of the announcement.	Submission of the Project Budget is required on the appropriate Standard Form (424A or 424C). The Budget Justification is a separate document that may be no longer than 10 pages and is due by the application due date found in the <i>Overview</i> and in <i>Section IV.3. Submission Dates and Times</i> .
Logic Model	Referenced in <i>Section IV.2. The Project Description</i> of the announcement. It is an element of the Project Description and will be counted in page limitations that are stated in <i>Section IV.2. Formatting Requirements</i> .	Submission is due with the application package by the application due date found in the <i>Overview</i> and in <i>Section IV.3. Submission Dates and Times</i> .
Third-Party Agreements	Referenced in Section IV.2. of the announcement under "Project Description."	If available, submission is due by the application due date found in the <i>Overview</i> and in Section IV.3. If not available at the time of application submission, due by the time of award.
Letters of Support	Referenced in <i>Section IV.2. The Project Description</i> . This is an element of the Project Description and may count against page limitations set in <i>Section IV.2. Formatting Requirements</i> .	Submission is due by the application due date listed in the <i>Overview</i> and in <i>Section IV.3. Submission Dates and Times</i> .

<p>Proof of Non-Profit Status</p>	<p>Referenced in <i>Section IV.2. The Project Description</i> of the announcement under "Legal Status of Applicant Entity." Proof of non-profit status may be submitted as part of appendices to the application package. It is not considered as part of the project narrative/plan.</p>	<p>Proof of non-profit status should be submitted with the application package by the due date listed in the <i>Overview</i> and <i>Section IV.3. Submission Dates and Times</i>. If it is not available at the time of application submission, it must be submitted prior to the award of a grant.</p>
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Appendices

Appendices

***Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Training and Technical Assistance (T/TA) Program:
Regional Performance and Innovation Consortia (RPIC)
HHS-2012-ACF-OCS-EQ-0293***

ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES - REGIONS

Region I

- Connecticut
- Maine
- Massachusetts
- New Hampshire
- Rhode Island
- Vermont

Region II

- New Jersey
- New York
- Puerto Rico
- Virgin Islands

Region III

- Delaware
- District of Columbia
- Maryland
- Pennsylvania
- Virginia
- West Virginia

Region IV (Two RPIC Grants)

Area A

- Alabama
- Florida
- Georgia

- Mississippi

Area B

- Kentucky
- North Carolina
- South Carolina
- Tennessee

Region V

- Illinois
- Indiana
- Michigan
- Minnesota
- Ohio
- Wisconsin

Region VI

- Arkansas
- Louisiana
- New Mexico
- Oklahoma
- Texas

Region VII

- Iowa
- Kansas
- Missouri
- Nebraska

Region VIII

- Colorado
- Montana
- North Dakota
- South Dakota
- Utah
- Wyoming

Region IX

- Arizona
- California
- Hawaii
- Nevada
- American Samoa
- Guam

Region X

- Alaska
- Idaho
- Oregon
- Washington

Note: In accordance with the CSBG Act, Section 673(5) and for purposes of this funding opportunity only States and U.S. Territories eligible for CSBG funding are listed.

