



Administration for Children and Families

Office of Child Support Enforcement

Parenting Time Opportunities for Children in the Child Support Program

HHS-2012-ACF-OCSE-FI-0298

Application Due Date: 08/03/2012

Parenting Time Opportunities for Children in the Child Support Program

HHS-2012-ACF-OCSE-FI-0298

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Overview

Executive Summary

[Section I. Funding Opportunity Description](#)

[Section II. Award Information](#)

[Section III. Eligibility Information](#)

1. Eligible Applicants
2. Cost Sharing or Matching
3. Other - (if applicable)

[Section IV. Application and Submission Information](#)

1. [Address to Request Application Package](#)
2. [Content and Form of Application Submission](#)
3. [Submission Dates and Times](#)
4. [Intergovernmental Review](#)
5. [Funding Restrictions](#)
6. [Other Submission Requirements](#)

[Section V. Application Review Information](#)

1. Criteria
2. Review and Selection Process
3. Anticipated Announcement and Award Dates

[Section VI. Award Administration Information](#)

1. Award Notices
2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements
3. Reporting

[Section VII. Agency Contact\(s\)](#)

[Section VIII. Other Information](#)

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

Program Office: Office of Child Support Enforcement
Funding Opportunity Title: Parenting Time Opportunities for Children in the Child Support Program
Announcement Type: Modification
Funding Opportunity Number: HHS-2012-ACF-OCSE-FI-0298
CFDA Number: 93.601
Due Date for Applications: **08/03/2012**

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:

Cooperative agreements made under the Parenting Time Opportunities for Children in the Child Support Program (PTOC) will fund 4 year projects that plan, pilot, and evaluate strategies to establish parenting time orders at the same time as initial child support orders. Grantees must plan and pilot strategies to establish parenting time responsibilities as part of child support orders. Grantees must: 1) assure that their strategies are sound and appropriate within the States IV-D program structure and process; 2) coordinate with the applicants State Access and Visitation program, authorized by 42 U.S.C. §669(b); and 3) fully integrate effective family violence safeguards into all grant activities. Additionally, grantees must lead an independent site-specific evaluation that measures child support and parenting time outcomes.

The following change has made been as modification to this announcement:

1) In *Section III.1. Eligible Applicants*, the eligibility language was modified to clarify that State Title IV-D agencies and umbrella agencies of Title IV-D agencies are eligible applicants. The eligibility language now reads:

Eligibility is open to State (including the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands) Title IV-D agencies, county, city or township, special district Title IV-D agencies, and umbrella agencies of Title IV-D agencies.

I. Funding Opportunity Description

Statutory Authority

Section 452(j) of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. §652(j), provides Federal funds for information dissemination and technical assistance to States, training of Federal and State staff to improve child support programs, and research, demonstration, and special projects of regional or national significance relating to the operation of State child support programs. These grants, by testing models to integrate the child support and child access systems, relate directly to the operation of the IV-D program and will test techniques to improve program operation.

Description

A. Background

Children are better off when both of their parents are positively involved in their lives and providing for them emotionally and financially. The Child Support Program, authorized under Title IV-D of the Social Security Act, plays a critical role in assuring that parents who live apart from their children meet their financial obligations to their children by establishing paternity, locating noncustodial parents, and establishing and enforcing child support orders. Since the passage of welfare reform in 1996, annual child support financial collections have nearly tripled from \$11 billion to \$30 billion. The program removes about one million people from poverty each year, and provides 10 percent of income for all poor custodial families and 40 percent of income for those poor custodial families who receive child support. However, child support is about more than just money, as child support receipt is also associated with improvements to child well-being, such as better cognitive development among young children and better academic achievement among older children.

In addition to these benefits associated with child support payment, engaged fathering^[i] significantly enhances childrens social, cognitive, and academic behavior in a positive manner and recent studies have demonstrated the following impacts:

- Children who have involved fathers show greater emotional security, less depression, and fewer behavioral problems in both childhood and adolescence.
- Children of engaged fathers reap academic advantages, including better grades, fewer expulsions, and fewer grades repeated.
- Father involvement is equally important for both adolescent boys and girls.

Financial and emotional supports are inextricably interrelated. Fathers who are involved with their children are more likely to pay child support, and fathers who pay child support are more likely to stay involved. Census Bureau data consistently show that parents with custody or visitation arrangements are more likely to receive the child support they are owed. Programs designed to improve parents contact with their noncustodial children are also associated with improved child support outcomes. For example, a study by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of the Inspector General found that both visitation and child support compliance increased among noncustodial parents who participated in mediation programs in four States. The study estimated that monthly child support payments went up by \$56 per case after receiving mediation services. Another study reported that one-third to one-half of noncustodial parents in different types of access and visitation programs reported that parent-child contact increased following program participation.

In recognition of how important it is that children have the opportunity to spend time with their parents when they can do so safely, in 1996 Congress established the State Access and Visitation (AV) grant programs, authorized by 42 U.S.C. §669(b). The AV program is operated by the Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE) in the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) under HHS. Each year OCSE provides \$10 million in AV grants to States and territories to help support programs that assist noncustodial parents, including those not currently in the child support program, in gaining access to and visitation with their children. State AV programs are broad and can include services such as establishment of parenting time opportunities, parent education, mediation, supervised visitation, parenting plan development, safe exchange, and counseling. In some States, AV programs primarily provide services to

individuals in the child welfare system, but in others, services are more readily available to a broad range of individuals, including those who have child support cases. In fiscal year 2008, the AV program served 85,237 total clients and assisted in the establishment of 21,334 parenting plans. Of the total clients served, 41,196 were fathers and 40,315 were mothers. Overall, 47.57 percent of those served were unmarried and 23 percent of cases were referred by a IV-D agency.

While the AV grant program provides a range of needed services to support positive interaction between noncustodial fathers and mothers and their children, many children do not have the opportunity to interact regularly with both of their parents. There is currently no systematic, efficient mechanism to establish parenting time agreements. Parenting time is defined as the amount of time a child spends with each parent that is agreed upon by the parents in a parenting plan and/or ordered by a court. Parents who divorce may establish shared parenting time agreements through the family court system at the same time their child support order is established. Parents who have not married do not receive these services at the time their child support order is established. State court systems do have separate procedures for unmarried parents to petition for and receive orders of custody and visitation, usually through a pro se process. To fill this service gap, PTOC will pilot programs that provide many children with formal opportunities to interact regularly with both parents when it is safe to do so. A structured approach to parenting time can help both parents manage their co-parenting relationship as well as reduce conflict and ambiguity that can harm their children.

An important consideration for implementation of parenting time programs is supporting families impacted by family violence. Increased opportunities for involvement can bring challenges and risks, including the potential for family violence. While most noncustodial parents are not violent, the safety of the child and custodial parent must be considered in implementing any strategy designed to increase the time parents spend with their children. There are many forms of intimate partner violence and recognizing the characteristics or patterns in a presenting case is critical to formulating safe and workable parenting time opportunities for children. In some cases, parenting time will not be appropriate at all, or supervised visitation may be the safest alternative. However, when parents have a structured and supportive environment in which to work out formal visitation arrangements where the security and safety of the children and non-abusive caregiver are the focus, parenting time with the non-custodial parent is more likely to be successful. Promising models for addressing family violence include cross-agency referrals, screening tools that focus on the safety and support of family violence victims, shuttle or caucus mediation with a highly trained mediator who has a strong understanding of the dynamics of family violence, negotiation processes with an attorney or other parent representative, regular staff training on family violence, training on reporting of child abuse, and integrating a family violence provider on site. General mediation services are not suitable for these families.

Examples of Program Components to Establish Parenting Time Orders

Some States currently help unmarried parents establish parenting time agreements through a variety of different strategies, often funded by the States AV program. Again, it is important to note that general mediation services are not suitable when family violence has been identified. Some examples include:

- Parenting education classes,
- Supervised visitation,
- Neutral drop off/pick up for visitations,
- Parenting plan mediation services,
- Informational materials about parenting time, including a calendar that parents use to keep track of their visitation schedule,
- AV services hot-line, and
- Pro se workshops in partnership with legal services programs.

B. Program Purpose

Based on the promising evaluation results described above and the link to child support program

performance, PTOC aims to improve and increase the financial and emotional support of children in the child support system by increasing opportunities for them to build a relationship with both parents. The results of these pilot projects will lay the groundwork for successful, safe implementation of the Presidents FY 2012 and FY 2013 budget proposals to require States to establish parenting time orders in all initial child support orders, should this proposal become law.

C. Program Design

This section provides the PTOC program design requirements for grantees. For more information on requirements specific to this FOA, please reference Section IV.2., *Part 1: General Instructions for Preparing a Full Project Description*. The following are the required and elective elements of PTOC program activities:

1. Establishment of Parenting Time Responsibilities in Child Support Orders (Required)

To the degree possible, the States responsibility under PTOC is limited to establishment of the parenting time order and providing elective support services. Child support agencies are not required to enforce parenting time orders. Each grantee project should establish 300 to 600 parenting time orders over the course of the project and the intended number must be informed by the nature of the target population, start-up costs, and intensity of support services. Grantees must establish at least 300 parenting time orders, but have the option to significantly exceed the 300 to 600 range if the program model supports the higher volume.

To the extent possible, parenting time responsibilities must be included at the time the initial child support order is established. However, models that provide coordinated tracks to establish both components of the order will also be considered. Programs must recognize that parents in the target population are diverse, and program designs must be culturally and socially appropriate. This includes recognizing that LGBT mothers and fathers may be part of the target population. Parents who already have child support orders are not eligible to participate in this grant program.

The proposed strategy to establish parenting time orders must be appropriate within the States IV-D program process and grantees will be responsible for ensuring that the strategy can be integrated with existing State laws, structures, and programs. Grantees must evaluate how strategies interact or integrate with, supplement, or change any existing parenting time opportunity programs already operating within the State, including those funded by State AV programs. Grantees must propose and implement appropriate solutions to resolve any potential challenges related to implementing a mechanism for establishing initial parenting time orders. Program implementation must begin no later than 1 year after award.

Over the 4 year project period of these pilot programs, the first year is devoted to start-up, setting up an evaluation design, planning for data collection, development of the pilot program design, and testing. The pilot program and any related support or referral services are provided for a 2 year period, and the final year is devoted to evaluation, grant close-out, and sustainability work.

2. Coordination with State Access and Visitation (AV) Program (Required)

Grantees of PTOC are required to coordinate with the applicants State AV program, authorized by 42 U.S.C. §669 (for more information, please refer to *Section I. A - Background*). At a minimum, the State child support agency must identify how State AV funds are currently used and appropriately coordinate with the AV program in the development of PTOC design. Though grantees may elect to refer PTOC participants to State AV program for support services or build the PTOC within an existing AV parenting time opportunity program structure, this is not a requirement of award.

3. Family Violence Preparedness and Response Plan (Required)

PTOC grantees must develop and maintain a working relationship with a domestic violence service provider in their area. Grantees must have a preparedness and response plan to screen, prepare for, and address possible, or disclosed cases of, family violence. Grantees will submit this plan to OCSE for

approval by June 30, 2013, or at least 60 days prior to the start of the pilot project, whichever comes first. Grantees may not begin implementation of PTOC pilots without an approved family violence preparedness and response plan (hereafter the plan). OCSE will provide technical assistance (TA) in the development of the plan, including access to national domestic violence resources. PTOC pilots must implement the following activities and services to be outlined in the plan:

Screening: PTOC grantees must screen all PTOC participants for family violence risks. The family violence screening plan must be comprehensive and use evidence-based practices and tools, incorporating the family violence indicator as appropriate. Screenings must be convenient for parents, and staff will provide ongoing monitoring. The final tool will be submitted to OCSE with the plan for approval.

Addressing Family Violence When Identified: PTOC grantees must have a plan to address family violence when identified. Grantees may choose not to provide parenting time order establishment in these cases. If grantees decide to screen out family violence cases, they must make referrals to family violence services within the community, and any other safe alternative parenting time services if they are available (e.g. going to court), as discussed below in service referrals. If grantees decide to serve families that have disclosed family violence or where family violence is identified, they *must* develop and implement a specialized, safer process for these families. For example, if mediation is part of the standard program model, the grantee could offer a negotiation process instead. These procedures will be submitted to OCSE with the plan for approval.

Staff Training: PTOC grantees must make strong efforts to build the capacity of program staff and partners to address family violence. Before the end of the planning year, PTOC grantees must provide at minimum 8 hours training for PTOC program staff and any proposed partners using a family violence preparedness curriculum developed from widely accepted knowledge and practice. The grantee must submit the final training curriculum and any related materials to OCSE with the plan for approval.

Service Referrals: PTOC grantees must ensure that all families who need family violence services receive timely and appropriate referrals. The plan must describe what referrals the PTOC program offers to participants both before and after the screening process. Grantees will need to make referrals to serve parents and children who are experiencing violence, as well as parents who are perpetrating violence.

When appropriate, referrals should also be made for any alternative methods of parenting time order establishment (e.g. in family court) and to supervised visitation services. The grantee must submit the final list of services and protocols to OCSE with the plan for approval.

Expert Consultation/Partnership: PTOC grantees must consult or partner with local- or State-level family violence experts in the creation of their plans. Grantees must have a signed Third-Party Agreement in place with a local, State, or national level family violence expert no later than November 30, 2012.

Data Safeguards: PTOC grantees must safeguard custodial parent information to help ensure their emotional and physical safety. The final protocols for data safeguards will be submitted to OCSE with the plan for approval.

Grant funds may be used to support all aspects of the family violence plan, including materials, staff time, data entry, monitored referrals, etc.

4. Support Services (Elective)

This grant program does not require that States provide support services to participants in PTOC, aside from required family violence response services. However, support services may be offered at the States discretion. Support services can enhance a child's relationship with both parents, provide valuable support to families, and improve program outcomes. Support services grantees may consider include provision of information materials like brochures and calendars, parenting and co-parenting education, referrals to supervised visitation, parenting plan development, and mediation. This list is not exhaustive and PTOC grantees may determine that there are other support services available in their States that might

effectively enhance the pilot project.

Likewise, if PTOC grantees partner with other agencies to provide support services, then the partnership should strengthen the overall design of the PTOC pilot. Potential PTOC partnerships may include, but are not limited to, State AV programs, family violence prevention and service organizations, fatherhood programs, and community-based organizations.

D. Program Management

Child support agencies must ensure appropriate project management for PTOC pilot projects. At a minimum, PTOC pilots must employ:

- a half-time project manager who is an employee of the child support agency; and
- assure an effective number of hours from an on-site family violence prevention and safety coordinator.

The primary task of the project manager is to ensure that the project is planned, implemented, and evaluated successfully. This requires frequent contact with other PTOC staff, staff or courts establishing the parenting time orders, the family violence prevention and training partner, the project evaluator, and any other project contractors or partners. The project manager must hold regular meetings with project staff, including partners, to share progress, discuss any challenges, and attempt to resolve challenges as quickly and effectively as possible. The project manager is also responsible for coordination of the contract with a third-party evaluation (for more information, see *Section I-D, Evaluation Design*), supporting data collection, and sharing information with the evaluation contractors.

The primary task of the family violence prevention and safety coordinator is to ensure that the family violence prevention and response plan is appropriately designed and implemented. The family violence prevention and safety coordinator will work to ensure that the required screening, training, referral, expert consultation, and data safeguard program elements are approved by and appropriately implemented for the benefit of program participants.

E. Evaluation Design

Grantees must lead an independent, site-specific evaluation that includes the following:

- 1) an evaluation design appropriate for the proposed program, and
- 2) effective and efficient plans for implementation evaluation as well as data collection and analysis.

Grantees must develop a solicitation to procure an independent, third-party evaluation. This may require the State agency to develop a *Request for Proposals* (RFP) or similar mechanism to procure the services of an evaluator. Grantees must ensure that the developed solicitation for the evaluation (e.g., RFP or similar mechanism) appropriately incorporates the program design elements described in this FOA and as further agreed upon through collaboration with OCSE.

Grantees, in conjunction with the selected third-party evaluator, must conduct an implementation evaluation and collect *at least* the following output and outcome measures, and OCSE may change or add to this list after award:

- Number of parents served
- Number of parenting time orders established (counted by child)
- Average cost per order establishment (in dollars)
- Number of cases where family violence is identified (counted by child)
- Number of referrals/rates of referrals provided to domestic violence service providers for families where family violence is identified
- Child support payment rates
- Parenting time before and after PTOC participation

PTOC funds may be used to support the development or procurement of management information systems necessary for data collection and analysis. The implementation evaluation shall include components to help us learn how PTOC pilot programs best interface with cases where family violence was a factor.

If appropriate, applicants are encouraged to consider efficient methods to analyze the benefits and costs of the PTOC program and/or to measure its impact on outcomes (e.g. propensity score matching) appropriate to the projects scale and stage of development. However, this is not required. Evaluation costs may vary, but grantees may wish to budget approximately 25 percent of the 4 year grant budget.

[1] Eighty percent of noncustodial parents with children in the child support system are fathers and much of the research on the social and emotional benefits of parenting time has been informed by studies on engaged fathering.

II. Award Information

Funding Instrument Type:	Cooperative Agreement
Estimated Total Funding:	\$300,000
Expected Number of Awards:	3
Award Ceiling:	\$100,000 Per Budget Period
Award Floor:	\$75,000 Per Budget Period
Average Projected Award Amount:	\$100,000 Per Budget Period

Length of Project Periods:

48-month project with four 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.

Dependent upon availability of funds, OCSE will fund three continuation years at up to \$100,000 a year. Four year project budgets may not exceed \$400,000.

Continuation grant applications will be considered on a non-competitive basis and is 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

ACF anticipates substantial involvement in the following activities:

- Promoting collaborative relationships and facilitate the exchange of information (e.g., identifying technical assistance and training needs, emerging issues, research findings, available resources, model programs) among funded State projects and other entities or organizations engaged by ACF for purposes related to this new program;
- Providing consultation to each recipient State with regard to the development of family violence plans, approaches to address problems that arise, and identification of areas needing technical assistance;
- Providing timely review, comments, and decisions on inquiries and documents submitted by recipient States;
- Sponsoring teleconferences and/or webinars among recipients funded under PTOC to promote coordination, information sharing and access to resources, training, and learning opportunities; and
- Working together to address issues or problems identified by the recipient State, ACF, or others with regard to the State programs ability to carry out the full range of activities included in the approved application in the most efficient and effective manner.

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

Eligibility is open to State (including the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands) Title IV-D agencies, county, city or township, special district Title IV-D agencies, and umbrella agencies of Title IV-D agencies.

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

III.2. Cost Sharing or Matching

Cost Sharing / Matching Requirement: No

Refer to *Section IV.2* for information on pre-application submissions.

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

John Langrock
Division of State, Tribal and Local Assistance
Office of Child Support Enforcement
Administration for Children and Families

370 L'Enfant Promenade, SW.
4th Floor West
Washington, DC 20447
Phone: (202) 401-4842
Email: jlangrock@acf.hhs.gov

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 30 pages and must include the following in this order:

- Table of Contents
- Project Design
- Project Management
- Evaluation

The **Appendices** are limited to 30 pages and must include the following in this order:

- Third-Party Agreements
- Resumes of of proposed project management staff
- Supporting Information
- Letters of Support

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
-------------------------------------	------------------------	---------------------

Certification Regarding Lobbying	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.	Submission of this Certification is required for all applications.
SF-424 - Application for Federal Assistance and SF-P/PSL - Project/Performance Site Location(s)	Submission is required for all applicants by the application due date.	Required for all applications.
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.
SF-LLL - Disclosure of Lobbying Activities	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.	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.

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.1.* 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.

Outcomes Expected

Identify the outcomes to be derived from the project.

- Number of parents served
- Number of parenting time orders established (counted by child)
- Average cost per order establishment (in dollars)
- Number of cases where family violence is identified (counted by child)
- Number of referrals/rates of referrals provided to domestic violence service providers for families where family violence is identified
- Child support payment rates
- Parenting time before and after PTOC participation

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.

To provide information about plans regarding **Establishment of Parenting Time Responsibilities in Child Support Orders**, applications must:

- provide a sound and appropriate approach that ensures that the pilot program will reach the intended target audience;
- present a plan for establishing at least 300 parenting time orders, and describe the intended program design that appropriately supports that number;
- explain how the proposed establishment strategies interact or integrate with, supplement, or change any existing parenting time opportunity programs already operating within the State, including those funded by State AV programs or, if appropriate, applications must clearly note if there are currently no parenting time opportunity programs already operating within the State; and
- describe any potential or expected challenges and propose realistic means to effectively address challenges during the planning year in order to begin program implementation no later than 1 year after award. Alternatively, if appropriate, applications must clearly note if no challenges are expected and provide appropriate rationale for this conclusion.

To provide information about plans regarding **Coordination with State Access and Visitation (AV) Program**, applications must:

- Explain how State AV funds are currently used;

- provide documentation that the proposed PTOC pilot appropriately coordinated with the State AV program in development of the program design; and
- provide sound documentation of how the proposed PTOC pilot interacts or integrates with, supplements, and/or changes any AV program services available in the State; describe any coordinating efforts; and detail what, if any, AV services may be available to PTOC participants.

To provide information about plans regarding the **Family Violence Preparedness and Response Plan**, applications must:

- provide an informed, appropriate, and detailed plan for development of an evidence-based screening tool;
- identify appropriate plans for screen-out or an alternative parenting time establishment model when family violence cases are identified;
- include a sound plan for how the applicant expects to meet the program requirement for a minimum of 8 hours training for PTOC program staff and any proposed partners using a family violence preparedness curriculum developed from widely accepted knowledge and practice, and include this training in the first year budget proposal;
- provide adequate information about what family violence support services the PTOC pilot expects to provide to participants; and
- identify the experts with whom the organization intends to partner and include a signed third-party agreement; and include a brief but sound plan detailing expected steps to develop protocols for data safeguards.

To provide information about plans regarding **Program Management**, applications must:

- propose qualified personnel, including a half-time project manager and an effective number of hours from an on-site family violence prevention and safety coordinator, and include resumes for each; and
- include a half-time project manager and an effective number of hours from an onsite family violence prevention and safety coordinator, and the attendance of at least two project staff at the mandatory 2 day workshop in Washington, DC, in the budget proposal.

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.

To provide information about plans regarding **Evaluation Design**, applications must:

- detail an initial evaluation design appropriate for the proposed program;
- propose effective and efficient plans for data collection and analysis, which may include the development or procurement of management information systems, and at a minimum will collect the three required output measures;
- propose a plan to procure an independent, third-party evaluation; and

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.

Organizational Capacity

- Contact persons and telephone numbers
- Documentation of experience in the program area

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.

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 each 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.

Applicants should provide a budget for the entire 4 year project, assuming no more than \$100,000 in Federal funds each year.

OCSE will sponsor an annual workshop each year of the project for grantees in Washington, DC, to support effective project management. The annual workshop will promote coordination, information and

resource sharing, troubleshooting, training, and learning opportunities. Grantees are required to send at least two key staff to this conference each year, including their project manager. Applicants should include these costs in the proposed budget.

Applicants must also include an appropriate amount for funding a third-party evaluation in the proposed 4 year budget.

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: **08/03/2012**

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 covered under Executive Order (E.O.) 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs," and 45 CFR Part 100, "Intergovernmental Review of Department of Health and Human Services Programs and Activities." Under the Executive Order, States may design their own processes for reviewing and commenting on proposed Federal assistance under covered programs.

Applicants should go to the following URL for the official list of the jurisdictions that have elected to participate in E.O. 12372 http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants_spoc/.

Applicants from participating jurisdictions should contact their SPOC, as soon as possible, to alert them of their prospective applications and to receive instructions on their jurisdiction's procedures. Applicants must submit all required application materials to the SPOC and indicate the date of submission on the Standard Form (SF) 424 at item 19.

Under 45 CFR 100.8(a)(2), a SPOC has 60 days from the application due date to comment on proposed new awards.

SPOC comments may be submitted directly to ACF to: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Grants Management, Division of Discretionary Grants, 370 L'Enfant Promenade SW., 6th Floor East, Washington, DC 20447.

Entities that meet the eligibility requirements of this announcement are still eligible to apply for a grant even if a State, Territory or Commonwealth, etc., does not have a SPOC or has chosen not to participate in the process. Applicants from non-participating jurisdictions need take no action with regard to E.O. 12372. Applications from Federally-recognized Indian Tribal governments are not subject 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.

Grant funds are not eligible for the regular Title IV-D Federal Financial Participation (FFP) match of 66 percent. The total approved cost of the project is the sum of the ACF grant award. Grantees do not need to provide matching funds.

If applicants are developing automated tools, utilities, applications, or computer programs under the cooperative agreement, OCSE funds may not be used to pay for functionality mandated for IV-D systems as a requirement for system certification as such expenses are otherwise eligible for regular FFP costs. Additionally, OCSE funds may not be used for the costs of proprietary software that is not readily available to the general public at established catalog or market prices. Grant funds, however, may cover **enhancements** to IV-D mandated systems provided those enhancements do not duplicate or modify existing functionality in those system. The grantee must agree that any automated tools, utilities, applications, or computer programs and all associated documentation and materials will be shared with other jurisdictions without charge.

Recipients of a PTOC awards are funded under Section 452(j) of the Social Security Act. Grantees must administer PTOC grant funding separately from Access and Visitation grant programs, authorized under Section 469B Social Security Act. Grantees may not pool funds and costs must be properly allocated to each grant.

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

Daphne Weeden, Grants Management Officer
Division of Discretionary Grants
Office of Grants Management
Administration for Children and Families
370 L'Enfant Promenade, SW.
6th Floor East
Washington, DC 20447

Hand Delivery

Daphne Weeden, Grants Management Officer
Division of Discretionary Grants
Office of Grants Management
Administration for Children and Families
901 D Street, SW. Aerospace Building
ACF Mailroom, 2nd Floor
Washington, DC 20024

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.

Reviewers will provide equal consideration to States with court-based and administrative-based child support processes. OCSE reserves the right to select applicants that reflect diversity in child support processes.

Program Design

Maximum Points: 50

Establishment of Parenting Time Orders (20 points)

To what degree does the applicant demonstrate and/or provide the following:

5 points: A sound and appropriate approach that ensures that the pilot program will reach the intended target audience.

5 points: A plan for establishing at least 300 parenting time orders during the project period, and an intended program design that will appropriately support that number.

5 points: An explanation of how the proposed establishment strategies interact or integrate with, supplement, and/or change any existing parenting time opportunity programs already operating within the State, including those funded by State AV programs, and alternatively, clearly note if there are currently no parenting time opportunity programs operating in the State.

5 points: A description of any potential or expected challenges and realistic means to effectively address challenges during the planning year in order to begin program implementation no later than 1 year after award; or alternatively, note if no challenges are expected and provide appropriate rationale for this conclusion.

Coordination with State Access and Visitation (AV) Program (10 points)

To what degree does the applicant demonstrate and/or provide the following:

3 points: Explain how State AV funds are currently used.

3 points: Describe the proposed PTOC pilot appropriately coordinated with the State AV program in the development of the program design.

4 points: Provide sound documentation of how the proposed PTOC pilot interacts or integrates with, supplements, and/or changes any AV program services available in their State and detail what, if any, AV services may be available to PTOC participants.

Family Violence Preparedness and Response Plan (20 points)

To what degree does the applicant demonstrate and/or provide the following:

4 points: An informed, appropriate, and detailed plan to identify and utilize an evidence-based screening tool.

4 points: Sound and appropriate plans for screen-out or an alternative parenting time establishment model when family violence cases are identified.

4 points: A sound plan for how the applicant expects to meet the program requirement for a minimum of 8 hours training for PTOC program staff and any proposed partners using a family violence preparedness curriculum developed from widely accepted knowledge and practice.

4 points: Adequate information about what family violence support services the PTOC pilot expects to provide to participants.

4 points: A brief but sound plan detailing expected steps to develop protocols for data safeguards.

Program Management

Maximum Points: 20

To what degree does the applicant demonstrate and/or provide the following:

10 points: Qualified personnel, including a half-time project manager and sufficient number of hours from an on-site family violence prevention and safety coordinator, and include resumes for each.

7 points: Experts with whom the organization intends to partner and include a signed third-party agreement.

3 points: A brief but sound plan detailing expected steps to develop protocols for data safeguards.

Evaluation Design

Maximum Points: 20

To what degree does the applicant demonstrate and/or provide the following:

8 points: An initial evaluation design appropriate for the proposed program, including implementation evaluation.

8 points: Effective and efficient plans for data collection and analysis, which may include the development or procurement of management information systems, and that at a minimum will collect the required output and outcomes measures.

4 points: A plan to procure an independent, third-party evaluation.

Budget and Budget Justification

Maximum Points: 10

To what degree does the applicant demonstrate and/or provide the following:

8 points: A 4 year budget narrative that includes expenses that are detailed, justified, and reasonable.

2 points: A budget proposal that includes appropriate costs for the following:

- the required 8 hours family violence training for staff and proposed partners;
- a half-time project manager;
- adequate time from an on-site family violence prevention and safety coordinator;
- the attendance of at least two project staff at the mandatory 2 day workshop in Washington, DC; and
- data collection, analysis, and an appropriately funded third-party program evaluation.

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.

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

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.

VII. Agency Contacts

Program Office Contact

John Langrock
Division of State, Tribal and Local Assistance
Office of Child Support Enforcement
Administration for Children and Families
370 L'Enfant Promenade, SW.
4th Floor West
Washington, DC 20447
Phone: (202) 401-4842
Email: jlangrock@acf.hhs.gov

Office of Grants Management Contact

Daphne Weeden, Grants Management Officer
Division of Discretionary Grants
Office of Grants Management
Administration for Children and Families
370 L'Enfant Promenade, SW.
6th Floor East
Washington, DC 20447
Phone: (202) 401-5513
Email: ACFOGME-grants@acf.hhs.gov

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.

Pre-Application Conference

OCSE will sponsor a pre-application conference call for all parties interested in applying for a Parenting Time Opportunities for Children in the Child Support Program grant. The purpose of the conference call is to respond to questions about the FOA. The pre-application conference call will be held 7 calendar days after the publication date of this FOA.

OCSE will notify applicants about the call through the IV-D Director listserv and by posting call information on the OCSE Web site at <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cse/grants/>.

A recording and transcript of the applicant conference call will be posted at <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cse/grants/> following the call and at least 30 days prior to the application due date; it will be available until the closing date of the announcement.

Application Checklist

What to Submit	Where Found	When to Submit
<p>Certification Regarding Lobbying</p>	<p>Referenced in <i>Section IV.2.</i> of the announcement and found at http://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/grants_resources.html.</p>	<p>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>
<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>SF-424A - Budget Information - Non-Construction Programs and SF-424B - Assurances - Non-Construction Programs</p>	<p>Referenced in <i>Section IV.2.</i> and found at http://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/grants_resources.html.</p>	<p>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>.</p>
<p>SF-424 - Application for Federal Assistance and SF-P/PSL - Project/Performance Site Location(s)</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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>.</p>
<p>The Project Description</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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>.</p>

<p>The Project Budget and Budget Justification</p>	<p>Referenced in <i>Section IV.2. The Project Budget and Budget Justification</i> of the announcement.</p>	<p>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>.</p>
<p>Third-Party Agreements</p>	<p>Referenced in Section IV.2. of the announcement under "Project Description."</p>	<p>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.</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>
<p>Project Summary/Abstract</p>	<p>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>.</p>	<p>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>.</p>
<p>Letters of Support</p>	<p>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>.</p>	<p>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>

Appendices