

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Administration for Children and Families

Agency Information Collection Under OMB Review

Under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) a request for the continued use of an information collection titled: ACF-233-AT-RISK CHILD CARE PROGRAM QUARTERLY REPORT OF EXPENDITURES AND ESTIMATES.

Addresses: Copies of the request for approval may be obtained from Robert A. Sargis of the Office of Information Systems Management, ACF, by calling (202) 690-7275.

Consideration will be given to comments and suggestions received within 60 days of publication. Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information should be sent directly to the following: Wendy Taylor, OMB Desk Officer for ACF, OMB Reports Management Branch, New Executive Office Building, Room 10235, 725 17th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20503, (202) 395-7316.

Information on Document

Title: ACF-233-At-Risk Child Care Program Quarterly Report of Expenditures and Estimates

OMB No.:

Description: The At-Risk Program provides child care to families who are not receiving AFDC, need child care to work and would otherwise be at risk of becoming eligible for AFDC. The information required on this form will allow the Federal Government to compute the quarterly grant awards for the program and to compute funds required to operate the program for the upcoming quarter.

Annual Number of Respondents: 54 sites

Number of responses per respondent: 4

Total annual responses: 216 sites

Hours per response: 2

Total Burden Hours: 432

Dated: December 23, 1994.

Larry Guerrero,

Deputy Director, Office of Information Systems Management.

[FR Doc. 95-181 Filed 1-4-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4184-01-M

Runaway and Homeless Youth Program Proposed Priorities for Fiscal Year 1995

AGENCY: Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

ACTION: Notice of Proposed Fiscal Year 1995 Runaway and Homeless Youth Program Priorities for the Administration for Children and Families.

SUMMARY: Section 384 of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, 42 U.S.C. 5732, requires the Secretary to publish annually, for public comment, a proposed plan specifying priorities the Department will follow in awarding grants and contracts under the Act. The final priorities selected will take into consideration the comments and recommendations received from the public in response to this notice.

The public, particularly those knowledgeable about and experienced in providing services to runaway and homeless youth, are urged to respond. The actual solicitations for grant applications will be published at a later date in the **Federal Register**. Solicitations for contracts will be published in the "Commerce Business Daily" or addressed to the eight Master Contractors for the "Policy and Program Studies" consortium recently established by the Administration on Children, Youth and Families (ACYF). No proposals, concept papers or other forms of application should be submitted at this time.

DATES: To be considered, comments must be received no later than February 21, 1995.

ADDRESSES: Please address comments to: Olivia A. Golden, Commissioner, Administration on Children, Youth and Families. Attention: Family and Youth Services Bureau, P.O. Box 1182, Washington, D.C. 20013.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

The Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB) administers three Federal programs dealing with runaway and homeless youth:

- The Runaway and Homeless Youth Basic Center Program (BCP),
- The Transitional Living Program for Homeless Youth (TLP), and
- The Drug Abuse Prevention Program for Runaway and Homeless Youth (DAPP).

The first two of the FYSB programs listed above—the BCP and the TLP—are authorized under the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (Title III of the

Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974, as amended) and are the primary subject of the priorities proposed in this notice.

The Act specifically authorizes the Secretary to make grants to entities that establish and operate local runaway and homeless youth centers (Basic Centers) to address the immediate needs of at-risk youth. Currently, 341 such projects are being supported. The Act also authorizes activities that support the local centers, and that gather knowledge about the conditions of runaway and homeless youth and their families.

The Act further authorizes the Secretary to make grants to entities that establish and operate transitional living projects for homeless youth to enable the youth to become self-sufficient and to avoid long-term dependency on social services. Currently, 74 such projects are being supported.

The Act also authorizes financial support for:

- A national communications system (a toll-free 24-hour runaway hotline) which serves as a neutral channel of communication between at-risk youth and their families and as a source of referral to needed services;
- Grants to statewide and regional non-profit organizations for the provision of training and technical assistance to agencies and organizations eligible to establish and operate runaway and homeless youth centers; and
- Grants to conduct research, demonstration, evaluation, and service projects.

Annual Program Priorities. The Runaway and Homeless Youth Act instructs the Secretary to develop for each fiscal year, and to publish annually in the **Federal Register** for public comment, a proposed plan specifying the subject priorities the Department will follow in making grants under the Act (Section 384. [42 U.S.C. 5732] (a)). The Secretary is further instructed to take into consideration the comments received in developing and publishing the subsequent plan specifying the final fiscal year priorities (Section 384. [42 U.S.C. 5732] (b)). The present notice constitutes the Department's proposed priorities for fiscal year 1995.

No acknowledgement will be made of the comments received in response to this notice, but all comments received by the deadline will be considered in preparing the runaway and homeless youth final priorities. Final priorities will be published in the **Federal Register** prior to or at the time of solicitation of grant proposals competing for fiscal year 1995 funds.

II. Proposed Priorities for Fiscal Year 1995

The proposed priorities are similar to those of earlier years in that the Department proposes to award 90 percent or more of the funds appropriated under the BCP and approximately 90 percent of the funds appropriated under the DAPP and the TLP to grantees providing direct services to runaway and homeless youth.

The proposed priorities are further similar to those of earlier years in that the Department proposes to award continuation funding to the National Communications System and to a number of program support activities.

The proposed priorities differ from those of earlier years in two major ways:

- The Family and Youth Services Bureau is proposing an approach to youth services that emphasizes comprehensive youth development over attempts to correct the dysfunctional behaviors of youth and their families, and

- The FYSB is proposing administrative changes designed for more efficient delivery of services and more stability among service providers.

A. Priorities for Basic Centers

Approximately 340 Basic Center grants, of which about one-third will be competitive new starts and two-thirds will be non-competitive continuations, will be funded in FY 1995. It is expected that an equal number and distribution will be funded in FY 1996.

It is anticipated that applications for BCP new starts will be solicited in the second or third quarters of FY 1995 (January–June 1995). Eligible applicants for these new starts will be current grantees with project periods ending in FY 1995 and otherwise eligible applicants not holding current grants. The applications will be reviewed by State, and awards will be made during the last quarter of FY 1995 (July–September 1995).

Section 385(a)(2) of the Act requires that 90 percent of the funds appropriated under Part A (The Runaway and Homeless Youth Grant Program) be used to establish and strengthen runaway and homeless youth Basic Centers. Total funding under Part A of the Act for FY 1995 is expected to be approximately \$40.5 million. This sum, which is an increase over the FY 1994 level, will trigger the provision in the Act calling for a minimum award of \$100,000 to each State, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, and a minimum award of \$45,000 to each of the five offshore territories: the Virgin

Islands, Guam, American Samoa, Palau, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas.

An announcement of the availability of funds for the Basic Centers, along with the instructions and forms needed to prepare and submit applications, will be published in the **Federal Register**.

B. Priorities for Transitional Living Grants

Part B, Section 321 of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, as amended, authorizes grants to establish and operate transitional living projects for homeless youth. This program is structured to help older, homeless youth achieve self-sufficiency and avoid long-term dependency on social services. Transitional living projects provide shelter, skills training, and support services to homeless youth ages 16 through 21 for a continuous period not exceeding 18 months.

In FY 1995, approximately \$12.3 million will be available for TLP direct service grants. Approximately \$6.0 million has already been awarded as new start FY 1995 funding to applicants that were successful in the competition conducted at the end of FY 1994 and the remaining \$6.3 million will be awarded as continuation funding to TLP grants awarded in FY 1994. Further, it is projected that all potential FY 1996 TLP funds will be awarded in the form of continuation grants. In consequence, it is anticipated that no applications for new start Transitional Living Program grants will be solicited for FY 1995 or FY 1996.

C. The National Communications System

Part C, Section 331 of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, as amended, mandates support for a National Communications System to assist runaway and homeless youth in communicating with their families and with service providers. In FY 1994, a five-year grant was awarded to the National Runaway Switchboard, Inc., in Chicago, Illinois, to operate the system. It is anticipated that continuation funding will be awarded to the grantee in FY 1995 and FY 1996.

D. Support Services for Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs

1. Training and Technical Assistance

Part D, Section 342 of the Act authorizes the Department to make grants to statewide and regional nonprofit organizations to provide training and technical assistance (T&TA) to organizations that are eligible to receive service grants under the Act.

Eligible organizations include the Basic Centers authorized under Part A of the Act (The Runaway and Homeless Youth Grant Program) and the service grantees authorized under Part B of the Act (The Transitional Living Grant Program). Section 3511 of the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988, which authorizes the Drug Abuse Prevention Program for Runaway and Homeless Youth (DAPP), also authorizes support for T&TA to runaway and homeless youth service providers. The purpose of this T&TA is to strengthen the programs and to enhance the knowledge and skills of youth service workers.

In FY 1994, the Family and Youth Services Bureau made ten Cooperative Agreement Awards, one in each of the ten Federal Regions, to provide T&TA to agencies funded under the three Federal programs for runaway and homeless youth (the BCP, the TLP, and the DAPP). Each Cooperative Agreement is unique, being based on the characteristics and different T&TA needs in the respective Regions. Each has a five-year project period that will expire in FY 1999.

It is anticipated that continuation funding will be awarded to the ten T&TA grantees in FY 1995 and FY 1996.

2. National Clearinghouse on Runaway and Homeless Youth

In June 1992, a five-year contract was awarded by the Department to establish and operate the National Clearinghouse on Runaway and Homeless Youth. The purpose of the Clearinghouse is to serve as a central information point for professionals and agencies involved in the development and implementation of services to runaway and homeless youth. To this end, the Clearinghouse:

- Collects, evaluates and maintains reports, materials and other products regarding service provision to runaway and homeless youth;
 - Develops and disseminates reports and bibliographies useful to the field;
 - Identifies areas in which new or additional reports, materials and products are needed; and
 - Carries out other activities designed to provide the field with the information needed to improve services to runaway and homeless youth.
- It is anticipated that non-competitive continuation funding will be awarded to sustain the Clearinghouse in FY 1995 and FY 1996.

3. Runaway and Homeless Youth Management Information System (RHYMIS) Implementation

In FY 1992, a three-year contract was awarded to implement the Runaway and Homeless Youth Management

Information System (RHYMIS) across three FYSB programs: the BCP, the TLP, and the DAPP. In FY 1993, using an existing computer-based, information gathering protocol, the contractor began providing training and technical assistance to these grantees in the use of the RHYMIS. The data generated by the system will be used to produce reports and information regarding the programs, including information for the required reports to Congress on each of the three programs. The RHYMIS is also designed to serve as a management tool for FYSB and for the individual programs.

It is anticipated that optional continuation funding for the RHYMIS will be provided in FY 1995 and FY 1996.

4. Monitoring Support for FYSB Programs

In FY 1992, FYSB began developing a comprehensive monitoring instrument and set of site visit protocols, including a peer-review component for the BCP, the TLP, and the DAPP. Pilot implementation of the instrument and related protocols began in FY 1993. Also in FY 1993 a new contract to provide logistical support for the peer review monitoring process was awarded, including nationwide distribution of the new materials. Use of the new instrument and peer review process during the first full year of operation has resulted in identification of a number of strengths and weaknesses among individual grantees. These findings have been used by the Regional T&TA providers as a basis for their activities.

It is anticipated that continuation funding for the logistical contractor will be provided in FY 1995 and that a new contract for the effort may be solicited in FY 1996.

5. Research and Demonstration Initiatives

Section 315 of the Act authorizes the Department to make grants to States, localities, and private entities to carry out research, demonstration, and service projects designed to increase knowledge concerning and to improve services for runaway and homeless youth. These activities are important in order to identify emerging issues and to develop and test models which address such issues.

a. Services for Youth in Rural Areas

Because of geographic distances, population density and, in some cases, cultural differences, it is difficult to provide effective services to runaway and homeless youth in rural areas. In many such areas, scarcity of funds and other resources precludes funding of

separate, autonomous Basic Center programs. The need exists for innovative and effective models for the provision of runaway and homeless youth services in rural areas, including Indian reservations. The new models would make services accessible to youth without setting up inordinately expensive service agencies in low populated areas. In FY 1993, first-year funding was awarded to eight grants to develop such models. Continuation funding was provided in FY 1994, and it is anticipated that final continuation funding of these grants will be provided in FY 1995.

b. Analysis, Synthesis, and Interpretation of New Information Concerning Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs

Over the past few years, considerable new knowledge and information has been developed concerning the runaway and homeless youth programs administered by FYSB, and concerning the youth and families served. The main sources of this new information are the Runaway and Homeless Youth Management Information System (RHYMIS) and a number of evaluation studies underway or recently completed. The RHYMIS and the evaluation studies contain descriptions of FYSB's grantee agencies, along with detailed data on the youth and families served, such as demographic profiles, presenting problems, services provided, and service outcomes. There is need for analysis, synthesis, and interpretation of this new information, leading to development of comprehensive plans and policies for the Family and Youth Services Bureau.

A contract may be considered in FY 1995 to analyze, synthesize, and develop the program and policy implications of the new information now becoming available. The study would be developed within a context of the most significant, current comprehensive theories of youth development, drawing from the fields of physical and mental health, biology, psychology, sociology, education, and preparation for careers and family life. Proposals to conduct the study would be solicited from the eight Master Contractors for the "Policy and Program Studies" consortium recently established by the Administration on Children, Youth and Families.

c. Consolidated Youth Services Demonstration Grants

The Family and Youth Services Bureau now administers three programs targeting runaway and homeless youth: the BCP, the TLP, and the DAPP. Each

program was established independently by the Congress, each to address a specific need or problem related to runaway and homeless youth. Funds for each program are appropriated annually by the Congress and are awarded to individual grantees across the country following submission and review of separate applications. In practice, there is considerable overlap among the populations and problems addressed by the separate programs as well as considerable overlap among the grantee-administrators of the local projects; some grantees administer two of the three programs (BCP and DAPP, for example) and a few administer all three programs.

The overlap among targeted youth populations and youth services grantees suggests that program efficiency and coordination might be improved by consolidating the three programs into one, setting up in their stead comprehensive youth services programs designed to address the broad range of needs of at-risk runaway and homeless youth populations. An obvious immediate benefit would be that applicants wishing to provide services in all three areas would have to submit only one application instead of the three now required.

To this end, ACYF may consider funding in FY 1995 four to six "Consolidated Youth Services Demonstration Grants," each for a four-year project period and each at a funding level of \$325,000 to \$400,000 per year. Applicants would be invited to design and, if successful in the competition, to implement youth service models combining features of the BCP, the DAPP, and the TLP. Successful applicants would, in fact, be required to provide in their respective geographic areas the complete array of services mandated for the three programs and to coordinate these services through a single administration. In consequence, it would be appropriate to fund these demonstration grants from the regular BCP, DAPP, and TLP appropriations from the Congress. Further, grantees funded from consolidated BCP, DAPP, and TLP appropriations must be able to show that the funds from each appropriation were expended to serve the purposes of that appropriation. Each grantee would document the advantages and disadvantages of the consolidated approach and would participate in a comprehensive evaluation of the projects.

d. Demonstration Grants for Developmentally Disabled Runaway and Homeless Youth

It is proposed that from two to four demonstration grants be awarded to develop models of service provision to developmentally disabled runaway and homeless youth, or to youth at risk of becoming so. The models would address issues of coordination of services, removing barriers to service delivery, identification of effective training materials, and development of policies and strategies. The grants would be funded jointly by FYSB and the Administration on Developmental Disabilities (DD) at a level of \$150,000 per year for three-year project periods. Eligible applicants would include current and potential BCP, DAPP, and TLP grantees. Funded grantees would be required to show that the funds from each appropriation were expended to serve the purposes of that appropriation.

E. Priority for a Comprehensive Youth Development Approach

Over the past several decades, the Federal government has established many programs designed to alleviate discrete problems identified among American youth. Examples are programs for school dropout prevention, juvenile delinquency prevention, abuse and neglect prevention, compensatory programs to improve the performance of minority and non-English-speaking youth in the public schools, adolescent pregnancy prevention, youth gang prevention, and drug abuse prevention among youth. Among these many programs are the BCP, the DAPP, and the TLP.

A shared feature of all these programs is their emphasis on undesirable behavior, with a number of negative consequences. Youth "problems" are commonly used to define and blame, even to punish, the youth. Further, the labeling of a youth as a drug abuser or a delinquent may lead to interventions too narrow to take into account the full array of causes leading to the abuse or delinquency, such as parental neglect, school failure, or poverty. Practicing youth workers are well aware that "single-problem" youth are rare, and that interventions from many different perspectives, and supports, including funding, from many different sources, are required to effectively help troubled youth.

The disjointed services that often follow from this Federal pattern of categorical funding to correct undesirable behavior (funding that targets a single problem behavior of the youth) may be avoided if interventions

grow out of a "developmental" perspective. A developmental perspective views adolescence and youth as the passage from the almost total dependence of the child into the independence and self-sufficiency of the young adult. The various changes, stages, and growth spurts of the passage may be considered as the youth's natural, healthy responses to the challenges and opportunities provided by functional families, peers, neighborhoods, schools and churches. The tasks of youth services providers are seen, thus, not as correcting the "pathologies" of troubled youth, but rather as providing for the successive "needs" of maturing individuals: the psychological need to develop a clear self-identity; the sociological need to resolve disagreements through talking and not through flight or fighting; the economic need to prepare for and enter into a career; and the familial needs for sharing, for trusting, for giving love and receiving love, for commitment, and for all that establishing a family entails.

This developmental approach will become central to all FYSB activities and programs over the next two years.

F. Priorities for Administrative Changes

To support the increased emphasis on youth development, a number of management or administrative changes are being considered for implementation over the coming years:

- Current holders of BCP and TLP grants may be invited to submit applications for Demonstration Grants for Developmentally Disabled Runaway and Homeless Youth, or for DD youth who are at risk of running away or becoming homeless. Holders of Consolidated Youth Services Demonstrations Grants may also be asked to incorporate DD services into their projects, always with the proviso that grantees be able to show that funds from the DD appropriation were expended to serve the purposes of that appropriation.

- The Regional Offices currently play a significant role in the assessment of grant applications. We are considering an expansion of this role that will involve allowing Regional Office staff to add from zero (0) to ten (10) additional points to the total average score of the application based on (1) the experience, effectiveness, quality, and potential of the applicant agencies and staffs and (2) the geographic distribution of the grantees in their respective States and Regions. Final funding decisions will remain the responsibility of the Commissioner of the Administration on Children, Youth and Families.

- The Administration on Children and Families (ACF) may consider changing the deadline for receipt of grant applications from the postal date of the application to the actual receipt date of the application by ACF. Applicants should carefully examine upcoming announcements to assure that they meet deadlines in the manner prescribed.

- Efforts will be continued to avoid the problems of gaps in financial support between the expiration of one grant and the beginning of a new grant for current grantees that are successful in competition.

- Procedures may be established to increase grant funding levels so that all grantees will receive an award sufficient to support the required youth services. Therefore, we suggest that all applicants examine carefully the program announcements to ensure that they request sufficient funds. A minimum annual BCP award of \$75,000 is proposed.

(Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance, Program Number 93.623, Runaway and Homeless Youth Program, and Program Number 93.550, Transitional Living Program for Homeless Youth.)

Dated: December 27, 1994.

Olivia A. Golden,

Commissioner, Administration on Children, Youth and Families.

[FR Doc. 95-237 Filed 1-4-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4184-01-P

Public Health Service

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health; Privacy Act of 1974; New System of Records

AGENCY: Public Health Service, HHS.
ACTION: Notification of a new system of records.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the requirements of the Privacy Act, the Public Health Service (PHS) is publishing a notice of a new system of records, 09-37-0024, "Studies of Preventive Medicine, Health Promotion, and Disease Prevention, HHS/OASH/ODPHP." records. We are also proposing routine uses for this new system.

DATES: PHS invites interested parties to submit comments on the proposed routine use on or before (30 days after publication). PHS has sent a Report of New System of Records to the Congress and to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) on December 28, 1994. The system of records will be effective 40 days after the date of publication unless PHS receives comments that