

**DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND
URBAN DEVELOPMENT**

**Office of the Assistant Secretary for
Public and Indian Housing**

[Docket No. N-95-3886; FR-3871-N-01]

**Public Housing Family Investment
Centers After-School Program: Notice
of Demonstration**

AGENCY: Office of the Assistant
Secretary for Public and Indian
Housing, HUD.

ACTION: Notice of demonstration
program.

SUMMARY: This Notice announces the Department's intention to contribute up to \$3.5 million from the Family Investment Center (FIC) program to assist in developing and expanding effective after-school programs that provide safe environments that help children to develop their full potential while permitting their parents to receive education or training or go to work. These programs will be located at housing authorities in Los Angeles, CA; Oakland, CA; Philadelphia, PA; and Kansas City, MO. The purpose of this effort is to demonstrate ways to promote, through supervised activities and joint community and private sector collaboration, the long-term welfare of children ages 7 to 13 living in public housing communities. This demonstration will create safe havens where children can develop skills, knowledge, and competencies, while simultaneously exposing the children to different lifestyle choices that will assist in their positive development. These intervention programs will pull together public and private resources to link adults who work with children to build self-confidence, provide homework counseling, tutoring, mentoring, and support as an alternative to gang-related activities that exist in and around public housing communities. This demonstration will also improve accessibility and supportive service coordination efforts among public housing authorities, local schools systems, the colleges and universities system, and the public and private sectors. This notice provides guidelines for the use of these funds and invites comments on the proposed demonstration.

DATES: Comment due date: April 13, 1995. Applications will be due May 30, 1995, unless as a result of significant changes made in the application requirements upon consideration of public comments, the Department publishes a separate notice changing that deadline.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments regarding this rule to the Rules Docket Clerk, Office of General Counsel, Room 10276, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC 20410-0500. Communications should refer to the above docket number and title. Facsimile (FAX) comments are *not* acceptable. A copy of each communication submitted will be available for public inspection and copying between 7:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. weekdays at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Beverly Hardy, Housing Management Specialist, Office of Community Relations and Involvement, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 Seventh Street SW, Room 4112, Washington, DC 20410; telephone number (202) 708-4214 (TDD users may call the Federal Information Relay Service at (202) 708-9300 or 1-800-877-8339). (Other than the "800" number, telephone numbers are not toll free.)

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement

The information collection requirements contained in this notice have been approved by the Office of Management and Budget, under section 3504(h) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980 (44 U.S.C. 3501-3520), and assigned OMB control number 2577-0189.

Authority

Section 22 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437t) provides for the establishment of Family Investment Centers (FICs). As indicated in the FIC NOFA published on February 15, 1995 (60 FR 8900), the Department intends to use \$3.5 million of the funds available for the FIC program in FY 1995 for purposes of demonstrating ways for families living in public and Indian housing in a neighborhood undergoing a concentrated effort of local revitalization to gain access to 4-H After-School programs for children to develop the self-confidence needed to reach their full potential and achieve success.

The demonstration will enable housing authorities to create after-school programs for children who may otherwise have no supervised place to go during non-school hours. These funds will be used to: (1) Cover administrative costs and other eligible activities; (2) mobilize public and private resources to expand and improve delivery of supportive services;

(3) improve the capacity of management to assess the supportive services and training needs; and (4) provide for supportive services and related training that cannot otherwise be funded. The Department expects that this funding will demonstrate the importance of comprehensive support services in contributing to the local neighborhood revitalization.

The FIC, as described in Section 22 of the Housing Act of 1937 and the FIC NOFA published on February 15, is to "provide families living in public and Indian housing with better access to education and job opportunities to achieve self-sufficiency and independence." Appropriately, the FIC After-School Program provides safe havens for children that will help their parents to take better advantage of education, job opportunities and social services to achieve self-sufficiency and independence, as well as directly helping the children to develop similar skills, knowledge, and competencies, while simultaneously exposing them to different lifestyle choices that will assist in their positive development. This demonstration will be a part of a comprehensive strategy to bring together resources among housing authorities, local school systems, the colleges and universities system, and the public/private sector.

In accordance with the requirements of section 470(a) of the Housing and Urban-Rural Recovery Act of 1983 (42 U.S.C. 3542), this notice describes the proposed demonstration and invites public comment. Any changes made in this demonstration as a result of the Department's consideration of public comments, and any extension of time for the commitment of funds necessary because of these changes, also will be published in the **Federal Register**. The Department will not commit funds for the proposed demonstration until after the latest of: (1) The date the Department has considered any comments received in response to this notice; (2) May 15, 1995, which is 60 days after today's publication date; and (3) the date the Department has received and approved proposals that meet the requirements imposed in this notice and any subsequent notice announcing changes in the demonstration. Applications will be due May 30, 1995, unless as a result of significant changes made in the application requirements upon consideration of public comments, the Department publishes a separate notice changing that deadline.

Background of Demonstration

The 4-H After-School program is a partnership between the public and

private sector to bring organized, after-school activities to children ages 7–13 who live in public housing communities with strong private sector support. The funds will be used to expand the Los Angeles model and replicate the program in Oakland, CA; Philadelphia, PA; and Kansas City, MO. The Los Angeles model is a strong partnership among the private sector; HUD; Extension Service, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA); University of California Cooperative Extension Service; and the National 4–H Council. The program is coordinated by the UNOCAL Petroleum Corporation and the Los Angeles 4–H Council, is backed by the Los Angeles City Council, and draws on the resources of VISTA, the University of California, the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles, the Los Angeles Unified School District, and HUD.

Inner cities are experiencing a serious crisis with youth gangs. The demonstration will involve joint investment by the public and private sectors to provide counseling, tutoring, mentoring, and other supportive services designed to reduce gang-related activities. HUD expects that this funding will demonstrate the success of public/private partnerships and commitments in public housing communities that address specific, long-term counseling needs, thereby resulting in reduced gang-related activities and enhanced lifestyle choices. This demonstration serves “at-risk” children living in public housing communities, 2–5 times per week on a year-round basis. The program is intended to create a nurturing environment that offers a positive alternative to unstructured, unsupervised free time in neighborhoods where gang-related activities are prevalent.

The system of services and outreach planned by the community will not only increase the intensity and variety of youth activities and supportive services available to neighborhood residents, it will also establish a delivery system involving residents who will work with neighbors to ensure progression towards resolving gang-related activities. Residents will work with trained coordinators to manage the program. Together with service providers, the public and private sector will form “Community Vision Teams” at the community level to bring together the multiple supportive service programs and financial supporters.

As a result of this demonstration, HUD expects that the children participating will be more likely to avoid the lure of the gangs and instead choose to stay in school with a goal of

employment and economic independence. HUD also expects that the parents of participating children will be encouraged to pursue training, education, and employment opportunities leading to self-sufficiency, because their children will be in secure environments while the parents are away from home.

Because of the working partnership taking place at the local level in Los Angeles, there is an ideal demonstration environment for service delivery integrated across existing Federal and private sector program lines. Too often the requirements of Federal programs have dictated institutional structures at the local level that stand in the way of comprehensive delivery of housing and services to those who need these services to achieve self-sufficiency. This coordination creates a rare opportunity for the Department to test the capacity of its existing programs to serve in the context of a truly integrated and comprehensive transformation effort.

HUD has chosen four public housing agencies that already have partnerships in place to develop a comprehensive strategy to provide safe environments for children ages 7–13 living in public housing communities. This will happen through cooperative arrangements among housing authorities, local school systems, the colleges and universities system, the active involvement of supportive service agencies, and strong private sector support. The strategy must provide activities that link adults who work with children to build self-confidence, provide homework counseling, tutoring, mentoring, and supportive services during non-school hours.

The key factors that make Oakland, CA; Philadelphia, PA; and Kansas City, MO, unique have been the strong interest of the housing authorities of those cities, USDA, the University Cooperative Extension Service, the National 4–H Council, and the private sector to form Community Vision Teams that bring together educational and other public and private resources for the benefit of public housing children who otherwise have no safe place to go during non-school hours.

Funding

For purposes of this demonstration, the Department will make up to \$3.5 million available to the Los Angeles, Oakland, Philadelphia, and Kansas City Housing Authorities for use in establishing and expanding FIC 4–H After-School programs in the public housing neighborhoods. The funding will be used in accordance with the statutory requirements of the FIC

program, and as established in this notice and any subsequent notice issued after the comment period has closed, to contribute to an integrated network of supportive services for public housing and other neighborhood residents.

Most of the funding provided under this demonstration will be used for administration and service coordination by the Community Vision Team and for core support services. The 4–H After-School activities and supportive services will help children to overcome personal difficulties that inhibit their readiness to learn and be successful in school. Core support services and Community Vision Team activities supported by FIC funding provided under this demonstration will be targeted to ensure that a proportionate number of public housing families are served.

In addition to the FIC funding proposed under this demonstration, public and private organizations will support the demonstration project. This network will deliver necessary services to public housing children as part of the larger community, through the community-wide system developed by the housing authorities, the University Extension provider, and the private sector. The Department believes that the institutional integration—of which this demonstration will be one part—will enhance the quality, continuity, and impact of support provided to public housing children and their families. The private sector entity must have committed funding and in-kind donations to the project. The Department expects that this demonstration will leverage more public and private funding as the effort progresses, with private funding ultimately being responsible for contributing total financial support.

Eligible Activities

Funds may be used for the following activities:

(1) The provision of not more than 15 percent of the total cost of supportive services (which may be provided directly to eligible residents by the HA or by contract or lease through other appropriate agencies or providers), but only if the HA demonstrates that:

(a) The supportive services are appropriate to improve the access of eligible residents to educational opportunities; and

(b) The HA has made diligent efforts to use or obtain other available resources to fund or provide such services; and

(2) The employment of service coordinators.

Eligible Costs

Activities that may be funded and carried out by an HA include, but are not limited to, the following:

(1) *Administrative costs.* Costs that are reasonable and include maintenance, utility costs (telephone, fax, light, gas), postage, printing, copier, building leasing/rent costs, Service Coordinator/Case Manager, accounting staff, initial equipment purchase (i.e., desks, chairs, computer equipment, tools, etc.).

(2) *Other program costs.* Costs that include advertisement, reimbursement for participant travel costs, travel stipends, vehicle lease (to transport participants to program-related activities), insurance liability costs (personal property/property off HA site) and technical assistance (T/A contractor fees, etc.).

Applicable Requirements

The PHA will be required to meet the applicable programmatic and application requirements set out in the NOFA for Public and Indian Housing Family Investment Centers (published at 60 FR 8900, February 15, 1995) and any subsequent notice that is published after the comment period for this notice has closed. When applicable, recipients of funding under this demonstration also are subject to the certifications, findings, determinations, and requirements listed in the "Other Matters" section of the FIC NOFA.

In order to receive the funding proposed in this notice, each housing authority must submit an original and one copy of a proposal describing its program in detail. Proposals must be prepared in accordance with instructions in the FIC Application Kit (available by contacting the person listed in **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**, above) and must include:

(1) A brief summary of the proposed program (not to exceed 150 words), including a brief description of the key program components;

(2) A copy of the signed agreement(s) between the PHA, 4-H Extension Service, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), the private sector entity, and the community vision team members for each demonstration site;

(3) A description of how the eligible participants will be recruited, with an accompanying implementation schedule;

(4) A description of supervised activities and joint community and private sector youth intervention projects;

(5) A description of resident (including parents) involvement in the program's planning and implementation;

(6) A description (based on projected needs) of the type of supportive services that are to be provided over at least a 5-year period after the initial receipt of funding under this program;

(7) A description of efforts to use or obtain other available resources to fund or provide supportive services that enhance educational opportunities;

(8) A description of efforts to improve accessibility and provide supportive services coordination efforts among public housing authorities, local schools systems, the college and university system, and the public and private sectors;

(9) A description of how the program will be evaluated, describing the baseline indicators against which success will be measured and replicated;

(10) A description of plans for continuing operation of the program and the provision of services to residents after completion of the demonstration phase;

(11) A narrative on the location and accessibility of the 4-H After-School facility; and

(12) A narrative, budget, timetable, and list of milestones for the 5-year period. Milestones shall include number of families to be served, types of services, and dollar amounts to be allocated over the 5-year period.

Authority: 42 U.S.C. 1437t and 3535(d).

Dated: March 3, 1995.

Joseph Shuldiner,

Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing.

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