

Revitalization's Turning the Hearts of Fathers Program," the project proposes to test the value, effectiveness, efficiency and utility of its primary intervention, non-traditional outreach and counseling, in altering the lives of fathers, children, the mothers of their children, families and communities.

This project is being funded noncompetitively, because the Institute plans to use innovative and nontraditional techniques which offer the potential of connecting a non-custodial father with his children and forging an emotional bond. The study will employ a holistic approach in providing services to members of the family who impact the father's life.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** John K. Maniha, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, 370 L'Enfant Promenade, SW, Washington, DC 20447, Phone: 202-401-5372.

Dated: September 1, 1999.

**Janet S. Hartnett,**

*Deputy Director, Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Administration for Children and Families

#### Grant to The University of Hawaii, Center on the Family

**AGENCY:** Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, ACF, DHHS.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that a noncompetitive grant award is being made to the University of Hawaii, Center on the Family, Honolulu, in the amount of \$499,821 for a 30-month project. Under the title of "Financial Strain and Family Resiliency: A Comparison of Welfare and Working Poor Families," the project seeks to gain an understanding of the factors that foster resiliency in poor families in the face of severe financial strain. Specifically, this study will examine welfare families defined as those families receiving federally-funded Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) and state-funded Temporary Assistance to Other Needy Families (TAONF). The project will utilize an ecological systems framework that considers individual, family, and social network qualities as factors that influence family well-being, health, and psychological and work/school

adjustment in these financially stressed groups. The project is unique in that it focuses on psychological and behavioral processes, considers family resiliency as well as vulnerability, and includes Asians (i.e., Filipinos) and Pacific Islanders as well as Caucasians.

This project is being funded noncompetitively, because the study will examine a broad range of attitudinal, psychological and family process variables that impact adjustment in several important psychosocial domains. Also, this study promises to provide useful information on how families cope with financial strain in a stagnant economy such as Hawaii which is in its ninth year of an economic recession.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Leonard Sternbach, Administration for Children and Families, 50 U.N. Plaza, San Francisco, California 94102, Telephone: (415) 437-7671.

Dated: September 1, 1999.

**Janet S. Hartnett,**

*Deputy Director, Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Health Care Financing Administration

[HCFA-1087-N]

#### Medicare Program; Open Public Meeting To Discuss the Conduct of a Second Competitive Bidding Demonstration

**AGENCY:** Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA), HHS.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces a public meeting regarding the operation of a second competitive bidding demonstration. It is our intention to use this second demonstration to continue to examine the use of competitive bidding for the use of Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics, and Supplies (DMEPOS). The principal subjects to be discussed will be the selection of the site and the designation of the group of DMEPOS services for which competitive bids will be solicited.

The first demonstration is in Polk County, Florida. The group of items on which competitive bids were solicited in Polk County were: oxygen supplies and equipment, enteral nutrition equipment and supplies, hospital beds, surgical dressings, and urological

supplies. The sale of these products under competitively determined prices will begin October 1, 1999.

This meeting will offer an opportunity to manufacturers, distributors, suppliers, users, and other interested parties to furnish information and raise issues about the group of items to be offered and the site for the second competitive bidding demonstration. The meeting will also address the following issues:

- Quality standards for product categories.
- Bidding for urban versus sparsely populated areas.

**DATES:** The meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 5, 1999, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., e.d.t.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held in HCFA's Multipurpose Room, 7500 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Herbert Silverman, (410) 786-7702, hsilverman@hcfa.gov

or

Danielle Grush, (410) 786-0915, dgrush@hcfa.gov

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

#### Background

Section 1847 of the Social Security Act, as added by section 4319 of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, authorizes the implementation of up to five demonstration projects of competitive bidding for Part B services, but excludes physician services. Each demonstration project is to include specified products and/or services and could be conducted in up to three competitive acquisition areas for a 3-year period. However, all demonstrations must be completed by December 31, 2002.

The first demonstration will be operated in Polk County, Florida. We are now considering how to operate a second demonstration. Among the issues that will be addressed are:

- Site characteristics desirable or undesirable for the second demonstration.
- Group of DMEPOS items for inclusion in the second demonstration.

We are also interested in the quality standards widely used in the industry and the sources of those standards.

We are announcing this public meeting to provide an opportunity for individuals and organizations familiar with the characteristics of the DMEPOS markets to furnish information and raise issues pertaining to the second competitive bidding demonstration involving DMEPOS product categories and the standards that would assure high quality products and services. We