

policy, and has a particular interest in understanding the effects of welfare reform in urban areas. Most welfare reform studies to date have not been in large cities, and thus have not addressed the challenges posed by high levels of unemployment and by concentrated poverty. These questions are critical because caseloads have not declined as much in cities as in other parts of the country, and also because the lessons from urban areas may be applicable elsewhere in the case of an economic downturn.

ASPE believes that MDRC is uniquely qualified to work with ASPE to meet this goal for the following reasons:

1. The Project on Devolution and Urban Change presents a unique opportunity to learn about the implementation and impacts of welfare reform in four large urban areas—Cleveland, Philadelphia, Los Angeles, and Miami. MDRC has an ongoing working relationship with key officials in each city and has already obtained commitments from the state and local governments in these areas to provide extensive longitudinal administrative data for research purposes.

2. This project brings together data from an unusually wide array of sources: longitudinal administrative data for all families receiving AFDC/TANF or Food Stamps dating back to 1992; survey data; an implementation study; neighborhood indicators; an institutional study focusing on local service providers; and an ethnographic study of a limited number of families. This will allow the researchers to capture effects that might be missed in one approach, and to improve our understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of each approach. It is unlikely that this breadth of sources could be replicated. MDRC has assembled a multi-disciplinary team of distinguished researchers to collect and analyze this data.

3. This project leverages a substantial commitment of private sector funding. Of the total \$20.4 million cost of the Project on Devolution and Urban Change, over \$16 million has already been committed by private funders, with an additional \$1.7 million in pending proposals. This funding allows for a breadth of research far beyond what could be obtained through the federal support alone.

4. MDRC is one of the pre-eminent institutions in the area of welfare and welfare-to-work research, having conducted projects in over 400 communities in 40 states. MDRC has developed a reputation for objective, high-quality work. This project will involve several of MDRC's senior

researchers, as well as consultants who are recognized as leaders in their areas of concentration.

Approximately \$600,000 is available in FY 2001 for a one-year project period for this cooperative agreement. A portion of this support is provided by the Administration for Children and Families, DHHS, and the Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Where To Obtain Additional Information

If you are interested in obtaining additional information regarding this project, contact Ms. Elizabeth Lower-Basch, Office of Human Services Policy, ASPE, 200 Independence Ave. SW, Room 404E, Washington, DC, 20201 or telephone: 202 690-6808.

Dated: June 25, 2001.

William F. Raub,

Acting Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation; Notice of an Extension of Cooperative Agreements for National Poverty Research Centers

The Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (OASPE) announces its intention to award a one year non-competitive extension of its poverty research center cooperative agreements. In FY 1996 the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) awarded two five-year cooperative agreements to support national poverty research centers. The poverty center program provides basic and applied research into the causes, consequences and remedies of poverty as well as provide for the mentoring and training of poverty scholars, and a forum for dissemination of research and evaluation findings. The recipients of the cooperative agreements were the Joint Center for Poverty Research at Northwestern University/University of Chicago (JCPR) and the Institute for Research on Poverty at the University of Wisconsin (IRP). The current grant period expires in late FY 2001.

OASPE intends to extend the cooperative agreements for one-year at current funding levels: \$1,500,000 to JCPR and \$500,000 to IRP. The extension will allow sufficient time for OASPE to reexamine the purposes and

goals of its poverty center program and provide ample time for a new full and open competition. This extension will allow the current national poverty research centers to continue to provide high quality basic and applied poverty research, mentoring and training activities, and dissemination of policy relevant findings as specified in the cooperative agreements.

Authorizing Legislation

These cooperative agreements are authorized under Section 1110 of the Social Security Act.

Nothing in this announcement commits OASPE to renewing or re-competing the poverty center program.

Comments and questions related to this extension will be accepted until July 18, 2001. Written comments should be directed to Donald T. Oellerich, OASPE Project Officer by e-mail at doelleri@osaspe.dhhs.gov or fax at 202-690-6562 or by mail at DHHS, OASPE, 200 Independence Av. SW., Room 404E, Washington, DC 20201.

Dated: June 25, 2001.

William F. Raub,

Acting Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry

[Program Announcement 01103]

Alaska Traditional Diet Project; Notice of Availability of Funds

A. Purpose

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) announces the availability of fiscal year (FY) 2001 funds for a grant program for the Alaska Traditional Diet Project. This program addresses the "Healthy People 2010" focus areas for Environmental Health; Maternal, Infant, and Child Health; and Educational and Community-Based Programs.

Congress has directed ATSDR to identify and study contaminants in the environment, subsistence resources, and people in Alaska Native populations. The scope of the project covers all users of Alaska traditional foods, including subsistence, commercial and recreational, and does not focus solely on Alaska Native users.

The purpose of the program is to begin defining the dietary consumption patterns of rural Alaska subsistence diet