

child care industry and new strategies for finance and administration.

The proposed research project addresses many questions of relevance to the child care field, to ACF, and to the Child Care Bureau in particular. The project will fill a gap in the information currently available about child care as an economic sector in the U.S. economy and help build a new policy framework from the perspective of economic development. The project is comprised of three interrelated components:

- In the first component, researchers will explore how input/output modeling can be adapted to model the economic development impacts of the child care industry in different States and localities ranging from urban to rural in character. Challenges in estimating employment and productivity of the child care industry with its diverse mix of public, private and non-profit providers will be addressed, as will questions of how to value the economic role played by child care in enabling parents to work. This component will contribute to a better theoretical and empirical understanding of how child care contributes to the broader economy.

- The second component will focus on dissemination. Researchers will develop and test a web-based methodology that can be used by States and localities to measure the economic impact of the child care industry in their region. This tool will enable users to collectively build a national database (using state and local data) and begin to shape a picture of the early care and education industry as a whole.

- The third component of this project will be to monitor how states and cities use an economic development frame to craft new approaches to child care finance and administration. Investigators will track how state and local coalitions engage non-traditional partners (such as business leaders, economists, community developers, and bankers) in building new strategic alliances aimed at strengthening investments in child care.

The study has a strong research design and methodology, builds on a solid understanding of the current state of research in the child care field, and is led by an exceptionally experienced team of investigators. The data collected through this study will provide information urgently needed by policymakers in early education and welfare reform.

The study answers a call for needed research on economic models of child care expressed by researchers and policymakers in the most recent meeting of the Child Care Policy Research

Consortium held in Washington, DC, on April 17–19, 2002, and the Annual Meeting of State Child Care Administrators held in Washington, DC, on July 31–August 2, 2002.

Cornell University and its sub-contractor Stoney Associates are in a unique position to carry out this work with highly qualified personnel, university facilities and in-kind resources. Together, they have laid the foundation for this project through previous economic impact research, outreach and participatory research, and evaluation and policy analysis.

- Cornell has started the collaborative planning and groundwork for the study through the Department of City and Regional Planning, the Department of Applied Economics, the Institute for Social and Economic Research (which provides access to social science data), and the Community and Rural Development Institute (which works with local and state policy makers on community development, outreach, and research).

- Stoney Associates is a nationally recognized consulting firm and leader in the area of early education and child care finance. Stoney Associates has excellent connections with State and local child care administrators, and is a founding partner in the Alliance for Early Childhood Finance, a national organization focused on developing new strategies for financing of child care in America.

Therefore, while the project will provide a substantial benefit in the child care field, ACF, and the Child Care Bureau in particular, the amount of ACF funding needed is minimal due to the work already completed or underway through other funding sources.

The Agency is providing members of the public, including qualified organizations that would be interested in competing for the funding, if a competition were held, an opportunity to comment on the planned action.

Statutory Authority: This award will be made pursuant to the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 as amended (CCDBG Act); section 418 of the Social Security Act; Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2001 (Pub. L. 106–554). The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance is 93.647.

DATES: In order to be considered, comments on this planned action must be received on or before October 7, 2002.

ADDRESSES: Interested parties, including qualified organizations that would be interested in competing for the funding, if a competition were held, should write to: Karen Tvedt, Child Care Bureau,

Administration on Children, Youth and Families (ACYF), Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Department of Health and Human Services, 330 C Street, SW., Room 2046, Washington, DC 20447; e-mail address: ktvedt@acf.hhs.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Karen Tvedt, Child Care Bureau, at (202) 401–5130.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Number 93.647, Child Care Research Discretionary Grants)

Dated: September 23, 2002.

Joan E. Ohl,

Commissioner, Administration on Children, Youth and Families.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Administration for Children and Families

[ACF/ACYF/CB–2002–03]

Grants to the National Indian Child Welfare Association and the National Association of Counsel for Children

AGENCY: Administration on Children, Youth and Families (ACYF), ACF, DHHS.

ACTION: Notice of awards.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that ACYF will award grant funds without competition to the National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA) and the National Association of Counsel for Children (NACC). These grants are being awarded to unsolicited proposals that conform to the applicable program objectives, are within the legislative authorities, and propose activities that may be lawfully supported through grant mechanisms. Both applications are of outstanding and unique merit. Each activity presents an opportunity to produce meaningful, sustainable, and useful results in an area of significant interest to ACF.

The NICWA project will support a three year pilot project to collect data analogous to that collected by the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) in three Native American areas. Currently, there is no reliable information on the extent and nature of child abuse and neglect (CAN) in American Indian/Alaska Native Communities. Most American Indian tribes and Alaska Native corporations or villages, as sovereign nations, provide their own child protection services, and data from them are not part of any

national CAN data collection. NICWA proposes a demonstration pilot project to design and test a data collection system with six American Indian tribes and/or Alaska Native corporations and/or villages with effective recordkeeping systems. These entities will report CAN events to NICWANet, an interactive and accessible web-based network developed by NICWA (through a Technology Opportunities Program grant). NICWA will work with the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) contractor support team to assure that the data collected by NICWANet is compatible and could be submitted to NCANDS by the collecting entity.

NICWA also proposes to involve other stakeholders, such as the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and the Indian Health Service (IHS), throughout the project to promote maximum utilization of the data. The goal of the pilot demonstration is to develop a model of a national tribal CAN reporting system. Participating tribes will receive stipends, hardware, software and technical assistance to develop competence and capacity for sustaining the data collection activity.

The NACC project will develop a pilot a certification program for attorneys who represent public child welfare clients or represent children in family or dependency courts. The NACC and the University of Michigan Law School proposed creating a national certification program for child welfare (CW) lawyers. Children in the CW system need competent representation for legal process to function smoothly and ensure their safety and permanence. Data show that children often are not well served in court, due in part to the lack of knowledgeable and well-trained attorneys with expertise in representing the child, the parent and the child welfare agency; and anecdotally, belief in the need for improved legal practice for children is widespread. To correct this problem, NACC proposed a system that measures competence and then certifies competent representatives to the courts and other potential employers. Child welfare law has become increasingly complex and specialized, as Federal legislation, such as the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997 and State laws have made child protection and foster care cases even more legally complicated. Lawyers, to be good advocates for children and effective in the courtroom, must understand the social and psychological implications of a case and what those mean developmentally for the child.

The American Bar Association (ABA) and the State Justice Institute (SJI) have

recommended certification as a means of improving the quality of legal services for children. Certification will establish standards of professional competence (be competency based), provide a measure of effectiveness of lawyer training programs and improve the quality and efficiency of CW court cases through a process that is non-governmental, professionally driven and supported, and creates incentives for excellence. NACC has prepared its application to the ABA Standing Committee on Specialization to approve the certification program, as the ABA has approved certification programs in other specialties such as Bankruptcy, Trial Practice, Estate Planning, and Elder Law. This specialty would be "Juvenile Law—Child Welfare."

NACC proposes to identify and define lawyer competencies (*i.e.*, knowledge and skills), present the competencies in a manual, guide the development of training programs, and pilot a certifying examination. Evaluation and revision will be an integral part of the iterative process. NACC has submitted documentation of support for the American Academy of Adoption Attorneys, the ABA Center on Children and the Law, the SBA Standing Committee on Specialization, the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, and the National Institute of Trial Advocacy. Colorado, Michigan and New Mexico have offered to serve as pilot certification states. The program has every likelihood of being self-sustaining following development.

The project periods for both awards will be for 36 months, beginning September 30, 2002 and ending September 29, 2005. Each grantee will be awarded \$200,000 for use during the first twelve months of the project period. The grantees may in the second and third years of the project periods be awarded additional noncompetitive continuation funding of up to \$200,000 per year, each year, depending on the availability of funds, satisfactory performance by the grantee, and a determination that such continued funding would be in the best interest of the government.

Authority: These awards will be made pursuant to the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, 42 U.S.C. 5106 (CFDA 93.670) and the Promoting Safe and Stable Families program: Section 430 of title IV-B, Subpart 2, of the Social Security Act, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 629 (CFDA 93.556).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sally Flanzer, Children's Bureau, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, 330 C Street, SW., Room 2429, Washington, DC 20447; Telephone: (202) 205-8914.

Dated: September 23, 2002.

Joan E. Ohl,

Commissioner, Administration on Children, Youth and Families.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Administration for Children and Families

Notice of Award of Non-Competitive Grant

AGENCY: Administration on Children, Youth and Families (ACYF), ACF, DHHS.

ACTION: Notice, opportunity to comment.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that ACYF is considering awarding discretionary research grant funds without competition to the University of Washington, Evans School of Public Affairs, Human Services Policy Center, for up to \$216,227 of Child Care and Development Block Grants funds in FY 2002. The project period would begin on September 30, 2002, and end on September 29, 2003. This award will be made to the University of Washington to provide Federal support for a research project that will generate State-level estimates of the child care workforce.

The proposed research project addresses many questions of relevance to the child care field, to ACF, and to the Child Care Bureau. The project will provide the methodology and tools to measure the distribution and characteristics of the child care workforce, thereby contributing crucial information to public policy discussions and ultimately to improvement of services, leading to better outcomes for children and families. Child care workforce estimates are critical for determining the need for additional workers based on current demands as well as States' projections in terms of economic development, welfare reform, the education and training of child care providers, and alternative approaches to child care finance. The project is highly relevant to efforts by ACF, the Child Care Bureau and States to improve the quality of early learning opportunities in child care environments.

The project builds on a new workforce estimation model developed by the University of Washington's Human Services Policy Center in collaboration with the Center for the Child Care Work Force. This important and innovative work has generated extensive interest in the child care