



Administration for Children and Families

Office of Head Start

Centers of Excellence in Early Childhood
HHS-2010-ACF-OHS-YX-0058

Centers of Excellence in Early Childhood
HHS-2010-ACF-OHS-YX-0058
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**Department of Health & Human Services
Administration for Children & Families**

Program Office: Office of Head Start
Funding Opportunity Title: Centers of Excellence in Early Childhood
Announcement Type: Initial
Funding Opportunity Number: HHS-2010-ACF-OHS-YX-0058
CFDA Number: 93.600
Due Date for Applications: **[Insert 45 days from date of publication]**

Executive Summary:

The Head Start program is authorized by The Head Start Act, as amended by The Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007, Public Law 110-134. Section 657B of the Head Start Act authorizes the Centers of Excellence in Early Childhood to recognize programs of exceptional quality that can serve as exemplary models for other programs.

The Centers of Excellence in Early Childhood (the Centers) program will recognize Head Start agencies that have established records of excellence and that are currently performing at exemplary levels of quality. Excellent and effective programs are those that have achieved, and are actively building upon, full compliance with the Head Start Program Performance Standards. These are programs that are implementing comprehensive, innovative, or targeted approaches to enhance program services. Such programs are producing positive, measurable outcomes for children's school success; for families supporting children's learning, and for increased staff competency.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) OHS intends to fund 10 Centers. Each award will be \$200,000 a year for a period of five years, subject to the availability of funds. Should additional funds become available, OHS plans to designate at least one Center in each State, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, as well as in the American Indian and Alaska Native Head Start programs and Migrant and Seasonal Head Start programs.

Awardees must agree to disseminate information about their approaches and models of service to other Head Start and early childhood programs, and must spend at least 15 percent of the award on dissemination activities.

This national competition follows the competitions and nominations conducted in the fall and winter of 2009 and the beginning of 2010 by the Governors of States and those of the American Indian or Alaska Native (AIAN) Head Start agency and the Migrant or Seasonal Head Start (MSHS) agency of OHS. Each State designed its process and application procedures in keeping with the requirements of the Head Start Act and in some cases, adding other criteria not limited to participation in the State Quality Rating System (QRS) or National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) program accreditation.

I. Funding Opportunity Description

Statutory Authority

The Head Start program is authorized by 42 U.S.C. §9801 et. seq., as amended by The Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007, Public Law 110-134.

This Centers of Excellence program is authorized by 42 U.S.C. 9852b as established in The Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007, Public Law 110-134. Section 657B of the Head Start Act authorizes Centers of Excellence in Early Childhood to recognize programs of exceptional quality that can serve as exemplary models for other programs.

Description

The purpose of these awards is to carry out the activities described in The Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007, Public Law 110-134 as follows:

Not less than 15 percent of the funds made available through the bonus grant to disseminate to other Head Start agencies in the State involved, best practices for achieving early academic success, including--

- Best practices for achieving school readiness, including developing early literacy and mathematics skills, for children at risk for school difficulties;
- Best practices for achieving the acquisition of the English language for limited English proficient children, if appropriate to the population served; and
- Best practices for providing high-quality comprehensive services for eligible children and their families; and

A Center may use the funds made available through the bonus grant -

- To provide Head Start services to additional eligible children;
- To better meet the needs of working families in the community served by the center by serving more children in existing Early Head Start programs (existing as of the date the center is designated under this section) or in full-working-day, full calendar year Head Start programs;
- To further coordinate early childhood education and development programs and services and social services available in the community served by the center for at-risk children (birth through age 8), their families, and pregnant women;
- To provide professional development for Head Start teachers and staff, including joint training for Head Start teachers and staff, child care providers, public and private preschool and elementary school teachers, and other providers of early childhood education and development programs;
- To provide effective transitions between Head Start programs and elementary schools and to facilitate ongoing communication between Head Start and elementary school teachers concerning children receiving Head Start services to improve the teachers' ability to work effectively with low-income, at-risk children and their families;
- To develop or maintain partnerships with institutions of higher education and nonprofit organizations, including community-based organizations, that recruit, train, place, and support college students to serve as mentors and reading partners to preschool children in Head Start programs; and
- To carry out other activities determined by the center to improve the overall quality of the Head Start program carried out by the agency and the program carried out under the bonus grant involved.

In selecting agencies to designate as centers of excellence under subsection (b), the Secretary shall designate not less than one from each of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, an Indian Head Start program, a migrant or seasonal Head Start program, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

In making bonus grant determinations the Secretary shall give priority to agencies that, through their applications, demonstrate that their programs are of exceptional quality and would serve as exemplary

models for programs in the same geographic region. The Secretary may also consider the populations served by the applicants, such as agencies that serve large proportions of families of limited English proficient children or other under-served populations, and may make bonus grants to agencies that do an exceptional job meeting the needs of children in such populations.

The Secretary shall designate a Head Start agency as a center of excellence for a five-year term. During the period of that designation, subject to the availability of appropriations, the agency shall be eligible to receive a bonus grant and the Secretary may also revoke an agency's designation under subsection if that the agency is not demonstrating adequate performance or has had findings of deficiencies

OHS is particularly interested in exemplary programs that meet all the eligibility criteria and have an established record with a demonstrated system for assessing and reporting child progress and outcomes, including how information about program level data is responded to in program self-assessment and program improvement.

OHS is also interested in exemplary programs that have established professional development systems that have resulted in the highest levels of qualified education staff and staff retention.

Additional areas where programs can provide evidence of current demonstrated excellence include:

- Implementing established public, private partnerships that leverage additional support for innovative or effective ways to serve children and families;
- Innovative implementation of evidence-based curricula and teaching practices that are recognized for their effectiveness in demonstrating Head Start children are ready for continued school success; and
- Demonstrating established formal models of collaborations with schools, child care and other community providers to deliver a comprehensive, holistic approach that addresses the needs of children and families including children with disabilities, children ages birth-to-five and effective transitions to Early Head Start, Head Start, other placements, to school entry, and through grade three.

II. Award Information

Funding Instrument Type:	Grant
Estimated Total Funding:	\$2,000,000
Expected Number of Awards:	10
Award Ceiling:	\$200,000 Per Budget Period
Award Floor:	\$200,000 Per Budget Period
Average Projected Award Amount:	\$200,000 Per Budget Period

Length of Project Periods:

60-month project with five 12-month budget periods

Initial awards will be made for the first 12-month budget period. Because these funds are not part of the regular Head Start appropriations, awards will only be extended for the remaining budget periods if additional funding for the Centers of Excellence becomes available.

Additional Information on Awards:

Awards made under this announcement are subject to the availability of Federal funds.

This announcement is soliciting applications for new awards. These awards will be new and not supplemental awards to existing grants.

Please see *Section IV.5 Funding Restrictions* for any restrictions on the use of grant funds awarded under this announcement.

III. Eligibility Information

III.1. Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants are limited to current Federally-funded Head Start and Early Head Start agencies that have been nominated by the State Governor as a result of a previously completed competitive process completed.

The agency shall submit the Governor's letter of nomination in the application at the time of submission. And, in the case of an American Indian or Alaska Native (AIAN) Head Start agency or a Migrant or Seasonal Head Start (MSHS) agency, such agencies must be nominated by the appropriate program manager in OHS, and shall submit such letter with the application.

Individuals, foreign entities, and sole proprietorship organizations are not eligible to compete for, or receive, awards made under this announcement.

III.2. Cost Sharing or Matching

Cost Sharing / Matching Requirement: Yes

Grantees are required to meet a non-Federal share of the project cost, in accordance with **Section 640(b) of the Head Start Act**

Grantees must provide at least **20%** percent of the total approved cost of the project. The total approved cost of the project is the sum of the ACF (Federal) share and the non-Federal share. The non-Federal share may be met by cash or in-kind contributions, although applicants are encouraged to meet their match requirements through cash contributions. For example, in order to meet the match requirements, a project requesting **\$200,000.00** in ACF (Federal) funds must provide a non-Federal share of the approved total project cost of at least **\$50,000.00**, which is **20%** percent of total approved project cost of **\$250,000.00**. Grantees will be held accountable for commitments of non-Federal resources even if they exceed the amount of the required match. Failure to provide the required amount will result in the disallowance of Federal funds. A lack of supporting documentation at the time of application submission will not exclude the application from competitive review.

Non-Federal resources will be evaluated under criteria found in *Section V.1.* of this announcement.

III.3. Other

Disqualification Factors

Applications with requests that exceed the ceiling on the amount of individual awards as stated in *Section II. Award Information*, will be deemed non-responsive and will not be considered for funding under this announcement.

Applications that fail to satisfy the due date and time deadline requirements stated in *Section IV.3. Submission Dates and Times*, will be deemed non-responsive and will not be considered for funding under this announcement.

See *Section IV.3. Submission Dates and Times* for disqualification information specific to electronically-submitted applications:

- Electronically-submitted applications that do not receive a date/time-stamp email indicating application submission on or before 4:30 p.m., eastern time, on the due date, will be disqualified and will not be considered for competition.
- Electronically-submitted applications that fail the checks and validations at www.Grants.gov because the Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) does not have a current registration at the Central Contractor Registry (CCR) at the time of application submission will be disqualified and will not be considered for competition.
- Applicants that do not provide the required State Governor's nomination letter or the appropriate letter for an American Indian Alaska Native or Migrant and Seasonal program, as part of their application, as described in *Sections I. and III.* of this announcement, will be disqualified and will not be considered for competition.

Section IV. Application and Submission Information

IV.1. Address to Request Application Package

Standard Forms, assurances, and certifications are available at the ACF Forms webpage at http://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/grants_resources.html

Standard Forms are also available at the Grants.gov Forms Repository website at <http://apply07.grants.gov/apply/FormLinks?family=15>.

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OHS Operations Center
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4915 St. Elmo Avenue, Suite 101
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Email: OHS@luxcg.com

Federal Relay Service:

Hearing-impaired and speech-impaired callers may contact the Federal Relay Service for assistance at 1-800-877-8339 (TTY - Text Telephone or ASCII - American Standard Code For Information Interchange).

Section IV.2. Content and Form of Application Submission

This section provides information on the required format, Standard Forms (SFs) and other forms, certifications, assurances, D-U-N-S requirement, project description, budget and budget justification, and methods of application submission. A checklist of required application elements is available for applicants' use in *Section VIII* of this announcement.

Applicants are required to submit one original and two copies of all application materials if applying in hard-copy. Applicants submitting applications electronically via www.grants.gov need not provide additional copies of their application materials. The original signature of the Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) is required only on the original copy. The AOR is named by the applicant, and is authorized to act for the applicant, to assume the obligations imposed by the Federal laws, regulations, requirements, and conditions that apply to the grant application or awards. A point of contact on matters involving the application must also be identified on the SF-424 at 8f. This point of contact, known as the Project Director or Principal Investigator, should not be identical to the person identified as the AOR.

Applications must be organized according to the checklist in *Section VIII* of this announcement.

The project description of the application must be double-spaced and single-sided on 8.5" x 11" plain white paper, with 1" margins on all sides. Applicants must use a 12-point font throughout the application.

All sections of the application, including appendices, resumes, charts, references, footnotes, tables, maps and exhibits, must be sequentially numbered, beginning on the first page after the table of contents.

The length of the narrative portion of the application must be limited to 75 pages, including the abstract, budget and budget justification, with an additional limit of up to 25 pages for all appendices and resumes. Applications that exceed the 75-page limit in the narrative portion and the 25-page limit in the appendices will be removed and will not be considered by the reviewers.

The narrative must be double-spaced. If the narrative is single-spaced or uses one-and-a-half spacing, the number of pages must be reduced by half. If numerical tables are included as part of the narrative, they may be single-spaced.

Each application should be submitted in the following order: SF-424, SF-P/PSL, SF-424A, SF-424B, Table of Contents, Project Abstract, Objectives, Approach, Organizational Capacity, Outcomes, and Budget and Budget Justification. Additional supporting documentation should be placed in the appendices. Assurances and Certifications may be placed after the appendices.

Each application will be duplicated. Therefore, please do not use or include colored paper, colored ink, separate covers, binders, clips, tabs, plastic inserts, over-sized paper, videotapes, or any other items that cannot be easily duplicated on a photocopy machine with an automatic feed. Do not bind, clip, staple, or fasten separate subsections of the application in any way, including the supporting documentation.

Forms, Assurances, and Certifications

Applicants seeking financial assistance under this announcement must submit the listed Standard Forms (SFs), assurances, and certifications. All required Standard Forms, assurances, and certifications are available at [ACF Funding Opportunities Forms](#) or at the [Grants.gov Forms Repository](#) unless specified otherwise.

Forms / Assurances / Certifications	Submission Requirement	Notes / Description
SF-424 - Application for Federal Assistance SF-P/PSL - Project/Performance Site Location(s)	Submission required for all applicants by the application due date.	Required for all applications
SF-424A - Budget Information - Non-Construction Programs SF-424B - Assurances - Non-Construction Programs	Submission required for all applicants applying for a non-construction project by the application due date.	Required for all applications.
Certification Regarding Lobbying	Submission required of all applicants prior to award.	Required for all applications.
SF-LLL - Disclosure of Lobbying Activities, if applicable	If applicable, submission is required prior to award.	If any funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this commitment providing for the United States to insure or guarantee a loan, the applicant shall complete and submit the SF-LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying," in accordance with its instructions. Applicants must furnish an executed copy of the Certification Regarding Lobbying prior to award.

The Pro-Children Act of 2001, 42 U.S.C. 7181 through 7184, imposes restrictions on smoking in facilities where federally funded children's services are provided. HHS grants are subject to these requirements only if they meet the Act's specified coverage. The Act specifies that smoking is prohibited in any indoor facility (owned, leased, or contracted for) used for the routine or regular provision of kindergarten, elementary, or secondary education or library services to children under the age of 18. In addition, smoking is prohibited in any indoor facility or portion of a facility (owned, leased, or contracted for) used for the routine or regular provision of federally funded health care, day care, or early childhood development, including Head Start services to children under the age of 18. The statutory prohibition also applies if such facilities are constructed, operated, or maintained with Federal funds. The statute does not apply to children's services

provided in private residences, facilities funded solely by Medicare or Medicaid funds, portions of facilities used for inpatient drug or alcohol treatment, or facilities where WIC coupons are redeemed. Failure to comply with the provisions of the law may result in the imposition of a civil monetary penalty of up to \$1,000 per violation and/or the imposition of an administrative compliance order on the responsible entity.

By signing and submitting the application, applicants are making the appropriate certification of their compliance with all Federal statutes relating to nondiscrimination.

Additional information on certifications and assurances may be found in the HHS Grants Policy Statement at: http://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/grants_related.html.

Non-Federal Reviewers

Since ACF will be using non-Federal reviewers in the review process, applicants have the option of omitting from the application copies (not the original) specific salary rates or amounts for individuals specified in the application budget as well as Social Security Numbers, if otherwise required for individuals. The copies may include summary salary information. If applicants are submitting their application electronically, ACF will omit the same specific salary rate information from copies made for use during the review and selection process.

D-U-N-S Requirement

All applicants must have a D&B Data Universal Numbering System (D-U-N-S) number. A D-U-N-S number is required whether an applicant is submitting a paper application or using the Government-wide electronic portal, Grants.gov. A D-U-N-S number is required for every application for a new award or renewal/continuation of an award, including applications or plans under formula, entitlement, and block grant programs. A D-U-N-S number may be acquired at no cost online at <http://www.dnb.com>. To acquire a D-U-N-S number by phone, contact the D&B Government Customer Response Center:

U.S. and U.S Virgin Islands: 1-866-705-5711

Alaska and Puerto Rico: 1-800-234-3867 (Select Option 2, then Option 1)

Monday - Friday 7 AM to 8 PM C.S.T.

The process to request a D-U-N-S® Number by telephone takes between 5 and 10 minutes. You will need to provide the following information:

- Legal Name
- Tradestyle, Doing Business As (DBA), or other name by which your organization is commonly recognized
- Physical Address, City, State and Zip Code
- Mailing Address (if separate)
- Telephone Number
- Contact Name
- SIC Code (Line of Business)
- Number of Employees at your location
- Headquarters name and address (if there is a reporting relationship to a parent corporate entity)
- Is this a home-based business?

The Project Description

Part I: The Project Description Overview

The project description provides the majority of information by which an application is evaluated and ranked in competition with other applications for available assistance. The project description should be concise and complete. It should address the activity for which Federal funds are being requested. Supporting documents should be included where they can present information clearly and succinctly. In preparing the project description, information that is responsive to each of the requested evaluation criteria must be provided. Awarding offices use this and other information in making their funding recommendations. It is important, therefore, that this information be included in the application in a manner that is clear and complete.

General Expectations and Instructions

ACF is particularly interested in specific project descriptions that focus on outcomes and convey strategies for achieving intended performance. Project descriptions are evaluated on the basis of substance and measurable outcomes, not length. Extensive exhibits are not required. Cross-referencing should be used rather than repetition. Supporting information concerning activities that will not be directly funded by the grant or information that does not directly pertain to an integral part of the grant-funded activity should be placed in an appendix.

Part II: General Instructions for Preparing a Full Project Description

Introduction

Applicants that are required to submit a full project description shall prepare the project description statement in accordance with the following instructions while being aware of the specified evaluation criteria. The topics listed in this section provide a broad overview of what the project description should include while the Criteria in *Section V.1* identify the measures that will be used to evaluate applications.

Table of Contents

List the contents of the application including corresponding page numbers.

Project Summary/Abstract

Provide a summary of the application's project description. The summary must be clear, accurate, concise, and without reference to other parts of the application. The abstract must include a brief description of the proposed grant project including the needs to be addressed, the proposed services, and the population group(s) to be served.

Please place the following at the top of the abstract:

- Project Title
- Applicant Name
- Address
- Contact Phone Numbers (Voice, Fax)
- E-Mail Address
- Web Site Address, if applicable

The project abstract must be single-spaced and limited to one page in length.

Objectives And Need For Assistance

Clearly identify the physical, economic, social, financial, institutional, and/or other problem(s) requiring a solution. The need for assistance including the nature and scope of the problem must be demonstrated, and the principal and subordinate objectives of the project must be clearly and concisely stated; supporting documentation, such as letters of support and testimonials from concerned interests other than the applicant, may be included. Any relevant data based on planning studies or needs assessments should be included or referred to in the endnotes/footnotes. Incorporate demographic data and participant/beneficiary information, as needed. In developing the project description, the applicant may volunteer or be requested to provide information on the total range of projects currently being conducted and supported (or to be initiated), some of which may be outside the scope of the program announcement.

Outcomes Expected

Identify the outcomes to be derived from the project.

Applicants must describe the outcomes in terms of (1) the results and benefits to the grantee receiving an award for a Center of Excellence, (2) the results and benefits of the award on the specific area, center or centers within the agency and (3) the results and benefits that will be derived from the required dissemination activities for other Head Start, Early Head Start programs, child care programs, pre-k programs, and other early childhood entities and partners.

Approach

Outline a plan of action that describes the scope and detail of how the proposed work will be accomplished. Account for all functions or activities identified in the application. Cite factors that might accelerate or decelerate the work and state your reason for taking the proposed approach rather than others. Describe any unusual features of the project such as design or technological innovations, reductions in cost or time, or extraordinary social and community involvement.

Provide quantitative monthly or quarterly projections of the accomplishments to be achieved for each function or activity in such terms as the number of people to be served and the number of activities accomplished. Data may be organized and presented as project tasks and subtasks with their corresponding timelines during the project period. For example, each project task could be assigned to a row in the first column of a grid. Then, a unit of time could be assigned to each subsequent column, beginning with the first unit (i.e., week, month, quarter) of the project and ending with the last. Shading, arrows, or other markings could be used across the applicable grid boxes or cells, representing units of time, to indicate the approximate duration and/or frequency of each task and its start and end dates within the project period.

When accomplishments cannot be quantified by activity or function, list them in chronological order to show the schedule of accomplishments and their target dates.

Provide a list of organizations, cooperating entities, consultants, or other key individuals who will work on the project, along with a short description of the nature of their effort or contribution.

The application shall include:

- evidence that the Head Start program carried out by the agency involved has significantly improved the school readiness of children who have participated in the program;
- evidence that the program meets or exceeds standards described in section 641A(a)(1), as evidenced by the results of monitoring reviews described in section 641A(c), and has no findings of deficiencies in the preceding three years;
- evidence that the program is making progress toward meeting the requirements described in section 648A;
- an assurance that the Head Start agency will develop a collaborative partnership with the State (or a State agency) and other providers of early childhood education and development programs and services in the local community involved to conduct activities under subsection (d);
- a nomination letter from the Governor, or appropriate regional office, demonstrating the agency's ability to provide the coordination, transition, and training services of the program to be carried out under the bonus grant involved, including coordination of activities with State and local agencies that provide early childhood education and development to children and families in the community served by the agency, and carry out the activities described under subsection (d)(1); and
- a description of how the center involved, in order to expand accessibility and continuity of quality early childhood education and development services and programs, will coordinate activities, as appropriate with: programs carried out under the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858 et seq.); Early Head Start programs; Early Reading First and Even Start programs carried out under subparts 2 and 3 of part B of title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6371 et seq., 6381 et seq.); other preschool programs carried out under title I of that Act (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.); programs carried out under section 619 and part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1419, 1431 et seq.); State prekindergarten programs; and other programs of early childhood education and development.

Evaluation

Provide a narrative addressing how the conduct of the project and its results will be evaluated. In addressing the evaluation of results, state what measures will be used to determine the extent to which the project has achieved its stated objectives and the extent to which the accomplishment of objectives can be attributed to the project. Discuss the criteria to be used to evaluate results, and explain the methodology that will be used to determine if the needs identified and discussed are being met and if the project results and benefits are being achieved. With respect to the conduct of the project, define the procedures to be employed to determine whether the project is being conducted in a manner consistent with the work plan presented and discuss the impact of the project's various activities that address the project's effectiveness.

The organization shall conduct research to measure the success of the Center of Excellence at encouraging delegate agencies, additional Head Start agencies, and other providers of early childhood education and development to meet measurable improvement goals, particularly in the area of school readiness.

Additionally participation in a national evaluation may be required at the direction of the Secretary of HHS, and subject to the availability of funds in order to examine the ability of The Centers to use the funds received under this section to improve the school readiness of children and to positively impact school results in the earliest grades.

Geographic Location

Describe the precise location of the project and boundaries of the area to be served by the proposed project. Maps or other graphic aids may be attached.

Logic Model

Applicants are expected to use a model for designing and managing their project. A logic model is a one-page diagram that presents the conceptual framework for a proposed project and explains the links among program elements. While there are many versions of logic models, for the purposes of this announcement the logic model should summarize the connections between the:

- Goals of the project (e.g., objectives, reasons for proposing the interventions, if applicable);
- Assumptions (e.g., beliefs about how the program will work and its supporting resources. Assumptions should be based on research, best practices, and experience);
- Inputs (e.g., organizational profile, collaborative partners, key staff, budget);
- Activities (e.g., approach, listing key intervention, if applicable);
- Outputs (i.e., the direct products or deliverables of program activities); and
- Outcomes (i.e., the results of a program, typically describing a change in people or systems).

Project Sustainability Plan

Provide a plan for sustainability that details how the proposed project approach will create project self-sufficiency and help to ensure that the impact of the project will continue after Federal assistance has ended. The applicant may include information on plans to secure additional financial resources.

Organizational Capacity

- Organizational charts
- Contact persons and telephone numbers
- Child care licenses and other documentation of professional accreditation
- Information on compliance with Federal/State/local government standards
- Documentation of experience in the program area
- Any other pertinent information the applicant deems relevant.

Provide a biographical sketch or resume for each key person appointed. Resumes should be no more than two pages in length. Job descriptions for each vacant key position should be included as well. As new key staff are appointed, biographical sketches or resumes will also be required.

Protection of Sensitive and/or Confidential Information

If any confidential or sensitive information will be collected during the course of the project, whether from staff (e.g., background investigations) or project participants and/or project beneficiaries, provide a description of the methods that will be used to ensure that confidential and/or sensitive information is properly handled and safeguarded. Also provide a plan for the disposition of such information at the end of the project period.

Dissemination Plan

Provide a plan for distributing reports and other project outputs to colleagues and to the public. Applicants must provide a description of the method, volume, and timing of distribution.

Third-Party Agreements

Provide written and signed agreements between grantees and subgrantees, or subcontractors, or other cooperating entities. These agreements must detail the scope of work to be performed, work schedules, remuneration, and other terms and conditions that structure or define the relationship.

Budget and Budget Justification

Provide a budget with line-item detail and detailed calculations for each budget object class identified on the Budget Information Form (SF-424A or SF-424C). Detailed calculations must include estimation methods, quantities, unit costs, and other similar quantitative detail sufficient for the calculation to be duplicated. If matching is a requirement, include a breakout by the funding sources identified in Block 18 of the SF-424.

Provide a narrative budget justification for each year of the proposed project. The narrative budget justification should describe how the categorical costs are derived. Discuss the necessity, reasonableness, and allocation of the proposed costs.

General

Use the following guidelines for preparing the budget and budget justification. Both Federal and non-Federal resources (when required) shall be detailed and justified in the budget and budget narrative justification. "Federal resources" refers only to the ACF grant funds for which you are applying. "Non-Federal resources" are all other non-ACF Federal and non-Federal resources. It is suggested that budget amounts and computations be presented in a columnar format: first column, object class categories; second column, Federal budget; next column(s), non-Federal budget(s); and last column, total budget. The budget justification should be in a narrative form.

Personnel

Description: Costs of employee salaries and wages.

Justification: Identify the project director or principal investigator, if known at the time of application. For each staff person, provide: the title; time commitment to the project in months; time commitment to the project as a percentage or full-time equivalent; annual salary; grant salary; wage rates; etc. Do not include the costs of consultants, personnel costs of delegate agencies, or of specific project(s) and/or businesses to be financed by the applicant.

Fringe Benefits

Description: Costs of employee fringe benefits unless treated as part of an approved indirect cost rate.

Justification: Provide a breakdown of the amounts and percentages that comprise fringe benefit costs such as health insurance, Federal Insurance Contributions Act (FICA) taxes, retirement insurance, taxes, etc.

Travel

Description: Costs of project-related travel by employees of the applicant organization. (This item does not include costs of consultant travel).

Justification: For each trip show: the total number of traveler(s); travel destination; duration of trip; per diem; mileage allowances, if privately owned vehicles will be used to travel out of town; and other transportation costs and subsistence allowances. If appropriate for this project, travel costs for key staff to attend ACF-sponsored workshops should be detailed in the budget.

Equipment

Description: "Equipment" means an article of nonexpendable, tangible personal property having a useful life of more than one year and an acquisition cost that equals or exceeds the lesser of: (a) the capitalization level established by the organization for the financial statement purposes, or (b) \$5,000. (Note: Acquisition cost means the net invoice unit price of an item of equipment, including the cost of any modifications, attachments, accessories, or auxiliary apparatus necessary to make it usable for the purpose for which it is acquired. Ancillary charges, such as taxes, duty, protective in-transit insurance, freight, and installation, shall be included in or excluded from acquisition cost in accordance with the organization's regular written accounting practices.)

Justification: For each type of equipment requested provide: a description of the equipment; the cost per unit; the number of units; the total cost; and a plan for use on the project; as well as use and/or disposal of the equipment after the project ends. An applicant organization that uses its own definition for equipment should provide a copy of its policy, or section of its policy, that includes the equipment definition.

Supplies

Description: Costs of all tangible personal property other than that included under the Equipment category.

Justification: Specify general categories of supplies and their costs. Show computations and provide other information that supports the amount requested.

Contractual

Description: Costs of all contracts for services and goods except for those that belong under other categories such as equipment, supplies, construction, etc. Include thirdparty evaluation contracts, if applicable, and contracts with secondary recipient organizations, including delegate agencies and specific project(s) and/or businesses to be financed by the applicant.

Justification: Demonstrate that all procurement transactions will be conducted in a manner to provide, to the maximum extent practical, open and free competition. Recipients and subrecipients, other than States that are required to use 45 CFR Part 92 procedures, must justify any anticipated procurement action that is expected to be awarded without competition and exceeds the simplified acquisition threshold fixed at 41 U.S.C. 403(11), currently set at \$100,000. Recipients may be required to make pre-award review and procurement documents, such as requests for proposals or invitations for bids, independent cost estimates, etc. available to ACF.

Note: Whenever the applicant intends to delegate part of the project to another agency, the applicant must provide a detailed budget and budget narrative for each delegate agency, by agency title, along with the same supporting information referred to in these instructions.

Other

Description: Enter the total of all other costs. Such costs, where applicable and appropriate, may include but are not limited to: local travel; insurance; food; medical and dental costs (noncontractual); professional services costs; space and equipment rentals; printing and publication; computer use; training costs, such as tuition and stipends; staff development costs; and administrative costs.

Justification: Provide computations, a narrative description and a justification for each cost under this category.

Indirect Charges

Description: Total amount of indirect costs. This category should be used only when the applicant currently has an indirect cost rate approved by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) or another cognizant Federal agency.

Justification: An applicant that will charge indirect costs to the grant must enclose a copy of the current rate agreement. If the applicant organization is in the process of initially developing or renegotiating a rate, upon notification that an award will be made, it should immediately develop a tentative indirect cost rate proposal based on its most recently completed fiscal year, in accordance with the cognizant agency's guidelines for establishing indirect cost rates, and submit it to the cognizant agency. Applicants awaiting approval of their indirect cost proposals may also request indirect costs. When an indirect cost rate is requested, those costs included in the indirect cost pool should not be charged as direct costs to the grant. Also, if the applicant is requesting a rate that is less than what is allowed under the program, the authorized representative of the applicant organization must submit a signed acknowledgement that the applicant is accepting a lower rate than allowed.

Program Income

Description: The estimated amount of income, if any, expected to be generated from this project.

Justification: Describe the nature, source and anticipated use of program income in the budget or refer to the pages in the application that contain this information.

Commitment of Non-Federal Resources

Description: Amounts of non-Federal resources that will be used to support the project as identified in Block 18 of the SF-424.

Justification: If an applicant is relying on match from a third party, then a firm commitment of these resources (letter or other documentation) is required with the application. Detailed budget information must be provided for every funding source identified in Block 18 of the SF-424.

Paperwork Reduction Disclaimer

As required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Pub.L. 104-13, the public reporting burden for the Project Description is estimated to average 40 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and reviewing the collection information. The Project Description information collection is approved under OMB control number 0970-0139, which expires 11/30/2012. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Application Submission Options

Electronic Submission via www.Grants.gov

- ACF will not accept applications via facsimile or email.
- The Funding Opportunity Announcement is found on the Grants.gov website at <http://www.grants.gov> where the electronic application can be downloaded for completion.
- To apply electronically, applicants must be registered with Grants.gov, Dun and Bradstreet, and the Central Contractor Registry (CCR).
- Electronically submitted applications must be submitted and time/date stamped by the due date and receipt time described in *Section IV.3. Submission Dates and Times*, of this announcement.
- To submit an application through Grants.gov, the applicant must be an Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) for their organization and must have a current registration with the Central Contractor Registry (CCR).
- **Central Contractor Registry (CCR) registration must be updated annually.** Electronically submitted applications will not pass the validation check at Grants.gov if the AOR does not have a current CCR registration and electronic signature credentials.
- Applications rejected by Grants.gov for an unregistered AOR will be disqualified and will not be considered for competition.
- Additional guidance on the submission of electronic applications can be found at http://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/registration_checklist.html.
- If difficulties are encountered in using Grants.gov, applicants must contact the Grants.gov Contact Center at: 1-800-518-4726, or by email at support@grants.gov, to report the problem and obtain assistance.
- Applicants are advised to retain Grants.gov Contact Center service ticket number(s) as they may be needed for future reference.
- Applicants that submit their applications electronically are encouraged to retain a hard copy of their application.
- It is to an applicant's advantage to submit their applications 24 hours in advance of the closing date and time.

Contact with the Grants.gov Contact Center prior to the listed due date and time does not ensure acceptance of your application. If difficulties are encountered, the Grants Management Officer (GMO) will make a determination whether the issues are due to system errors or user error.

Hard Copy Submission

Applicants that are submitting their application in paper format should submit one original and two copies of the complete application with all attachments. The original and each of the two copies must include all required forms, certifications, assurances, and appendices, be signed by the Authorized Organization Representative (AOR), and be unbound. The original copy of the application must have original signature(s). See *Section IV.6* of this announcement for address information for hard copy application submissions.

Applicants may refer to *Section VIII. Other Information* for a checklist of application requirements that may be used in developing and organizing application materials. Details concerning acknowledgment of received applications are available in *Section IV.3. Submission Dates and Times* of this announcement.

IV.3. Submission Dates and Times

Due Date for Applications: **[Insert 45 days from date of publication]**

Explanation of Due Dates

The due date for receipt of applications is listed in this section. Applications received after 4:30 p.m., eastern time, on the due date will be classified as late and will not be considered in the current competition.

Applicants are responsible for ensuring that applications are received by mail, hand-delivery, or submitted electronically well in advance of the application due date and time.

Mailed Applications

Mailed applications must be **received** no later than 4:30 p.m., eastern time, at the address provided in *Section IV.6* of this announcement on the due date listed in this section.

Hand-Delivered Applications

Applications hand-delivered by applicants, applicant couriers, other representatives of the applicant, or by overnight/express mail couriers must be **received** on, or before, the due date listed in this section, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., eastern time, Monday through Friday (excluding Federal holidays). Applications should be delivered to the address provided in *Section IV.6.* of this announcement.

Electronically-Submitted Applications

ACF cannot accommodate transmission of applications by facsimile or email. Instructions for electronic submission through www.Grants.gov may be found at http://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/registration_checklist.html.

After the application is submitted electronically via Grants.gov, the applicant will receive three emails. The following emails will be sent to the applicant from Grants.gov:

1. An automatic acknowledgement from Grants.gov of the application's submission that provides a Grants.gov tracking number.
The date/time-stamp in this email serves as the official record of your application submission. The date/time-stamp must reflect a submission time on or before 4:30 p.m., eastern time, on the application due date for the application to be considered as meeting the due date and to be

considered for competition.

2. An acknowledgement from Grants.gov that the submitted application package has passed or failed a series of checks and validations.

Applications that fail the validation check at Grants.gov because the Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) is not currently registered with the Central Contractor Registry (CCR) will be disqualified and will not be considered for competition.

3. An additional email from the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) will be sent to the applicant indicating that the application has been retrieved from Grants.gov and received by ACF.

Late Applications

No appeals will be considered for applications classified as late under the three cited circumstances:

- **Hard-copy applications received after 4:30 p.m., eastern time, on the due date will be classified as late and will be disqualified.**
- **Electronically-submitted applications are considered late and are disqualified when the date/time-stamp received by email from www.Grants.gov is after 4:30 p.m., eastern time, on the due date.**
- **Electronically-submitted applications submitted by an AOR that does not have a current registration with the Central Contractor Registry (CCR) will be rejected by Grants.gov. Although the applicant may have an acceptable dated and time-stamped email from Grants.gov, these applications are considered late and are disqualified and will not be considered for competition.**

Extension/Waiver of Due Date and Receipt Time

ACF may extend an application due date and receipt time when circumstances such as natural disasters occur (floods, hurricanes, etc.); when there are widespread disruptions of mail service; or in other rare cases. The determination to extend or waive due date and receipt time requirements rests with ACF's Chief Grants Management Officer.

Acknowledgement of Received Application

ACF will not provide acknowledgement of receipt of hard copy application packages submitted via mail or courier services.

Applicants who submit their application packages electronically via <http://www.Grants.gov> will receive two email acknowledgements from that website:

1. Your application has been submitted and provides a Time/Date Stamp. **This is considered the official submission time.**
2. Your application has been validated and provides a Time/Date Stamp. See the previous section on **disqualification for failing validation check because of an unregistered Authorized Organization Representative.**

An acknowledgement email from the Administration on Children and Families (ACF) indicating that the application has been retrieved and received by ACF will be sent to applicants that apply via <http://www.Grants.gov>

IV.4. Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs

This program is covered under Executive Order (E.O.) 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs," and 45 CFR Part 100, "Intergovernmental Review of Department of Health and Human Services Programs and Activities." Under the Executive Order, States may design their own processes for reviewing and commenting on proposed Federal assistance under covered programs.

Applicants should go to the following URL for the official list of the jurisdictions that have elected to participate in E.O. 12372 http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants_spoc/.

Applicants from participating jurisdictions should contact their SPOC, as soon as possible, to alert them of their prospective applications and to receive instructions on their jurisdiction's procedures. Applicants must submit all required application materials to the SPOC and indicate the date of submission on the Standard Form (SF) 424 at item 19.

Under 45 CFR 100.8(a)(2), a SPOC has 60 days from the application due date to comment on proposed new awards.

SPOC comments may be submitted directly to ACF to: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Grants Management, Division of Discretionary Grants, 370 L'Enfant Promenade SW., 6th Floor East, Washington, DC 20447.

Entities that meet the eligibility requirements of this announcement are still eligible to apply for a grant even if a State, Territory or Commonwealth, etc., does not have a SPOC or has chosen not to participate in the process. Applicants from non-participating jurisdictions need take no action with regard to E.O. 12372. Applications from Federally-recognized Indian Tribal governments are not subject to E.O. 12372.

IV.5. Funding Restrictions

Costs of organized fund raising, including financial campaigns, endowment drives, solicitation of gifts and bequests, and similar expenses incurred solely to raise capital or obtain contributions, are considered unallowable costs under grants awarded under this announcement.

Grant awards will not allow reimbursement of pre-award costs.

Construction is not an allowable activity or expenditure under this grant award.

Purchase of real property is not an allowable activity or expenditure under this grant award.

Successful applicants that receive bonus grants are required to use not less than 15 percent of the bonus grant funds for dissemination of best practices for achieving school readiness and early academic success to other Head Start agencies, beginning in their State.

IV.6. Other Submission Requirements

Submit applications to one of the following addresses:

Submission By Mail

Office of Head Start
OHS Operations Center
c/o Master Key Consulting
4915 St. Elmo Avenue, Suite 101
Bethesda, MD 20814

Hand Delivery

Office of Head Start
OHS Operations Center
c/o Master Key Consulting
4915 St. Elmo Avenue, Suite 101
Bethesda, MD 20814

Electronic Submission

See *Section IV.2* for application requirements and for guidance when submitting applications electronically via <http://www.Grants.gov>.

For all submissions, see *Section IV.3* for information on due dates and times.

V. Application Review Information**V.1. Criteria**

Applications competing for financial assistance will be reviewed and evaluated using the criteria described in this section. The corresponding point values indicate the relative importance placed on each review criterion. Points will be allocated based on the extent to which the application proposal addresses each of the criteria listed. Applicants should address these criteria in their application materials, particularly in the project description and budget justification, as they are the basis upon which competing applications will be judged during the objective review. The required elements of the project description and budget justification may be found in *Section IV.2* of this announcement.

Goals and Objectives**Maximum Points: 10**

The following will be used to evaluate this criterion based upon the extent to which the applicant's proposal addresses the following:

- The goals that the Center will address for the agency and for other early childhood programs through implementation activities
- The goals that the Center will address through dissemination actions.
- The anticipated collaborations with public and/or private entities providing early childhood education, parent education, and/or child development services in the community and/or in the State will address school readiness of young children within and beyond the applicant agency.
- A logic model for the work of the Center of Excellence and how the model will guide the Center.

Approach**Maximum Points: 40**

The evaluation of this criterion will be based upon the extent to which the applicant's proposal addresses the following:

- The maintenance of exemplary services and dissemination of best practices.
- The agency's approaches to the provision of comprehensive, high quality school readiness services.
- The role(s) of existing staff, proposed staff, consultants, and parents in the maintenance of excellence and in the dissemination of the best practices.
- The agency's curricula and teaching practices based on research promoting school readiness.
- Dissemination strategies, methods, audiences (such as parents, teachers, partners, others) and scheduling, and outreach (community, State, national, including the Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center, ECLKC) for each year of the project.
- The agency's enhancement of collaborative partnerships with state agencies and other providers in the local community to conduct activities.
- Outreach activities to child care partners, child care organizations, and early childhood partners such as Even Start, Title I pre-k, county or State pre-k, family literacy providers, Early Reading First, or others that influence young children and their school success.
- Exemplary service implementation.
- Sustainability strategies for maintaining current levels of exemplary services throughout the project.

Organizational Capacity**Maximum Points: 20**

The evaluation of this criterion will be based upon the extent to which the applicant's proposal addresses the following:

- Meeting or exceeding standards described in section 641A(a)(1) of the Head Start Act, and as evidenced in the results of monitoring reviews with no findings of deficiencies in the past three years.
- An organizational structure to support the accomplishment of the goals and objectives, including the capacity to educate others about the strategies that provide success to the Center.
- A range of dissemination strategies that will be used, including participatory opportunities as well as electronic methods.
- Sound financial management.
- Exemplary accomplishments with children and families, including significant improvement in the school readiness of children.
- Staff capability of existing staff and any additional staff or consultants who will be involved in providing training for others both on and off site.
- Qualifications and competencies of teaching staff that meet the requirements of Section 648A of the Head Start Act.
- Systems for data management to inform program planning, program improvement, internal and/external communication, record keeping, reporting, self-assessment and ongoing self-monitoring.
- Capacity to carry out the dissemination activities of the Center.
- Capacity to evaluate and/or report the outcomes of the Center, including the required dissemination activities, and those necessary for annual reporting.
- The letter of nomination describes recognition of exemplary services and accomplishments.

Outcomes

Maximum Points: 20

The evaluation of this criterion will be based upon the extent to which the applicant's proposal is able to describe measurable outcomes that address the following:

- The anticipated results and benefits to the agency receiving an award,
- The anticipated results and benefits of the award for specific locations,
- The anticipated results and benefits that can be derived from the required dissemination activities for other Head Start and/or Early Head Start programs, child care programs, pre-k programs, and other early childhood entities and partners, and
- The projected or anticipated numbers and types of individuals and organizations that can or will be affected by the work of the Center both internally and externally through dissemination actions.

Budget & Budget Justification

Maximum Points: 10

The following factors will be used to evaluate this criterion:

- The completeness of the budget.
- The line-item details and calculations for each object class identified on the budget information form (SF-424A or SF-424C). Detailed calculations must include estimation methods, quantities, unit costs, and other similar details sufficient for the calculations.
- The detail for at least 15% of the total project funds for required dissemination.
- A breakout by funding sources for all non-federal resources that will support the project.
- How categorical costs are derived.

V.2. Review and Selection Process

No grant award will be made under this announcement on the basis of an incomplete application.

Initial ACF Screening

Each application will be screened to determine whether it was received by the closing date and time and whether the requested amount exceeds the award ceiling. Applications that are designated as late according to *Section IV.3. Submission Dates and Times* or those with requests that exceed the award ceiling, stated in *Section II. Award Information* will be returned to the applicant with a notation that they were deemed non-responsive and will not be reviewed.

Objective Review and Results

Applications competing for financial assistance will be reviewed and evaluated by objective review panels using the criteria described in *Section V.1* of this announcement. Each panel is made up of experts with knowledge and experience in the area under review. Generally, review panels are composed of three reviewers and one chairperson.

Results of the competitive objective review are taken into consideration by ACF in the selection of projects for funding; however, objective review scores and rankings are not binding and are one element of the decision-making process.

ACF may elect to not fund applicants with management or financial problems that would indicate an inability to successfully complete the proposed project. Applications may be funded in whole or in part. Successful applicants may be funded at an amount lower than that requested. ACF reserves the right to consider a preference to fund organizations serving emerging, unserved, or under-served populations, including those located in pockets of poverty, and to consider the geographic distribution of Federal funds in its funding decisions.

The review will be conducted by one or more panels of reviewers who are knowledgeable about Head Start programs and early childhood program quality.

Each panel will be composed of three reviewers and a chair. The results of the competitive review are one factor that will be taken into consideration by ACF in determining the projects to be funded. Per Section(c)(3) of the Head Start Act, ACF reserves the right to consider geographic distribution and the populations being served, including agencies serving large numbers of families with children who speak languages other than English and who are just learning to understand and speak English.

Please refer to *Section IV.2.* of this announcement for information on non-Federal reviewers in the review process.

Approved but Unfunded Applications

Applications that are approved but unfunded may be held over for funding in the next funding cycle, pending the availability of funds, for a period not to exceed one year.

V.3. Anticipated Announcement and Award Dates

Announcement of awards and the disposition of applications will be provided to applicants at a later date.

VI. Award Administration Information

VI.1. Award Notices

Successful applicants will be notified through the issuance of a Financial Assistance Award (FAA) document that sets forth the amount of funds granted, the terms and conditions of the grant, the effective date of the grant, the budget period for which initial support will be given, the non-Federal share to be provided (if applicable), and the total project period for which support is contemplated. The FAA will be signed by the Grants Officer and transmitted via postal mail. Following the finalization of funding decisions, organizations whose applications will not be funded will be notified by letter, signed by the Program Office head.

VI.2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

Awards issued under this announcement are subject to the uniform administrative requirements and cost principles of 45 CFR Part 74 (Awards And Subawards To Institutions Of Higher Education, Hospitals, Other Nonprofit Organizations, And Commercial Organizations), or 45 CFR Part 92 (Grants And Cooperative Agreements To State, Local, And Tribal Governments).

An application funded with the release of Federal funds through a grant award, does not constitute, or imply, compliance with Federal regulations. Funded organizations are responsible for ensuring that their activities comply with all applicable Federal regulations.

Grantees are subject to the limitations set forth in 45 CFR Part 74, Subpart E-Special Provisions for Awards to Commercial Organizations (45 CFR §74.81_Prohibition against profit), which states that, "... no HHS funds may be paid as profit to any recipient even if the recipient is a commercial organization. Profit is any amount in excess of allowable direct and indirect costs."

Grantees are also subject to the requirements of 45 CFR Part 87, Equal Treatment for Faith-Based Organizations: "Direct Federal grants, sub-award funds, or contracts under this ACF program shall not be used to support inherently religious activities such as religious instruction, worship, or proselytization. Therefore, organizations must take steps to separate, in time or location, their inherently religious activities from the services funded under this program. Regulations pertaining to the Equal Treatment for Faith-Based Organizations, which includes the prohibition against Federal funding of inherently religious activities, can be found at the HHS web site at: <http://www.hhs.gov/fbc/waisgate21.pdf>.

A faith-based organization receiving HHS funds retains its independence from Federal, State, and local governments, and may continue to carry out its mission, including the definition, practice, and expression of its religious beliefs. For example, a faith-based organization may use space in its facilities to provide secular programs or services funded with Federal funds without removing religious art, icons, scriptures, or other religious symbols. In addition, a faith-based organization that receives Federal funds retains its authority over its internal governance, and it may retain religious terms in its organization's name, select its board members on a religious basis, and include religious references in its organization's mission statements and other governing documents in accordance with all program requirements, statutes, and other applicable requirements governing the conduct of HHS funded activities." Additional information on "Understanding the Regulations Related to the Faith-Based and Community Initiative" can be found at: <http://www.hhs.gov/fbc/regulations/index.html>.

The Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) is available at <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/CFR/>.

Award Term and Condition for Trafficking in Persons

Awards issued under this announcement are subject to the requirements of Section 106 (g) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, as amended (22 U.S.C. 7104). For the full text of the award term, go to http://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/award_term.html. If you are unable to access this link, please contact the Grants Management Contact identified in Section VII. Agency Contacts of this announcement to obtain a copy of the Term.

HHS Grants Policy Statement

The HHS Grants Policy Statement (HHS GPS) is the Department of Health and Human Services' single policy guide for discretionary grants and cooperative agreements. ACF grant awards are subject to the requirements of the HHS GPS, which covers basic grants processes, standard terms and conditions, and points of contact, as well as important agency-specific requirements. Appendices to the HHS GPS include a glossary of terms and a list of standard abbreviations for ease of reference. The general terms and

conditions in the HHS GPS will apply as indicated unless there are statutory, regulatory, or award-specific requirements to the contrary that are specified in the Financial Assistance Award (FAA). The HHS GPS is available at http://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/grants_related.html.

Other Administrative and National Policy Requirements

Applicable Head Start regulations, 45 C.F.R. Parts 1301-1310, are available at the websites identified at the end of this announcement.

Applicable Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circulars can be found at: http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants/grants_circulars.html.

The Head Start Act requires that HHS/ACF/OHS take steps to establish the ownership by the Federal Government of all studies, reports, proposals and data produced as part of the implementation of grants.' [Section 649(f) of the Head Start Act, 42 U.S.C. 9844(f)]."

Therefore, OHS will incorporate into the terms and conditions of awards under this announcement, works produced with funding under the Head Start Act will be considered "works made for hire." This statement will acknowledge that 'works for hire' are considered U.S. Government publications.

VI.3. Reporting

Grantees under this announcement will be required to submit performance progress and financial reports periodically throughout the project period. The frequency of required reporting is listed later in this section.

In FY 2009, most ACF grantees began using a standard form for required performance progress reporting (PPR). Use of the new standard form, the ACF-OGM SF-PPR, began for new awards and continuation awards made by ACF in FY 2009. At a minimum, grantees are required to submit the ACF-OGM SF-PPR, which consists of the ACF-OGM SF-PPR Cover Page and the Program Indicators-Attachment B. ACF Programs that utilize reporting forms or formats in addition to, or instead of, the ACF-OGM SF-PPR have listed the reporting requirements later in this section.

Grant award documents will inform grantees of the appropriate performance progress report form or format to use beginning in FY 2009. Grantees should consult their award documents to determine the appropriate performance progress report format required under their award.

Grantees will continue to use the Financial Status Report (FSR) SF-269 (long form) for required financial reporting.

Performance progress and financial reports are due 30 days after the end of the reporting period. Final program performance and financial reports are due 90 days after the close of the project period. Final reports may be submitted in hard copy to the Grants Management Office Contact listed in *Section VII. Agency Contacts* of this announcement.

The SF-269 (long form) and the ACF-OGM-SF-PPR may be found at http://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/grants_resources.html.

Program Progress Reports:	Semi-Annually
Financial Reports:	Semi-Annually

Successful applicants that receive awards as Centers of Excellence will be required to submit an annual report that contains a description of the activities that the Center carried out with funds received under the award, including a description of how such funds improved services for children and families.

VII. Agency Contacts

Program Office Contact

Michele Plutro

Administration on Children and Families

Office of Head Start

1250 Maryland Ave., SW.

Washington, DC 20024

Phone: (866) 796-1591

Email: OHS@luxcg.com

Office of Grants Management Contact

David Kadan

ACF Grants Management Officer

Office of Grants Management

Administration on Children and Families

370 L'Enfant Promenade, SW.

Aerospace Building - 6th Floor East

Washington, DC 20447

Phone: (202) 401-5513

Email: ACFOGME-Grants@acf.hhs.gov

Federal Relay Service:

Hearing-impaired and speech-impaired callers may contact the Federal Relay Service for assistance at 1-800-877-8339 (TTY - Text Telephone or **ASCII** - American Standard Code For Information Interchange).

VIII. Other Information

Reference Websites

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) on the Internet <http://www.hhs.gov/>

Administration for Children and Families (ACF) on the Internet <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/>.

Administration for Children and Families - Funding Opportunities homepage <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/>.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) <https://www.cfda.gov/>.

Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.) <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/cfr/index.html>

United States Code (U.S.C) <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/uscode/>

Sign up to receive notification of ACF Funding Opportunities at [www. Grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov)
http://www.grants.gov/applicants/email_subscription.jsp

The Office of Head Start home page <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ohs/>

The Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center, <http://www.ECLKC.ohs.acf.hhs.gov>

The Head Start Act as amended by The Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007, Public Law 110-134, http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ohs/legislation/HS_act.html

Checklist

All required Standard Forms, assurances, and certifications are available on the ACF Forms page at http://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/grants_resources.html and on the Grants.gov Forms Repository webpage at <http://apply07.grants.gov/apply/FormLinks?family=15>.

Versions of other Standard Forms (SFs) are available on the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Grants Management Forms web site at http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants_forms/.

For information regarding accessibility issues, visit the Grants.gov Accessibility Compliance Page at http://www07.grants.gov/aboutgrants/accessibility_compliance.jsp

Applicants may use the checklist below as a guide when preparing your application package.

What to Submit	Where Found	When to Submit
SF-424 - Application for Federal Assistance SF-P/PSL - Project/Performance Site Location(s)	Referenced in Section IV.2 and found at http:// www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/grants_resources.html and at the Grants.gov Forms Repository at http:// apply07.grants.gov/apply/FormLinks?family=15 .	Submission due by application due date found in Overview and Section IV.3.
SF-424A - Budget Information - Non-Construction Programs SF-424B - Assurances - Non-Construction Programs	Referenced in Section IV.2 and found at http:// www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/grants_resources.html .	Submission due by application due date found in Overview and Section IV.3.

Table of Contents	Referenced in Section IV.2 of the announcement under "Project Description."	Submission due by application due date found in Overview and Section IV.3.
Project Summary/Abstract	Referenced in Section IV.2 of the announcement under "Project Description."	Submission due by application due date found in Overview and Section IV.3.
Project Description	Referenced in Section IV.2 of the announcement.	Submission due by application due date found in Overview and Section IV.3.
Budget and Budget Justification	Referenced in Section IV.2 of the announcement under "Project Description."	Submission due by application due date found in Overview and Section IV.3.
Third-Party Agreements	Referenced in Section IV.2 of the announcement under "Project Description."	If available, submission is due by application due date found in Overview and Section IV.3. or by time of award.
Documentation of Commitment of Non-Federal Resources	Referenced in Section IV.2 of the announcement under "Budget and Budget Justification."	Submission due by application due date found in Overview and Section IV.3.
Project Sustainability Plan	Referenced in Section IV.2 of the announcement under "Project Description."	Required of all applicants for projects of three years (36 months) or more in length. By application due date found in Overview and Section IV.3.
Certification Regarding Lobbying	Referenced in Section IV.2 of the announcement and found at http://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/grants_resources.html .	Submission due by date of award.

<p>This program is covered under E.O. 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs," and 45 CFR Part 100, "Intergovernmental Review of Department of Health and Human Services Programs and Activities". Applicants must submit all required application materials to the State Single Point of Contact (SPOC) and indicate the date of submission on the Standard Form (SF) 424 at item 19.</p>	<p>Applicants should go to the following URL for the official list of the jurisdictions that have elected to participate in E.O. 12372 http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants_spoc/ as indicated in Section IV.4 of this announcement.</p>	<p>Submission due to State Single Point of Contact by the application due date found in Overview and Section IV.3.</p>
<p>Logic Model</p>	<p>Referenced in Section IV.2 of the announcement under "Project Description."</p>	<p>Submission due by application due date found in Overview and Section IV.3.</p>
<p>SF-LLL - Disclosure of Lobbying Activities, if applicable</p>	<p>"Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying" is referenced in Section IV.2 and found at http://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/grants_resources.html.</p> <p>Submission of this form is required if any funds have been paid, or will be paid, to any person for influencing, or attempting to influence, an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this commitment providing for the United States to insure or guarantee a loan.</p>	<p>Submission due by application due date found in Overview and Section IV.3.</p>
<p>The letter of nomination from the State Governor, or for AIAN or MSHS programs, the letter from the Office of Head Start.</p>	<p>Referenced in Section III.1. of the announcement under "Eligible Applicants" and in Section III.3. "Other" under Disqualification Factors.</p>	<p>The letter is to be submitted as part of the application.</p>

Signature

Date:

Yvette Sanchez Fuentes
Director
Office of Head Start