

collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Consideration will be given to comments and suggestions submitted within 60 days of this publication.

Dated: March 6, 2002.

**Bob Sargis,**

*Reports Clearance Officer.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Administration for Children and Families

#### Proposed Information Collection Activity; Comment Request

##### Proposed Projects

*Title:* DHHS/ACF Employment Retention and Advancement (ERA) Evaluation 12-Month Survey.

*OMB No.:* New Collection.

*Description:* The Employment Retention and Advancement (ERA) Evaluation is the most ambitious, comprehensive effort to learn what works in this area to date and is explicitly designed to build on past

research by rigorously testing a wide variety of approaches to promoting employment retention and advancement for a range of populations. The project, conceived and sponsored by the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS),<sup>1</sup> seeks to "conduct a multi-site evaluation that studies the net impact and cost-benefits of programs designed to help Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) recipients, former TANF recipients, or families at-risk of needing TANF benefits retain and advance in employment."<sup>2</sup> The ERA Evaluation involves up to 15 random assignment experiments in 9 states, testing a diverse set of strategies designed to promote stable employment and/or career advancement for current and former welfare recipients and other low-income parents. Over the next several years, the ERA project will generate a wealth of rigorous data on the implementation, effects, and costs of these alternative approaches. The data collected will be used for the following purposes:

- To study ERA's impacts on employment, earnings, participation, educational attainment and income;
- To collect data on a wider range of outcome measures than is available through welfare or UI records in order to understand how individuals were affected by ERA; job retention and job quality, educational attainment; interactions with and knowledge of the ERA program; household composition; childcare, transportation, and health coverage; and income;
- To supplement research on the implementation of ERA across sites;

- To conduct non-experimental analyses to explain participation decisions and provide a descriptive picture of the circumstances of low-wage workers;

- To obtain participation information important to the evaluation's benefit-cost component;

- And to obtain contact information for possible future follow-up, information that will be important to achieving high response rates for the 36-month survey.

*Respondents:* The respondents of the 12-month survey are Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) applicants, current and former TANF recipients, or individuals in families at-risk of needing TANF benefits (working poor and hard-to-employ) from 9 states participating in the ERA Evaluation: California, Oregon, New York, Ohio, Minnesota, Illinois, South Carolina, Texas, Tennessee. Survey respondents can be grouped according to 3 program clusters: Advancement projects; placement and retention (hard-to-employ) projects; and mixed goal projects. All 3 program clusters will receive the 12-month core survey. The placement and retention (hard-to-employ) participants will also receive the hard-to-employ survey module. Survey participants will be administered a telephone survey (for those individuals who cannot be reached by phone, staff at the survey firm will attempt to contact them in person) approximately 12 months after random assignment. Approximately 7,050 participants will complete the core survey and 2,400 participants will complete the core plus hard-to-employ module survey.

#### ANNUAL BURDEN ESTIMATES

Instrument	Number of respondents	Number of responses per respondent	Average burden hours per response	Total burden hours
12-Month Survey (Core only) .....	7,050	1	30 minutes or .5 hrs	3,525
12-Month Survey (Core plus Hard-to-Employ Module) .....	2,400	1	45 minutes or .75 hrs	1,800

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 5,325.

In compliance with the requirements of section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Administration for Children and Families is soliciting public comment on the specific aspects of the

information collection described above. Copies of the proposed collection of information can be obtained and comments may be forwarded by writing to the Administration for Children and Families, Office of Information Services, 370 L'Enfant Promenade, SW., Washington, DC 20447, Attn: ACF

Reports Clearance Officer. All requests should be identified by the title of the information collection.

The Department specifically requests comments on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including

<sup>1</sup> The U.S. Department of Labor has also provided funding to support the ERA project.

<sup>2</sup> From the Department of Health and Human Services RFP No.: 105-99-8100

whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Consideration will be given to comments and suggestions submitted within 60 days of this publication.

Dated: March 7, 2002,

**Bob Sargis,**

*Reports Clearance Officer.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Administration for Children and Families

[Program Announcement No. ACF/ACYF/HS 02-04]

### Fiscal Year 2002 Discretionary Announcement for Nationwide Competition of Early Head Start; Availability of Funds and Request for Applications

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

**ACTION:** Notice of Fiscal Year 2002 Early Head Start availability of financial assistance for nationwide competition and request for applications.

**SUMMARY:** Early Head Start programs provide early, continuous, intensive and comprehensive child development and family support services on a year-round basis to low-income families. The purpose of the Early Head Start program is to enhance children's physical, social, emotional, and intellectual development; to support parents' efforts to fulfill their parental roles; and to help parents move toward self-sufficiency. The Administration on Children, Youth and Families announces approximately \$72 million in financial assistance to be competitively awarded to local public and private non-profit and for-profit entities—including Early Head Start and Head Start grantees—to provide child and family development services for low-income families with children under age three and pregnant women. Faith-based organizations are eligible to apply for these funds to become Early Head Start grantees.

Applicants may apply for one or more of the following categories of expansion:

1. Current Early Head Start grantees, proposing to expand in their currently approved EHS service area (\$20 million). (See Priority 1 Evaluation Criteria.)

2. Applicants, including current Early Head Start grantees and, proposing to establish an Early Head Start program in areas currently unserved by Early Head Start (see Attachment A for a listing of currently served areas; any area not listed is eligible for funding in this category) (\$42 million). (See Priority 1 Evaluation Criteria.)

3. Applicants proposing to serve children in an Early Head Start program whose families are receiving support from the Child Welfare Services (CWS) system (\$10 million). (See Priority 2 Evaluation Criteria.)

Applicants eligible for funding under this category are as follows:

a. Current grantees may include a request for serving CWS children as a second part of their application under either 1 or 2 above or may submit an application only to serve CWS children.

While each applicant should decide on the appropriate mix between CWS children and other children, we would not expect applicants to propose that a large portion of their children be CWS children unless there are compelling reasons for doing so which must be documented in the application.

b. Applicants who are not current EHS providers may apply to serve CWS children only if they are also submitting an expansion proposal under 2 above.

While each applicant should decide on the appropriate mix between CWS children and other children, we would not expect applicants to propose that a large portion of their children be CWS children unless there are compelling reasons for doing so which must be documented in the application.

**DATES:** The closing date and time for receipt of applications is 4:30 p.m. EDT on May 13, 2002.

**Note:** Applications should be submitted to: Early Head Start Nationwide Competition, 1901 N. Fort Myer Drive, Suite 301, Arlington, VA 22209. However, prior to preparing and submitting an application, in order to satisfactorily compete under this announcement, it will be necessary for potential applicants to read the full announcement which is available through the addresses listed below.

**ADDRESSES:** A copy of the program announcement, necessary application forms, and appendices can be obtained by contacting: Early Head Start Nationwide Competition, 1901 North Fort Myer Drive, Suite 301, Arlington, Virginia 22209. The telephone number

is 1-800-458-7699; or e-mail to: [ehsn@pal-tech.com](mailto:ehsn@pal-tech.com).

Copies of the program announcement and necessary application forms can also be downloaded from the Head Start Web site at: [www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/hsb](http://www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/hsb)

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Early Head Start Nationwide Competition, 1901 N. Fort Myer Drive, Suite 301, Arlington, VA 22209 or telephone: 1-800-458-7699 or e-mail to: [ehsn@pal-tech.com](mailto:ehsn@pal-tech.com).

### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### Eligible Applicants

Applicants eligible to apply to become an Early Head Start program are local public and private non-profit and for-profit entities. Early Head Start and Head Start grantees are eligible to apply. Faith-based organizations are eligible to apply for funds. Applicants are reminded that eligibility to apply for a grant under this Notice is limited to local agencies, as defined in section 641 (a) and (b) of the Head Start Act.

#### Project Duration

For new Early Head Start grantees, the competitive awards made through this announcement will be for one-year budget periods and an indefinite project period. Subsequent year budget awards will be made non-competitively, subject to availability of funds and the continued satisfactory performance of the applicant. Successful applicants which are current Early Head Start grantees will be funded in one of two ways. Those Early Head Start grantees that currently have indefinite project periods will continue to be funded as indefinite project period grants. However, those Early Head Start grantees that have finite project periods will be given supplements to their current, time limited grant. A grantee, for example, currently funded for \$200,000 with a project period ending September 30, 2003 that is awarded another \$100,000 through this announcement would then be funded as a \$300,000 Early Head Start grantee with a project period that still ends on September 30, 2003. This would be true regardless of whether the new funds are to expand services within the grantee's current service area or to expand into another currently unserved area. Prior to the end of an Early Head Start grantee's current project period (*i.e.*, September 30, 2003 in the above example), ACF will announce a competition for those areas served by each EHS grantee whose project period is nearing an end. In such a competition, current EHS grantees in good standing, who submit acceptable