

Administration for Children and Families

Administration on Children, Youth, and Families - Children's Bureau

Quality Improvement Center on Helplines and Hotlines
HHS-2024-ACF-ACYF-CA-0022
Application Due Date: 05/31/2024

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Funding Opportunity Title:
Quality Improvement Center on Helplines and Hotlines

Announcement Type:
Initial

Funding Opportunity Number:
HHS-2024-ACF-ACYF-CA-0022

Assistance Listing Number:
93.670

Due Date for Applications:
05/31/2024

Executive Summary

Notice:

- **Applicants are strongly encouraged to read the entire notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) carefully and observe the application formatting requirements listed in *Section IV.2. Content and Form of Application Submission*. For more information on applying for an award, please visit "Applying for an ACF Award" at** https://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/how-apply-grant.

This funding will create a national Quality Improvement Center on Helplines and Hotlines (QIC-H2). The goal of the QIC-H2 is to build capacity to support families through community-based helplines as an alternative to child welfare intervention and support a clear, evidence-based distinction between poverty and willful parental neglect. To achieve these goals, the QIC-H2 has the following program objectives:

- Collect and share national models and best practices in implementing community-based helplines as an alternative to child protective services' (CPS) hotlines.
- Develop an evidence-informed curriculum or supplemental training materials for mandated reporters and hotline staff to learn skills to overcome bias in decision-making and distinguish between poverty and willful neglect in child abuse reporting.
- Build an accessible and responsive QIC-H2 website and disseminate program tools and resources that build capacity to support families through helplines and hotlines.
- Identify and support a limited number of pilot sites that demonstrate the capacity to successfully test and evaluate strategies developed by the QIC-H2.
- Answer the following primary research questions through a comprehensive process evaluation:

    1. What is evidence-informed and/or best practice in operationalizing the distinction between poverty and willful neglect?
    2. How can community-based helplines be an effective alternative to the improper use of CPS hotlines?

I. Program Description

Statutory Authority
Title I, section 105(b)(5) of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106(b)(5))

Description
BACKGROUND
In contrast to other types of maltreatment, neglect can be particularly difficult for states to define because it involves the absence or omission of actions that may result in harm to a child. While federal law sets the minimum standards for child maltreatment, each state must establish its own legal definition of "abuse" and "neglect" and the procedures by which reports of suspected maltreatment should be made. The Children Bureau's (CB's) annual data report series, *Child Maltreatment*, clarifies neglect as "the failure by the caregiver to provide needed, age-appropriate care *although financially able to do so or offered financial or other means to do so.*" In contrast, nearly all states (98 percent) include inadequate shelter and inadequate clothing in their definitions of child maltreatment and almost half (42 percent) do not specifically exempt a family's lack of financial resources when assessing for child safety (Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation (OPRE) Report, 2022).

This lack of clarity around what constitutes parental neglect means that child welfare systems are often forced to overextend scarce resources to screen referrals that may not warrant this level of intervention. Families who experience unstable housing, food insecurity, or lack appropriate clothing are often reported to a CPS hotline rather than provided the resources they need (ChildTrends, 2022). National data demonstrates the majority of substantiated child maltreatment referrals (76 percent in fiscal year (FY) 21) involve neglect as defined by each state. While the number of screened out referrals continues to rise (48.5 percent in FY21), many families do not receive the economic or other concrete supports they need to mitigate future child safety concerns. Additionally, the imprecise and unnecessary use of CPS hotlines paired with pervasive systemic bias in decision-making exacerbates well-documented racial disparities in child welfare system involvement and outcomes for families of color (Child Welfare Information Gateway, 2021).

In many cases, taking economic and material hardships into consideration when addressing reports of neglect may prevent unnecessary child welfare involvement (Chapin Hall, 2023). Mandated reporters and CPS hotline staff are well-positioned to assess for a family's economic need but require alternatives to a child abuse hotline call and investigation. A growing national trend suggests that community pathways for inter-agency collaboration, such as through a helpline, may be a more effective way to link families with needed economic and concrete supports to reduce the risk of child maltreatment. "Helplines are a critical resource to families precisely because they sit outside the child welfare system. They can encourage families to reach out for help before a situation gets truly dire, because helplines are available to all families — not just those in the child welfare system. They can normalize and reduce the stigma around seeking help. Perhaps most importantly, helplines keep families supported by their communities" (Family Voices United). Although helplines are widely available (2-1-1 systems are available to 95 percent of the U.S. population), most are not currently structured as a specific resource for mandated reporters (Casey Family Programs, 2020).

For the purposes of this funding, the phrase "willful neglect" is used to signal intentionality on the part of a caregiver, as distinct from a family's economic need, but not to diminish the impact of any type of neglect on children. This distinction is made to emphasize that risk associated with poverty may be more appropriately addressed through economic and concrete supports instead of a referral to a CPS hotline. Toward that end, the recipient of funding will develop supplemental training materials targeted to mandated reporters and hotline staff to overcome bias in decision-making and distinguish between poverty and willful neglect in child abuse reporting. The recipient will also build capacity to support families through community-based helplines as an alternative to child welfare intervention. A limited number of pilot sites will be selected to test and evaluate targeted strategies and build a knowledge base on how to support families more effectively through helplines and hotlines.

PROGRAM GOALS

The QIC-H2 has two primary goals:

- To build national capacity to support families through community-based helplines as an alternative to child welfare intervention, and
- To bring clarity, consistency, equity, and transparency to the process of assessing neglect in both community and child welfare settings.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

To meet its goals, the QIC-H2 will focus on the following program objectives:

- Collect and share national models and best practices in implementing community-based helplines as an alternative to CPS hotlines.
- Develop an evidence-informed curriculum or supplemental training materials for mandated reporters and hotline staff to learn skills to overcome bias in decision-making and distinguish between poverty and willful neglect in child abuse reporting.
- Widely disseminate program tools, resources, and best practices that build capacity to support families through helplines and hotlines.
- Identify and support a limited number of pilot sites that demonstrate the capacity to successfully test and evaluate strategies developed by the QIC-H2.
- Answer the following primary research questions through a comprehensive process evaluation:

  1. What is evidence-informed and/or best practice in operationalizing the distinction between poverty and willful neglect?
  2. How can community-based helplines be an effective alternative to the improper use of CPS hotlines?

The QIC-H2 will be structured in two overarching phases. Phase I (Years 1-2) will focus on research and development of capacity building tools. At the end of Phase I, the QIC-H2 will select a limited number of pilot sites to test and evaluate strategies developed by the QIC-H2. Phase II (Years 3-5) will focus on training and technical assistance (TTA) of pilot sites; the evaluation of program activities; and wide dissemination of findings, recommendations, and lessons learned. As a cooperative agreement, the recipient will partner throughout the life of the project with CB; relevant CB-supported entities; and technical assistance partners, including the National Center for Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention, Child Welfare Information Gateway, and the Capacity Building Collaborative. This collaboration will begin with an

introductory call and a kick-off meeting in Washington, DC, within 90 days after the project start date.

Phase I (Years 1–2)

A. Establishing the QIC-H2

The recipient will utilize an overarching theory of change to guide the project and develop detailed work plans that document key activities, deliverables, responsible parties, and timeframes for meeting program objectives. The effectiveness of the QIC-H2 will depend on staff teaming structures with robust expertise for the national and site level activities, including evaluation.

B. Identifying National Helpline Models

The recipient will identify and share best practices and effective operations of existing community-based helplines designed specifically as an alternative and/or supplement to CPS hotlines. It is anticipated that the recipient will conduct an extensive assessment of existing helpline models in both child welfare and community-based settings to accomplish this objective.

C. Developing Training Materials

The recipient will develop an engaging and evidence-informed supplemental training that is relevant for both mandated reporters and CPS hotline staff. Training materials should be built upon a foundational understanding of current state definitions of abuse and neglect and applicable laws. It is anticipated that training materials will be highly adaptable for integration into existing training structures, policies, and laws. Materials should emphasize skill building exercises to support clarity, consistency, equity, and transparency in the assessment of neglect and be intentionally developed with iterative feedback from participants.

A critical component of this effort will be the development of clear, precise, and equitable definitions and assessment recommendations. At a minimum, training materials will include the following topic areas:

- Mandatory reporting versus mandatory supporting
- The role of poverty in child welfare involvement
- The impact of implicit bias in decision-making and ways to overcome it
- How to make clear, unbiased assessments that can distinguish between poverty-related concerns and willful parental neglect
- Skill building exercises and real-world examples (i.e., what to do when economic need is coupled with other child safety concerns such as mental illness or substance use)

D. Selecting Pilot Sites

By the end of Phase I, a limited number of pilot sites will be selected to test and evaluate strategies developed by the QIC-H2. The number of sites will be determined by the availability of funding and final selections approved by CB. It is anticipated that the recipient will use consideration of need and opportunity identified through data, jurisdictional leadership commitment, legislative interest, and existing system change efforts in making pilot site determinations.

The recipient should anticipate developing clear and deliberate plans for outreach and engagement of potential pilot sites with a preliminary description of minimum criteria standards and a review and selection process. The final site selection will be approved by CB.

At a minimum, agreements with pilot sites should include the following:

- Data to support identified need and opportunity
- Proposed strategies and intended outcomes
- Project timeframe
- On-going involvement and commitment of leadership
- Key staff and inter-agency partners, time commitment, roles, and responsibilities
- Anticipated logistical/administrative challenges and proposed solutions
- Communication, feedback, and reporting plan
- Preliminary evaluation metrics
- QIC-H2 support (i.e., financial, staffing, technical assistance (TA), etc.)

Phase II (Years 3–5)

E. Supporting Pilot Sites

The recipient will build upon collaborative partnerships with leadership, staff, and community members in each pilot site to finalize and begin implementation of identified strategies within 120 days from site selection. The recipient will aim to provide intentional support to maintain continued involvement and momentum of leadership and partners through the end of project.

At a minimum, the recipient should plan to support pilot sites through the following activities:

- Conducting site assessments, strategy selection, metrics/measures for implementation and testing.
- Developing a site-specific theory of change and implementation and evaluation work plans for CB approval.
- Developing a plan for site-specific evaluation and data collection activities.
- Establishing data-sharing, communication, and technical support with each pilot site to include data-driven feedback to support successful implementation and intervention fidelity.
- Completing data collection and evaluation activities.
- Providing ongoing virtual and in-person technical support, capacity building, and regular collaboration across pilot sites.
- Supporting presentations and peer learning meetings in Washington, DC, with pilot site representatives, QIC-H2 leadership, and CB.

F. Dissemination

The recipient should plan to widely disseminate information and knowledge generated by the QIC-H2 and pilot sites. It is anticipated that one method of dissemination will include an accessible and responsive QIC-H2 website to feature key information on effective models, evidence-informed strategies, best practices, and procedures for developing and operating community-based helplines. Additionally, select products and communications will be disseminated through CB information-sharing platforms, including the Child Welfare Information Gateway.

The recipient should plan to develop dissemination goals and plans for both implementation and evaluation. All products developed must be Section 508 compliant. Please reference the 508 Tips Sheet and the Requirements for Recipient Electronic and Information Technology on the ACF Administrative and National Policy Requirements website for further requirements involving recipient electronic and information technology. Additionally, the recipient must acknowledge HHS funding in any public documents related to the awarded project. More information on this can be found ACF Administrative and National Policy Requirements website, under the Stevens Amendment.

EVALUATION

The QIC-H2 evaluation will focus on addressing the primary research questions:

1. What is evidence-informed and/or best practice in operationalizing the distinction between poverty and willful neglect?
2. How can community-based helplines be an effective alternative to the improper use of CPS hotlines?

The evaluation should be outcome-focused and include measurable objectives to assess progress in meeting the program goals and objectives. It is anticipated that the recipient will use qualitative and quantitative data to answer the primary research questions and to inform continuous quality improvement (CQI) within and across pilot sites. An appropriate percentage of total award funding should be reserved to evaluate the effectiveness of project activities in accomplishing the goals of this NOFO.

The QIC-H2 evaluator should have the expertise and skill set required to perform high-level data analysis in conjunction with a working knowledge of child welfare priorities, systems change management, evaluation of prevention efforts, and data collection mechanisms. Evaluation team members will work collaboratively to ensure that evaluation efforts inform implementation of strategies.

The proposed plan for evaluation will include, but may not be limited to, the following:

- A rigorous literature review related to the proposed study and identification of gaps in knowledge. The literature review will provide a sound justification for the proposed evaluation design and potential for innovation.
- Preliminary description of each stage of evaluation, making a clear connection between the primary research questions and the research methodology that will be used.
- Plan for the development of potential data collection strategies, tools, and appropriate measures/metrics to measure progress.
- Description of data-sharing and confidentiality considerations.
- Description of the proposed analytic approach that will be used to interpret the data and inform national recommendations and best practices.
- Identification of potential obstacles or barriers to the evaluation plan and a plan for overcoming challenges.
- Interpretation and dissemination of findings including a description of an approach to disseminate work to national audiences.

A final evaluation plan will be completed within 90 days of project start date with updates to the plan anticipated during Phase II.

AWARD-RELATED REQUIREMENTS

Meetings

The QIC-H2 project team (Project Director, Evaluator, and any other key staff) will attend a kick-off meeting in Washington, DC, (or virtually if necessary) approximately 90 days after notice of award. In years 3-5, peer learning meetings will take place in Washington, DC, with pilot site representatives, QIC-H2 leadership, and CB. Virtual status meetings will be held with the Federal Project Officer no less than quarterly.

Subawards

Recipients under this program may opt to transfer a portion of substantive programmatic work to other organizations through subaward(s). The prime recipient must maintain a substantive role in the project. ACF defines a substantive role as conducting activities and/or providing services funded under the award that are necessary and integral to the completion of the project. Subrecipient monitoring activities alone, as specified in 45 CFR 75.352, do not constitute a substantive role. Furthermore, ACF does not fund awards where the role of the applicant is primarily to serve as a conduit for passing funds to other organizations, unless that arrangement is authorized by statute. Subrecipient(s) must meet the eligibility requirements identified in the NOFO, *Section III.1. Eligible Applicants*.

Additionally, all subrecipient(s) must obtain a UEI number assigned by SAM, if they do not already have one. Prime recipients are required to check SAM to verify that the subrecipient(s) is/are not debarred, suspended, or ineligible. Please reference the Award Term and Condition on Subawards on the ACF Administrative and National Policy Requirements website for further requirements involving subawards.

II. Federal Award Information

Funding Instrument Type:

CA (Cooperative Agreement)

Estimated Total Funding:

$2,500,000

Expected Number of Awards:

1

Award Ceiling:

$2,500,000
Per Budget Period

Award Floor:

$2,000,000
Per Budget Period

Average Projected Award Amount:

$2,500,000
Per Budget Period

Anticipated Project Start Date:

09/30/2024

Length of Project Periods:

60-month project period with five 12-month budget periods

Additional Information on Project Periods and Explanation of 'Other'

Additional Information on Awards:
Awards made under this funding opportunity are subject to the availability of federal funds.

Applications requesting an award amount that exceeds the *Award Ceiling* per budget period, or per project period, as stated in this section, will be disqualified from the merit review and funding under this funding opportunity. Please see *Section III.3. Other, Application Disqualification Factors.*

Description of ACF's Anticipated Substantial Involvement Under the Cooperative Agreement Award

The QIC-H2 will be a cooperative agreement with CB. A cooperative agreement is a specific method of awarding federal assistance where substantial federal involvement is anticipated to provide programmatic benefit to the recipient that would not otherwise be available. A cooperative agreement will clearly define the respective responsibilities of CB and the recipient and is finalized and signed within 30 days of project start date. CB anticipates that involvement and collaboration may include the following activities:

- CB review and approval of proposed deliverables and activities before implementation begins.
- CB and recipient collaboration in key project activities (i.e., strategic planning, pilot site selection implementation, provision of TA, review of publications or products, and evaluation).
- CB monitoring of funding requirements and progress toward the program goals and objectives.
- CB monitoring of performance which may exceed those federal stewardship responsibilities customary for grant activities.

NOTE: Consistent with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, (44 U.S.C. 3501-3521) CB will not conduct or sponsor – and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information covered by such Act, unless it displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number.

III. Eligibility Information

III.1. Eligible Applicants

Per the statute, “The Secretary may make grants to, and enter into contracts with, entities that are states, Indian tribes, or tribal organizations, or public agencies or private agencies or organizations (or combinations of such entities)…” (42 U.S.C. 5106(a)).

Applications from individuals (including sole proprietorships) and foreign entities are not eligible and will be disqualified from the merit review and funding under this funding opportunity. See *Section III.3. Other, Application Disqualification Factors.*

Faith-based and community organizations that meet the eligibility requirements are eligible to receive awards under this funding opportunity. Faith-based organizations may apply for this award on the same basis as any other organization, as set forth at and, subject to the protections and requirements of 45 CFR Part 87 and 42 U.S.C. 2000bb *et seq.*, ACF will not, in the selection of recipients, discriminate against an organization on the basis of the organization's religious character, affiliation, or exercise.

Reference to Legal Status
See *Section IV.2. Legal Status of Applicant Entity* for documentation required to support eligibility.

III.2. Cost Sharing or Matching

Cost Sharing / Matching Requirement:
No
See *Section IV.2. The Project Budget and Budget Justification, Commitment of Non-Federal Resources* for more information.

III.3. Other

Application Disqualification Factors
Applications from individuals (including sole proprietorships) and foreign entities are not eligible and will be disqualified from the merit review and funding under this funding opportunity.

Award Ceiling Disqualification

Applications that request an award amount that exceeds the *Award Ceiling* per budget period or per project period, as stated in *Section II. Federal Award Information,* will be disqualified from the merit review and funding under this funding opportunity. This disqualification applies only to the *Award Ceiling* listed for the first 12-month budget period for projects with multiple budget periods. If the project and budget period are the same, the disqualification applies to the *Award Ceiling* listed for the project period.

Required Electronic Application Submission

ACF requires electronic submission of applications at Grants.gov. **Paper applications received that have not been approved for an exemption from required electronic submission will be disqualified from the merit review and funding under this funding opportunity.**

If you do not have an internet connection or sufficient capacity to upload large documents to the internet you may contact ACF for an exemption that will allow you to submit your application in paper format. Information and the requirements for requesting an exemption from required electronic application submission are found in "ACF Policy for Requesting an Exemption from Electronic Application Submission."

Missing the Application Deadline (Late Applications)

The deadline for electronic application submission is 11:59 pm ET on the due date listed in the *Overview* and in *Section IV.4. Submission Dates and Times.* Electronic applications submitted to Grants.gov after 11:59 pm ET on the due date, as indicated by a dated and time-stamped email from Grants.gov, will be disqualified from the merit review and funding under this funding opportunity.

Applications submitted to Grants.gov which fail their validation check, will not be received at, or acknowledged by ACF. If you submit an application for the same NOFO more than once, only the last on-time submission will be acknowledged.

Paper applications with an approved exemption from the electronic submission requirement must be received by 4:30 pm ET on the due date listed in the *Overview* and in *Section IV.4. Submission Dates and Times*. Paper applications received after 4:30 pm ET on the due date will be disqualified from the merit review and funding under this funding opportunity.

Notification of Application Disqualification
Applicants will be notified of a disqualification determination by email or by USPS postal mail within 30 federal business days from the closing date of this NOFO.

IV. Application and Submission Information

IV.1. Address to Request Application Package

CB Operations Center
c/o LCG, Inc.
ATTN: HHS-2024-ACF-ACYF-CA-0022
6000 Executive Boulevard
Suite 410
Rockville
MD
20852
(888) 203-6161

Application Packages

Electronic Application Submission:

The electronic application submission package is available in the NOFO's listing at Grants.gov.

IV.2. Content and Form of Application Submission

FORMATTING APPLICATION SUBMISSIONS

Notice of Two-File Requirement
Applicants applying via Grants.gov must upload only two electronic files, excluding Standard Forms (SFs) and Office of Management and Budget (OMB)-approved forms. Additional files will be removed prior to the merit review.

FOR ALL APPLICATIONS:

Signature of Authorized Organization Representative (AOR)
Each applicant must designate an authorized organization representative (AOR) with authority to act on the organization's behalf on matters related to the application submission and administration of awards. The AOR signature must appear on all forms in which a signature is required. By signing, the AOR agrees the organization will abide by all applicable Federal statutes, regulations and terms and conditions of the award.

Accepted Font Style and Size
Applications must be in Times New Roman 12-point font, except for footnotes, which may be 10-point font. Pages that contain blurred or illegible text will be removed.

If documents must be scanned, the font size on any scanned documents must be large enough so that it is readable. You may not scan more than one page of a documents onto a single page. Pages with blurred text will be removed from the application.

English Language
Applications must be submitted in the English language and must be in the terms of United States (U.S.) dollars. See 45 CFR §75.111 for more information.

Page Limitations
You must observe the page limitation(s) listed under "PAGE LIMITATIONS AND CONTENT FOR ALL SUBMISSION FORMATS" later in this section. **Page limitation(s) do not include SFs and OMB-approved forms.**

All applications must be double-spaced. An application that exceeds the cited page limitation for double-spaced pages will have extra pages removed, and those pages will not be reviewed.

Application Elements Exempted from Double-Spacing Requirements
The following elements of the application submission are exempt from the double-spacing requirements and may be single-spaced:

- Table of Contents
- One-page Project Summary
- Required Assurances and Certifications
- SFs and OMB-approved forms
- Resumes, Logic Models, Proof of Legal Status/Non-Profit Status, Third-Party Agreements, Letters of Support, footnotes and tables
- Line-Item Budget and/or the Budget Justification

Adherence to NOFO Formatting, Font, and Page Limitation Requirements
Applications that fail to adhere to ACF's NOFO formatting, font, and page limitation

requirements will be adjusted by the removal of page(s) from the application. Pages will be removed before the merit review and will not be made available to reviewers.

NOTE: Applicants failing to adhere to ACF's NOFO formatting, font, and page limitation requirements will receive a letter from ACF notifying them that their application was amended. The letter will be sent after awards have been issued and will specify the reason(s) for removal of page(s).

Corrections/Updates to Submitted Applications
When applicants revise a previously submitted application, ACF will accept only the last on-time application for pre-review under the Application Disqualification Factors. See *Section III.3. Other, Application Disqualification Factors* and *Section IV.2. Application Submission Options*.

Copies Required
Applicants must submit one complete copy of the application package electronically. Applicants must follow the registration and application submission instructions provided at Grants.gov.

Accepted Application Format
With the exception of the required SFs and OMB-approved forms, all application materials must be formatted so that they are 8 ½" x 11" white paper with 1-inch margins all around.

If possible, applicants are encouraged to include page numbers for each page within the application.

PAGE LIMITATIONS AND CONTENT FOR ALL SUBMISSION FORMATS:

With the exception of SFs and OMB-approved forms, the application submission is limited to 75 pages in its entirety. The two files that applicants must submit are:

File One: Project Description must include the following items in this order:

- Table of Contents
- Project Summary
- Project Description
- Evaluation Plan
- Project Timeline and Milestones
- Organizational Capacity
- Project Budget and Budget Justification

File Two: Appendices must include the following items in this order:

- Proof of Legal Status (if applicable)
- Third-Party Agreements
- Staff and Position Data (e.g., resumes, job descriptions, organizational charts)
- Letters of Support
- Indirect Cost Rate Letter (if applicable)

ELECTRONIC APPLICATION SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS
You are required to submit applications electronically unless you have received an exemption that will allow submission in paper format. See *Section IV.2. Application Submission Options* for information about requesting an exemption**.**

Electronic applications will only be accepted via Grants.gov. **ACF will not accept applications submitted via email or via facsimile.**

Each applicant is required to upload ONLY two electronic files, excluding SFs and OMB-approved forms.

File One: Must contain the entire Project Description, and the Budget and Budget Justification (including a line-item budget and a budget narrative).

File Two: Must contain all documents required in the Appendices.

Formatting Submission Files
ACF strongly recommends that File One and File Two be uploaded as Portable Document Files (PDFs).

To adhere to the two-file requirement, you may need to convert and/or merge documents together using a PDF converter software. Applicants using Adobe Acrobat Reader software will be able to merge these documents together. ACF recommends merging documents electronically rather than scanning multiple documents into one document manually.

Applicants must ensure that the version of Adobe Acrobat Reader they are using is compatible with Grants.gov. To verify Adobe software compatibility please go to Grants.gov and click on "Applicants" at the top bar menu and select "Adobe Software Compatibility."

Naming Application Submission Files
Carefully observe the file naming conventions required by Grants.gov. Limit file names to 50 characters (characters and spaces).Please also see https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/submitting-utf-8-special-characters.html.

Use only file formats supported by ACF
While ACF supports all of the following file formats, **we strongly recommend that the two files (Project Description and Appendices) are uploaded as PDFs in order to comply with the two-file upload limitation.**

ACF supports the following file formats:

- Adobe PDF – Portable Document Format (.pdf)
- Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx)
- Microsoft Excel (.xls or .xlsx)

- Microsoft PowerPoint (.ppt)
- Image Formats (.JPG, .GIF, .TIFF, or .BMP only)

Documents in file formats not listed here will be removed from the application and will not be used in the merit review. This may make the application incomplete, and ACF will not make awards based on an incomplete application.

Do Not Encrypt or Password-Protect the Electronic Application Files
If ACF cannot access submitted electronic files because they are encrypted or password protected, the affected file will not be reviewed. This may make the application incomplete, and ACF will not make awards based on an incomplete application.

REQUIREMENTS FOR PAPER APPLICATION SUBMISSIONS:
You must receive an exemption in order for a paper application to be accepted for review. For more information on the exemption, see "ACF Policy for Requesting an Exemption from Required Electronic Application Submission."

Applicants with an approved exemption for paper application submission should download the forms package associated with the NOFO's Synopsis on Grants.gov under the Package tab.

All copies of mailed paper applications must be submitted in a single package. If an applicant is submitting multiple applications under a single NOFO, or multiple applications under separate NOFOs, each submission must be packaged separately. The package(s) must be clearly labeled with the NOFO title and Funding Opportunity Number.

Applicants must submit one original and two copies of the complete application, including all SFs and OMB-approved forms. The original copy must have original signatures. Copies of the application, not the original, will be reproduced by the federal government for review. **All application materials must be one-sided for duplication purposes. All pages in the application submission must be sequentially numbered.**

Required Forms, Assurances, and Certifications

Applicants seeking an award under this funding opportunity must submit the listed SFs, assurances, and certifications with the application. All required SFs, assurances, and certifications are available in the Application Package posted for this NOFO at Grants.gov.

Forms/Assurances/Certifications	Submission Requirement	Notes/Description
Maintenance of Effort (MOE) Certification	Applicants self-certify their maintenance of effort. The MOE should be on the applicant organization's letterhead. Submission is	Required for all applications.

Forms/Assurances/Certifications	Submission Requirement	Notes/Description
	required for all applicants under this NOFO. See *Section IV.2. Formatting Application Submissions* for instructions on its placement in the application submission.	
Certificate of Good Standing	Submission is required for all **for-profit organizations**.	Sole proprietorships are not eligible applicants. The submission of the Certificate of Good Standing, along with the current list of board members, and organizational documents that require the establishment and maintenance of a Board of Directors, provide proof of eligibility for for-profit organizations.
Protection of Human Subjects Assurance Identification / IRB Certification / Declaration of Exemption (Common Rule)	Submission of the required information and forms is due with the application package by the due date listed in the *Overview* and *Section IV.4. Submission Dates and Times*. If the information is not available at the time of application, it must be submitted prior to the award of a grant.	Form is available at http:// www.hhs.gov/ ohrp/ assurances/ forms/index.html. General information about the HHS Protection of Human Subjects regulations can be obtained at http://www. hhs.gov/ ohrp/ . Applicants may also contact OHRP by email (OHRP@HHS.gov) or by phone (240-453-6900).
SF-424 - Application for Federal Assistance	Submission is required for all applicants by the application due date.	Required for all applications.

Forms/Assurances/Certifications	Submission Requirement	Notes/Description
Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) and System for Award Management (SAM) registration.	Required of all applicants. Applicants must have a UEI and maintain an active SAM registration throughout the application and project award period. Obtain a UEI and SAM registration at: http://www.sam.gov.	See *Section IV.3. Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) and System for Award Management (SAM)* for more information.
SF-424 Key Contact Form	Submission is required for all applicants by the application due date.	Required for all applications.
Certification Regarding Lobbying (Grants.gov Lobbying Form)	Submission required of all applicants with the application package. If it is not submitted with the application package, it must be submitted prior to award.	Submission of the certification is required for all applicants.
SF-424A - Budget Information - Non- Construction Programs and SF-424B - Assurances - Non-Construction Programs	Submission is required for all applicants when applying for a non-construction project. SFs must be used. Forms must be submitted by the application due date. By signing and submitting the SF-424B, applicants are making the	Required for all applications when applying for a non-construction project.

Forms/Assurances/Certifications	Submission Requirement	Notes/Description
	appropriate certification of their compliance with all Federal statutes relating to nondiscrimination.	
SF-Project/Performance Site Location(s) (SF-P/PSL)	Submission is required for all applicants by the application due date.	Required for all applications. In the SF-P/PSL, applicants must cite their primary location and up to 29 additional performance sites.
SF-LLL - Disclosure of Lobbying Activities	If submission of this form is applicable, it is due at the time of application. If it is not available at the time of application, it may also be submitted 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.

Additional Required Assurances and Certifications

Mandatory Grant Disclosures

All applicants and recipients are required to submit, in writing, to ACF and the HHS Office of the Inspector General, all information related to violations of federal criminal law involving fraud, bribery, or gratuity violations potentially affecting the federal award. (Mandatory Disclosures, 45 CFR § 75.113)

Disclosures must be sent in writing to:

> The Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Grants Management, ATTN: Grants Management Specialist, 330 C Street, SW., Switzer Building, Corridor 3200, Washington, DC 20201

And to:

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General, ATTN: Mandatory Grant Disclosures, Intake Coordinator, 330 Independence Avenue, SW., Cohen Building, Room 5527, Washington, DC 20201

Fax: (202) 205-0604 (Include "Mandatory Grant Disclosures" in subject line) or
Email: grantdisclosures@oig.hhs.gov

Proprietary Information and Personally Identifiable Information (PII)
ACF will be using non-federal reviewers in the review process. You 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 applications are submitted electronically, ACF will omit the same specific salary rate information from copies made for use during the review process.

The Project Description

The Project Description Overview

General Expectations and Instructions
The Project Description requests the information by which an application is evaluated and ranked in competition with other applications for financial assistance. It must address all activities for which federal funds are being requested and all application requirements as stated in this section. The Project Description must explain how the project will meet the purpose of the NOFO, as described in *Section I. Program Description.* As a reminder, reviewers will be evaluating this section in accordance with *Section V.1. Criteria*.

The Project Description must be clear, concise, and complete. ACF is particularly interested in Project Descriptions that convey strategies for achieving intended performance. Project Descriptions are evaluated on the basis of substance and measurable outcomes, not length.

Cross-referencing should be used rather than repetition. Supporting documents designated as required must be included in the Appendix of the application.

Letter of Intent
Applicants are strongly encouraged to notify ACF of their intention to submit an application under this NOFO. **The letter of intent is optional. Failure to submit a letter of intent will not impact eligibility to submit an application and will not disqualify an applicant from the merit review.** Letter of intent information will be used to determine the number of expert reviewers needed to evaluate applications.

Please submit a letter of intent by the deadline date listed in *Section IV.4. Submission Dates and Times*. The letter of intent should include the following information: number and title of this funding opportunity; the name and address of the applicant organization; and the name, phone number, fax number and email address of a contact person.

The letter of intent should be submitted to:

CB Operations Center
c/o LCG, Inc.
ATTN: HHS-2024-ACF-ACYF-CA-0022
6000 Executive Boulevard, Suite 410
Rockville, MD 20852
Phone: (888) 203-6161
Email: cb@grantreview.org

Table of Contents
List the contents of the application including corresponding page numbers. The table of contents may be single spaced.

Project Summary
Provide a summary of the project description. The summary must include a brief description of the applicant's proposed project including the needs to be addressed, the proposed activities or services, and if applicable, the population group(s) to be served. The summary must be clear, accurate, concise, and without cross-references to other parts of the application. Please place the following at the top of the Project Summary:

- Project Title
- Applicant Name
- Address
- Contact Phone Numbers (Voice, Fax, Cell)
- Email Address
- Website Address, if applicable

The Project Summary must be single-spaced, Times New Roman 12-point font, and limited to one page in length. Additional pages will be removed and will not be reviewed.

Non-Profit Organizations

Proof of Non-Profit Status Options:

Option 1: 501(c)(3) and non-501(c)(3) non-profit organizations are eligible
Non-profit organizations applying for funding are required to submit proof of their non-profit status. Proof of non-profit status is any one of the following:

- A reference to the applicant organization's listing in the IRS's most recent list of tax-exempt organizations described in the IRS Code.
- A copy of a currently valid IRS tax-exemption certificate.
- A statement from a state taxing body, state attorney general, or other appropriate state official certifying that the applicant organization has non-profit status and that none of the net earnings accrue to any private shareholders or individuals.
- A certified copy of the organization's certificate of incorporation or similar document that clearly establishes non-profit status.

- Any of the items in the subparagraphs immediately above for a state or national parent organization and a statement signed by the parent organization that the applicant organization is a local non-profit affiliate.

Unless directed otherwise, applicants must include proof of non-profit status in the *Appendices* file of the application submission.

For-Profits and Small Businesses
For-profit organizations (including small businesses) applying for funding must submit the following to provide proof of their legal status: Documentation establishing the power granted to the entity to enter into contractual relationships and/or accept awards (i.e., articles of incorporation, bylaws).

Small Businesses
Small businesses must submit a certification signed by the chief executive officer or designee that states that the entity qualifies as a small business under 13 CFR §§ 121.101- 121.201.

Objectives
Clearly state the principal and if applicable, subordinate objectives of the project. Applicants must address how the objectives stated relate to the overall purpose of the program and describe how objectives will be achieved.

Demonstrate a foundational understanding of the nature and scope of the problem and purpose of this NOFO, as described in *Section I. Program Description, Background*. This must include knowledge of existing state definitions of abuse and neglect, applicable laws, and relevant research that will be necessary to achieve program goals and objectives listed in *Section I. Program Description, Program Goals and Objectives*.

Approach
Outline a plan of action that describes the scope and detail of how the proposed project will be accomplished. Applicants must account for all functions or activities identified in the application.

Cite potential obstacles and challenges to accomplishing project goals and explain strategies that will be used to address these challenges.

Describe an overarching theory of change and proposed work plan that includes key activities, deliverables, responsible parties, and timeframes through Phase I and Phase II to track progress. Applicant's technical approach must include a well-organized plan to effectively accomplish the stated objectives, as described in *Section I. Program Objectives*, including the following:

- A plan to collect and share national models and best practices in implementing community-based helplines as an alternative to CPS hotlines
- A process for developing clear, precise, and equitable definitions and recommendations for operational procedures to distinguish between poverty and willful neglect
- A plan to develop, adapt, and integrate a research-informed supplemental training for both mandated reporters and CPS hotline staff
- A process for outreach and engagement of potential pilot sites.

- A plan to support pilot sites in the assessment, selection, and implementation of QIC-H2 strategies, including a plan to maintain involvement and momentum of leadership and partners
- A dissemination plan, timelines, and methods to share best practices, recommended guidance, and training materials

Project Timeline and Milestones
Provide quantitative monthly or quarterly projections (for the entire project period) 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. When accomplishments cannot be quantified by activity or function, list them in chronological order to show the schedule of accomplishments and their target dates.

Organizational Capacity
Provide the following information on the applicant organization and, if applicable, on any cooperating partners:

- Organizational charts.
- Resumes.
- Copy or description of the applicant organization's fiscal control and accountability procedures.
- Evidence that the applicant organization, and any partnering organizations, have relevant experience and expertise with administration, development, implementation, management, and evaluation of programs similar to that offered under this funding opportunity.
- Evidence that each participating organization, including partners, contractors and/or subrecipients, possess the organizational capability to fulfill their role(s) and function(s) effectively.
- Job descriptions for each vacant key position.

Provide a list of current and pending funded support for ongoing projects and proposals from all sources including federal, state, and local governments; public or private foundations; for-profit organizations; etc. All projects and proposals requiring a committed portion of time for the Project Director, Principal Investigator, Evaluator, and/or key personnel must be included. Indicate the total award amount, awarding entity, and amount of time staff will devote to each project.

Describe a sound management plan for achieving the objectives of the proposed project that ensures effective oversight, appropriate staffing, and required engagement and collaboration. Include experience in providing TTA on a national scale as well as support and guidance to individual jurisdictions.

Describe the expertise and relevant experience of proposed staff and teaming structures for the national and pilot site activities, including evaluation.

If known at the time of application submission, disclose an intent to enter into subaward arrangements in their application. For each proposed subaward, include a description of the work to be performed by the subrecipient(s).

Plan for Oversight of Federal Award Funds and Activities
Recipients are required to ensure proper oversight in accordance with 45 CFR Part 75 Subpart D.

These regulations set forth the following standards for effective oversight:

- Financial and Program Management
- Property Management
- Procurement
- Performance and Financial Monitoring and Reporting
- Subrecipient Monitoring and Management
- Record Retention and Access
- Remedies for Noncompliance
- Prior Written Approval

Describe the framework (e.g., governance, policies and procedures, risk management, systems) in place to ensure proper oversight of federal funds and activities in accordance with 45 CFR Part 75 Subpart D. The description must include: system(s) for record-keeping and financial management; procedures to identify and mitigate risks and issues (e.g., audit findings, continuous program performance assessment findings, program monitoring); and those key staff that will be responsible for maintaining oversight of program activities staff, and, if applicable, partner(s) and/or subrecipient(s).

Program Performance Evaluation Plan
Applicants must describe a plan for the program performance evaluation that will contribute to continuous quality improvement. The program performance evaluation must monitor ongoing activities and the progress towards the goals and objectives of the project. Include descriptions of the inputs (e.g., organizational profile, collaborative partners, key staff, budget, service processes and other resources), key activities, and expected outcomes of the funded activities. The plan must explain how the inputs, activities, and outcomes will be measured; how the information will be used to inform improvement of funded activities; and any processes that support data quality.

Applicants must describe the organizational systems and processes that will effectively track performance outcomes, including a description of how the organization will collect and manage data (e.g., assign skilled staff, data management software, data integrity, etc.) in a way that allows for accurate and timely reporting of performance outcomes. Applicants must describe any potential obstacles for implementing the program performance evaluation and how those obstacles will be addressed. Applicants must include a timeline for how information from the quality improvement evaluation will be reviewed and applied to the ongoing project.

Explain how the project will use qualitative and quantitative data to answer the primary research questions and inform CQI across and between sites.

1. What is evidence-informed and/or best practice in operationalizing the distinction between poverty and willful neglect?

2. How can community-based helplines be an effective alternative to the improper use of CPS hotlines?

Where applicable, information regarding the psychometric properties of each measure must be included to demonstrate that the proposed measures and associated variables are appropriate to answer the research questions.

The plan for evaluation must include a preliminary description of each stage of evaluation and address a feasible strategy and timeline to complete all requirements of the evaluation, as described in *Section I. Project Description, Evaluation*. The plan must include the percentage of total award funding to evaluate the effectiveness of project activities.

A final evaluation plan must be completed within 90 days of project start date and updated as needed during Phase II.

Logic Model
Applicants must submit a logic model for designing, managing and/or evaluating the project. A logic model is a diagram that presents how inputs drive activities to produce outputs, outcomes, and the ultimate goals of the proposed project, and explains the links among program elements. Logic models must target the identified objectives and goals of the project. While there are many versions of logic models, for the purposes of this funding opportunity, the logic model may include connections between the following items:

- Inputs (e.g., additional resources, organizational profile, collaborative partner(s), key staff, budget);
- Target population (e.g., the individuals to be served, identified needs);
- Activities, Mechanisms, Processes (e.g., evidence-based practices, best practices, approach, key intervention and evaluation components, continuous quality improvement efforts);
- Outputs (i.e., the immediate and direct results of program activities);
- Outcomes (i.e., the expected short and long-term results the project is designed to achieve, typically described as changes in people or systems), and
- Goals of the project (e.g., overarching objectives, reasons for proposing the project).

See Change and Implementation in Practice: Monitoring, Evaluating, and Applying Findings Brief and the Logic Model Builder for more information about how to develop a logic model.

Protection of Sensitive and/or Confidential Information
Provide a description of how protected PII and other information that is considered sensitive, consistent with applicable federal, state, local and tribal laws regarding privacy and obligations of confidentiality, will be collected and safeguarded. The applicant must provide the methods and/or systems that will be used to ensure that confidential and/or sensitive information is properly handled and if applicable, address the process for subrecipient(s) and/or contractors. Also, provide a plan for the disposition of such information at the end of the project period. See 45 CFR § 75.303(e) for more information.

Third-Party Agreements

Third-party agreements include Letters of Commitment, Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) and Memoranda of Agreement (MOA). Letters of Commitment, MOUs and MOAs must clearly

describe the roles and responsibilities for project activities and the support and/or resources that the third-party (i.e., subrecipient, contractor, or other cooperating entity) is committing. Letters of Commitment, MOUs, and MOAs must be signed by the person in the third-party organization with the authority to make such commitments on behalf of their organization. General letters of support are **not** considered third-party agreements.

Applicants must provide Letters of Commitment, MOUs, or MOAs between recipients and third-parties (i.e., subrecipients, contractors, or other cooperating entities). In addition to clearly describing the roles and responsibilities for project activities and support and/or resources that the third-party is committing, these agreements must detail work schedules and estimated remuneration with an understanding that a finalized agreement will be negotiated once the aware is made to the successful applicant.

Collaboration/consortia applicants must provide Letters of Commitment, MOUs, or MOAs identifying the primary applicant and all collaborators that are responsible for project activities.

Letters of Support
Provide statements from community, public, and/or commercial leaders that support the project proposed for funding. All submissions must be included in the application package. At minimum, each letter of support must identify the individual writing the letter, the organization they represent, the date, and reason(s) for supporting the project.

The Project Budget and Budget Justification

All applicants are required to submit a project budget and budget justification with their application. The project budget is entered on the Budget Information SF, either SF- 424A or SF-424C. Applicants are encouraged to review the form instructions in addition to the guidance in this section. The project budget consists of a budget narrative and a line-item budget detail that includes detailed calculations for "object class categories" identified on the Budget Information SF. Applicants must indicate the method they are selecting for their indirect cost rate. See Indirect Charges for further information.

Project budget calculations must include estimation methods, quantities, unit costs, and other similar quantitative detail sufficient for the calculation to be duplicated. If cost sharing or matching is a requirement, applicants must include a detailed listing of any funding sources identified in Block 18 of the SF-424 (Application for Federal Assistance). See the table in *Section IV.2. Required Forms, Assurances, and Certifications* listing the appropriate budget forms to use in this application.

Special Note: *Annual appropriations legislation for the Department of Health and Human Services limits the salary amount that may be awarded and charged to ACF grants and cooperative agreements. Award funds issued under this funding opportunity may not be used to pay the salary of an individual at a rate in excess of Executive Level II. For the Executive Level II salary, please see "Executive & Senior Level Employee Pay Tables" under https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/pay-leave/salaries-wages/. The salary limitation reflects an individual's base salary exclusive of fringe benefits, indirect costs and any income that an individual may be permitted to earn outside of the duties of the applicant organization. This salary limitation also applies to subawards and subcontracts under an ACF grant or cooperative agreement.*

Provide a budget for the initial budget period only (typically the first 12 months of the project) using the SF-424A and/or SF-424C, as applicable.

Provide a budget justification, which includes a budget narrative and a line-item detail, for only the first budget period of the proposed project. The budget narrative should describe how the categorical costs are derived. Discuss the necessity, reasonableness, and allocation of the proposed costs.

Include a description of expected or estimated costs for years 2-5.

For applicants proposing to use subaward(s), if the total amount budgeted for subawards exceeds 50 percent of total direct costs for the budget period, the applicant must provide a justification for subawarding the portion of the project and must explain how the prime recipient plans to maintain a substantive role in the project. Applicants must explain why the participation of the subrecipient is necessary, and why the applicant cannot achieve the objectives without the subrecipient(s)' participation.

General

Use the following guidelines for preparing the project budget and budget justification. The budget justification includes a budget narrative and a line-item detail. Applications should only include allowable costs in accordance with 45 CFR Part 75 Subpart E.

Personnel

Description: Costs of employee salaries and wages. See 45 CFR § 75.430 for more information on allowable personnel costs. Do not include the personnel costs of consultants, contractors and subrecipients under this category.

Justification: For each position, provide: the name of the individual (if known), their title; time commitment to the project in months; time commitment to the project as a percentage or full-time equivalent; annual salary; project salary; wage rates; etc. Identify the project director or principal investigator, if known at the time of application.

Fringe Benefits

Description: Costs of employee fringe benefits are allowances and services provided by employers to their employees in addition to regular salaries and wages. For more information on Fringe Benefits please refer to 45 CFR § 75.431. **Do not include** the fringe benefits of consultants, contractors, and subrecipients because those costs should be listed under the "Contractual" category as part of the total value of the contract or agreement.

Typically, fringe benefit amounts are determined by applying a calculated rate for a particular class of employee (full-time or part-time) to the salary and wages requested. Fringe rates are often specified in the approved indirect cost rate agreement. Fringe benefits may be treated as a direct cost or indirect cost in accordance with the applicant's accounting practices. Only fringe benefits as a direct cost should be entered under this category.

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

Travel

Description: Costs of project-related travel (i.e., transportation, lodging, subsistence) by employees of the applicant organization who are in travel status on official business. Travel by non-employees such as consultants, contractors or subrecipients should be included under the Contractual line item. Local travel for employees in non-travel status should be listed on the Other line. Travel costs should be developed in accordance with the applicant's travel policies and 45 CFR § 75.474.

Justification: For each trip show: the total number of travelers; 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 project staff to attend ACF-sponsored workshops/conferences/recipient orientations should be detailed in the budget justification.

Equipment

Description: "Equipment" means tangible personal property (including information technology systems) having a useful life of more than one year and a per-unit 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.) See 45 CFR § 75.439 for more information.

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 disposition of the equipment after the project ends.

Supplies

Description: Tangible personal property other than those included under the Equipment category. A computing device is a supply if the acquisition cost is less than the lesser of $5,000, or the capitalization level established by the non-Federal entity for financial statement purposes, regardless of the length of its useful life. See 45 CFR § 75.2, 75.321, and 75.453 for more information.

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

Contractual

Description: Cost of all contracts and subawards except those that should be placed under other categories such as equipment, supplies, construction, etc. Include third-party evaluation contracts, procurement contracts, and subawards. Recipients are required to use 45 CFR §§ 75.326-.340 procurement procedures, and subawards are subject to the requirements at 45 CFR §§ 75.351-.353. Costs related to professional and consultant services rendered by persons who are members of a particular profession or possess a special skill, and who are not officers or employees, must be listed in the Other category. (Typically, these arrangements will take the form of a consultant agreement directly with an individual as opposed to a contract with a company that employs the consultant. The latter case must still be listed under Contractual line item.)

If applicable and charged as a direct cost, include cost of third-party renting or leasing agreements for equipment; and third-party renting or leasing agreements for real property by address for each building, facility, administrative office, space, structure, land, and other real property.

Justification: Indicate whether the proposed agreement qualifies as a subaward or contract in accordance with 45 CFR § 75.351. Provide the name of the contractor/subrecipient (if known), a description of anticipated services, a justification for why they are necessary, a breakdown of estimated costs, and an explanation of the selection process. In addition, for subawards, the applicant must provide a detailed budget and budget narrative for each subaward, by entity name, along with the same justifications referred to in these budget and budget justification instructions.

For contracts, demonstrate that procurement transactions will be conducted in a manner to provide, to the maximum extent practical, open, and free competition. Applicants must justify any anticipated procurement action that is expected to be awarded without competition and exceeds the simplified acquisition threshold stated in 48 CFR § 2.101(b). 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.

If applicable and charged as a direct cost, for each real property proposed or claimed for rent or lease include: the rent amount with calculation; terms of lease; maintenance and repair amounts with details on each type of expense proposed and its associated cost; minor A&R with specifics for each type of proposed expense and its associated cost; show the computation and provide other information that supports the amount requested. Only when allowable and with prior approval, describe the financing costs (including interest) including terms for the real property address. For applicable ACF programs with real property authority, see ACF Property Guidance. **Do not include** real property owned by the recipient or arrangements considered "less-than-arms-length," "sale and lease back," "finance lease" per Financial Accounting Standards Board, "financed purchase" per Government Accounting Standards Board standards because these costs (e.g., depreciation costs) if charged as 1) a direct cost, should be listed under the "Other" category or 2) an indirect cost as with any indirect costs, as part of their indirect cost pool that is used to calculate an indirect cost rate). These costs must be treated as either direct or indirect costs, not both. For more information, see 45 CFR §75.2, 75.414, 75.430-75.431, 75.434, 75.436, 75.439, and 75.452.

Other

Description: Enter the total of all other costs. Such costs, where applicable and appropriate, may include, but are not limited to: individual consultant costs; local travel; insurance (when not included under the Fringe category); food (when allowable); medical and dental costs (non-personnel); professional service costs (e.g., audit charges); depreciation of real property and equipment (when not treated as an indirect cost), printing and publications, training costs (such as tuition and stipends), staff development costs, and administrative costs (when not treated as an indirect cost). Please note costs must be allowable per 45 CFR Part 75 Subpart E.

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

If applicable and charged as a direct cost, include depreciation by real property address for each building, facility, administrative office, structure, land, and other real property proposed for use and depreciation of equipment proposed for use. For each real property owned by the recipient or less-than-arms-length lease intended to be proposed or claimed for use provide, if applicable, and in accordance with 45 CFR §§75.436 and 75.465: the allocable percentage and total dollar amount; the depreciation amount with type of method and calculation used; tax amount; insurance amount and what it covers; maintenance and repair amounts with details on each type of expense proposed and its associated cost; minor A&R with specifics for each type of proposed expense and its associated cost; the ownership type (e.g., owned, leased, or intent to lease); show the computation and provide other information that supports the amount requested. For more information, please see ACF Property Guidance. **Do not include** costs of third-party renting or leasing real property and equipment because those costs should be under the "Contractual" category.

Indirect Charges

Description: Indirect or Facilities & Administration (F&A) (F&A means those costs incurred for a common or joint purpose benefitting more than one cost objective, and not readily assignable to the cost objectives specifically benefitted, without effort disproportionate to the results achieved. F&A costs are generally used by institutions of higher education). Typical examples of indirect or F&A costs include but are not limited to depreciation on buildings and equipment, equipment and capital improvements, operation and maintenance expenses, and general administration and expenses, such as the salaries and expenses of personnel administration and accounting. For more information, see 45 CFR §75.2, 75.414, 75.430-75.431, 75.434, 75.436, and 75.439. Enter the total amount of indirect costs. This category has one of two methods that an applicant can select. An applicant may only select one.

1. The applicant currently has an indirect cost rate approved by HHS or another cognizant federal agency.

   Justification: An applicant must enclose a copy of the current approved rate agreement. 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. Choosing to charge a lower rate will not be considered during the merit review or award selection process.

2. Per 45 CFR § 75.414(f) Indirect (F&A) costs, "any non-Federal entity [i.e., applicant] that has never received a negotiated indirect cost rate, ... may elect to charge a *de minimis* rate of 10% of modified total direct costs which may be used indefinitely. As described in Section 75.403, costs must be consistently charged as either indirect or direct costs but may not be double charged or inconsistently charged as both. If chosen, this methodology once elected must be used consistently for all Federal awards until such time as the non-Federal entity chooses to negotiate for a rate, which the non-Federal entity may apply to do at any time."

   Justification: This method only applies to applicants that have never received an approved negotiated indirect cost rate from HHS or another cognizant federal agency. Applicants awaiting approval of their indirect cost proposal may request the 10 percent *de minimis* rate. When the applicant chooses this method, costs included in the indirect cost pool must not be charged as direct costs to the award.

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. This line should be used to indicate required and/or voluntary committed cost sharing or matching, if applicable.

For all federal awards, any shared costs or matching funds and all contributions, including cash and third-party in-kind contributions, must be accepted as part of the recipient's cost sharing or matching when such contributions meet all of the criteria listed in 45 CFR § 75.306. For awards that require matching by statute, recipients must meet the required level of cost sharing. Recipients that have voluntarily decided to contribute cost sharing when it is not required, or at a higher level than required, will be held accountable for the proposed cost-sharing, if accepted by ACF and included in the Notice of Award (NoA). **A recipient's failure to provide cost sharing that has been accepted by ACF may result in the disallowance of federal funds.**

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

Applicants are required to fully identify and document in their applications the specific costs or contributions they propose in order to meet a matching requirement. Applicants are also required to provide documentation in their applications on the sources of funding or contribution(s). In-kind contributions must be accompanied by a justification of how the stated valuation was determined. Matching or cost sharing must be documented by budget period (or by project period for fully funded awards).

Applications that lack the required supporting documentation will not be disqualified from the merit review; however, it may impact an application's scoring under the evaluation criteria in *Section V.1. Criteria* of this funding opportunity.

Paperwork Reduction Act Disclaimer

As required by the Paperwork Reduction Act, 44 U.S.C. 3501-3521, the public reporting burden for the Project Description is estimated to average 60 hours per response, including the time for

reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and reviewing the collection of information. The Project Description information collection is approved under OMB control number 0970-0139, which expires 03/31/2026. 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

Please read the following instructions carefully and completely.

Electronic Delivery

ACF applicants are required to submit their applications online through Grants.gov.

How to Register through Grants.gov

Applicants should read the registration instructions carefully and prepare the information requested before beginning the registration process.

Organizations must have an active System for Award (SAM) registration which provides a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI), and Grants.gov account to apply for awards under funding opportunities.

Creating a Grants.gov account can be completed online in minutes, but SAM registration may take several weeks. Therefore, an organization's registration should be done in sufficient time to ensure it does not impact the entities ability to meet required application submission deadlines.

Organization applicants can find complete instructions here:
https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/organization-registration.html

***Register with SAM*:** All organizations (entities) applying online through Grants.gov must register with SAM. Failure to register with SAM will prevent your organization from applying through Grants.gov. SAM registration must be renewed annually. For detailed instructions for registering with SAM, refer to:
https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/organization-registration.html

***Create a Grants.gov Account*:** The next step in the registration process is to create an account with Grants.gov. Follow the on-screen instructions provided on the registration page.

***Add a Profile to a Grants.gov Account*:** For detailed instructions about creating a profile on Grants.gov, refer to: https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/registration/add-profile.html

EBiz POC Authorized Profile Roles: After you register with Grants.gov and create an Organization Applicant Profile, the applicant's request for Grants.gov roles and access is sent to the EBiz POC. The EBiz POC is then expected to log into Grants.gov and authorize the appropriate roles. For detailed instructions about creating a profile on Grants.gov, refer to:
https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/registration/authorize-roles.html

Grants.gov provides applicants 24/7 support via the toll-free number 1-800-518-4726 and email at support@grants.gov.

For questions related to this funding opportunity, please contact the number listed in the application package.

If you are experiencing difficulties with your submission, it is best to call the Grants.gov Support Center and get a ticket number. The Support Center ticket number will assist ACF with tracking and understanding background information on the issue.

Timely Receipt Requirements and Proof of Timely Submission

All applications must be received by 11:59 pm ET on the due date established for each program. Proof of timely submission is automatically recorded by Grants.gov. The applicant AOR will receive an acknowledgment of receipt and a tracking number (GRANTXXXXXXXX) from Grants.gov with the successful transmission of their application. Applicant AORs will also receive the official date/stamp and Grants.gov Tracking number in an email serving as proof of their timely submission.

When ACF successfully retrieves the application from Grants.gov, and acknowledges the download of submission, Grants.gov will provide an electronic acknowledgment of receipt of the application to the email address of the applicant with the AOR role.

Applications received by Grants.gov after the established due date will be considered late and will not be considered for funding by ACF.

Issues with Federal Systems

For any systems issues experienced with Grants.gov or SAM.gov, please refer to ACF's "Policy for Applicants Experiencing Federal Systems Issues" for complete guidance.

Request an Exemption from Required Electronic Application Submission

To request an exemption from required electronic submission, please refer to ACF's "Policy for Requesting an Exemption from Required Electronic Application Submission" for complete guidance.

Paper Application Submission

See *Section IV.7. Other Submission Requirements* of this funding opportunity for address information for paper application submissions.

IV.3. Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) and System for Award Management (SAM)

All applicants must have a UEI and an active registration with SAM (https://www.sam.gov) prior to applying to a funding opportunity.

HHS requires all entities that plan to apply for, and ultimately receive, federal funds from any HHS Agency to:

- Be registered in SAM prior to submitting an application or plan;
- Maintain an active SAM registration with current information until the process is complete. If you receive an award, your SAM registration must be active throughout the life of the award. It must be renewed every 365 days to keep it active;
- Provide its UEI in each application or plan it submits; and

- Ensure any proposed subrecipient(s) have obtained and provided to the recipient their UEI(s) prior to making any subawards (**Note:** Subrecipients are not required to complete full SAM registration.).

ACF is prohibited from making an award until an applicant has complied with these requirements. At the time an award is ready to be made, if the intended recipient has not complied with these requirements, ACF:

- May determine that the applicant is not qualified to receive an award; and
- May use that determination as a basis for making an award to another applicant.

IV.4. Submission Dates and Times

Due Date for Letter of Intent

Number of Days from Publication 30

05/01/2024
Number of Days from Publication 60

Due Date for Applications
05/31/2024

Explanation of Due Dates

The due date for receipt of applications is listed in the *Overview* and in this section.

Electronic Applications
The deadline for submission of electronic applications via Grants.gov is 11:59 pm ET on the due date.

Applications submitted to Grants.gov at any time during the open application period prior to the due date and time that fail the Grants.gov validation check will not be received at ACF. These applications will not be acknowledged.

Mailed Paper Applications
The deadline for receipt of mailed paper applications is 4:30 pm ET on the due date listed in the Overview and in this section. Applications should be mailed to the address provided in *Section IV.7. Other Submission Requirements*.

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

- Applications submitted electronically via Grants.gov are considered late when they are dated and time-stamped after the deadline of 11:59 pm ET on the due date.
- Paper applications received by mail after 4:30 pm ET on the due date will be classified as late and will be disqualified.
- Paper applications received from applicant organizations that were not approved for an exemption from required electronic application submission under the process described in *Section IV.2. Request an Exemption from Required Electronic Submission* will be disqualified.

Emergency Extensions
ACF may extend an application due date when circumstances make it impossible for an applicant to submit their applications on time. Only events such as documented natural disasters (floods, hurricanes, tornados, etc.), or a verifiable widespread disruption of electrical service, or mail service, will be considered. The determination to extend or waive the due date, and/or receipt time, requirements in an emergency situation rests with the Grants Management Officer listed as the Office of Grants Management Contact in *Section VII. HHS Awarding Agency Contact(s)*.

Acknowledgement of Received Application

Acknowledgement from Grants.gov

Applicants will receive an initial email upon submission of their application to Grants.gov. This email will provide a **Grants.gov Tracking Number**. Refer to this tracking number in all communication with Grants.gov. The email will also provide a **date and time stamp**, which serves as the official record of the application's submission**.** Receipt of this email does not indicate that the application is accepted or that it has passed the validation check.

Applicants will also receive an email acknowledging that the received application is in the **Grants.gov validation process.**

Acknowledgement from ACF of an electronic application's submission:

Applicants will be sent additional email(s) from ACF acknowledging that the application has been retrieved from Grants.gov by ACF. Receipt of these emails is not an indication that the application is accepted for competition.

Acknowledgement from ACF of receipt of a paper application:
ACF will not provide acknowledgement of receipt of hard copy application packages submitted via mail.

IV.5. Intergovernmental Review

This program is not subject to Executive Order (E.O.) 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs," or 45 CFR Part 100, "Intergovernmental Review of Department of Health and Human Services Programs and Activities." No action is required of applicants under this funding opportunity with regard to E.O. 12372.

IV.6. Funding Restrictions

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

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

Major renovation is not an allowable activity or expenditure under this award.

IV.7. Other Submission Requirements

Submit paper applications to the following address.

Submission by Mail

CB Operations Center
c/o LCG, Inc.
ATTN: HHS-2024-ACF-ACYF-CA-0022
6000 Executive Boulevard
Suite 410
Rockville
MD
20852

V. Application Review Information

V.1. Criteria

Please note: With the exception of the notice of funding opportunity and relevant statutes and regulations, reviewers must not access, or review, any materials that are not part of the application documents. This includes information accessible on websites via hyperlinks that are referenced, or embedded, in the application. Reviewers must evaluate and score an application based on the documents that are presented in the application and must not refer to, or access, external links during the merit review.

Applications competing for financial assistance will be reviewed and evaluated using the criteria described in this section. 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 merit review. The required elements of the project description and budget justification may be found in *Section IV.2. The Project Description* of this funding opportunity.

Goals and Objectives **Maximum Points:** 10

In reviewing the goals and objectives, reviewers will consider the extent to which:

1. The applicant demonstrates a foundational understanding of the nature and scope of the problem and purpose of this NOFO.
2. The applicant includes knowledge of existing state definitions of abuse and neglect, applicable laws, and a description of relevant research.
3. The applicant clearly understands and describes how the objectives relate to the overall purpose of the program.

Approach **Maximum Points:** 40

In reviewing the approach, reviewers will consider the extent to which:

1. The applicant provides a meaningful theory of change for the QIC-H2 that connects to the program goals and objectives.
2. The applicant provides a detailed and feasible work plan that includes all key activities, deliverables, responsible parties, and timeframes to track progress.
3. The applicant provides a realistic plan for how they will collect and share national models and best practices in implementing community-based helplines as an alternative to CPS hotlines.

4. The applicant clearly describes how the project will develop clear, precise, and equitable definitions and recommendations for operational procedures when distinguishing between poverty and willful neglect.
5. The applicant provides a realistic plan to develop, adapt, and integrate a research-informed supplemental training for mandated reporters and CPS hotline staff. The description will clearly describe an approach that accounts for these two distinct audiences.
6. The applicant outlines a realistic plan for outreach, to and engagement of, potential pilot sites.
7. The applicant describes a realistic plan for how the project will support pilot sites in the assessment, selection, and implementation of QIC-H2 strategies. The plan will address how the QIC-H2 will ensure continued involvement of leadership and partners throughout the life of the project.
8. The applicant provides a dissemination plan and timeline to share developed best practices, recommended guidance, and training materials with a wide audience.

Organizational Capacity **Maximum Points:** 20

In reviewing organizational capacity, reviewers will consider the extent to which:

1. The applicant's organization and any partnering organizations collectively demonstrate adequate experience with administration, development, implementation, management, and evaluation of similar projects that would enable them to implement the proposed project successfully.
2. The applicant's proposed Project Director, Evaluator, and other key project staff demonstrate sufficient knowledge and experience in child welfare, capacity building, and systems change efforts (e.g., resumes) to successfully institute a project of this size, scope, and complexity.
3. The applicant clearly defines the role, responsibilities, and time commitments of each proposed project staff position, including consultants, subcontractors, and/or partners (e.g., job description), and the proposal is realistic and appropriate for successful implementation of the proposed project.
4. The applicant describes a sound and realistic management plan for coordinating activities and achieving the objectives of the proposed project, including timelines and milestones for accomplishing project tasks on time and ensuring quality.
5. The applicant documents their fiscal controls and accounting procedures for prudent use and accurate accounting of funds received under this NOFO.

Evaluation Plan **Maximum Points:** 25

In reviewing the evaluation, reviewers will consider the extent to which:

1. The applicant's plan for evaluation includes realistic measures to address the primary research questions as described in *Section IV.2. Content and Form of Application Submission, Evaluation.*
2. The applicant's plan for evaluation incorporates a rigorous literature review related to the proposed study and identification of gaps in knowledge.
3. The applicant describes a comprehensive plan for evaluation that includes measurable objectives and makes a clear connection between the research questions and proposed

research methodology that will be used, illustrating that the methodology is appropriate to address the research questions of interest.
4. The applicant provides a clear and comprehensive logic model to guide the entire project and includes how outcomes will be measured.
5. The applicant describes a plan for the development of potential data collection strategies, tools, and measures/metrics to measure progress to include psychometric properties (if applicable), and description of data-sharing and confidentiality considerations.
6. The applicant includes a meaningful plan for how information from the evaluation will be reviewed and applied as part of a CQI process across and between pilot sites.
7. The applicant describes any potential obstacles for implementing the evaluation and how those obstacles will be addressed.
8. The applicant proposes a comprehensive plan to disseminate findings, products, and lessons learned to key target audiences.

Budget and Budget Justification **Maximum Points:** 5

In reviewing the budget, reviewers will consider the extent to which:

1. There is a clear and accurate line-item budget and budget justification narrative for the first year of the proposed project.
2. The costs of the proposed project are reasonable and programmatically justified, in view of the activities to be conducted to meet project objectives.
3. The costs of the proposed project include the percentage of total award funding to evaluate the effectiveness of project activities.

V.2. Review and Selection Process

No award will be made under this funding opportunity on the basis of an incomplete application.

Initial ACF Screening

Disqualified applications are considered "non-responsive" and are excluded from the merit review process. Applicants will be notified of a disqualification determination by email or by USPS postal mail within 30 federal business days from the closing date of this NOFO.

Merit Review and Results

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

Results of the merit review are taken into consideration by ACF in the selection of projects for funding; however, merit review scores and rankings are not binding. Scores and rankings are only one element used in the award decision-making process. ACF reserves the right to consider preferences to fund organizations serving emerging, unserved, or under-served populations, including those populations located in pockets of poverty. In addition, ACF reserves the right to evaluate applications in the larger context of the overall portfolio by considering geographic distribution of federal funds (e.g., ensuring coverage of states, counties, or service areas) in its pre-award decisions.

ACF may elect not to fund applicants with management or financial problems that would indicate an inability to successfully complete the proposed project. In addition, ACF may elect to not allow a prime recipient to subaward if there is any indication that they are unable to properly monitor and manage subrecipients.

Applications may be funded in whole or in part. Successful applicants may be funded at an amount lower than that requested.

Federal Awarding Agency Review of Risk Posed by Applicants

ACF is required to review and consider any information about the applicant that is in the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System (FAPIIS), https://sam.gov/reports/ei/static, before making any award in excess of the simplified acquisition threshold over the period of performance. An applicant may review and comment on any information about itself that a federal awarding agency has previously entered into FAPIIS. ACF will consider any comments by the applicant, in addition to other information in FAPIIS, in making a judgment about the applicant's integrity, business ethics, and record of performance under federal awards when completing the review of risk posed by applicants as described in 45 CFR § 75.205(a)(2) Federal Awarding Agency Review of Risk Posed by Applicants.

Approved but Unfunded Applications
Applications recommended for approval in the merit review process, but not selected for award may receive funding if additional funds become available in the current Fiscal Year. For those applications determined as “approved but unfunded,” notice will be given of the determination by email.

V.3. Anticipated Announcement and Federal Award Dates

Announcement of awards and the disposition of applications will be provided to applicants at a later date. ACF staff cannot respond to requests for information regarding funding decisions prior to the official applicant notification.

VI. Federal Award Administration Information

VI.1. Federal Award Notices

Successful applicants will be notified through the issuance of a NoA that sets forth the amount of funds awarded, the terms and conditions, the effective date, 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 NoA will be signed by the Grants Officer and transmitted via email or by GrantSolutions, or the Head Start Enterprise System (HSES), whichever is relevant.

Following the finalization of funding decisions, organizations whose applications will not be funded will be notified by letter signed by the cognizant Program Office head. Any other correspondence that announces to a Principal Investigator, or a Project Director, that an application was selected is not an authorization to begin performance.

Recipients may translate the Federal award and other documents into another language. In the event of inconsistency between any terms and conditions of the Federal award and any

translation into another language, the English language meaning will control. Where a significant portion of the recipient's employees who are working on the Federal award are not fluent in English, the recipient must provide the Federal award in English and in the language(s) with which employees are more familiar.

VI.2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

Awards issued under this funding opportunity are subject to 45 CFR Part 75 - Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for HHS Awards currently in effect or implemented during the period of award, other Department regulations and policies in effect at the time of award, and applicable statutory provisions. The Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) is available at www.ecfr.gov. Unless otherwise noted in this section, administrative and national policy requirements that are applicable to discretionary awards are available at: www.acf.hhs.gov/administrative-and-national-policy-requirements.

An application funded with the release of federal funds through an 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.

HHS Grants Policy Statement
ACF awards are subject to the requirements of the HHS Grants Policy Statement (HHS GPS), which covers basic award processes, standard terms and conditions, and points of contact, as well as important agency-specific requirements. The HHS GPS is available at https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/grants/grants/policies-regulations/hhsgps107.pdf.

VI.3. Reporting

Performance Progress Reports:
Semi-Annually

Reporting Requirements
Recipients will be required to submit performance progress and financial reports periodically throughout the project period. Information on reporting requirements is available on the ACF website at https://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/manage-grant/reporting.

For planning purposes, the frequency of required reporting for awards made under this funding opportunity are as follows:

Financial Reports:
Semi-Annually
Federal Financial Report (SF-425)
OMB Number: 4040-0014
Expiration Date: February 28, 2025

Performance Progress Reporting
The QIC-H2 will provide semi-annual reports to CB that include progress updates, lessons learned, core data trends, and strategies identified as promising in pilot sites. At the end of the project period, the QIC-H2 will develop a high quality comprehensive final report suitable for archiving in the CB Discretionary Grants Library.

VII. HHS Award Agency Contact(s)

Program Office Contact
Kelly
Canter
ATTN: HHS-2024-ACF-ACYF-CA-0022
6000 Executive Boulevard
Suite 410
Rockville
MD
20852
(888) 203-6161
cb@grantreview.org

Office of Grants Management Contact
Telina
Bennett-Reed
Department of Health and Human Services
Office of Grants Management
Division of Discretionary Grants
(888) 203-6161
cb@grantreview.org

VIII. Other Information

Reference Websites

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) www.hhs.gov/.

Administration for Children and Families (ACF) www.acf.hhs.gov/.

ACF Funding Opportunities Forecasts and NOFOs www.grants.gov/.

ACF "Applying for an ACF Award" https://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/how-apply-grant.

ACF Property Guidance https://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/real-property-and-tangible-personal-property

Grants.gov Accessibility Information www.grants.gov/ web/grants/accessibility-compliance.html.

Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) http://www.ecfr.gov/.

United States Code (U.S.C.) http://uscode.house.gov/.

Application Checklist

Applicants may use this checklist as a guide when preparing an application package.

What to Submit	Where Found	When to Submit
Maintenance of Effort (MOE) Certification	Referenced in *Section IV.2. Forms, Assurances, and Certifications*.	Submission is due by the application due date listed in the *Overview* and in *Section IV.4. Submission Dates and Times.* If it is not submitted with the application package, it may also be submitted prior to the award of a grant.
Certificate of Good Standing	See *Section IV.2. Required Forms, Assurances and Certifications* and *The Project Description, Legal Status of Applicant Entity*.	Submission is required with the application by the Application Due Date in the *Overview* and in *Section IV.4. Submission Dates and Times*.
Protection of Human Subjects Assurance Identification / IRB Certification / Declaration of Exemption (Common Rule)	Referenced in *Section IV.2. Forms, Assurances, and Certifications*. See http://www.hhs.gov/ ohrp/ assurances/ forms/ index.html for additional information. This form is available in the NOFO's forms package at www.Grants.gov	Submission of the required information and forms is due with the application package by the due date listed in the *Overview* and *Section IV.4. Submission Dates and Times*. If the information is not available at the time of application, it must be submitted prior to the award of a grant.
SF-424 - Application for Federal Assistance	Referenced in *Section IV.2.Required Forms, Assurances, and Certifications.* This form is available in the NOFO's forms package at www.Grants.gov in the Mandatory section.	Submission is due by the application due date found in the *Overview* and in *Section IV.4. Submission Dates and Times.*
Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) and System for Award Management (SAM) registration.	Referenced in *Section IV.3. Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) and System for Award Management (SAM)* in the funding opportunity.	A UEI and registration at SAM.gov are required for all applicants. Active registration at SAM must be maintained throughout the application and project award period.

What to Submit	Where Found	When to Submit
	To obtain a UEI and SAM registration, go to http://www.sam.gov.	
SF-424 Key Contact Form	Referenced in *Section IV.2. Required Forms, Assurances, and Certifications.* This form is available in the NOFO's forms package at www.Grants.gov.	Submission is due with the application by the application due date found in the *Overview* and in *Section IV.4. Submission Dates and Times.*
Certification Regarding Lobbying (Grants.gov Lobbying Form)	Referenced in *Section IV.2. Required Forms, Assurances, and Certifications.* This form is available in the NOFO's forms package at www.Grants.gov.	Submission is due with the application package or prior to award.
SF-424A - Budget Information - Non-Construction Programs and SF-424B - Assurances - Non-Construction Programs	Referenced in *Section IV.2. Required Forms, Assurances, and Certifications.* These forms are available in the NOFO's forms package at www.Grants.gov in the Mandatory section. They are required for applications that include only non-construction activities.	Submission is due by the application due date found in the *Overview* and in *Section IV.4. Submission Dates and Times.*
SF-Project/Performance Site Location(s) (SF-P/PSL)	Referenced in *Section IV.2.Required Forms, Assurances, and Certifications.* This form is available in the NOFO's forms package at www.Grants.gov.	Submission is due by the application due date found in the *Overview* and in *Section IV.4. Submission Dates and Times.*
SF-LLL - Disclosure of Lobbying Activities	"Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying" is referenced in *Section IV.2. Required Forms, Assurances, and Certifications.*	If submission of this form is applicable, it is due at the time of application.

What to Submit	Where Found	When to Submit
	This form is available in the NOFO's forms package at www.Grants.gov.	If not available at the time of application, it may also be submitted prior to award.
Letter of Intent	Referenced in *Section IV.2. Project Description*.	Submission is due by the Letter of Intent due date found in the *Overview* and in *Section IV.4.*
Table of Contents	Referenced in *Section IV.2. The Project Description*.	Submit with the application by the due date found in the *Overview* and in *Section IV.4. Submission Dates and Times*.
Project Summary	Referenced in *Section IV.2. The Project Description.* The Project Summary is limited to one single-spaced page.	Submission is due by the application due date found in the *Overview* and in *Section IV.4. Submission Dates and Times*.
Proof of Non-Profit Status	Referenced in *Section IV.2. The Project Description, Legal Status of Applicant Entity*.	Proof of non-profit status should be submitted with the application package by the application due date and time listed in the *Overview* and *Section IV.4.* of the NOFO. If it is not available at the time of application submission, it must be submitted prior to award.
The Project Budget and Budget Justification	Referenced in *Section IV.2. The Project Budget and Budget Justification*.	Submission is required in addition to submission of SF-424A and / or SF-424C. Submission is required with the application package by the due date in the *Overview* and in *Section IV.4. Submission Dates and Times*.
The Project Description	Referenced in *Section IV.2. The Project Description*.	Submission is due by the application due date found in the *Overview* and in *Section IV.4. Submission Dates and Times*.

What to Submit	Where Found	When to Submit
Eligibility Documentation by For-Profit Organizations	Referenced in *Section IV.2. The Project Description, Legal Status of Applicant Entity*.	Submission is required with the application by the Application Due Date in the *Overview* and in *Section IV.4. Submission Dates and Times*.