



National Center on Child Maltreatment Fatality Data Practices and Reporting

Opportunity number: HHS-2025-ACF-ACYF-CA-0074



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Before you begin

If you believe you are a good candidate for this funding opportunity, secure your [SAM.gov](#) and [Grants.gov](#) registrations now. If you are already registered, make sure your registrations are active and up-to-date.

SAM.gov registration (this can take several weeks)

You must have an active account with SAM.gov. This includes having a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI).

[See Step 2: Get Ready to Apply](#)

Grants.gov registration (this can take several days)

You must have an active Grants.gov registration. Doing so requires a Login.gov registration as well.

[See Step 2: Get Ready to Apply](#)

Apply by the application due date

Applications are due by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on January 22, 2026.



To help you find what you need, this NOFO uses internal links. In Adobe Reader, you can go back to where you were by pressing Alt + Left Arrow (Windows) or Command + Left Arrow (Mac) on your keyboard.



Step 1:

Review the Opportunity

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Basic information

Administration for Children and Families (ACF)

Children's Bureau

Creating a national center to improve data collection and reporting about child maltreatment fatalities.

Summary

This funding opportunity will create a National Center to improve data collection and reporting about child maltreatment fatalities. Effective cross-agency coordination and understanding of child maltreatment fatality data can help states collect quality, comprehensive data. States, jurisdictions, and their partners, including tribes, can use that information to develop cross-agency intervention and system reform efforts.

The National Center on Child Maltreatment Fatality Data Practices and Reporting will serve as a national resource in this effort and collaborate with agencies addressing this issue. It will focus on the following objectives:

- Building knowledge and capacity.
- Increasing opportunities for cross-agency cooperation and coordination.
- Establishing a national resource for information-sharing, learning, and dissemination of best practices.
- Supporting data sharing practices and reporting strategies.
- Evaluating changes implemented by states.

Funding details

Type: Cooperative agreement

Expected total program funding: \$1,250,000

Total expected awards: 1

Maximum award amount for the first budget period (award ceiling): \$1,250,000

We plan to fund a five-year project period made up of five one-year budget periods. The maximum funding for the first budget period is \$1,250,000. The maximum funding for budget periods two through five is expected to be \$3,000,000 per year.

Awards made under this funding opportunity are subject to federal funds availability.



Have questions?

See [Contacts and Support](#).

Key facts

Opportunity name:

National Center on Child Maltreatment Fatality Data Practices and Reporting

Opportunity number:

HHS-2025-ACF-ACYF-CA-0074

Announcement type:

Initial

Federal assistance listing:

93.670

Statutory authority

number: [42 U.S.C. 5106\(b\)\(5\)](#)

Key dates

Application submission

deadline: January 22, 2026

[Optional notice of intent](#)

[deadline](#) : December 22, 2025

Expected project start

date: April 1, 2026

See [other submissions](#) for other time frames that may apply to this NOFO.

Eligibility

Eligible applicants

These types of organizations are eligible for an award:

- States.
- Indian tribes and tribal organizations.
- Public or private agencies, including for-profit organizations.
- Combinations of these entities.

Individuals, including sole proprietorships, and foreign entities are not eligible.

Other eligibility criteria

Faith-based and community organizations that meet the eligibility requirements are eligible for awards under this funding opportunity.

Disqualification factors

We will review your application to make sure it meets these responsiveness requirements.

We won't consider an application that:

- Requests funding above the [award ceiling](#).
- Is submitted after the [deadline](#).
- Is from an individual, including a sole proprietorship, or a foreign entity.
- Is received in paper format that didn't have a previously approved exemption from ACF.

Application limits

If you submit the same application more than once under this notice of funding opportunity (NOFO), we will only acknowledge the last on-time submission.

Cost sharing

This program has no cost-sharing requirement. If you choose to include cost-sharing funds, we won't consider it during review. However, we will hold you accountable for any funds you add, including through reporting. If you don't provide your promised amount, we may have to decrease your award amount or use other enforcement actions.

Program description

Statutory authority

[42 U.S.C. 5106\(b\)\(5\)](#).

Background

Every child who dies as a result of child abuse or neglect represents an irreversible and deep trauma to families and communities. Preventing these child fatalities is an urgent public health concern that demands meaningful action. **With improved data collection and reporting, child welfare agencies can develop a clearer picture of children most at risk and identify systemic factors to drive system reform.**

For over three decades, all 50 states, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia have provided annual data on child maltreatment to the Children's Bureau (CB) through a voluntary national reporting system called the [National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System](#) (NCANDS). This data includes fatalities from abuse and neglect. This information is published annually in CB's [Child Maltreatment](#) report series.

The number of and rate of child fatalities has fluctuated over the last five years. These rates are distributed unevenly across population subgroups, varying by demographics. Younger children are the most vulnerable to death as a result of child abuse and/or neglect. Close to half (44.7%) of child fatalities occur among children younger than one year.

Tribal children residing on tribal lands are generally not included in NCANDS data. There are some exceptions, including some cases where the state or county is the primary responder or where tribes share data with the state child welfare agency. Nonetheless, collaboration between tribal and state child welfare agencies and other partners is essential to preventing maltreatment fatalities among American Indian and Alaskan Native children.

The issue of child maltreatment fatality data reporting has been the focus of several recommendations at the national level:

- A 2011 [report](#) by the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) suggested that sharing information and increasing cooperation among federal, state, and local agencies would provide a more accurate count of maltreatment deaths.
- In 2013, the U.S. government initiated the Commission to Eliminate Child Abuse and Neglect Fatalities.

The commission published a [final report](#) in 2016 with a call for many improvements to be made in policy, research, and health care, stating: “Identifying children and families most at risk of a maltreatment fatality is key to knowing when and how to intervene.” While some state-level changes have been made, data quality continues to vary. It’s clear that the U.S. needs to build more infrastructure to support comprehensive collection and reporting of child maltreatment fatality data.

Program focus

CB seeks to create the National Center on Child Maltreatment Fatality Data Practices and Reporting (the National Center) to provide relevant training and technical assistance (T/TA) to state and jurisdictional child welfare agencies and their partners, including tribes. The National Center will enhance CB’s understanding of child maltreatment fatalities through:

- Enhanced child maltreatment fatality data collection and analysis.
- Strategic cross-agency coordination and collaboration.
- Strengthened data-sharing activities.
- Recording linkages between medical examiners, child fatality review teams, and child protective services.
- Identification of national reporting opportunities for child maltreatment fatalities, including how data is released, tracked, shared, and utilized.
- Timely public notification of child maltreatment fatalities.
- Improved child welfare agency investigative practices involving child maltreatment fatality deaths.

Information generated from the National Center will be disseminated nationally to support the development of state, jurisdictional, and tribal-specific solutions to the problem of child maltreatment fatalities.

Questions of interest

The National Center will work collaboratively with CB to develop an approach to answering the following questions throughout the project period.

The following list is not intended to be exhaustive. We encourage you to propose additional questions and explain how they are relevant to the [goals of this funding](#).

Questions of interest include:

- What is the reliability and validity of child maltreatment fatality data reporting to NCANDS?

- How can the federal government engage state and jurisdictional child welfare agencies in activities to improve child maltreatment fatality data collection and reporting?
- How do issues of timeliness of identification, reporting, and transparency impact the data reported to NCANDS?
- What strategies are effective for analyzing qualitative and quantitative child maltreatment fatality data for use in programmatic decision-making, reform, and training?
- Are there models of effective partnerships across child welfare, law enforcement, and medical personnel related to child fatality data collection and reporting? What are best practices in child welfare related to linking data between medical examiners, child fatality review teams, and child protective services?
- What national strategies for cross-system coordination and collaboration effectively support child maltreatment fatality data collection, reporting, and system response?
- How can states, jurisdictions, and their partners effectively use available data to complete assessments during critical junctures in child welfare practice?
- What promising approaches and best practices in child maltreatment fatality investigation can be replicated across jurisdictions in response to a child maltreatment fatality?

Project requirements

Goals

The National Center will make and carry out a plan to provide tailored T/TA to states, jurisdictions, and their partners including tribes. This will enable these groups to better execute the goals of this funding and measure the effectiveness of implemented efforts.

The National Center will offer a combination of training, consultation, and coaching in the following three areas:

Universal technical assistance

Improve national child maltreatment fatality data collection and reporting, analysis, and system reform through:

- Summarizing research.
- Increasing opportunities for cross-agency collaboration and cooperation.
- Strengthening data-sharing activities and data linkage opportunities.
- Making information more accessible.
- Developing products and tools.

- Identifying national opportunities for improving how national child maltreatment fatality data is released, tracked, shared, and utilized.

Specialized technical assistance

Increase knowledge of specific topics related to child maltreatment fatality data collection and reporting, analysis, and system reform through cohort-specific technical assistance, including the following:

- Strengthening data-sharing activities and linkages between medical examiners, child fatality review teams, and child welfare agencies.
- Developing strategies for timely identification, notification, reporting, and publication of child maltreatment fatalities.
- Improving child welfare agency investigative practices related to child maltreatment fatalities and coordination as part of a multi-disciplinary team.

Tailored technical assistance

Increase the knowledge and skills of individual states, jurisdictions, and their partners through training, consultation, and coaching in the following areas:

- Improving transparency through the timely public notification of child maltreatment fatalities.
- Developing and refining concrete strategies for improving cross-agency coordination and collaboration related to child maltreatment fatality data sharing and linkage.
- Strengthening specific practice strategies related to child welfare involvement with child maltreatment fatality investigations.

Program objectives

The National Center activities will be completed in two overarching phases. The first phase is an initial one-year planning phase. The second phase covers T/TA in years 2 through 5. In Phase I, the National Center will prepare for T/TA by synthesizing research and conducting a national needs assessment, identifying technical assistance strategies, best practices, and convening an interdisciplinary group of national experts to consult on critical issues. In Phase II, the National Center will focus on providing T/TA, building an information-sharing network, disseminating best practices, and evaluating changes implemented by states.

To meet its goals across Phases I and II, the National Center will focus on the objectives in the following subsections.

Build knowledge and capacity

The National Center will increase the knowledge, skills, and capacity of states, jurisdictions, and their partners, including tribes. We expect this objective to involve:

- Assessing comprehensiveness of child maltreatment fatality data collected and reported to NCANDS.
- Determining effective and sustainable data analytic strategies for use in programmatic decision-making, reform, and training.
- Identifying national opportunities for improving how child maltreatment fatality data are released, tracked, shared, and utilized.
- Identifying effective models of training and collaboration related to child maltreatment fatalities for use in child welfare.
- Identifying critical factors known to support or hinder system reform related to child maltreatment fatalities.
- Discerning and replicating best practices for child welfare involvement in child maltreatment fatality investigations.
- Determining effective strategies for using available child maltreatment fatality data during critical junctures in child welfare practice.

Increase cross-agency cooperation and coordination

The National Center will increase opportunities for collaboration among child welfare agencies and their partners involved in collecting, reporting, analyzing, and responding to child maltreatment fatality data. We expect this objective to include:

- Convening an interdisciplinary group of national experts to help set goals and priorities for the National Center and define research, practice, and policy issues.
- Generating strategies for timely public notification and transparency of child maltreatment fatalities.
- Developing and maintaining partnerships to create networks of services and resources to improve data collection, reporting, and overall multi-agency response. These partners may include, but are not limited to:
 - National, state, tribal, and local agencies involved in the identification, reporting, analysis or response to child maltreatment fatalities.
 - Children's Bureau Central and Regional Office Staff.
 - National Child Welfare Center for Innovation and Advancement.
 - Child Welfare Information Gateway.
 - NCANDS Technical Team.
- Developing and maintaining opportunities for peers to share learning and strategies across states, jurisdictions, and their partners.
- Engaging in national discussions to inform needs and opportunities related to collecting, analyzing, and responding to child maltreatment fatality data.

- Enhancing coordination and collaboration across multiple agencies involved in child maltreatment fatality intervention and response.

Establish a national resource for information-sharing, learning, and dissemination

The National Center will increase awareness, availability, and accessibility of new knowledge to states, jurisdictions, and their partners, including tribes. We expect this objective to include:

- Forming and maintaining a consortium and information-sharing network across states and jurisdictions, and their partners.
- Disseminating new or existing products, findings, and relevant resources.
- Making information about effective child maltreatment fatality data collection, reporting, analysis, and response more accessible.
- Providing guidance on strategies and best practices to enhance coordination and information sharing across multiple agencies.

Support data practice and reporting strategies

The National Center will provide universal, specialized, and tailored T/TA to states and jurisdictions related to child maltreatment fatality data collection and reporting, analysis, and system response. We expect this T/TA to include, but not be limited to:

- Helping states and jurisdictions identify and use successful strategies to collect reliable and valid child maltreatment fatality data at the local, state, and federal levels.
- Identifying and using qualitative and quantitative analytic strategies to help states, jurisdictions, and their partners utilize child fatality information.
- Developing documentation and technical assistance tools to help replicate:
- Cross-agency partnerships, including data sharing and linkage approaches.
- Data collection innovations and best practices.
- Methodological or analytic designs.
- Policy and practice changes.
- Evaluations.
- System response, such as child welfare maltreatment fatality investigative strategies.
- Improving the workforce's ability to use agency data to identify and support families who are at risk of a child maltreatment fatality.

Evaluate training and technical assistance activities

The National Center must devote 10% of grant funds to evaluation. The National Center must be able to objectively evaluate changes implemented by states through sufficient in-house capacity or provide a plan to contract with a third-party evaluator, university, or college. The evaluation will:

- Be supported by a logic model.
- Assess progress toward project goals.
- Include a valid and reliable measurement plan and sound methodological design.
- Outline strategies to collect, manage, share, and analyze data.
- Describe how data will inform improvement of funded 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. If activities under this cooperative agreement are subject to PRA, CB will work with the funding recipient to obtain OMB approval.

Cooperative agreement—Description of ACF's involvement

A cooperative agreement is a specific method of awarding federal assistance in which substantial federal involvement is anticipated. A cooperative agreement clearly defines the respective responsibilities of CB and the grant recipient. We expect agency involvement to produce programmatic benefits to the recipient that would not otherwise be available.

For this project, our involvement and collaboration will include the following:

- Reviewing and approving planning stages of the activities before implementation begins.
- Coordinating key programmatic activities, including strategic planning, implementation, information technology enhancements, T/TA, development of publications or products, and evaluation.
- Closely monitoring project requirements of this funding opportunity that may limit the recipient's discretion in determining the scope of services offered.
- Monitoring that may exceed what is typical for awards, to make sure the recipient's project matches the intent of this funding.

Funding policies and limitations

General policies

- We will only make awards if this program receives funding. If Congress appropriates funds for this purpose, we will move forward with the review and award process.
- Support beyond the first budget period will depend on:
 - Appropriation of funds.
 - Satisfactory progress in meeting your project's objectives.
 - A decision that continued funding is in the government's best interest.
- If we receive more funding for this program, we will consider:
 - Funding more applicants.
 - Extending the period of performance.
 - Awarding supplemental funding.

ACF does not allow funds awarded under this NOFO to support any costs related to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) activities, including research in support of such initiatives, and any other initiatives that discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin or another protected characteristic. This also includes any diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA) initiatives, and any discriminatory equity ideology in violation of a Federal anti-discrimination law. The definition of "discriminatory equity ideology" is in Section 2(b) of Executive Order 14190 of January 29, 2025, which can be found here: [2025-02232.pdf](#).

For guidance on additional types of costs that we restrict or do not allow, see General Provisions for Selected Items of Costs of the Uniform Guidance, [45 CFR part 75](#) (or, starting October 1, 2025, [2 CFR part 200](#)).

Program-specific limitations and policies

We do not allow the following costs under this notice of funding opportunity (NOFO):

- Construction.
- Purchase of real property.
- Major renovation.

Indirect costs

Indirect costs are for a common or joint purpose across more than one project and that cannot be easily separated by project.

To charge indirect costs you can select one of two methods:

Method 1—Approved rate. You currently have an indirect cost rate approved by your cognizant federal agency.

Method 2—*De minimis* rate. Per [2 CFR 200.414\(f\)](#), if you **do not** have a current federal negotiated indirect cost rate (including a provisional rate), you may elect to charge a *de minimis* rate. If you choose this method, costs included in the indirect cost pool must not be charged as direct costs.

This rate is 15% of modified total direct costs (MTDC). See [2 CFR 200.1](#) for the definition of MTDC. You can use this rate indefinitely.

Subawards

As the prime recipient, you must maintain a substantive role in the project. We define a substantive role as conducting funded activities and providing services that are necessary and integral to completing the project. Monitoring your subrecipient's activities alone as described in [45 CFR 75.352](#) (or, starting October 1, 2025, [2 CFR 200.332](#)) is not a substantive role.

We do not fund awards where your role primarily serves as a conduit for passing funds to other organizations unless that arrangement is authorized by statute.

If they do not have one, all subrecipients must obtain a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) through the System for Award Management (SAM.gov).

Subrecipients must meet the [eligibility requirements](#) of this NOFO.

Salary rate limitation

The salary rate limitation in the current appropriations act applies to this program. You may not use awarded funds to pay a salary at a higher rate than the rate for Executive Level II. For the Executive Level II salary, please see [guidance from the Office of Personnel Management on executive and senior level employee pay](#).

The salary limitation reflects a person's base salary (including any portion of the salary that is paid for with indirect costs). It does not include fringe benefits or any income the person is allowed to earn outside of the duties of the applicant organization. This salary limitation also applies to subawards, contracts, and subcontracts under an ACF grant or cooperative agreement.

Program income

Program income is money earned as a result of your award-supported project activities. You must use any program income you generate from awarded funds for approved project-related activities. Find more about program income at [45 CFR 75.307](#) (or, starting October 1, 2025, [2 CFR 200.307](#)).



Step 2:

Get Ready to Apply

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Get registered

SAM.gov

You must have an active account with SAM.gov. This includes having a Unique Entity Identifier. SAM.gov registration can take several weeks. Begin that process today.

To register, go to [SAM.gov Entity Registration](#) and select Get Started. From the same page, you can also select the Entity Registration Checklist for the information you will need to register.

When you register or update your SAM.gov registration, you must agree to the financial assistance general certifications and representations. You must agree to those for financial assistance specifically, as opposed to contracts, because the two sets of agreements are different. You will have to maintain your registration throughout the life of any award.

Grants.gov

You must also have an active account with [Grants.gov](#). You can see step-by-step instructions at the Grants.gov [Quick Start Guide for Applicants](#).

Need help? See [Contacts and Support](#).

Find the application package

The application package has all the forms you need to apply. You can find it online. Go to [Grants Search at Grants.gov](#) and search for opportunity number HHS-2025-ACF-ACYF-CA-0074. Then select the Package tab.

After you select the opportunity, we recommend that you select the Subscribe button to get updates.

If you can't use Grants.gov to download application materials, you may request them from the [grants management contact](#).

If you are also unable to apply through Grants.gov, see the section on [exemptions for paper submissions](#).

Learn more

Visit [Applying for an ACF Grant Award](#) on the ACF Grants page.



Step 3:

Prepare Your Application

In this step

Application contents and format

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Application contents and format

Application components

You will submit two files plus the [standard forms](#) in the application package.

See requirements for [other submissions](#).

Your organization's authorized official must certify your application.

File one

To submit file one, you will use the Project Narrative Attachment form found in the Grants.gov application package for this NOFO.

This file includes:

- Table of contents.
- Project summary, one page.
- Project narrative.
- Line-item budget and budget narrative.

File two

To submit file two, you will use the Other Attachments form found in the Grants.gov application package for this NOFO.

This file includes all [attachments](#).

Standard forms

The Grants.gov application package for this NOFO includes forms beyond those required for file one and file two. Complete all of these forms and submit through Grants.gov.

See the list of [standard forms](#).

Required format

Page limit for file one and file two combined: 90 pages.

File format: Portable Document Format (PDF) is recommended, but not required. ACF supports the following file formats when you attach files to the Project Narrative Attachment form and the Other Attachments form:

Accepted file formats

- Adobe PDF (.pdf)
- Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx)
- Microsoft Excel (.xls or .xlsx)
- Microsoft PowerPoint (.ppt)
- Image formats (.JPG, .GIF, .TIFF, or .BMP only)

Document formats

Paper size: 8 ½ inches x 11 inches

Margins: 1 inch all around

Language: English

If possible, include page numbers.

Do not include external links to information you want reviewers to assess because reviewers will score the application solely on information provided in the application.

Fonts

Font: Times New Roman

Color: Black

Size: 12-point font

Footnotes and text in tables and graphics may be 10-point.

Spacing

Table of contents: Must be single-spaced

Project summary: Must be single-spaced

Project narrative: Must be double-spaced

Logic models, resumes, third-party agreements, and letters of support: Can be single-spaced

Line-item budget and budget narrative: Can be single-spaced

Attachments: Can be single-spaced

Tables and footnotes throughout: Can be single-spaced

See [disqualification factors](#) to understand what may disqualify your application from consideration.

Table of contents

At the beginning of file one, insert a table of contents that guides a reader through the contents of both files in your application. If possible, include links to the relevant content in file one.

Project summary

Provide a one-page summary of the project description. Do not cross-reference to other parts of your application. The summary must include:

- At the top, the project title, applicant name, address, phone numbers, email addresses, and any website URL.
- A brief description of the project, including the needs and population you will address, and your proposed services.

Project narrative

The project narrative is where you address all your proposed activities. It is a critical section of your application, which we evaluate using [merit review criteria](#) and rank based on application scores. Remember that substance and measurable outcomes are more important than length. We are particularly interested in project narratives that convey strategies for achieving intended performance.

In it, you must:

- Explain how the project will meet the purpose of the NOFO, as described in [the program description section](#).
- Make sure your narrative is clear, concise, and complete.
- Use cross-referencing rather than repetition.
- Be sure to include any required supporting documents noted. You generally provide these in your [attachments](#).
- Use the headings and order of the sections that follow.

Objectives

State your main objectives and any sub-objectives. Address how the objectives stated relate to the overall purpose of this program and describe how you will achieve the objectives.

- Describe your understanding of child maltreatment fatality data collection, reporting, analysis, and system response.
- Outline your vision for creating a National Center that will help child welfare agencies more effectively collect, report, and use data about child maltreatment fatalities.

Expected outcomes

Identify the outcomes you plan to achieve from the project. Outcomes should relate to the overall program as described in the [program description section](#). If research is part

of the proposed work, outcomes must include hypothesized results and implications of the proposed research.

Approach

Outline your action plan. Describe the scope and detail of how you will accomplish your proposed project. Account for all functions or activities you identify in your application.

Explain potential obstacles and challenges to accomplishing your project goals. Explain the strategies you will use to address them.

You should describe how you will work collaboratively with CB to develop an approach to answering the proposed questions of interest outlined in the program description throughout the planning and T/TA phases of the project.

You must clearly outline how you will provide T/TA to build the capacity of states, jurisdictions, and their partners to collect, report, analyze, and use child maltreatment fatality information.

You must respond to the [objectives](#) discussed in the project requirements and describe how you will carry them out. Include each of the following sections:

- [Building knowledge and capacity](#). Describe your approach to increasing state, jurisdictional, and tribal knowledge, skills, and capacity.
- [Increasing cross-agency cooperation and coordination](#). Explain how you will increase opportunities for collaboration and develop network resources to support child welfare agencies and their partners.
- [Establishing a national resource for information-sharing, learning, and dissemination](#). Describe how you will increase awareness, availability, and accessibility of new knowledge and share effective strategies and best practices with states, jurisdictions, and their partners including tribes.
- [Supporting data practice and reporting strategies](#). Explain how you will provide [universal, specialized, and tailored T/TA](#) to states and jurisdictions and their partners, including tribes, related to child maltreatment fatality data collection and reporting, analysis, and system response.

You will respond to the final objective, [evaluate T/TA activities](#), in your [activities evaluation plan](#).

Project timeline and milestones

Provide a timeline for your project that includes milestones. To do so:

- Organize the information by task and subtask, showing related milestones.

- Provide monthly or quarterly quantitative projections for what you plan to accomplish and by when. For example, provide the number of people you plan to serve or the number of a certain activity you plan to complete.
- If you can't quantify some of your accomplishments, provide their target dates.
- Cover the full period of performance in your timeline.

Organizational capacity

Provide the following information for your full project team, including the applicant organization and any cooperating partners, contractors, and subrecipients:

- Provide evidence that your team, including partner organizations, have the relevant experience and expertise needed to carry out your project. You will provide supporting information, such as resumes/curriculum vitae and job descriptions, in the [attachments](#) section.
- Describe your team's experience with administering, developing, implementing, managing, and evaluating similar projects.
- Demonstrate expertise providing T/TA to build the capacity of child welfare agencies in areas related to child maltreatment fatality data collection, reporting, analysis, and system response.
- Provide roles and responsibilities along with demonstrated commitment to the project.

Current and pending funding support

Provide a list of your current and pending funded support for ongoing projects and proposals. Include all sources such as federal, state, and local governments, public or private foundations, for-profit organizations, etc.

Be sure to indicate which projects and proposals require committed time from the project director, principal investigator, or other key personnel.

Show the total award amount, awarding entity, and the amount of time each key staff member will devote to each project.

Plan for oversight of federal award funds and activities

You must ensure proper award oversight. The regulation that governs this oversight is [45 CFR part 75](#) (or, starting October 1, 2025, [2 CFR part 200](#)). It includes standards for:

- 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 your framework to ensure proper oversight of federal funds and activities.

Include:

- A description of the governance, policies and procedures, and systems you use for record keeping and financial management.
- A description of the procedures to identify and mitigate risks and issues. These might include audit findings, continuous performance assessment findings, and monitoring.
- The key staff who will be responsible for maintaining oversight of program activities staff and any partners or subrecipients.

Project performance evaluation plan

Describe a plan for how you will evaluate your project's performance and how it will contribute to continuous quality improvement. This plan must describe:

- How you will monitor ongoing activities and the progress toward the project's goals and objectives.
- The inputs, key activities, and expected outcomes of the funded activities. Inputs might include your collaborative partners, key staff, budget, service processes or other resources.
- How you will measure the inputs, activities, and outcomes.
- How you will use the resulting information to inform improvement of funded activities.
- Any processes that support the overall data quality.
- The organizational systems and processes that will track performance outcomes.
- How your organization will collect and manage data in a way that allows for accurate and timely reporting of performance outcomes. This might include assigned skilled staff, data management software, and data integrity.
- Any potential obstacles to implementing the project performance evaluation and how you will address them.
- A timeline for how you will review information from the performance evaluation and apply it to your ongoing project.

Logic model

You must submit a logic model for designing, managing, and 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.
- Explains the links among project elements.
- Targets 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 the connections between:

- Inputs such as additional resources, organizational profile, collaborative partners, key staff, and budget.
- Target population, such as the individuals to be served or identified needs.
- Activities, mechanisms, and processes such as evidenced-based practices, best practices, approach, key intervention and evaluation components, and continuous quality improvement efforts.
- Outputs, which include the immediate and direct results of program activities.
- Outcomes, which include the expected short- and long-term results of the project. These are typically described as changes in people or systems.
- Project goals such as overarching objectives and reasons for proposing the project.

Project sustainability plan

You must propose a plan for project sustainability after the period of federal funding ends. We expect you to sustain key elements of your project. These elements can include strategies or services and interventions that have been effective in improving practices and outcomes.

Provide an approach to project sustainability that is effective and feasible. Describe:

- The key people and organizations whose support you will require.
- The types of alternative support you will require to maintain the project.
- If the proposed project involves key project partners, how you will maintain their cooperation or collaboration after the federal funding ends.

Protection of sensitive or confidential information

Describe how you will collect and safeguard protected personally identifiable information and other information that is considered sensitive. Make sure your approach is consistent with applicable federal, state, local, and tribal laws regarding privacy and obligations of confidentiality. Provide:

- The methods and systems you will use to ensure that you properly handle confidential and sensitive information including any subrecipients and/or contractors.
- A plan for the disposition of such information at the end of the period of performance.

See [45 CFR 75.303\(e\)](#) for more information (or, starting October 1, 2025, [2 CFR 200.303\(e\)](#)).

Dissemination plan

Propose a plan to disseminate reports, products, and project outputs to key target audiences. Include:

- Dissemination goals and objectives.
- Strategies to identify and engage with target audiences.
- How you will allocate sufficient staff time and budget for dissemination.
- A preliminary plan to evaluate the extent to which target audiences receive project information and use it as intended.
- The dissemination timeline.

Line-item budget and budget narrative

The line-item budget and budget justification support the information you provide in the Budget Information Standard Form SF-424A.

HHS now uses the definitions for [equipment](#) and [supplies](#) in 2 CFR 200.1. The new definitions change the threshold for equipment to the lesser of the recipient's capitalization level or \$10,000 and the threshold for supplies to below that amount.

Justify the costs you ask for and provide detail, including calculations for the "object class categories" in the Budget Information Standard Form. You will provide this information for the initial budget period only. See information on [funding periods](#).

As you develop your budget, consider:

- If the costs are necessary, reasonable, allocable, and consistent with your project's purpose and activities.
- How you calculate your costs in ways that are clear and repeatable.
- The restrictions on spending funds. See the [funding policies and limitations](#).
- Ten percent of grant funds must be dedicated to evaluation and CQI activities.
- Funds to support required travel for the project director, evaluator, and other key to staff to attend a kick-off meeting in Washington, DC within 90 days of the award and annually thereafter.

Please also review the Standard Form instructions.

To create your line-item budget and justification, see [detailed budget instructions on our website](#).

In general, you must:

- Indicate the method you will use for your indirect cost rate. See the [indirect costs](#) section for further information.
- Include estimation methods, quantities, unit costs, and other similar quantitative detail necessary for the calculation to be duplicated.
- For any cost sharing, include a detailed listing of any funding sources identified in Block 18 of the SF-424 Application for Federal Assistance.
- For applicants planning to use subawards, if your subaward budget is more than 50% of total direct costs, justify why you are subawarding that portion of the project. Explain:
 - How you plan to maintain a substantive role in the project.
 - Why you cannot achieve your goals without the subrecipients' participation.

Proprietary or personally identifiable information

In your application, you may identify salary or other proprietary information or personally identifiable information. We will remove this information from applications before they go to reviewers.

If you have an [exemption for a paper submission](#), you can protect salary information and any proprietary information by placing that information only in the original application. You can remove the information from the copies, keeping summary information.

Attachments

You will upload attachments in Grants.gov using the Other Attachments form. These attachments are included in the overall application page limit, unless it says otherwise in this section.

Indirect cost agreement

If you include indirect costs in your budget using an approved rate, include a copy of your current agreement approved by your [cognizant agency for indirect costs](#). If you use the *de minimis* rate, you do not need to submit this attachment.

See the [indirect costs](#) section for more information.

Legal proof of nonprofit status

If your organization is a nonprofit, you need to attach proof. We will accept any of the following:

- A reference to your listing in the IRS's most recent list of tax-exempt organizations.
- A copy of a current tax exemption certificate from the IRS.
- A letter from your state's tax department, attorney general, or another appropriate state official saying that your group is a nonprofit and that none of your net earnings go to private shareholders or others.
- A certified copy of your certificate of incorporation or similar document. This document must show that your group is a nonprofit.
- Any of these for a parent organization. Also include a statement signed by an official of the parent group that your organization is a nonprofit affiliate.

Organizational capacity supporting information

You must attach the following information to support the information in your [organizational capacity](#) section:

- Organizational charts, including all partners.
- Resumes, biographical sketches, or curricula vitae for all key personnel.
- Job descriptions for each vacant key position.
- List of your board of directors.
- Audit summary report including auditor's opinion, if applicable.
- Copy or description of the applicant organization's fiscal control and accountability procedures.

Third-party agreements

You must submit agreements with all third parties involved in the project. Third parties include subrecipients, contractors, and other cooperating entities. Third-party agreements include letters of commitment, memoranda of understanding, and memoranda of agreement. We do not consider general letters of support to be third-party agreements. Any such agreement must:

- Describe the roles and responsibilities for project activities.
- Describe the support and resources that the third-party is committing to the proposed project.
- Be signed by the person in the third-party organization with the authority to make such commitments.
- Detail work schedules and estimated compensation with an understanding that the parties will negotiate a final agreement after award.

- Identify the primary applicant and all collaborators responsible for project activities if for a collaboration or consortia application.

Letters of support

Attach statements from community, public, or commercial leaders that support your project. At minimum, each letter of support must identify the person writing the letter, the organization they represent, the date, and their reasons for supporting the project.

Protection of human subjects certification

Not included in the page limit. You must attach a Protection of Human Subjects: Assurance Identification / Certification / Declaration of Exemption form. You can find this form at the [Office of Human Research Protections Forms](#) website.

For more on this topic see [the Office for Human Research Protections](#) website. If you have questions, you can email them at OHRP@HHS.gov or call them at 240-453-6900.

Standard forms

You will need to complete some other required standard forms. Upload the following forms at Grants.gov. You can find them in the NOFO [application package](#) or review them and their instructions at [Grants.gov Forms](#).

Forms	Submission requirement
Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)	With the application.
Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs (SF-424A)	With the application.
Assurances for Non-Construction Programs (SF-424B)	With the application.
Key Contacts	With the application.
Grants.gov Lobbying Form	With the application or before award.
Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL)	If applicable based on instructions, with the application or before award.
Project/Performance Site Location(s) (SF-P/PSL)	With the application. Cite your primary location and up to 29 additional performance sites.

Important: public information

When filling out your SF-424 form, pay attention to Box 15: Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project.

We share what you put there with [USAspending](#). This is where the public goes to learn how the federal government spends their money.

Instead of just a title, insert a short description of your project and what it will do.

[See instructions and examples.](#)



Step 4:

Learn About Review and Award

In this step

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Application review

Initial review

We will review your application to make sure that it meets the responsiveness requirements listed in the [disqualification factors](#) section. If your application does not meet these criteria, we will disqualify it and we will not move it to the merit review phase.

We will let you know if your application is disqualified within 30 days of the application deadline. You won't receive any notice from ACF if your application failed Grants.gov validation checks.

If you submit more than two files in addition to your forms, we will remove the extra files. We will let you know if this happens.

We will also remove blurred or illegible pages and any file formats that are not supported.

We will not review any pages that exceed the page limit.

If your application fails to adhere to ACF's NOFO formatting, font, and page limitation requirements, we will adjust your application by removing page(s) from the application. We will remove the pages before the merit review and will not send them to reviewers.

If we do so, we will send you a letter after we make awards to notify you that we amended your application.

Merit review

A panel reviews all applications that pass the initial review. The panel members use the criteria in this section.

Our reviewers typically are not federal employees. See the section on [proprietary and personally identifiable information](#).

Criteria

Criterion	Total number of points = 100
1. Objectives	15 points
2. Approach	40 points
3. Evaluation	20 points
4. Organizational capacity	20 points
5. Budget	5 points

1. Objectives

Maximum points: 15

The reviewer will assess how well you:

- 1.1. State your main objectives and any sub-objectives, including all the details requested in the [objectives](#) section.
- 1.2. Describe your understanding of child maltreatment fatality data collection, reporting, analysis, and system response.
- 1.3. Outline your vision for creating a national T/TA center that supports child welfare agencies to more effectively collect, report, and use data about child maltreatment fatalities.
- 1.4. Identify the [outcomes](#) you plan to achieve from the project.

2. Approach

Maximum points: 40

The reviewer will assess how well you:

- 2.1. Describe your approach to building knowledge and capacity of states, jurisdictions, and their partners to collect, report, analyze, and utilize child maltreatment fatality data.

2.2. Provide a plan to increase opportunities for collaboration and coordination and to develop network resources to support child welfare agencies and their partners.

2.3. Describe your plan for serving as a national resource for information sharing, learning, and dissemination across Phases 1 and 2.

2.4. Provide a plan for how you will provide T/TA in the [three areas described in the project requirements](#).

2.5. Describe your plan to provide [universal, specialized, and tailored T/TA](#) to states, jurisdictions, and their partners related to child maltreatment fatality data collection and reporting, analysis, and system response.

2.6. Provide a [timeline and milestones](#) for your project including Phase 1 and Phase 2.

2.7. Provide a sound sustainability plan for continuing this project beyond the period of federal funding.

2.8. Describe how you will collaborate with CB to answer the proposed questions of interest outlined in the program description.

3. Evaluation

Maximum points: 20

The reviewer will assess how well you:

3.1. Propose a clear plan to evaluate the project that satisfies the [requirements in the program description](#) and the [project performance evaluation plan](#) section of the project narrative.

3.2. Develop a [logic model](#) that illustrates your approach and addresses the outcomes you plan to achieve.

3.3. Describe activities that are well-conceived and linked to the outcomes and goals of the project.

4. Organizational capacity

Maximum points: 20

The reviewer will assess how well you:

4.1. Provide evidence that your team, including partnering organizations, have the relevant experience and expertise needed to carry out your project.

4.2. Demonstrate expertise in administering, developing, carrying out, managing, and evaluating similar projects.

4.3. Show expertise in providing T/TA to build the capacity of child welfare agencies in areas related to child maltreatment fatality data collection, reporting, analysis, and system response.

4.4. Provide appropriate roles and responsibilities.

4.5. Demonstrate that your key partners have committed to the project, if applicable.

5. Budget

Maximum points: 5

The reviewer will assess how well you:

5.1. Provide a budget narrative and detailed line-item budget justification for the first year of the project.

5.2. Include the percentage of grant funds dedicated to evaluation and costs for required travel to meetings in Washington, DC.

5.3. Include costs that are reasonable based on the activities you are conducting, expected results, and benefits.

We do not consider voluntary cost sharing during merit review.

Risk review

Before making an award, we review the risk that you will mismanage federal funds or fail to complete the project objectives. We need to make sure you've handled any past federal awards well and demonstrated sound business practices. We use SAM.gov [Responsibility/Qualification](#) to check this history for all awards likely to be over \$250,000.

If we find a significant risk, we may choose not to fund your application or to place specific conditions on the award.

For more details, see [45 CFR 75.205](#) (or, starting October 1, 2025, [2 CFR 200.206](#)).

Selection process

When making funding decisions, we consider:

- Merit review results. These are key in making decisions but are not the only factor.
- Organizations serving emerging, unserved, or underserved populations.
- The larger portfolio of agency-funded projects by considering geographic distribution.
- The past performance of the applicant.

- The application's compliance with this NOFO's prohibition on using funds awarded under this NOFO to support any costs related to:
 - Diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) activities, including research in support of such initiatives,
 - Any other initiatives that discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin or another protected characteristic, and
 - Any diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA) initiatives, and any discriminatory equity ideology in violation of a Federal anti-discrimination law. The definition of "discriminatory equity ideology" is in Section 2(b) of Executive Order 14190 of January 29, 2025, which can be found here: [2025-02232.pdf](#).

We may:

- Fund applications in whole or in part.
- Fund applications at a lower amount than requested.
- Decide not to allow a prime recipient to subaward if they may not be able to monitor and manage subrecipients properly.
- Decide not to fund a project with high start-up costs or unreasonably high operating costs.
- Choose not to fund applicants with management or financial problems.
- Designate your application as "approved but unfunded" if it was successful but there was not sufficient funding to make an award. You may receive funding if additional funds become available within the fiscal year.
- Choose to fund no applications under this NOFO.

We will not fund:

- A [disqualified application](#).
- An incomplete application.

Award notices

How we make awards

If you are successful, we will email or transmit through our grant systems a Notice of Award (NoA) to your authorized official. We will email you if your application is disqualified or unsuccessful.

The NoA is the only official award document. The NoA tells you about the amount of the award, important dates, and the terms and conditions you need to follow. Until you

receive the NoA, you have not received an award. Project costs that you incur before you receive a NoA are at your risk.

By drawing down funds, you accept the terms and conditions of the award. The award incorporates the requirements of the program and funding authorities, the grant regulations, the GPS, and the NOFO.

If you want to know more about NoA contents, go to [Notice of Award at ACF's website](#).



Step 5:

Submit Your Application

In this step

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Application submission and deadlines

Deadlines

Optional notice of intent

Due on December 22, 2025, at 11:59 p.m.

See information on [notices of intent](#).

Application

Due on January 22, 2026.

- For electronic submissions, the due time is 11:59 p.m. ET.
- If you receive an exemption from electronic submission, the due time is 4:30 p.m. ET. See the section on [exemptions for paper submissions](#).

Grants.gov creates a date and time record when it receives the application. If you submit the same application more than once, we will accept only the last on-time submission.

The grants management officer may extend an application due date based on emergency situations such as documented natural disasters or a verifiable widespread disruption of electric or mail service.

Submission methods

Grants.gov

You must submit your application through Grants.gov unless we give you an exemption for a paper submission. See information on [getting registered](#).

For instructions on how to submit in Grants.gov, see the [Quick Start Guide for Applicants](#). Make sure your application passes the Grants.gov validation checks. Do not encrypt, zip, or password protect any files. We encourage you to leave yourself plenty of time to upload documents.

See [Contacts and Support](#) if you need help.

Issues with federal systems

If you experience a systems issue with Grants.gov or SAM.gov, please refer to [ACF's Policy for Applicants Experiencing Federal Systems Issues \[PDF\]](#).

Exemptions for paper submissions

We need to give you an exemption before you can apply on paper. See the [ACF Policy for Requesting an Exemption from Required Electronic Application Submission \[PDF\]](#).

Once we have approved your exemption, download your forms package under the Package tab in Grants.gov.

To submit your application, mail it to:

CB Operations Center c/o LCG

ATTN: HHS-2025-ACF-ACYF-CA-0074

6000 Executive Boulevard, Suite 410

Rockville, MD, 20852

Follow these requirements when you submit your paper application:

- Print your application and all copies one-sided.
- Submit one original and two copies of the complete application, including all required forms.
- Submit both the original and additional copies in a single package. If you plan to submit more than one application under this NOFO or others, you must submit them separately. Clearly label each package with the NOFO title and funding opportunity number. Your authorized organization official must sign the application. The original application must include an original signature.

Other submissions

Intergovernmental review

This NOFO is not subject to [Executive Order 12372, Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs](#). No action is needed.

Optional notice of intent

We ask that you let us know if you plan to apply for this opportunity. We do this to plan for the number of expert reviewers we will need to evaluate applications. You do not have to submit a notice of intent to apply.

Please email your notice to cb@grantreview.org. In your email, include:

- The funding opportunity number and title.
- Your organization's name and address.
- A contact name, phone number, and email address.

See the [deadline for notices of intent](#).

Application checklist

Make sure that you have everything you need to apply.

Component	Grants.gov form	Included in page limit?
File one: Narratives ☐ Table of contents ☐ Project summary ☐ Project narrative ☐ Line-item budget and budget narrative	Use the Project Narrative Attachment form.	Yes Yes Yes Yes
File two: Attachments ☐ Indirect cost agreement ☐ Legal proof of nonprofit status ☐ Organizational capacity supporting information ☐ Third-party agreements ☐ Letters of support ☐ Protection of human subjects certification	Insert each in the Other Attachments form.	Yes Yes Yes Yes Yes No
Standard forms ☐ Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424) ☐ Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs (SF-424A) ☐ Assurances for Non-Construction Programs (SF-424B) ☐ Key Contacts ☐ Grants.gov Lobbying Form ☐ Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL) ☐ Project/Performance Site Location(s) (SF-P/PSL)	Upload using each required form.	No No No No No No No



Step 6:

Learn What Happens After Award

In this step

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Post-award requirements and administration

Administrative and national policy requirements

There are important rules you'll need to follow if you get an award. You must follow:

- All terms and conditions in the Notice of Award, including the [ACF Standard Terms and Conditions](#) and, if applicable, any program-specific terms and conditions. We incorporate this NOFO by reference.
- The rules listed in [45 CFR part 75](#), Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for HHS Awards in effect at the time of award and any updates, or any superseding regulations.
 - Effective October 1, 2024, HHS adopted the following superseding provisions:
 - [2 CFR 200.1](#), Definitions, Modified Total Direct Cost.
 - [2 CFR 200.1](#), Definitions, Equipment.
 - [2 CFR 200.1](#), Definitions, Supplies.
 - [2 CFR 200.313\(e\)](#), Equipment, Disposition.
 - [2 CFR 200.314\(a\)](#), Supplies.
 - [2 CFR 200.320](#), Methods of procurement to be followed.
 - [2 CFR 200.333](#), Fixed amount subawards.
 - [2 CFR 200.344](#), Closeout.
 - [2 CFR 200.414\(f\)](#), Indirect (F&A) costs.
 - [2 CFR 200.501](#), Audit requirements.
 - Effective October 1, 2025, HHS will adopt the remaining 2 CFR part 200 provisions and the HHS-specific modifications relocated from 45 CFR part 75 to 2 CFR part 300.
- The HHS [Grants Policy Statement \[PDF\]](#) (GPS). This document has terms and conditions tied to your award. If there are any exceptions to the GPS, they'll be listed in your Notice of Award.
- All federal statutes and regulations relevant to federal financial assistance, including those highlighted in the [HHS Administrative and National Policy Requirements \[PDF\]](#) and the [ACF Administrative and National Policy Requirements](#).
- [45 CFR Part 87 Appendix B, Equal Treatment for Faith-Based Organizations](#).

Reporting

As a recipient, you will have to submit performance and financial reports. To learn more about reporting, see [Reporting at the ACF website](#).

- Performance report form: ACF-OGM-PPR
 - Performance report frequency: Semiannually
- Financial report form: SF-425 FFR
 - Financial report frequency: Semiannually



Contacts and Support

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Agency contacts

Program

Cara Kelly

cb@grantreview.org

(888) 203-6161

Grants management

Sarah Viola

cb@grantreview.org

(888) 203-6161

Grants.gov

Grants.gov provides 24/7 support. You can call 1-800-518-4726 or email support@grants.gov. Hold on to your ticket number.

SAM.gov

If you need help, you can call 1-866-606-8220 or live chat with the [Federal Service Desk](#).

Reference websites

- [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services \(HHS\)](#)
- [Administration for Children and Families \(ACF\)](#)
- [Grants.gov](#)
- [Applying for an ACF Grant Award](#)
- [Grants.gov Accessibility Information](#)
- [Code of Federal Regulations \(CFR\)](#)
- [United States Code \(U.S.C.\)](#)
- [Award Terms and Conditions](#) (see also the [ACF Standard Terms and Conditions \[PDF\]](#))
- [ACF Administrative and National Policy Requirements](#)
- [ACF Property Guidance](#)

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 (project narrative, line-item budget, and justification) is estimated to average 60 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering, and maintaining the data needed, and reviewing the collection information. The project description information collection is approved under OMB control number 0970-0139, which expires March 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.

Modifications

Modification Description	Updated Date
Made updates to the following sections: Eligibility, Application Submission Deadline, Program description, Application contents and format, and Application review.	May 14, 2025
This NOFO has been modified to update key dates, clarify eligible applicants, and revise language to align with current priorities.	August 22, 2025