



Immediate Office of the Assistant Secretary
Office of Family Violence Prevention and Services (OFVPS)

Specialized Services for Abused Parents and Their Children (Demonstration Projects)

Opportunity number: HHS-2026-ACF-OFVPS-EV-0052



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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 Tuesday, September 8, 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)

Immediate Office of the Assistant Secretary

Office of Family Violence Prevention and Services (OFVPS)

The Specialized Services for Abused Parents and Their Children program addresses the needs of children who have been exposed to family violence, domestic violence, or dating violence through services, advocacy, and support for non-abusing parents in their roles as caregivers.

Summary

The purpose of the Specialized Services for Abused Parents and Their Children is to expand the capacity of family violence, domestic violence, and dating violence service programs and community-based programs to prevent future domestic violence. This is done by addressing the needs of children who have been exposed to family violence, domestic violence, or dating violence in an appropriate manner.

Funding details

Type: Cooperative agreement

Expected total program funding: \$21,500,000

Total expected awards: 60

Minimum award amount (award floor): \$300,000

Maximum award amount (award ceiling): \$350,000

This is full funding. We plan to fund a two-year project period with two one-year budget periods.

Under the authorizing statute, we may only award projects for two years. If successful, there may be an opportunity for an additional continuation project of no more than two more years if approved by the ACF Assistant Secretary.

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



Have questions?
See [Contacts and Support](#).

Key facts

Opportunity name:

Family Violence Prevention and Services Discretionary Grants: Specialized Services for Abused Parents and Their Children (Demonstration Projects)

Opportunity number:

HHS-2026-ACF-OFVPS-EV-0052

Federal assistance listing:

93.592

NOFO version:

Original

Key dates

Application

submission deadline:

September 8, 2026

Expected project

start date:

September 30, 2026

See [intergovernmental review](#) for other

submission processes that may apply to this NOFO.

Eligibility

Eligible applicants

- Public and State controlled institutions of higher education.
- Native American tribal organizations (other than Federally recognized tribal governments).
- Nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education.
- Nonprofits without 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education.
- Private institutions of higher education.

Other eligibility criteria

An entity shall be a local agency, a nonprofit private organization (including faith-based and charitable organizations, community-based organizations, and voluntary organizations), or a tribal organization, with a demonstrated record of serving victims of family violence, domestic violence, or dating violence and their children ([42 U.S.C. 10412\(b\)](#)).

Applications from individuals (including sole proprietorships), federal entities, and foreign entities are not eligible to apply.

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

Disqualifying 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), a federal entity, or a foreign entity.
- Is received in paper format that didn't have a previously approved exemption from ACF.
- Does not include documentation that demonstrates the applicant has a record of serving victims of domestic, dating, and family violence.

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, meaning you do not need to contribute to the costs of this project.

If you choose to include cost-sharing funds, we won't consider it during review. If you receive an award, we will include your voluntary commitment in the award, and you must report on the funds. If you don't provide your promised amount, we may have to decrease your award amount or use other enforcement actions.

Post-award requirements

Before you apply, make sure you understand the requirements that come with an award.

See [Step 6: Learn What Happens After Award](#) for information on regulations that apply, reporting, and more.

Statutory authority

Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA), [42 U.S.C. 10412](#).

Agency priorities

Required alignment with ACF vision, mission, values, priorities, and guiding principles

The recipient of this award must implement any funds awarded under this NOFO to effectuate program goals or agency priorities in accordance with [ACF's vision, mission, values, priorities, & guiding principles](#) when authorized. Funded activities must advance ACF's vision of resilient, safe, healthy, and economically secure children, youth, families, and communities, and support ACF's mission to foster health and well-being through effective, accountable, and compassionate human services when awarded in any programs that authorize these priorities.

Consistent with ACF's values, in carrying out any project that is funded under this NOFO, the recipient is required to adhere to the following principle:

1. **Program integrity and fiscal stewardship:** Administer funds in accordance with all applicable federal statutes, regulations, and award conditions; maintain strong internal controls; and prevent waste, fraud, and abuse.

The recipient is also required to adhere to the following principles when consistent with the authority and scope of the award and its activities:

2. **Evidence-based and outcome-focused practices:** Design and deliver services using evidence-based or evidence-informed approaches, establish measurable performance goals, and use data to monitor outcomes and drive continuous improvement.
3. **Partnership and local leadership:** Coordinate with state, tribal, territorial, local, and community partners, as appropriate, and tailor services to meet community-identified needs while respecting local decision-making authority.

In addition, in keeping with ACF's priorities, the recipient must administer any project that is awarded under this NOFO in accordance with the following objectives when consistent with the scope of the award and its activities in programs that are authorized to advance them:

4. **Family stability and child well-being:** Strengthen families, promote safe and stable home environments, and improve outcomes for children and youth through prevention-focused and developmentally appropriate services.
5. **Work, self-sufficiency, and economic mobility:** Support pathways to employment, job retention, and economic independence for individuals and

families, including through workforce development, education, and supportive services.

6. **High-quality early care and learning:** Where applicable, invest in high-quality early childhood programs that support school readiness, healthy development, and long-term success.

The recipient must demonstrate ongoing compliance with these values and priorities, in all programs that are authorized to advance them, through program design, implementation, reporting, and evaluation. Failure to meaningfully align funded activities with the applicable requirements may result in corrective action, additional reporting requirements, or other enforcement actions consistent with federal grant regulations found at [2 CFR Part 200](#) and the terms and conditions of this award.

Program description

Background

The Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) authorizes discretionary grant programs to provide services, training and technical assistance, and hotline operations to support survivors of domestic violence, family violence, dating violence, and sexual assault.

The purpose of the Specialized Services for Abused Parents and Their Children (SSAPC) grant is to expand the capacity of family violence, domestic violence, and dating violence service programs and community-based programs to prevent future domestic violence by addressing, in an appropriate manner, the needs of children exposed to family violence, domestic violence, or dating violence. Under this program, we have awarded three rounds of demonstration projects. The third round will complete their final year of performance and evaluation on September 30, 2026. This new NOFO funds a fourth round of demonstration grants.

Activities

We plan to fund 60 programs, build the knowledge base for domestic violence programs, and expand capacity to address the needs of abused parents and their children.

Required activities

Required activities include:

- Direct counseling for victims and survivors of family, domestic, or dating violence (and their children).
- Services that are developmentally and age appropriate to the victims and children.
- Advocacy for victims and survivors of family, domestic, or dating violence (and their children). This includes coordinating services with those provided by the child welfare system.
- Services for non-abusing parents to support their roles as caregivers and in responding to the social, emotional, and developmental needs for their children.
- Services that work with the non-abusing parent and child together, where appropriate. Services do not always have to be provided together with both the parent and child physically present.

Optional activities

After leveraging the resources of community-based partners, optional activities include:

- Early childhood development and mental health services.
- Coordinating activities with and providing technical assistance to community-based organizations serving victims and survivors of abuse or children and youth exposed to family violence, domestic violence, and dating violence.
- Services and referrals for children, including child care, transportation, educational support, respite care, supervised visitation, mobile or offsite services, or other necessary services.

We strongly encourage awardees to rely on the resources offered by their network of community partners before using their award to fund these optional activities.

Service requirements

Services must:

- Be shelter-, home-, or community-based and include outreach, home visitation, mobile service delivery, and ongoing contact with families after shelter or non-residential services.
- Be voluntary, resilience focused, developmentally appropriate, culturally and linguistically appropriate, and responsive to family violence, domestic violence, and dating violence concerns, including early childhood development and mental health needs.
- Be accessible to adults, children, or youth with disabilities and provide reasonable modifications.
- Include age-specific services and activities for children, teens, and adolescents.
- Include peer support for either non-abusive parents or children and youth.
- Include advocacy on behalf of the child and, as appropriate, the non-abusive parent.
- Provide structure and support to children and families who are required to, or choose to, remain in contact with a parent who has been abusive when it is either determined to be safe, meaningful, appropriate, or in their best interest as requested by the non-abusive parent and children.
- Consider the victim's decision-making for keeping children safe within the continuum of domestic violence.
- Not place burdens or demands on the non-abusive parent that the parent cannot comply with due to the coercive control of the offender.

- Take precautions to avoid actions that discourage victims from help-seeking, such as making unnecessary referrals to child protective services when survivors go to community-based organizations for assistance in safety planning to protect children.
- Provide support for non-abusive parents in responding to the social, emotional, financial, and developmental needs of their children, including workforce and career development.
- Make referrals to long-term services, as appropriate, to foster and support the family's ongoing goals.
- Expand access to legal services necessary to develop structure and arrangements for safe contact, engagement, parenting time, or visitation with the abusive parent.
- Include community-based projects and outreach.
- Develop prevention and awareness programs for children, youth, and families that support healthy relationships; prevent teen dating violence, risky behaviors, sexual coercion, human trafficking, and technology-facilitated abuse; and use integrated multidisciplinary family-support interventions.
- Maintain ongoing contact, including home visitation or mobile service delivery, with the family or child after the family has left the shelter or non-residential services.
- Focus on developing programs and workforce capacity to enhance services for children and youth exposed to domestic violence and their abused parents.

This includes:

- Building infrastructure within systems to improve collaboration, decrease barriers to services, and increase access to existing services, such as institutionalizing communication among interdisciplinary partners.
- Focus on developing programs, policies, procedures, and workforce capacity to enhance services for children and youth exposed to family violence, domestic violence, and dating violence and their abused parents to promote family well-being, protective factors, and self-sufficiency.

Program goals and objectives

You must address the needs of abused parents, children, and youth exposed to family violence, domestic violence, and dating violence. You must also contribute to the knowledge base for domestic violence programs focused on children and youth by meeting the following goals:

Improve Support

You must improve support and responses to abused parents and their children across the targeted community, state, or tribe by:

- Developing and enhancing community-based interventions for children and youth exposed to domestic violence whose parents may or may not have requested support services from a domestic violence program.
- Facilitating access to safe, structured contact, engagement, or parenting time with the abusing parent, when it is safe and meaningful to do so.
- Developing and disseminating guidelines, training, and technical assistance for service providers and partner agencies to improve identification of and responses to children and youth exposed to domestic violence, while supporting workforce well-being, child and youth development, family independence, and self-sufficiency:
 - Educational systems.
 - Child protective services and child welfare systems.
 - Child support services.
 - Disability service providers.
 - Public benefits programs.
 - Health care services.
 - Behavioral health services.
 - Faith-based and community programs.
 - Family courts and the legal system.
 - Responsible fatherhood and healthy relationships programs.
 - Youth development and youth services, including homeless youth.

Provide new services

You must coordinate, provide new, or enhanced residential and non-residential services for children and youth exposed to family violence, domestic violence, and dating violence by:

- Enhancing and testing service or program models, implementation strategies, evaluation tools, and measures.
- Documenting and sharing lessons learned.
- Developing, adopting, and evaluating innovative programs (e.g., arts, movement, and mindfulness interventions).
- Incorporating resilience focused and relevant interventions for abused parents or their children exposed to family violence, domestic violence, and dating violence that strengthen the parent-child bond and reinforce the non-abusing parent's engagement.
- Expanding safe, structured contact, engagement, or parenting time with the abusing parent, when it is safe and meaningful to do so.

Enhance evidence-informed practices

You must enhance services, strategies, advocacy, and systems change efforts with evidence- and practice-informed principles to improve outcomes for all people exposed to domestic violence by:

- Providing peer-to-peer technical assistance within the network of demonstration projects.
- Developing a plan to evaluate practices and measure programming outcomes in partnership with the National Capacity Building Center to Expand Services for Children, Youth, and Abused Parents Impacted by Domestic Violence (ESCYAP).
- Documenting lessons learned and implementation strategies to share with the broader field.

About evidence-informed practices

For this NOFO, evidence-informed practices combine the best available research, professional experience, and input from service providers, advocates, prevention experts, and affected communities. These practices aim to provide services that are likely to improve outcomes for abused parents and children exposed to family violence, domestic violence, and dating violence.

Outcomes

By the end of the grant period, you must have:

- Improved processes and outcomes for abused parents, children, and youth exposed to family violence, domestic violence, and dating violence.
- Implemented a program that improves support and responses to anyone who is abused and exposed to family violence, domestic violence, and dating violence.
- Expanded capacity to provide residential and non-residential services that are accessible to abused parents, children, and youth exposed to family violence, domestic violence, and dating violence.
- Enhanced evidence-informed services, strategies, advocacy, safety planning, and interventions for anyone who is abused and exposed to family violence, domestic violence, and dating violence.
- Expanded your capacity as an organization to provide support, skills development, and resources to increase the healing, resilience, and protective capacities of parents and families.
- Addressed, in an appropriate manner, the needs of children, youth, and their abused parents who are exposed to violence.

Activities evaluation plan

If funded, you will participate in a cross-site evaluation conducted by the technical assistance and training provider. This will involve data collection and other programmatic activities.

Other program requirements

In designing your program, you must:

- Meet the needs of children and youth exposed to family violence, domestic violence, and dating violence in planning and carrying out all activities. This commitment must include providing relevant training for all staff as determined in partnership with OFVPS and ESCYAP, the designated training and technical assistance provider.
- Enhance the resilience of children and youth exposed to family violence, domestic violence, and dating violence through survivor-centered, child-focused services that strengthen the parent-child bond, and include evaluation and continuous quality improvement processes that measure age-appropriate outcomes.
- Comply with FVPSA confidentiality requirements in [42 U.S.C. 10406\(c\)\(5\)](#) and [45 CFR 1370.4](#).

- Use evidence-informed and participatory approaches in program design, adaptation, and implementation by incorporating regular input from children, youth, non-abusing parents, and affected communities through mechanisms such as focus groups, surveys, and other feedback strategies.
- Consider the needs of children and youth regarding their abusing parent. Where appropriate, safe, and meaningful, consider providing services to the abusive parent and child to restore the parent-child bond.
- Address co-occurring issues that intersect with domestic violence, such as child sexual abuse, human trafficking, technology-facilitated abuse, substance use, mental health, and teen dating violence. Explicitly detail how the program will include these contexts into its interventions and services.
- Plan for major meetings or events in conjunction with OFVPS.
- Provide a detailed plan for project implementation, a work plan, a training and events schedule, an evaluation schedule, and a plan for reporting on the outcomes of the project.
- Plan for three representatives of your organization, including the local evaluation partner, to travel to an orientation within the first 6 months of award. (Location has not yet been determined.)
- Plan for at least two representatives from your organization to participate in at least one OFVPS-sponsored meeting each project period.

Reports and evaluation

- During the 6- to 12-month planning period, recipients must work with ESCYAP and other designated technical assistance providers to conduct a needs assessment; develop evaluation, data collection, and outcome measurement plans; and refine consistent outcome measures.
- We do not require a rigorous evidence-based study design that includes a comparison condition. Propose activities that will meet a feasible and realistic standard of evaluation.
- You must develop and report internal outputs and outcomes appropriate to your unique project. Outputs and outcomes must be measurable and resilience focused.
- Outcomes must be analyzed by designated evaluators who have experience with quantitative and qualitative data collection, management, and analysis. Evaluators must be supported by sufficient time and resources for this purpose.

Protecting victim data

Grant recipients must ensure there are policies in place that will protect the safety, confidentiality, and privacy of all victims and their families. Provide a plan that explains how you will protect victims' and their families' data.

You and all organizations involved in your project may not:

- Disclose any personally identifying information collected related to services requested, delivered, or denied under your program
- Reveal any personally identifying information without informed, written, reasonably time-limited consent by the person about whom information is sought
- Require an adult, youth, or child victim of family violence, domestic violence, or dating violence to provide a consent to release their personally identifying information as a condition of eligibility for services
- For more information, see [42 U.S.C. 10406\(c\)\(5\)](#) and [45 CFR 1370.4](#).

In accordance with the ACF priorities above, this NOFO will also implement the following principle when consistent with the authority and scope of the award and its activities:

- **Promoting Work and Self-Sufficiency:** Design and deliver services using evidence-based or evidence-informed approaches, to developing programs and services that demonstrates measurable pathways to self-sufficiency and economic independence for victims and survivors.
- **Promoting Marriage and Family Formation:** Strong families are the cornerstone of a healthy society. ACF will prioritize initiatives that promote marriage, family formation, and stability.

Cooperative agreement— Description of ACF's involvement

Because awards under this NOFO will be cooperative agreements, OFVPS will play a substantial role in your project. Our involvement includes:

- Providing key guidance and consultation on project design and implementation to the primary recipient throughout the project period.
- Reviewing, providing feedback on, and approving the project scope, activities, and work plan for the project, as well as the structure and integrity of the program's appropriateness of the trauma-informed services that will be provided. This includes any changes to key personnel on the project.
- Proposing and approving major changes to project scope, activities, and work plans.

- Reviewing and approving final drafts of all materials, articles, major publications, and research reports that are made and distributed with resources from this cooperative agreement.
- Participating in major project activities, such as leadership committee meetings, conferences, trainings, or other relevant project meetings.
- Organizing frequent consultations in various formats to review activities, share information, and promote national coordination.

We'll incorporate the respective responsibilities of OFVPS and recipients into the Notice of Award (NoA) and its terms and conditions. We'll discuss them with applicants during the pre-award negotiations. We do not expect that the cooperative agreement will change the project requirements for the recipients under this NOFO.

Funding policies and limitations

Changes in HHS regulations

As of October 1, 2025, HHS adopted [2 CFR 200](#), with some exceptions included in [2 CFR 300](#). These regulations replace those in 45 CFR 75.

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.
- To the extent permitted by law, including any relevant court orders, you may not use funds from this NOFO for any diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEI and DEIA) activities. This includes:
 - DEI- or DEIA-related research.
 - Activities that discriminate or show preference based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, or other protected traits.

- Any efforts that promote a “discriminatory equity ideology.” To the extent permitted by law, including any relevant court orders, ACF will also not allow funds awarded under this NOFO to support any services or activities that inculcate or promote gender ideology.

For guidance on other types of costs that we restrict or do not allow, see General Provisions for Selected Items of Costs of the Uniform Guidance, [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.
- Pre-award costs.
- No Federal funds issued under this award may be used to make referrals for activities outside the scope of the authorizing program statute, nor may such referrals be made during funded program activities. Activities must focus on enhancing domestic, dating, family, and sexual violence intervention and prevention efforts and are aligned within the [FVPSA 42 USC Ch. 110](#).

Indirect costs

Indirect costs are those shared across multiple projects and not easily separated.

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

Method 1 — Approved rate. If you currently have an indirect cost rate approved by your cognizant federal agency, you may use that rate.

Method 2 — *De minimis* rate. If you do not have a negotiated indirect cost rate, you may elect to charge a *de minimis* rate (see [2 CFR 200.414\(f\)](#)). This rate may be up to 15% of modified total direct costs (MTDC). See the definition of MTDC ([2 CFR 200.1](#)). You can use this rate indefinitely.

You may not charge costs included in your indirect cost pool as direct costs.

Subawards

As the prime recipient, you must maintain a substantive role in the project. This means that you conduct funded activities and provide services necessary and integral to completing the project.

Monitoring your subrecipient’s activities alone as described in [2 CFR 200.332](#) is not a substantive role.

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

All subrecipients must have 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 [the Office of Personnel Management information 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 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

If you earn any money from your award-supported project activities (known as program income), you must use it for the purposes and under the conditions of the award. Find more about program income at [2 CFR 200.307](#).

Use of E-Verify

All funded grantees and subgrantees are encouraged to use the national [E-Verify](#) system operated by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, in partnership with the Social Security Administration, to ensure their employees are American citizens or are eligible to work in the United States.



Step 2:

Get Ready to Apply

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Find the application package

The application package has all the forms you need to apply. You can find it at this NOFO's Grants.gov opportunity page. Then select the Package tab.

We recommend that you select the **Subscribe** button from the View Grant Opportunity page for this NOFO to get updates.

If you can't use Grants.gov to download application materials or have other technical difficulties, including issues with application submission, [contact Grants.gov](#) for assistance.

Get registered

SAM.gov

You must have an active account with SAM.gov to apply. 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.
- You must agree to the [financial assistance general certifications and representations \[PDF\]](#) specifically. Those for contracts are different.

When you register, you will also receive your required Unique Entity Identifier (UEI).

Once you register:

- You will have to maintain your registration throughout the life of any award.
- If your organization has multiple UEIs, use the one associated with your physical location.

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](#).

Learn more

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



Step 3:

Build Your Application

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Application checklist

Make sure that you have everything you need to apply. You will find the forms in Grants.gov.

File one: Narratives

Use the Project Narrative Attachment form.

Component	Included in page limit?
☐ Table of contents	Yes
☐ Project summary	Yes
☐ Project narrative	Yes
☐ Line-item budget and budget narrative	Yes

File two: Attachments

Insert each in a single Other Attachments form.

Component	Included in page limit?
☐ ACF priorities alignment attestation	No
☐ Indirect cost agreement	Yes
☐ Legal proof of nonprofit status	Yes
☐ Additional eligibility documentation	No
☐ Organizational capacity supporting information (including organization chart)	Yes
☐ Third-party agreements	Yes
☐ Letters of support	Yes

Standard forms

Use each required form in Grants.gov.

Component	Included in page limit?
☐ Project Abstract Summary	No
☐ Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)	No
☐ Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs (SF-424A)	No
☐ Assurances for Non-Construction Programs (SF-424B)	No
☐ Key Contacts	No
☐ Grants.gov Lobbying form	No
☐ Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL)	No
☐ Project/Performance Site Location(s) (SF-P/PSL)	No

Application contents and format

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

Your organization's authorized official must certify your application.

See [intergovernmental review](#) to find out if you need to make any other submissions.

Required format

Page limit for file one and file two combined: 50 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

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

Attachments: Can be single-spaced

Tables and footnotes throughout: Can be single-spaced

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

File one: Narratives

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.

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, your proposed services or research questions.

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.

Purpose and need

Geographic location

Provide the precise physical location of your project and boundaries of the area you will serve. If you will include any subrecipients in your project that will serve specific geographic areas include their locations as well.

Need for assistance

Identify the problems you plan to solve. These problems could be physical, economic, social, financial, institutional, etc. To do so:

- Demonstrate the need, including the nature and scope of the problem.
- Provide, as appropriate, supporting documentation, such as letters of support and testimonials, in your attachments.
- Include any relevant data based on planning studies or needs assessments. You may refer to them in the endnotes or footnotes of your application.
- Use demographic data and participant or beneficiary information where you can.

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 target audience and provide a compelling reason for focusing on your identified population. Incorporate demographic data and participant or beneficiary information, including:
 - Information and data on both children and youth exposed to DV and abused parents in your community and stakeholder capacity in your community to meet their needs
 - When appropriate, a literature review should be used to support the objectives and needs described in this section

Response

Approach

Outline your action plan. Describe the scope of your proposed project and describe in detail how you will accomplish it. 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.

Describe any:

- Design or technological innovations.
- Reductions in cost or time.
- Unique social or community involvement.

Provide a list of organizations, cooperating entities, consultants, or other key individuals that will work on the project along with a short description of how they'll be contributing. In your attachments, be sure to include third-party agreements.

Explain how you will keep victims of family violence, domestic or dating violence—and their children—safe, and how you will protect their personal information.

Describe how you will provide resilience focused services that are developmentally and age-appropriate and culturally and linguistically appropriate to victims and children.

Describe how you will make sure that professionals working with the children receive training and technical assistance appropriate and relevant to the unique needs of children exposed to family, domestic, or dating violence.

Be sure to consider the program goals, requirements, and activities in the program description.

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 tasks you plan to complete 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 by a specific date.
- Provide target dates for activities you can't quantify.
- Cover the full period of performance in your timeline.

Impact

Project performance evaluation plan

Describe 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 progress toward the project's goals and objectives.
- The inputs, key activities, and expected outcomes of the funded activities. Inputs may include your collaborative partners, key staff, budget, service processes, or other resources.
- How you will measure inputs, activities, and outcomes.
- How you will use the resulting information to improve your funded activities.
- Any processes that support overall data quality.
- The organizational systems and processes you will use to 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.
- The frequency of data collection.
- The specific measures you plan to evaluate. Examples include: helping abused parents increase their capacity, improving child safety planning, executing strategies to enhance family well-being and self-sufficiency, etc.
- How you will use program data to make program adjustments or adaptations.

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.

Resources and capabilities

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 has the relevant experience and expertise needed to carry out your project.
- Describe your team's experience (including any partnering organizations) with administering, developing, implementing, managing, and evaluating similar projects.
- Provide evidence that your team, including partnering organizations, has the organizational capability to fulfill their roles and functions effectively.
- Disclose your plan to enter into subaward agreements. If planning subawards, describe the work each subrecipient will complete.
- Provide evidence that your full project team has the organizational capability to fulfill their roles and functions effectively. This includes having experience and knowledge delivering family, domestic, or dating violence informed services with families.
- Provide some supporting information in the organizational capacity supporting information section of your [attachments](#).

Current and pending funding support

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

Indicate which projects and proposals require committed time from the project director, principal investigator, or other key personnel of the project you are proposing in this application.

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 [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 make sure that your federal funds and activities have proper oversight. Include:

- A description of the governance, policies and procedures, and systems you use for record-keeping and financial management.
- A description of the procedures you use 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 staff and any partners or subrecipients.

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 improved 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, describe 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 make sure that you properly handle confidential and sensitive information, including information from any subrecipients or contractors.
- A plan for the disposition of such information at the end of the period of performance.

For more information, see [2 CFR 200.303\(e\)](#).

Protecting victim data

- The Family Violence Prevention and Services Act provides additional guidance on ensuring the protection of victim data as described in the [Program description](#) section.
- For more information, see [42 U.S.C. 10406\(c\)\(5\)](#) and [45 CFR 1370.4](#).

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 enough staff time and budget for dissemination.
- A preliminary plan to evaluate whether 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](#).

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.
- In your budget, plan for:
 - Three representatives of your organization, including the local evaluation partner, to travel to an orientation within the first 6 months of award. We have not yet determined the location.
 - Travel expenses for at least two representatives (Authorized Organization Representatives) from the recipient organization to participate in at least one OFVPS-sponsored meeting each project period.

Proprietary or personally identifiable information

Clearly identify any salary or other proprietary information or personally identifiable information within your application. Identification will ensure this information is not shared with reviewers. Note on page 1 of the attachments file (file two) where the information to be redacted is located.

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.

File two: Attachments

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.

ACF priorities alignment attestation

Note: Not included in the page limit. This should be submitted with the application or before award.

You must self-certify that you will align with the ACF priorities that are relevant to this funding opportunity, as identified in both the Program description and *Step 4*, under Merit review process, Scoring criteria, Alignment with *ACF Vision, Mission, Values, Priorities, and Guiding Principles*, elements 2 and 3. You must provide the following on your organization's letterhead.

I hereby attest and certify that:

_____ (Applicant Name) affirms its commitment to supporting and advancing ACF's published Vision, Mission, Values, Priorities, and Guiding Principles of the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), consistent with applicable federal statutes, regulations, and Administration priorities.

Insert Date of Signature:

Print Name and Title of the Authorized Official Representative (AOR):

Signature of AOR:

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 documents for a parent organization. Also include a statement signed by an official of the parent group that your organization is a nonprofit affiliate.

Additional eligibility documentation

Provide documentation that you meet the requirements in [other eligibility criteria](#).

Documentation might include your vision or mission statement or other materials that clearly show your organization's focus on family violence, domestic violence or dating violence or your record on serving victims and their children.

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 your organization's fiscal control and accountability procedures.
- Copy or description of your organization's personnel policies.
- Information on compliance with federal, state, and local government standards.

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 (MOUs), and memoranda of agreement. We do not consider general letters of support to be third-party agreements.

Any such agreement must:

- Describe each party's 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 the agreement is 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.

Standard forms

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

Forms	Submission requirement
Project Abstract Summary	With the application.
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 taxpayer money.

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

[See instructions and examples \[PDF\]](#).



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 (scoring) 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 process

A panel reviews all applications that pass the initial review. The panel members use the criteria shown in each section of the project narrative and in the line-item budget and budget narrative section.

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

Criteria summary

Criterion	Total number of points = 110
1. Purpose and need	5 points
2. Response	30 points
3. Resources and capabilities	30 points
4. Impact	20 points
5. Line-item budget and budget narrative	15 points
6. ACF priority alignment	10 points

Scoring criteria

1. Purpose and need

Maximum points: 5

The reviewer will assess how well you:

1.1 Describe a clear need for the proposed project and a clear plan for how the project will address those needs, including: **(0 to 1 point)**

- Barriers to services
- Challenges faced by adults, children, adolescents, and teens who are impacted by dating violence, domestic violence, and family violence
- Demonstrating how community-based organizations address these challenges

1.2 The application demonstrates: **(0 to 2 points)**

- A plan for addressing the problems identified.
- The types of assistance needed.
- How proposed project objectives will address the identified needs.

1.3 Provide documentation on the states, tribes, organizations, or communities to be impacted and served. **(0 to 1 point)**

1.4 Demonstrate a clear commitment to soliciting information about and incorporating the needs of children and youth exposed to DV in planning and carrying out all activities that meet program goals and requirements, as discussed in the program description. **(0 to 1 point)**

2. Response

Maximum points: 30

The reviewer will assess how well you:

2.1 Present a reasonable plan to identify outcomes and outputs for the project. The plan should include an evaluation process that will lead to specialized advocacy and practice changes within the domestic, family, or dating violence field. The plan explains how the outcomes will positively impact children exposed to domestic violence.

(0 to 3 points)

2.2 Demonstrate in a timeline, a reasonable relationship between planned project activities as well as intended quantitative and qualitative outcomes. **(0 to 2 points)**

2.3 Describe how the proposed project will share lessons learned to raise awareness within the domestic violence field, the general public, and public and private entities. Lessons learned should be related to offering resilience focused programming for families and individuals impacted by family, domestic, and dating violence, as described in the instructions for the project approach. **(0 to 5 points)**

2.4 Propose project activities that address the program goals, requirements, and allowable activities as described in the program description and the instructions for the project approach. **(0 to 5 points)**

2.5 Describe how your plan relates project tasks to the objectives, provides a feasible and realistic timetable for the accomplishment of significant project activities and products, and selects appropriate project activities to achieve project goals and objectives and meet the identified needs. **(0 to 5 points)**

2.6 Include an outline that explains how the inputs, processes, and outcomes will be measured, and how the resulting information will be used to inform improvement of funded activities. **(0 to 5 points)**

2.7 Describe a strong plan for how collaborations will be undertaken and relationships with project partners are managed. **(0 to 5 points)**

3. Resources and capabilities

Maximum points: 30

The reviewer will assess how well you:

3.1 Provide that your team has the relevant experience and expertise needed to carry out the project through brief position descriptions and resumes of key staff, including consultants. **(0 to 3 points)**

3.2 Describe a strong, meaningful, and realistic plan for training project and program staff in the appropriate topics to carry out the grant safely and successfully. The plan explains how training will help staff handle issues in a competent manner that appropriately responds to a range of children and youth and their families. **(0 to 3 points)**

3.3 Include documentation of expertise in all required areas as described in organizational capacity. **(0 to 2 points)**

3.4 Have identified relevant and necessary project partners before application. **(0 to 5 points)**

3.5 Propose (if applicable) MOUs, the application includes MOUs that are detailed, include the roles and responsibilities of both parties, and describe fair and appropriate compensation, as described in [third-party](#) agreements under the [project narrative](#). **(0 to 5 points)**

3.6 Include letters of support from stakeholders such as local, state, tribal, and/or national organizations that have experience with your organization and can speak to your prior work and capacity to undertake the project. See attachments, letters of support. **(0 to 2 points)**

3.7 For state-wide, regional, or multi-tribal projects, you will be assessed on your ability to manage projects across local, regions, or tribes. You will need to provide evidence of: **(0 to 5 points)**

- Documented prior work statewide or across regions or tribes.
- Documented history of providing successful technical assistance.
- Documented support from DV service providers within the community, state(s), or tribes.
- Any other evidence establishing your capacity to manage a project across the community, state(s), or tribes.

3.8 Describe policies, procedures, and protocols to ensure the non-disclosure of confidential or private information of victims of family violence, dating violence, and domestic violence. **(0 to 5 points)**

4. Impact

Maximum points: 20

The reviewer will assess how well you:

4.1 Clearly address the impact experienced by the target population, its proposed intervention, and the proposed outcomes, including improved well-being for adult domestic violence survivors and their children. **(0 to 4 points)**

4.2 Describe the frequency of data collection and use of needs assessments and program data to make program adjustments. The application includes a description of how the organization will continue to make ongoing program adjustments that will improve performance and a description of data analysis, as well as a process for measuring these adjustments and determining whether to continue them. **(0 to 4 points)**

4.3 Demonstrate a reasonable plan for measuring the broad base of adults and children reached or impacted by services and programming. **(0 to 3 points)**

4.4 Demonstrate a reasonable plan, including risk mitigation, to conduct an internal evaluation as described in reports and evaluation. The ESCYAP recipient is prohibited from serving as the applicant's evaluator. **(0 to 3 points)**

4.5 Demonstrate a sound plan for conducting internal evaluations related to service provision and programmatic outcomes. **(0 to 3 points)**

4.6 Describe what types of support and technical assistance would be needed from the ESCYAP recipient to develop an internal outcomes evaluation, as described in reports and evaluation. **(0 to 3 points)**

5. Line-Budget and budget narrative

Maximum points: 15

The reviewer will assess how well you:

5.1 Detail line-item budget of project costs is included and demonstrates how cost estimates were derived. The budget must include all the information required and described in the line-item budget and budget justification. **(0 to 2 points)**

5.2 Propose a budget and budget justification feasible for the proposed approach, logical, reasonable, and appropriate. **(0 to 2 points)**

5.3 Propose a budget that demonstrates sufficient funds to support a local evaluation, including staffing and other resources needed such as software, stipends for focus groups, child care, survey rewards, etc. **(0 to 2 points)**

5.4 Propose a budget and budget justification free of errors, such as mathematical errors, project activities not reflected in the budget, etc. **(0 to 2 points)**

5.5 Demonstrate how the funds requested are necessary and essential to accomplish the program goals as described in the program description. **(0 to 3 points)**

5.6 Delineate fair compensation for all project partners. **(0 to 2 points)**

5.7 Provide a narrative budget justification that includes travel funds to attend an OFVPS-sponsored, in-person peer-to-peer meeting. This travel budget should include itemized travel expenses of project personnel. Indicate source of travel policies applied, either your own policy or Federal Travel Regulations. **(0 to 2 points)**

6. Alignment with ACF vision, mission, values, priorities, and guiding principles (up to 10 points)

ACF's published Vision, Mission, Values, Priorities, and Guiding Principles inform programmatic and administrative expectations under this funding opportunity.

Applicants must demonstrate alignment by describing how the proposed project advances relevant ACF priorities through program design and evaluation. Applicants should clearly identify which ACF priorities are relevant and explain how those priorities are reflected in the proposed approach. Applicants are encouraged to provide examples of prior experiences that can show alignment efforts that have already been achieved. Examples should describe strategies used, measurable results (if available), and lessons learned.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to organize their response using the three criteria below.

Reviewers will assess the extent to which the application demonstrates clear, specific, and measurable connections between ACF priorities and the proposed project. Scores will reflect the strength, clarity, and specificity of those connections.

Scoring Considerations for the next three criteria:

- **High-scoring applications** will demonstrate clear understanding, intentional integration, and measurable alignment with ACF priorities across all three criteria.
- **Moderate-scoring applications** may reference ACF priorities but provide limited specificity, uneven integration, or minimal connection to measurable outcomes.
- **Low-scoring applications** will show minimal or unclear understanding of ACF priorities and lack meaningful connection to program design or performance.

6.1 Demonstrated Review and Understanding (Up to 2 Points)

The extent to which the applicant demonstrates that it has reviewed ACF's Vision, Mission, Values, Priorities, and Guiding Principles and explains their relevance to the proposed project.

Reviewers will look for:

- Identification of specific ACF priorities (not general or vague references).
- A clear explanation of how those priorities relate to the proposed project.

6.2 Operationalization in Program Design and Implementation (Up to 3 Points)

The degree to which the following one or more ACF priorities are translated into specific elements of the proposed project:

- Promoting Work and Self Sufficiency
and/or
- Promoting Marriage and Family Formation

Reviewers will assess if the applicant:

- Connects identified ACF priorities to program design, service delivery, and implementation.
- Demonstrates how priorities influence partnerships, staffing, or key program decisions.
- Provides clear, actionable examples of how alignment will be carried out in practice.

6.3 Integration into Performance and Continuous Improvement (Up to 5 Points)

The extent to which the following one or more ACF priorities are reflected in measurable outcomes and ongoing program improvement:

- Promoting Work and Self Sufficiency
and/or
- Promoting Marriage and Family Formation

Reviewers will assess the extent to which the application:

- Aligns performance measures and expected outcomes with identified priorities.
- Includes evaluation methods or performance indicators that reflect those priorities.
- Describes how data will be used for continuous quality improvement.
- 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 and Exclusions 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 [2 CFR 200.206](#).

Selection process

When making funding decisions, we consider:

- Merit review and scoring results including the ten points for Alignment with *ACF Vision, Mission, Values, Priorities, and Guiding Principles* to the extent permitted by law. 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 [DEI and DEIA activities](#), to the extent permitted by law, including any relevant court orders.
- Whether a recipient was funded under previous NOFOs, HHS-2016-ACF-ACYF-EV-1163 or HHS-2020-ACF-ACYF-EV-1812, in accordance with FVPSA, 42 U.S.C. 10412(a)(2).

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

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

Application submission and deadlines

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Application submission and deadlines

Application

Deadline

Due on Tuesday, September 8, 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.

Grants.gov submission

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:

**FVPSA Specialized Services for Abused Parents and Their Children
(Demonstration Project)**

Attention: Jan-Sheri Morris

Switzer Building 330 C Street, SW

Washington, DC 20201

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.

Intergovernmental review

You will need to submit application information for intergovernmental review under [Executive Order 12372, Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs](#).

Under this order, states may design their own processes for commenting on some applications. Some states have this process and others don't.

To find out your state's approach, see the [list of state single points of contact \[PDF\]](#). If you find a contact on the list for your state, contact them as soon as you can to learn their process. If you do not find a contact for your state, you don't need to do anything further.

This requirement never applies to American Indian and Alaska Native tribes or tribal organizations.



Step 6:

Learn What Happens After Award

In this step

Post-award requirements and administration [55](#)

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 [2 CFR 200](#), Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements, effective October 1, 2025. These replace those in 45 CFR 75, with some exceptions in [2 CFR 300](#).
- The HHS [Grants Policy Statement \(GPS\)](#). 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 Grants Policy Statement](#), Appendix D: HHS Administrative and National Policy Requirements and the [ACF Administrative and National Policy Requirements](#).
- [45 CFR Part 87 Appendix B, Equal Treatment for Faith-Based Organizations](#). This appendix explains the obligations of and protections for faith-based organizations applying for grants.
- Applicable program statute and regulations at [42 U.S.C. 10401](#) et seq. (specifically [42 U.S.C. 10412](#)) and [45 CFR Part 1370](#).

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

Jan-Sheri Morris

Jan-Sheri.Morris@acf.hhs.gov

202-480-1328

Grants management

Ann Hudson

Ann.Hudson@acf.hhs.gov

206-615-3660

Help with systems

Grants.gov

Grants.gov provides 24/7 support. Hold on to your ticket number.

- Phone: 1-800-518-4726
- Email: support@grants.gov

SAM.gov

If you need help, you can:

- Call 866-606-8220.
- 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](#)
- [Office of Family Violence Prevention and Services](#)

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 Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number 0970-0139, which expires April 30, 2029. 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