

Notice of Funding Opportunity

Application due Wednesday, August 26, 2026



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

Collaborative Approaches to Adoption for Children with Complex Needs

Opportunity number: HHS-2026-ACF-ACYF-CO-0055



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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 Wednesday, August 26, 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)

Administration on Children, Youth, and Families

Children's Bureau

Implementing and evaluating collaborative approaches to helping children and youth with complex or high-acuity needs achieve permanency through adoption.

Summary

This funding opportunity aims to support innovations that build evidence on how to help children and youth with complex or high-acuity needs achieve permanency through adoption. The projects will focus on collaborative, system-level efforts to recruit, train, support, and retain families who can meet these children's needs.

Projects must be led by researchers who work within a child welfare agency or work in close partnership with one or more child welfare agencies. Together, researchers and child welfare program staff will identify and evaluate promising collaborative approaches.

Collaborations that include [Medicaid Section 1115 Research and Demonstration Projects](#), private adoption agencies, or community- or faith-based organizations are of particular interest.

You'll be expected to:

- Study how the model works in practice (i.e., implementation study).
- Evaluate the effectiveness of the approach.
- Use the most rigorous research designs, methods, and analytic techniques that are appropriate and sufficient to address the research questions of interest.

Projects are expected to build on the existing research evidence and contribute generalized knowledge.



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

Key facts

Opportunity name:

Collaborative Approaches to Adoption for Children with Complex Needs

Opportunity number:

HHS-2026-ACF-ACYF-CO-0055

Federal assistance listing:

93.652 — Adoption Opportunities

NOFO version:

Original

Key dates

Application

submission deadline:

August 26, 2026

Expected project

start date:

September 30, 2026

See [intergovernmental review](#) for other

submission processes that may apply to this NOFO.

Funding details

Type: Cooperative agreement

Expected total program funding: \$6,450,000

Total expected awards: 3

Minimum award amount (award floor): \$1,500,000

Maximum award amount (award ceiling): \$2,150,000

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

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

Eligibility

Eligible applicants

Eligible entities:

- State, tribal, or county public child welfare agencies.
- Private child welfare agencies under contract with public child welfare agencies.
- Research organizations partnering with child welfare agencies.

If you are not a public child welfare agency, you must document an active partnership with a public child welfare agency or agencies that administer at least one child welfare program in the targeted geographical area(s).

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.

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.

Child welfare agencies may submit multiple distinct applications with different research partners. Research organizations may submit multiple distinct applications with different child welfare agencies.

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

Title II, section 203(b)(4) of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment and Adoption Reform Act of 1978 (CAPTA) ([42 U.S.C. 5113\(b\)\(4\)](#)), as amended by CAPTA Reauthorization Act of 2010

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 and purpose

Adoption agencies often struggle to place children and youth with complex or high-acuity needs in stable, long-term families. Definitions vary, but generally, these children and youth may have severe, chronic, or debilitating medical or mental health conditions, behavioral health challenges, or a combination of issues. For example, one population of interest is young medically fragile children.

Communities and agencies are trying innovative approaches, often employing collaborative partnerships, to address this challenge. Collaborative partnerships develop a more comprehensive network to support these children and youth ([American Public Human Services Association, 2025 \[PDF\]](#)). Yet the field lacks rigorous research evidence on the most effective collaborative approaches to support permanency through adoption for children and youth with complex or high-acuity needs.

The purpose of this funding opportunity is to implement and evaluate these collaborative approaches. This program supports the ACF Priority Area of Promoting Marriage and Family Formation and the Priority Area of Gold-Standard Research. Using rigorous and appropriate research designs, methods, and analytic techniques, it will test system-level innovations aimed at strengthening adoptive families and improving stability through adoption for children with complex or high-acuity needs. The program also supports ACF's [A Home for Every Child](#) initiative. It will help increase the number of permanent adoptive homes available for children with complex or high-acuity needs and reduce the need for foster care.

Project requirements

Implementing and evaluating collaborative approaches

You'll implement and evaluate collaborative approaches to achieving permanency through adoption for children and youth with complex or high-acuity needs. The project will focus on system-level efforts to recruit, train, support, and retain families who can meet these children's behavioral, medical, or emotional needs.

Collaborative approaches involve two or more programs or services that are intentionally aligned. For this funding opportunity, the collaborative approaches you focus on **must** include strategies to recruit, train, support, and retain specialized adoptive homes that can meet the needs of children and youth with complex or high-acuity needs.

Collaborative approaches may also include other strategies. These include:

- Specialized interventions for children and families.
- Support services and respite care for families.
- Training for caseworkers.
- Collaborative, community-based services.
- Coordination with state and local health and education agencies.

You may test collaborative approaches that involve partnerships across multiple public and private agencies and organizations. Examples include child welfare agencies, program and service providers, community partners, and state and local health and education agencies.

In alignment with ACF's emphasis on partnerships and local leadership, ACF will prioritize projects that include partnerships with one or more of the following:

- A [Medicaid Section 1115 Research and Demonstration Project](#).
- A private adoption agency.
- A community-based or faith-based organization.

Overall, you're expected to build on the existing research evidence and contribute generalized knowledge on how child welfare agencies can collaborate with other organizations to help children and youth with complex behavioral, medical, or emotional needs find permanent, loving adoptive homes.

You'll be expected to test your model's theory of change. This includes studying how the model works in practice (i.e., an implementation study) and evaluating the effectiveness of the approach. Please note:

- Implementation studies must document the supports needed for implementation, supporting future replication and scale-up.
- Effectiveness designs must address how well the collaborative approach leads to improvements in permanency through adoption for children and youth with complex or high-acuity needs.
- For both studies, you must use research designs, methods, and analytic techniques that are rigorous, appropriate, and sufficient to address the research questions of interest.

You must also:

- Follow all required procedures to [protect human subjects](#).
- Pre-register your project with a public registry.

- Research plans, methods, and analysis approaches must be registered before data collection or analysis begins.
- Examples of relevant registries include [Clinicaltrials.gov](https://clinicaltrials.gov) and [Osf.io](https://osf.io).

Partnership and active engagement

Projects must be led by researchers working in partnership with child welfare program staff. Researchers may be housed within a state, tribal, or county public child welfare agency or a private child welfare agency that works under contract with the public child welfare agency. They may also work at a university or research organization that partners with one or more child welfare agencies. If you are not a public child welfare agency, you must have an active partnership with the public child welfare agency or agencies that administer at least one child welfare program in the geographical area(s) targeted by the collaborative approach that you are evaluating.

You must intentionally and actively engage the groups and individuals who care about your results at every stage of implementation and evaluation. Examples of relevant groups and individuals include partnering organizations, state and local leadership, program participants, and community members. By engaging them, you're expected to increase the relevance of the research to these individuals and groups. You're also expected to increase the rigor of your research, by ensuring that research designs, methods, and measures are feasible and acceptable and that results of preliminary and final analyses are interpreted in their proper context. You must be transparent when gathering feedback to ensure the research remains unbiased and independent and to protect the research from real or perceived bias.

Collaborating with peers and mandatory meetings

You'll be expected to participate in a consortium with other award recipients to:

- Share lessons learned.
- Identify opportunities for collaborative analyses.
- Develop collective expertise and resources to share with the field.

Principal investigators must attend yearly in-person meetings and monthly virtual meetings throughout the award period. Other key staff members and partners may also attend, depending on your project's leadership structure.

Disseminating research results

You're expected to disseminate your research. This means you must:

- Share project findings to strengthen the evidence for collaborative approaches.
- Create different types of materials.
- Use appropriate channels to reach your intended audiences.

Intended audiences include researchers, policymakers, and practitioners at national, state, and local levels.

Cooperative agreement— description of ACF's involvement

When funding is awarded in a cooperative agreement, you can expect substantial involvement of federal staff in the performance of the funded activities. In this cooperative agreement, ACF's responsibilities are to:

- Monitor the project and work collaboratively with award recipients to facilitate accomplishment of project goals.
- Provide technical assistance and feedback when necessary, including joint decision-making on research design, approach, and dissemination.
- Approve any subawards and any (material) changes to the project question or approach.
- Lead efforts to encourage cooperation and collaboration among award recipients by organizing regular meetings and calls to review research progress, share information, and promote project coordination.
- Schedule and host one in-person recipient meeting in each year of the award, as well as monthly virtual meetings. Set the agenda and coordinate activities for each meeting.
- Collaborate on activities outlined in the award and approve key project milestones and material products.
- Act as a liaison between the recipient and agency staff to ensure research products are developed and meet the goals and objectives of the funding opportunity.

Funding policies and limitations

Changes in HHS regulations

As of October 1, 2025, HHS has 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.

- 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.

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.



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
☐ Organizational capacity supporting information (including organization chart)	Yes
☐ Third-party agreements	Yes
☐ Protection of human subjects certification	No
☐ References	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
☐ (SF-424B) Assurances for Non-Construction Programs	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.

Required format

Page limit for file one and file two combined: 60 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

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.

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. Model you'll test and theory of change:

- Clearly describe the collaborative model you'll implement and evaluate.
- Describe a clear, detailed theory of change or conceptual framework.
 - It should clearly explain how the activities and services connect to outputs and expected outcomes.

Current evidence and gaps:

- Describe the evidence for the components of the collaborative approach and for the overall model.
 - Include previous studies and the broader literature.
- Describe how your findings could fill important gaps in knowledge.

Research questions and design:

- List specific research questions of interest for the implementation study and effectiveness evaluation.
- Describe the research design and methods.
- Clearly link the proposed research questions to the design and methods you plan to use.
 - Show that the methods are appropriate, rigorous, and feasible to address the research questions.

Sample and protections for human subjects:

- Describe the proposed study sample.
- Describe procedures for protecting human subjects.
- Describe the process you'll use to obtain Human Subjects Certification, if applicable.
 - Address any consent issues related to using data.

Study procedures:

- Identify and describe the data sources you'll use.
 - Also specify whether you plan to collect and analyze primary data, leverage existing data, or both.
- If applicable, describe recruitment procedures, provide evidence that the partnerships that are in place will be sufficient to meet sample size requirements, and describe how you will retain the sample for follow-up.
- If collecting new primary data, include a plan detailing the data collection procedures and timeline.
- If sampling will be employed, describe the sampling strategy and how it will be used.
- If using existing data, describe the nature and scope of each data source, including the sample or population, and explain how the data are appropriate for the project. Provide evidence that you have access to these data sources, such as written agreements with individuals or organizations that can provide access to

specific administrative data. If data sources are not yet available, explain the steps and timeline for gaining access within the project's timeline.

- Describe how the data will be cleaned and processed.
- If collecting qualitative data, describe how the data will be coded.
- If linking data sources, explain how this will be done.

Constructs, measures, and variables:

- Identify the constructs you'll measure.
 - Clearly link them to the research questions of interest.
- Identify the instruments you'll use to measure the constructs.
 - Provide evidence for their reliability and validity with the population served.
- Specify the variables you'll use.

Analytic strategy:

- Provide a detailed plan describing the analytic approach, statistical techniques, and methods of inference you'll use to analyze and interpret the data.
 - In the plan, clearly detail how you'll handle missing data and ensure data quality.
- Provide results of power analyses.
 - They should demonstrate that the sample size will be sufficient to detect effects using the analytic techniques you propose.

Pre-registration:

- Describe a plan to pre-register the study's design and analysis plan *before* data is collected or analyzed.
- Identify an appropriate registry.

Limitations and challenges:

- Specify potential limitations of the proposed study design.
 - This may include potential limitations of the proposed data sources or the analytic strategy.
- Specify potential challenges related to collecting, accessing, linking, and/or analyzing data.
- Propose clear and feasible strategies to mitigate those challenges and continue the proposed work, even if there are delays in any of these steps.

Partnership and active engagement:

- Describe all partnerships required for the project. Demonstrate that:
 - You have an active partnership with a public child welfare agency or agencies that administer at least one child welfare program in the targeted geographical areas.
 - All partners are ready to proceed with the evaluation, if awarded.
- Describe a plan to actively engage all partners, as well as other individuals and groups with an interest in this project.
 - Your plan should describe how you will use active engagement to make your project findings as relevant as possible.

Collaborating with peers and mandatory meetings:

- Describe a plan to participate in the consortium of award recipients. Include:
 - Your willingness to share lessons learned, learn from others, and collaborate with consortium members.
 - Attending the mandatory meetings.

Impact

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.
- You must disclose your plan to enter into subaward agreements. If planning subawards, describe the work each subrecipient will complete.

- Provide evidence that your Project Director, Principal Investigator, and other task leads have the relevant experience and expertise needed to carry out your project.
- Describe your proposed staff and the level of experience they will have collecting data from the focal populations or using the data sources proposed for the analysis.
- If applicable, explain how your team accessed and linked the necessary data sources for the project, or how it will be approached for the project.
- Explain how your proposed staff have established an understanding of, and sensitivity to, the necessary considerations when working with data sources that include confidential information and identifiers.
- Provide evidence that the project team will have access to the appropriate facilities and resources necessary to carry out all phases of the proposed project and ensure data security and confidentiality.
- Describe your project management strategy, including roles and responsibilities, and explain how your plan will ensure that the project is completed on time, within budget, and to a high standard of quality.
- Provide some supporting information in the organizational capacity supporting information section of your [attachments](#).

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\(e\)](#).

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 full period of performance. 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](#).
- Requirements for attendance at mandatory meetings

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

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

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 Organization 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.

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.

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 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.

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 of Human Research Protections](#) website. If you have questions, you can email them at OHRP@HHS.gov or call them at 240-453-6900.

References

Included in the page limit.

Include a reference list for any citations in your narrative.

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 = 115
1. Objectives	5 points
2. Approach	55 points
3. Expected outcomes	5 points
4. Resources and capabilities	30 points
5. Support requested	5 points
6. ACF priority alignment	10 points
7. Bonus	5 points

Scoring criteria

1. Objectives

Maximum points: 5

The reviewer will assess how well you:

- Clearly state your objectives and any sub-objectives.
- Address how the objectives relate to the overall purpose of the grant program.
- Describe how you will achieve the objectives.

2. Approach

Maximum points: 55

The reviewer will assess how well you:

Background and theory of change (0 to 15 points)

- Clearly describe the collaborative model you'll implement and evaluate.
- Articulate a clear, detailed theory of change or conceptual framework that thoroughly explains how activities and services connect to outputs and expected outcomes.
- Describe the evidence base for the various components of the collaborative approach and for the overall model, including previous studies and the broader literature.
- Identify how your findings could fill important gaps in knowledge.

Design and methods (0 to 25 points)

- Demonstrate that the design and methods are appropriate, rigorous, and feasible to address the research questions.
- Describe the proposed study sample with sufficient detail.
- Describe appropriate and sufficient procedures for protecting human subjects, including and obtaining Human Subjects Certification and addressing any consent issues related to the use of data.
- Identify and describe all data sources and demonstrate their appropriateness for the project.
- Describe strong recruitment procedures and retention strategies to meet sample size requirements (if applicable).
- Describe a feasible plan for data collection procedures and timeline (if collecting new primary data).
- Describe an appropriate sampling strategy (if sampling will be employed).
- Provide evidence of access to data sources (if using existing data). Or provide a convincing explanation of the steps and timeline for gaining access within the project's timeline.
- Describe how qualitative data will be processed and coded (if collecting qualitative data).
- Describe how the data will be cleaned and processed and explain how data sources will be linked (if linking data sources).
- Identify the constructs you'll measure and clearly link them to the research questions of interest.
- Identify appropriate instruments to measure the constructs, with evidence of reliability and validity with the population being served. Specify the variables you'll use.
- Describe a rigorous and appropriate analytic approach, statistical techniques, and methods of inference you'll use to analyze and interpret the data.
- Detail how missing data will be handled and how data quality will be ensured.
- Demonstrate that the sample size will be sufficient to detect effects using the proposed analytic techniques (based on power analysis).
- Describe a plan to pre-register the study's design and analysis plan before data is collected or analyzed. Also identify an appropriate registry.

Limitations and challenges (0 to 4 points)

- Specify realistic limitations of the proposed study design.

- Specify realistic challenges related to collecting, accessing, linking, and/or analyzing data. Propose clear and feasible strategies to mitigate those challenges and continue the proposed work, even if there are delays with any of these steps.

Partnership and active engagement (0 to 10 points)

- Describe all partnerships required for the project.
- Demonstrate that there is an active partnership with a public child welfare agency or agencies that administer at least one child welfare program in the targeted geographical areas.
- Demonstrate that all partners are ready to proceed with both implementation and evaluation, if awarded.
- Describe a plan for active engagement with all partners, as well as other individuals and groups with an interest in the work being done.
- Support the greatest relevance of project findings through your engagement plan.

Collaborating with peers and mandatory meetings (0 to 1 points)

- Describe a plan to participate in the consortium of award recipients, including a willingness to share lessons learned, learn from others, and collaborate with consortium members.
- Include attendance at mandatory meetings in your plan.

3. Expected outcomes

Maximum points: 5

The reviewer will assess how well you:

Identify clear and achievable outcomes (0 to 5 points)

- Link your outcomes to the overall program as described in the [program description section](#).
- Demonstrate the significance of the hypothesized results and implications of the proposed research.

4. Resources and capabilities

Maximum points: 30

The reviewer will assess how well you:

Organizational capacity (0 to 15 points)

- Demonstrate that your team has the relevant experience and expertise needed to carry out your project.
- Describe relevant experience with administering, developing, implementing, managing, and evaluating similar projects.

- Demonstrate that your team, including partnering organizations, has the organizational capability to fulfill their roles and functions effectively.
- Describe the work each subrecipient will complete (if applicable).
- Demonstrate that your Project Director, Principal Investigator, and other task leads have the relevant experience and expertise needed to carry out your project.
- Describe relevant experience of proposed staff in collecting data from the focal populations or using the data sources proposed for the analysis.
- Describe your team's access to the necessary data sources for the project, or how it will be approached for the project (if applicable).
- Demonstrate that proposed staff have an understanding of, and sensitivity to, the necessary considerations when working with data sources that include confidential information and identifiers.
- Demonstrate that the project team will have access to the appropriate facilities and resources necessary to carry out all phases of the proposed project and ensure data security and confidentiality.
- Describe a clear project management strategy, including roles and responsibilities, and demonstrate that the plan will ensure that the project is completed on time, within budget, and to a high standard of quality.

Project sustainability plan (0 to 2 points)

- Describe an approach to project sustainability that is effective and feasible.
- Identify the key people and organizations whose support you will require.
- Identify the types of alternative support you will require to maintain the project.
- Describe how you will maintain the cooperation or collaboration of key project partners after the federal funding ends.

Protection of sensitive or confidential information (0 to 3 points)

- Describe 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, consistent with applicable federal, state, local, and tribal laws regarding privacy and obligations of confidentiality.
- Describe a clear plan for the disposition of such information at the end of the period of performance.

Dissemination plan (0 to 10 points)

- Describe reasonable dissemination goals and objectives and an appropriate dissemination timeline.
- Describe feasible strategies to identify and engage with target audiences.

- Demonstrate that you have allocated enough staff time and budget for dissemination.
- Describe a preliminary plan to evaluate whether target audiences receive project information and use it as intended.

5. Support requested

Maximum points: 5

The reviewer will assess how well you **(0 to 5 points)**:

- Provide a clear and realistic budget plan, explaining why each expense is necessary for the project.
- Allocate enough funds for attending in-person meetings as outlined in the Project Requirements.
- Allocate appropriate funds for dissemination activities.
- Break down personnel costs, showing how the funding matches the staff's roles and the amount of time they'll spend on the project.

We do not consider voluntary cost sharing during merit review.

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.

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.

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 Marriage and Family Formation and Gold Standard Research.

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.

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 Marriage and Family Formation and Gold Standard Research.

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.

7. Bonus for partnerships of particular interest to ACF

Maximum points: 5

Reviewers will award bonus points if the applicant has described at least one partnership with a [Medicaid Section 1115 Research and Demonstration Project](#), a private adoption agency, or a community- or faith-based organization.

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.
- Funding Preference for Alignment with Agency Priorities. Before final funding decisions are made, division leadership will review awards for consistency with applicable laws and alignment with [agency priorities](#).
- Whether the model to be evaluated incorporates a Medicaid Section 1115 Research and Demonstration Project.
- Whether the collaborative approach includes a private adoption agency.
- The population of children and youth with complex or high-acuity needs that would be the focus of the research project.

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 Wednesday, August 26, 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:

Children's Bureau Operations Center

c/o LCG, Inc.

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.

Intergovernmental review

[Executive Order 12372, Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs](#) does not apply to this NOFO. You do not need to take any action.



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 [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.

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

In this step

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Agency contacts

Program

Kathleen Dwyer, Ph.D.

cb@grantreview.org

888-203-6161

Grants management

Sarah Viola

cb@grantreview.org

888-203-6161

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.](#)

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 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