Notice of Funding Opportunity

Application due Friday, August 14, 2026

ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Family and Youth Services Bureau
Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) Program

Runaway and Homeless Youth Training, Technical Assistance, and Capacity Building Center

Opportunity number: HHS-2026-ACF-ACYF-CY-0159

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES · USA

Contents

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 Friday, August 14, 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

In this step

Basic information

Administration for Children and Families (ACF)

Family and Youth Services Bureau

Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) Program

Empowering organizations with high-quality, evidence-based training and support to serve runaway and homeless youth.

Summary

The Runaway and Homeless Youth Training, Technical Assistance, and Capacity Building Center (RHYTTAC) provides training and technical assistance (T/TA) to organizations that serve runaway and homeless youth (RHY). It helps them successfully implement projects that are supported by the Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB) awards.

This NOFO will fund an organization to carry out RHYTTAC activities, including:

- Developing relevant and interactive training products that can be adapted for use in-person or online.
- Disseminating best practices that are evidenced-based and evidence-informed on issues impacting youth who have run away from home, are experiencing homelessness, or are at risk of becoming homeless.
- Providing targeted technical assistance to RHY recipients and organizations that serve youth to address current and potential needs.
- Leading activities to coordinate RHY recipients and other RHY-funded partner organizations.

Have questions?
See Contacts and Support.

Key facts

Opportunity name: Runaway and Homeless Youth Training, Technical Assistance, and Capacity Building Center

Opportunity number: HHS-2026-ACF-ACYF-CY-0159

Federal assistance listing: 93.623

NOFO version: Original

Key dates

Application submission deadline: August 14, 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: $2,500,000

Total expected awards: 1

Minimum award amount for the first budget period (award floor): $1,800,000

Maximum award amount for the first budget period (award ceiling): $2,500,000

We plan to fund a three-year project period. The project period has three one-year budget periods.

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

Eligibility

Eligible applicants

Statewide and regional nonprofit organizations, and a combination of such entities are also eligible.

Other eligibility criteria

Individuals, 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.

Private institutions of higher education must be nonprofit entities.

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.

Cost sharing

This program requires you to contribute at least 10% of the project's total cost per section 383 of the RHY Act (34 U.S.C. 11274).

Types of cost sharing

You can meet your match requirement through any combination of:

- Cash contributed by your organization, partners, or other third parties.
- In-kind (non-cash) contributions from partners or other third parties.

Cost-sharing commitments

If awarded, you must provide the amount of cost-sharing funds you promised, even if you promised more than the required minimum. We put these commitments in the Notice of Award.

If you don't provide your promised amount, we may decrease the amount of funding we give you or use other enforcement actions.

You'll have to include your cost-sharing funds when you fill out your federal financial reports.

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

This program is authorized under the RHY Act (34 U.S.C. 11242).

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.

Ensuring Value Alignment in Funding

This NOFO reflects ACF's priority of Ensuring Value Alignment in Funding by investing in T/TA that enhances the quality, effectiveness, and responsiveness of services for youth and young adults impacted by homelessness. This funding opportunity supports ACF's commitment to ensuring federal resources are directed toward strategies that strengthen service delivery, build recipient capacity, and improve outcomes for those most in need.

A Home for Every Child

ACF's A Home for Every Child initiative advances the goal that every young person has a safe, stable, and nurturing home. The Runaway and Homeless Youth Basic Center Program provides critical short-term shelter, crisis intervention, and family reunification to stabilize youth in acute need. Without these supports, youth face heightened risks of exploitation, violence, and long-term instability. With our service provision requirements and comprehensive youth service model, youth who can safely return to a more permanent home, whether through the foster care system, kinship care, or family of origins, will be assisted to do so.

Program description

Background

The Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB), Division of Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) gives funding to over 500 public and nonprofit organizations. These organizations run programs that help youth and young adults who are experiencing homelessness learn skills so they can live safely and independently. Programs include:

- **The Street Outreach Program (SOP)** serves youth and young adults, under age 22, who are living on the street, have run away, or are experiencing homelessness. It also helps those who have experienced, or are at risk of, sexual abuse, exploitation, or trafficking. Youth receive basic items such as food, hygiene supplies, and information about RHY shelters and services.
- **The Basic Center Program (BCP)** provides short-term shelter for youth under age 18. This includes youth who have run away, been forced to leave home, left without permission, or are living on the street or without stable housing. Youth can stay in an emergency shelter for up to 21 days. BCPs also offer outreach, counseling, family support, and case management.
- **The Transitional Living Program (TLP)** provides long-term shelter and supportive services for youth ages 16 to 21 who are experiencing homelessness. Youth can receive services for up to 18 months, or up to 21 months in special situations. In addition to outreach and shelter services, TLP helps youth build life skills, manage money, improve social skills, engage with education, obtain employment, and access physical and mental health care. The goal is to help youth obtain safe and stable housing.
- **Maternity Group Homes** are a type of TLP for youth who are pregnant or parenting. These homes provide long-term shelter and all TLP services, along with parenting education, childcare support, child development lessons, and health and nutrition services.
- **The Prevention Demonstration Program (PDP)** supports community programs that work to prevent youth and young adults from becoming homeless. PDP builds partnerships across areas such as education, health care, mental health, child welfare, family support, substance abuse prevention, domestic violence services, law enforcement, and legal services. The goal is to create a strong support system that makes prevention services easier to access and more effective for youth and young adults most at risk of homelessness.

The Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) Act also funds other activities through contracts, grants, and cooperative agreements. These activities include:

- **Research and evaluation** to better understand what works for youth.
- **A national reporting system (RHY – Homeless Management Information System [HMIS])** that collects data on youth experiencing homelessness who receive RHY services.
- **A national communications system (NCS)** that helps youth who have run away or are experiencing homelessness stay in contact with their families and service providers.
- **Training and technical assistance (T/TA)** for FYSB-funded programs through T/TA centers.

Project overview

The **Runaway and Homeless Youth Training, Technical Assistance, and Capacity Building Center (RHYTTAC)** provides training and support to RHY award recipients, subrecipients, federal staff, and organizations that serve youth. RHYTTAC helps programs better support youth and improve outcomes in four main areas:

- **Well-being** – Helping youth access trauma-informed care, mental health services, and safety supports.
- **Education and employment** – Supporting youth in staying in school, building job skills, and finding employment.
- **Permanent connections** – Helping youth build strong relationships with family members, caring adults, and community supports.
- **Safe and stable housing** – Helping youth find and keep safe, stable housing after they leave RHY programs.

RHYTTAC helps organizations create programs that meet community needs, increase staff knowledge, improve policies, strengthen leadership, and follow RHY program requirements through the provision of T/TA. RHYTTAC provides high-quality, research-based resources and works closely with FYSB, RHY recipients, and the RHY Program Network (RHYPN), which includes the NCS and RHY-HMIS.

Goals and objectives

The primary goal of RHYTTAC is to help public and private organizations better serve runaway, homeless, and at-risk youth by providing training, technical assistance, and capacity building support for RHY-funded programs. You'll be responsible for supporting this goal and the objectives of RHYTTAC.

Objectives include:

- Provide focused training and support to RHY recipients and organizations that serve youth to help prevent and respond to youth homelessness.
- Help RHY recipients understand and follow program laws, rules, and policies by building their skills and capacity.
- Create interactive training tools that can be used in person or online, based on the needs of youth and young adults experiencing homelessness and the organizations that serve them.
- Share proven and promising approaches that address the needs of runaway and homeless youth.
- Build stronger partnerships among RHY programs, youth organizations, housing providers, social service agencies, and government partners to improve outcomes for youth.
- Plan and deliver T/TA activities for RHY recipients.
- Support collaboration among RHY-funded partners, including the RHYPN.

Project requirements

You'll be the national T/TA provider for the RHY program and responsible for carrying out RHYTTAC deliverables and activities in the following areas:

- Project oversight and management.
- Development of T/TA products
- Delivery of targeted T/TA, capacity-building coaching, and engagement.
- Coordination of national and regional T/TA events.
- Partnership with service providers and other partners.
- Incorporation of data and stakeholder feedback in ongoing and future T/TA development.

Project oversight and management

You'll provide T/TA for RHY program recipients. T/TA helps ensure programs have the tools, knowledge, and best practices needed to support youth experiencing homelessness. You'll need strong project management to ensure you can respond to new challenges, follow federal priorities, and continue improving support for RHY recipients.

At a minimum, you will:

- Create a management team that includes a full-time Project Director who leads the RHYTTAC project.
- Manage the budget, project activities, training, coaching, and communication with federal staff.

- Meet regularly with the RHYTTAC federal project officer (FPO) and RHY leadership to share updates and get input.
- Assign staff or coaches to serve as main contacts for RHY recipients and federal staff in the ACF regions.
- Establish and maintain subject matter experts (SMEs) to provide targeted T/TA to support needs of RHY recipients.
- Set up a clear process to receive, review, track, and respond to all T/TA requests.

Development of T/TA products

You'll provide training, technical assistance, and capacity building support using different formats. Formats may include in-person visits, events, online courses, webinars, written materials, and group meetings held in person or online.

Training topics will be based on administration's priorities, your needs, survey results, monitoring findings, current issues, and T/TA requests. Topics may include program rules, case management, education and job opportunities, homelessness prevention, anti-trafficking, support for parenting youth, legal services, substance use prevention, rural programs, domestic violence, and housing coordination.

At a minimum, you'll:

- Maintain a free, easy-to-use website, learning system, and social media to share RHY training materials and resources.
- Develop and submit a plan for creating high-quality T/TA products.
- Create research-based training materials in different formats, such as webinars, trainings, fact sheets, toolkits, and briefing papers.
- Host at least four webinars or training each quarter to help recipients meet RHY Program and administrative requirements.
- Create at least four information sheets or infographics each year and update them, as needed.
- Create at least two short tipsheets each year that provide helpful guidance on RHY topics.
- Develop at least three interactive toolkits that are tested with RHY recipients, youth with lived experience, and federal staff.
- Develop at least three short briefing papers that include research and practical recommendations.
- Create a monthly/quarterly calendar of T/TA products, events, and resources to be developed and disseminated.
- Submit all final products to FYSB for review and approval.
- Share plans for how products will be tested and shared.

- Keep an organized, up-to-date catalog of all T/TA products.
- Provide a quarterly calendar of planned T/TA products.
- Ensure materials are accessible and available in multiple languages.
- Create a process for selecting qualified SMEs.
- Maintain a list of active SMEs by topical area who can help with training, policy guidance, research, and recipient support.

Delivery of targeted T/TA, capacity-building coaching, and engagement

You'll provide ongoing training, coaching, and support to help RHY recipients succeed. This support helps programs improve services, respond to challenges, and better meet the needs of youth experiencing homelessness.

You must support RHY recipients in building family-centered, prevention-focused services that strengthen families, reduce youth homelessness, and prevent unnecessary child welfare (sometimes described as system) involvement.

At a minimum, you'll:

- Maintain enough staff to provide one-on-one support to recipients.
- Meet with FPOs regularly to discuss trends and training needs.
- Work with SMEs to coach recipients on program and organizational challenges.
- Provide summaries or notes after T/TA activities that outline next steps and timelines.
- Stay in regular contact with recipients through calls, meetings, and regional check-ins.
- Share updates through newsletters or emails about training opportunities and resources.
- Maintain a platform for collaboration and peer-to-peer learning.
- Support recipients with onsite monitoring by helping them prepare, review reports, and assist with action plans, when needed.
- Track how recipients use online tools, training, and resources.
- Provide support before, during, or after disasters to help protect youth and staff.
- Develop and deliver T/TA that assist RHY recipients in effectively:
    - Providing trauma-informed individual and family counseling and case management to intervene before a youth runs away.
    - Selecting, using, and reporting on screening and assessment tools that identify youth and families with complex or high-level needs such as high risk

for human trafficking, sexual abuse/exploitation, homelessness, or legal problems.
    - Implementing evidence-based, parenting curriculum and related family support services.
- Provide T/TA to support implementation and measurement of the RHY four core outcome areas.

Coordination of national and regional events

You will plan and manage all RHY recipient training events, including New Recipient Orientation, National Grantee Training, and regional or program-specific trainings. These events help recipients meet program goals and learn from one another.

At a minimum, you will:

- Create a marketing plan to promote events through email, websites, and social media.
- Identify locations and secure venue contracts for all in-person trainings.
- Manage event registration and communication with attendees.
- Ensure key staff participate in all training events.
- Develop training content, presentations, and identifying SMEs.
- Hold regular meetings with FYSB to share event updates.
- Support post-event follow-up activities.
- Manage event logistics for both virtual and in-person training.
- Provide materials and support for new RHY recipients each year.
- Help plan national training event themes, schedules, and workshops.
- Support presenters, speakers, and event operations.
- Provide onsite or virtual support during events.

Incorporation of data and feedback

You'll collect approved data to help improve training and services. All data collection must follow federal rules, receive Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Clearance as required and is subject to federal oversight from ACF.

At a minimum, you'll:

- Conduct an annual, national needs assessment survey to identify RHY recipients' training needs.
- Regularly review data and use findings to improve program performance.
- Collect feedback after events and prepare reports on training quality and outcomes.

- Prepare post-event reports on planning, registration, and delivery.
- Gather feedback from recipients, federal staff, partners, and youth.
- Create quarterly reports that summarize trends, challenges, and promising practices.
- Implement a project performance evaluation plan that measures progress, assess results, and use information to improve the project over time.

Partnership with service providers, national partners, youth who have experienced homelessness

You will work with service providers, youth who have experienced homelessness, national partners, and RHY networks to improve training and services. These partnerships help share ideas, strengthen systems, and improve outcomes for youth.

At a minimum, you'll:

- Lead partners in creating a plan to share training resources.
- Work with other programs and agencies to share best practices and address challenges.
- Partner on joint training and awareness efforts related to RHY issues.
- Engage youth and young adults, who have experienced homelessness, to help design and review T/TA products.
- Support RHY recipients in creating youth advisory boards.
- Develop youth-centered activities to raise awareness and increase engagement.

In addition, as the T/TA provider for the RHY Division, you must integrate and promote positive youth development (PYD) and approaches that recognize trauma into all products and resources you develop.

Positive youth development and the impact of trauma

FYSB's RHY program uses a positive youth development (PYD) framework to foster self-determination, resilience, life skills, and strengths. PYD emphasizes achieving developmentally appropriate milestones, positive interactions with family, school and neighborhood, and healthy messaging, safe spaces, role models, skill development, and service opportunities. This intentional, prosocial approach engages youth in communities, schools, and families, promoting leadership through targeted projects and activities. Learn more on the FYSB website.

Any PYD approach utilized, including in any project curricula, products, or resources, must not be used in a way that conflicts with ACF Vision, Mission, Values, Priorities, or Guiding Principles unless authorized by law, including any relevant court orders.

Work plan

As a recipient, you must submit a work plan that includes, at a minimum:

- A description of all transition activities in the transition-in plan.
- Job descriptions for all project staff and a training plan for staff.
- A list of required project activities, including timelines, responsible staff, and plans for carrying out, sharing, and updating the work.
- A plan for organizing and delivering annual national, regional, and program-specific training events. This must include planning committees, SMEs or presenters, logistics, registration, draft agendas, staff roles, materials, and post-event evaluations.
- A plan to regularly gather feedback from FPOs and RHY recipients to identify T/TA needs.
- A plan for regular meetings with the RHYTTAC FPO and RHY leadership to discuss priorities, trends, and grantee support needs.
- A plan for collecting and analyzing data, including how findings may be used to update the work plan, when needed.
- Quarterly reports to FYSB that summarize all T/TA requests, their status, and outcomes.
- All required fiscal and program reports, submitted on time.

Human trafficking of children and youth

Youth experiencing homelessness, unstable housing, or involvement with child welfare systems are at increased risk of human trafficking and exploitation. In alignment with the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, as amended (TVPRA), the RHY Training, Technical Assistance, and Capacity Building Center will support RHY providers in strengthening their capacity to prevent, identify, and respond to trafficking among youth served through RHY programs, including through training, resources, and trauma-informed, survivor-centered practices.

Human trafficking is a crime involving the exploitation of a person to perform labor or a commercial sex act through the use of force, fraud, or coercion. Per the TVPRA as amended and codified at 22 U.S.C. 7102(11), human trafficking (severe forms of trafficking in persons) means:

- Sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age.

- The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.

Youth who are missing from foster care, are experiencing homelessness, or have unstable housing are at a higher risk of experiencing human trafficking, particularly at times when they are struggling to access resources to meet basic needs. Individuals who exploit children often fulfill these needs to build trust and create dependency as a precursor to trafficking. These children may be coerced into engaging in sex acts or compelled labor for shelter, food, clothing, and other basic needs.

Screening for trafficking concerns

The recipient, as the T/TA provider for the RHY Division, must address human trafficking in the T/TA products. This includes requiring RHY providers to adapt from and utilize standardized screening tool(s) that are validated and evidence-and trauma-informed to identify trafficking concerns and evaluate client needs throughout the service relationship. The recipient must include one or multiple tools as resources, but the tools must be able to identify youth who have experienced labor and/or sex trafficking and assess for common indicators and risks for human trafficking.

It is best practice to screen for trafficking concerns (1) during the youth's initial intake into the program, (2) any time a youth returns from a missing episode, and (3) any time trafficking is suspected. Even in situations when a youth may not exhibit obvious indicators for trafficking, the recipient should utilize a validated universal screening approach and incorporating screening protocols at various stages, in addition to identifying trafficking concerns. This practice will also help mitigate early signs of risk and prevent trafficking before it occurs or re-occurs.

While screening is an initial step in identifying trafficking concerns, it can elicit unintended trauma responses. Therefore, it is imperative for the recipient to first address the youth's basic needs (food, sleep, safety and safety planning, comfort, etc.) before any screening occurs. It is also important for the recipient to consider each individual youth's experience, cognition, mental health, and the effects of trauma when assessing their responses prior to and during screening and intake.

Services for victims of trafficking

As disclosures may happen during screening and/or at any point during time of service, the recipient must develop protocols for response to disclosures. The protocols must include but not be limited to assessment for trafficking-specific case management, safety planning, clinical and therapeutic support, mentorships, and medical services. Youth who have experienced human trafficking have unique needs that must be considered when screening and assessing for service needs, interventions, and community referrals. All interventions by the recipient must be centered around the youth's voice to ensure the youth is an active participant in their care and decision-making for services, and safety planning must be at the center of all support. Further, if it is determined to be in the youth's best interest, the youth's caregiver and/or relevant family members may be brought in for parts of the service planning efforts; however, this should be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Trafficking-specific education and outreach

Recipients are required to integrate human trafficking content throughout program education and T/TA products. All approaches and materials must be trauma-informed, person-centered, developmentally appropriate, and responsive to age, developmental and cognitive abilities, and other relevant factors.

Outreach

Recipients must include information on human trafficking in all T/TA products and resources. Resource materials must provide audience-appropriate information about human trafficking, including how to identify potential trafficking schemes, how to seek help, and how to access available services and resources. Recipients must ensure that outreach activities include information on referral options, including the National Human Trafficking Hotline.

Universal education

The recipient, as the T/TA provider for the RHY Division, must support RHY recipients in providing universal education on human trafficking to all clients. This approach may use or adapt existing tools and materials, with emphasis on the quality of the interaction and the provision of resources. Prevention education must support youth in recognizing trafficking risks, identifying potential trafficking schemes, and building skills related to safety, decision-making, help-seeking, and access to resources and support.

Education and outreach resources

- Look Beneath the Surface Campaign: Downloadable and printable outreach materials that help individuals who are at risk of or experiencing human trafficking recognize trafficking schemes and access support.
- SOAR Online: Free, self-paced online training courses that can be completed on demand.
- Office on Trafficking in Persons Resource Library: A searchable collection of anti-trafficking resources and materials, including outreach materials, toolkits, fact sheets, policy and guidance documents, and training tools that support prevention, awareness, identification, and access to services.

Mandatory reporting

Human trafficking of children (labor and sex trafficking) is now defined under “child abuse and neglect” in the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, Pub. L. 93-247. Therefore, if a recipient identifies potential concerns of human trafficking, the recipient is required to comply with all federal, state, tribal, and local mandated reporting requirements in the same way the recipient reports abuse and neglect within that jurisdiction (child welfare, law enforcement, etc.).

Validated Screening Tools for Human Trafficking of Children and Youth[1]

Tool identifier	In-depth	Short/ Rapid	Demographic	Environment
Commercial Sexual Exploitation-Identification Tool		X	Ages 10+, sex trafficking only	Multiple settings, including child welfare and juvenile justice systems, schools, homeless youth shelters, healthcare, and mental health settings
Human Trafficking Screening Tool	X	X	Ages 18–24, sex trafficking only	Runaway and homeless youth system settings
Quick Youth Indicators for Trafficking		X	Youth who are homeless, sex trafficking and labor trafficking	Service provider setting
Rapid Appraisal for Trafficking		X	Ages 18+, sex trafficking and labor trafficking	Healthcare setting
Short Screen for Child Sex Trafficking		X	Ages 12–18, sex trafficking only	Healthcare setting

Sensitive or confidential information

Records containing the identity of individual youths under this award may under no circumstances be disclosed or transferred to any individual or to any public or private agency.

Key personnel

Key personnel are individuals identified by the applicant whose knowledge, expertise, and leadership are critical to the successful implementation and management of the RHYTTAC cooperative agreement.

These individuals are expected to play significant roles in program oversight, strategic direction, T/TA delivery, partnership coordination, and overall project performance. Changes to key personnel may require prior approval from ACF.

Cooperative agreement — Description of ACF's involvement

A cooperative agreement is used when we anticipate substantial involvement between ACF and the recipient during the project period. It extends beyond normal oversight and stewardship responsibilities and functions.

For this cooperative agreement, an FYSB FPO will collaborate with your organization to:

- Provide approval for enhancements and changes to the work plan and budget during the project period.
- Be actively involved in developing the long-term strategies for implementing the project.
- Participate in meetings and conferences hosted by you related to RHYTTAC.
- Participate in focus groups or listening sessions about RHYTTAC T/TA development, capacity building, partner participation, and youth input/feedback, as appropriate.
- Communicate changes to expectations for performance, or changes in FYSB policies, and provide appropriate technical assistance to implement the changes.
- Support efforts to evaluate RHYTTAC services.
- Consult on current and proposed new data collection elements.

In addition, FYSB will review and approve:

- Resumes for key project staff.
- List of names, expertise, and locations (city, county, state) of individuals, organizations, and agencies who may serve as subject matter experts (SMEs) in support of RHY program objectives.
- Content on the RHYTTAC website and e-Learning platforms.
- Plans for using volunteers in the RHYTTAC work (if applicable). The plan should include recruitment processes and volunteer protocols (including expected time to be donated to the RHYTTAC).

Transition-in plan

You must develop, maintain, and carry out a transition-in plan. The plan must explain how you'll ensure continuous services as you transition into managing RHYTTAC responsibilities and activities. Your activities must reflect the final, approved plan.

At a minimum, the transition-in plan must include a:

- List of planned transition activities.
- Description of current training, T/TA, and capacity building support activities for recipients.
- Timeline with key transition milestones.
- Description of staff, funding, and other resources needed for the transition.
- Description of security considerations during the transition.
- List of potential risks and plans to reduce or prevent them.
- Plan for notifying and training users during the transition.

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.
- Fundraising (including campaigns, endowments, gifts, and similar expenses).
- Distribution of sterile needles or syringes. **NOTE:** Include a statement attesting that your grant funded programs are not supporting or facilitating any harm reduction activities.
- Abortions. (See Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023, Public Law No. 117-328, div. H, tit. V, 506-507 for exceptions.)
- Any treatment or referral to treatment that aims to change someone’s sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.

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.

Step 2:
Get Ready to Apply

In this step

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

In this step

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
☐ Organizational capacity supporting information (including organization chart)	Yes
☐ Third-party agreements	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: 85 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.

Describe your approach for achieving the goals and objectives of RHYTTAC. Explain the resources you'll provide, how they'll be delivered, and how often they'll be shared to meet the needs of the target population.

You must show a strong commitment to building the capacity of RHY programs and the broader field that serves youth.

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.

Your action plan must align with the project's goals, objectives, and RHYTTAC core areas.

In your action plan:

- Describe how you'll measure results using reliable data methods.
- Describe how you'll identify best practices and share them with partners and other T/TA providers.

- Explain how you'll regularly review data and use findings to improve program performance.

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.

Logic model

You must submit a logic model for designing, managing, and evaluating the project. A logic model is a diagram that:

- Presents how inputs drive activities to produce outputs, outcomes, and the ultimate goals of the proposed project.
- Explains the links among project elements.
- Targets the identified objectives and goals of the project.

While there are many versions of logic models, for the purposes of this funding opportunity, the logic model may include the connections between:

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

Impact

Project performance evaluation plan

Describe how you will evaluate your project's performance and how it will contribute to CQI. 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 might include your collaborative partners, key staff, budget, service processes, or other resources.
- How you will measure the inputs, activities, and outcomes.
- How you will use the resulting information to 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.
- Each expected outcome must be specific, measurable, achievable, and include a timeline for completion.

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.
- You must explain how you will meet the requirements in the Program description and Project requirements. This explanation must include the following:
    - A staffing plan that lists all project staff, consultants, partners, and subrecipients. The plan must describe each role, level of effort, and responsibility, and show how staff are qualified for their assigned duties.
    - A description of your administrative and management structure. Include how the project will be managed and how you will work with national partners and RHY service providers at the local, state, and national levels.
    - If applicable, a description of any planned subawards, including the roles of subrecipients and how their work is included in the proposed work plan.
- 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.

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 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.

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 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.

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.

Organizational capacity supporting information

You must attach the following information to support the organizational capacity information in your resources and capabilities 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.
- Financial statements adhering to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP), if available, for up to the two most recently completed fiscal years (this requirement does not apply to start-up organizations).
- Copy or description of your organization's fiscal control and accountability procedures.

Third-party agreements

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

Any such agreement must:

- Describe 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.

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

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 (Need for assistance)	10 points
2. Response (Approach)	40 points
3. Impact (Performance evaluation plan and logic model)	15 points
4. Resources and capabilities (Organizational capacity)	25 points
5. Support requested (Budget)	10 points
6. ACF priority alignment	10 points

Scoring criteria

1. Purpose and need (Need for assistance)

Maximum points: 10

The reviewer will assess how well you:

- Describe your understanding of the purpose of RHYTTAC. Explain why training, technical assistance (T/TA), and capacity building is needed, how it's structured, and how it supports organizations that serve runaway, homeless, and at-risk youth and young adults, as well as their families. **(0-5 points)**
- Describe the types of resources you'll provide (such as training, tools, or materials), how they'll be delivered, and how often they'll be shared with RHY recipients, federal staff, partner agencies, and the public. **(0-5 points)**

2. Response (Approach)

Maximum points: 40

The reviewer will assess how well you:

- Describe the training and technical assistance (T/TA) activities you'll offer. Explain how these activities address the needs and challenges of RHY programs, including gaps in current T/TA and the needs of youth and young adults experiencing homelessness, including those with complex needs. **(0-5 points)**
- Describe how the proposed project meets the project purpose and requirements in all RHYTTAC core areas. **(0-15 points)**
- Describe your plan to recruit, engage, and retain qualified SMEs, with experience in the RHY field, to include youth and young adults who have experienced

homelessness or related areas, to help develop research- and evidence-based T/TA products. (0-5 points)

- Describe how you'll deliver training, technical assistance, capacity building, and coaching to RHY recipients, youth-serving organizations, federal staff, and partners. Explain how your approach is based on research and evidence and how you will support communication and peer-to-peer learning. **(0-5 points)**
- Describe how you'll share T/TA products, reports, and other project materials with key audiences. Explain how materials will be accessible, available in multiple languages, and support recipient effectiveness. **(0-4 points)**
- Identify possible barriers to project success and describe how you'll address them. **(0-3 points)**
- Describe how you'll collect and analyze data to guide T/TA activities. **(0-3 points)**

3. Impact (Performance evaluation plan and logic model)

Maximum points: 15

The reviewer will assess how well you:

- Identify clear project outcomes that directly support the RHYTTAC goal and objectives and match the size and scope of the project. Each outcome must be specific, measurable, achievable, and include a timeline for completion. **(0-3 points)**
- Explain how the project will achieve the expected outcomes and how these outcomes will benefit RHY recipients and the youth and families they serve. **(0-2 points)**
- Describe your plan to track progress and report performance in support of RHYTTAC goals and objectives. Explain how you will document progress toward project milestones and keep FYSB informed of any challenges. Describe how you will address delays or barriers and make needed corrections. **(0-4 points)**
- Provide a logic model that clearly links project activities to expected outputs and outcomes, using both quantitative and qualitative measures. **(0-3 points)**
- Describe what data you will collect, how often you will collect it, and how you will use needs assessments, feedback, and program data to guide decisions. Explain how you will use ongoing data review and continuous quality improvement (CQI) to improve program performance. **(0-3 points)**

4. Resources and capabilities (Organizational capacity)

Maximum points: 25

The reviewer will assess how well you:

- Describe your experience managing projects of similar size and scope. Explain how you ensure work is high quality, cost-effective, and completed on time. Describe your ability to carry out the proposed project. **(0-5 points)**
- Describe how you recruit, train, and retain qualified staff with the skills and experience needed for their roles. Explain how staff expertise aligns with RHY-related areas, such as youth homelessness prevention and intervention, case management, aftercare, and T/TA at the local, regional, or national level. **(0-5 points)**
- Provide a staffing plan that shows each staff member's role, level of effort, and responsibilities. The plan must show that staffing levels are sufficient to manage the project and complete deliverables on time. Roles must be clearly linked to project goals and tasks, and staff qualifications must match their responsibilities. **(0-5 points)**
- Provide a work plan that lists all project tasks, timelines, and measurable outcomes. Tasks must align with project objectives and be realistic. **(0-4 points)**
- Describe your leadership in the RHY field and your experience working with partners on similar T/TA projects. Explain the roles, responsibilities, and commitments of partners. Describe your organizational and management structure, including how you work with national organizations and RHY service providers at the local, state, and national levels. **(0-6 points)**

5. Support requested (Budget)

Maximum points: 10

The reviewer will assess how well you:

- Provide a detailed, line-item budget with a clear explanation of all costs. Explain how each cost supports RHYTTAC project activities. Include budgets and budget narratives for any proposed subawards. All costs must be reasonable based on staff roles, time commitment, and project needs. **(0-2 points)**
- Describe personnel costs and explain how they are reasonable based on staff responsibilities and time spent on RHYTTAC activities. **(0-2 points)**
- Provide a budget that includes enough funding to support all required trainings, meetings, travel, supplies, and other costs needed to carry out the work plan. **(0-2 points)**

- Describe your financial controls and accounting systems that ensure proper use of funds, timely payments, and accurate financial records. **(0–2 points)**
- Describe how you and any partners or contractors will protect confidential or sensitive information during the project. Include a plan for securely handling or disposing of this information at the end of the project period. **(0–2 points)**

We do not consider voluntary cost sharing during merit review.

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: Ensuring Value Alignment in Funding.

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: Ensuring Value Alignment in Funding.

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 CQI.

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. 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.

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

Application

Deadline

Due on Friday, August 14, 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:

FYSB Operations
c/o F2-Solutions
Attn: Runaway and Homeless Youth Training, Technical Assistance,
and Capacity Building Center
NOFO HHS-2026-ACF-ACYF-CY-0159
1401 Mercantile Lane, Suite 401
Largo, MD 20744

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

Post-award requirements and administration

Post-award requirements

The recipient awarded under this NOFO must adhere to the following:

Due Date	Requirement
Within 14 business days of the award start date	• Conduct a kick-off meeting (virtually or in-person in Washington, DC) with FYSB and the project's key personnel. The kick-off meeting should discuss plans for carrying out all components of this cooperative agreement. The recipient shall provide written minutes and project implementation plans within 5 working days of the kick-off meeting. • Develop and submit to FYSB a work plan outlining the required project activities, timelines, and responsible parties. • If applicable, provide a draft transition-in plan to FYSB for comment (*see Transition In/Out*).
Within 30 business days of the award start date	• Have the project fully functioning.
Within 45 business days of the award start date	• Address comments and revisions to the work plan, as requested by FYSB, and submit the final work plan to FYSB for review and approval. • Identify a coordination and communication strategy for working with RHYTTAC partners, including the RHYPN.
Throughout the project period	• Ensure attendance of key RHYTTAC staff for any project meetings, regional or national T/TA activities where in-person support is necessary. • Provide regular progress updates to the workplan to FYSB as tasks are added, completed, or changed; or barriers are identified. • Provide and receive input and guidance as to the relevancy, timeliness, and appropriateness of resources and delivery mechanisms of T/TA efforts.

Key personnel

As a recipient, within the first 30 days of the project, you must:

- Assign staff who have the right skills and experience to manage the project, provide technical support, and complete all required activities and deliverables.
- Clearly explain staff qualifications to show experience with runaway and homeless youth (RHY), positive youth development (PYD), and the impacts of trauma. This

should include experience working with youth who are at risk of or experiencing homelessness, and youth affected by trafficking, abuse, or neglect.

- Submit resumes or CVs for key staff members. You must also clearly describe each staff member's role, responsibilities, qualifications, and the amount of time they will work on the project, including staff from partner organizations and in-kind contributions.

Key personnel substitutions

As a recipient, you may not remove or replace any management staff, key personnel, consultants, or subcontractors listed in the approved staffing plan without prior approval from the Office of Grants Management and a revised Notice of Award.

For key personnel, you must provide at least 30 days advance written notice of any proposed change. The request must explain the reason for the change and include the proposed replacement's resume and labor category.

Any replacement must have qualifications equal to or greater than those of the individual being replaced.

You must submit all requests for personnel changes in writing through GrantSolutions. Requests must explain the need for the change and compare the proposed individual's qualifications with those of the current staff member.

Tangible property and copyrights

In accordance with2 CFR 200.315:

- Title to intangible property (see section 200.1 Intangible property) acquired under a federal award vests upon acquisition in the recipient or subrecipient. The recipient or subrecipient must use that property for the originally authorized purpose must not encumber the property without approval of the HHS awarding agency. When no longer needed for the originally authorized purpose, you must dispose of the intangible property according to the provisions in section 200.313(e).
- To the extent permitted by law, the recipient or subrecipient may copyright any work that is subject to copyright and was developed, or for which ownership was acquired, under a federal award. The HHS awarding agency reserves a royalty-free, nonexclusive, and irrevocable right to reproduce, publish, or otherwise use the work for Federal purposes, and to authorize others to do so. This includes the right to require recipients and subrecipients to make such works available through agency-designated public access repositories.
- The recipient or subrecipient is subject to applicable regulations governing patents and inventions, including government-wide regulations issued by the Department of Commerce at 37 CFR part 401.

- The Federal Government has the right to:
    - Obtain, reproduce, publish, or otherwise use the data produced under a Federal award.
    - Authorize others to receive, reproduce, publish, or otherwise use the data for Federal purposes.

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 the RHY Act, 34 U.S.C. 11201-11281, the Runaway and Homeless Youth Final Rule, 45 CFR Part 1351 to improve performance standards and program requirements for runaway and homeless youth programs, and RHY's Administrative and National Policy Requirements.

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

Agency contacts

Program

Tyanna M. Williams
Division of Runaway and Homeless Youth
Family and Youth Services Bureau
Tyanna.Williams@acf.hhs.gov
(202)-205-8348

Grants management

Sarah Viola
Office of Grants Management
Administration for Children and Families
Sarah.Viola@acf.hhs.gov
(202)-401-4832

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
- RHY Administrative and National Policy Requirements
- Family and Youth Services Bureau
- Runaway and Homeless Youth Training, Technical Assistance, and Capacity Building Center
- National Runaway Safeline

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.

Endnotes

1. National Advisory Committee on the Sex Trafficking of Children and Youth in the United States, Best Practices and Recommendations for States, (2020), www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/otip/nac_report_2020.pdf ↑

Modifications

Modification Description	Updated Date