Notice of Funding Opportunity

Application due Monday, August 17, 2026

ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB)
Division of Positive Youth Development

Title V Competitive Sexual Risk Avoidance Education (SRAE)

Opportunity number: HHS-2026-ACF-ACYF-TS-0013

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 Monday, August 17, 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 (FYSB)

Division of Positive Youth Development

Creating and providing youth sexual risk avoidance education programs.

Summary

The Title V Competitive Sexual Risk Avoidance Education (SRAE) program funds projects that provide sexual risk avoidance education that teach youth how to voluntarily refrain from nonmarital sexual activity.

Projects must:

- Ensure all content emphasizes and normalizes avoiding nonmarital sexual activity as optimal health behavior.
- Use medically accurate and complete information. Reference peer-reviewed publications by educational, scientific, governmental, or health organizations.
- Be age-appropriate.
- Provide an evidence-based approach. Integrate research findings with practical strategies that align with the needs and desired outcomes for the intended audience.
- Teach the benefits associated with personal responsibility, self-regulation, goal setting, healthy decision-making, and a focus on the future.
- Include the physical, emotional, and financial advantages of avoiding nonmarital sexual activity.
- Teach how to resist and avoid sexual coercion and dating violence and discourage youth-specific risk behaviors such as underage drinking or illegal drug use.
- Consider culturally appropriate activities, recognizing the experiences of youth from diverse communities, backgrounds, and experiences.

Have questions?

See Contacts and Support.

Key facts

Opportunity name: Title V Competitive Sexual Risk Avoidance Education (SRAE)

Opportunity number: HHS-2026-ACF-ACYF-TS-0013

Federal assistance listing: 93.787

NOFO version: Original

Key dates

Application submission deadline: August 17, 2026

Expected project start date: September 30, 2026

See intergovernmental review for other submission processes that may apply to this NOFO.

Funding details

Type: Grant

Expected total program funding: $8,358,870

Total expected awards: 20

Minimum award amount for the first budget period (award floor): $13,501

Maximum award amount for the first budget period (award ceiling): $450,000

We plan to fund a two-year project period. Each project period has two one-year budget periods.

Table: Funding available for FY 2026 Title V Competitive SRAE awards

State/Territory	FY 2026 Award Amounts	Floor	Ceiling
California	$5,870,228	$300,000	$450,000
Connecticut	$293,000	$293,000	$293,000
Delaware	$161,555	$161,555	$161,555
Hawaii	$166,109	$166,109	$166,109
Idaho	$270,042	$270,042	$270,042
Kansas	$453,708	$453,708	$453,708
New Hampshire	$101,187	$101,187	$101,187
New Mexico	$570,053	$570,053	$570,053
North Dakota	$78,175	$78,175	$78,175
Rhode Island	$137,020	$137,020	$137,020
Wyoming	$96,812	$96,812	$96,812
Guam	$84,455	$84,455	$84,455
Marshall Islands	$13,591	$13,591	$13,591
Palau	$21,000	$21,000	$21,000
U.S. Virgin Islands	$41,935	$41,935	$41,935

If you propose to serve more than one territory through a consortium, you may submit a Year 1 budget based upon the cumulative annual award floors and ceilings for each of the territories you'll serve.

The estimated award amount is based upon FY 2026 funding available for Title V Competitive SRAE awards and is subject to change.

We'll base your Year 2 funding on availability of funds, satisfactory progress, and determination that the award is in the best interest of the federal government.

To determine satisfactory progress, we'll use your semi-annual, performance progress reports and financial reports, site visit reports, audit reports, and other supporting documentation. To make Year 2 funding decisions, we'll review your project's compliance with statutory requirements, NOFO requirements, and terms and conditions of your grant award; and progress towards annual work plan goals and objectives.

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

Eligibility

Eligible applicants

These types of organizations are eligible for an award:

- County governments.
- City or township governments.
- Special district governments.
- Independent school districts.
- Public- and state-controlled institutions of higher education.
- Native American tribal governments (federally recognized).
- Public housing authorities/Indian housing authorities.
- Native American tribal organizations (other than federally recognized tribal governments).
- Nonprofits with a 501(c)(3) status with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), other than institutions of higher education.
- Nonprofits without 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education.
- Faith-based organizations.
- Private institutions of higher education.
- For-profit organizations other than small businesses.
- Small businesses.
- Others (see other eligibility criteria for clarification).

Other eligibility criteria

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

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

Locality restrictions

Eligible applicants are limited to local organizations — including faith-based organizations, community organizations, or consortia — that:

- Meet the eligibility requirements.
- Can develop and carry out Title V Competitive SRAE projects in states and territories that did not accept FY 2026 allotments for Title V State SRAE.

As of the publication of this NOFO, organizations and consortiums located in the following states and territories are eligible:

- California.
- Connecticut.
- Delaware.
- Hawaii.
- Idaho.
- Kansas.
- New Hampshire.
- New Mexico.
- North Dakota.
- Rhode Island.
- Wyoming.
- Guam.
- Marshall Islands.
- Palau.
- U.S. Virgin Islands.

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.
- Is received from entities located in ineligible states and territories (this includes consortia applying to serve an eligible state or territory).
- Is received from entities located in or proposing to manage a project from an ineligible state.

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.

You may submit multiple applications under this NOFO, but each one must propose a unique project with different service sites, populations, and core approaches.

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

The Title V SRAE Program is authorized and funded by section 510 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 710), as amended by section 50502(a) of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-123) extended by Div. B, Title II, section 6301 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2026 (Public Law 119-75).

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

Overview

The goal of the Title V Competitive SRAE Program is to encourage youth to avoid nonmarital sexual activity and other risky behaviors linked to adolescent sex.

The objectives of this program are to provide an educational curriculum and strategies that:

- Emphasize avoiding nonmarital sexual activity as optimal healthy behavior.
- Teach skills to help youth avoid risks without normalizing sexual activity outside of marriage.
- Serve youth ages 10 to 19.

For a glossary of terms used in this NOFO, please see the appendix.

SRAE program priorities

The SRAE program aligns with the following ACF priorities:

- **Promoting Work and Self-Sufficiency –** SRAE emphasizes personal responsibility, goal-setting, and future orientation. SRAE explicitly links behavior to poverty prevention and economic independence.
- **Promoting Marriage and Family Formation –** SRAE has a strong focus on avoiding nonmarital sexual activity and promoting healthy relationships that lead to stable marriages and families which directly aligns with ACF priorities.
- **Gold-Standard Research –** Research and evaluation conducted under SRAE must be rigorous. SRAE provides opportunities for independent local evaluation and conducts rigorous national evaluation which is fully aligned with ACF priorities.
- **Ensuring Value Alignment in Funding-** SRAE statute centers on sexual risk avoidance and personal responsibility, aligning with ACF priorities on family formation, self-sufficiency, and behavioral outcomes.

You must clearly describe how your proposed project and activities align with the priorities mentioned above through program design, partnerships, and expected outcomes. More information on ACF's Vision, Mission, Values, Priorities, and Guiding Principles can be found on ACF's website.

Curriculum requirements

- You are not required to choose from a set list of curricula and can create your own. But you must, at minimum, provide evidence-based projects that fulfill the following requirements: Teach the benefits of personal responsibility, self-regulation, setting goals, healthy decision making, and planning for the future.
- Teach how to resist and avoid sexual coercion, dating violence, and discourage risk behaviors such as underage drinking or illicit drug use, recognizing how they increase the risk for teen sex.
- Encourage making choices that avoid sexual activity outside of marriage.
- Be medically accurate and complete and age-appropriate.
- As requested, you'll submit curricula to FYSB for a medical accuracy review and revise as needed to ensure curricula and other program materials are medically accurate and complete.
- You'll take appropriate action to correct any medically inaccurate or age-inappropriate information discovered by FYSB during the project period.
- Contraception is not a required topic and, if provided, should be framed within a broader sexual avoidance approach, must be medically accurate and complete, and must ensure that students understand that contraception offers physical risk reduction, but not risk elimination.
    - Any information on contraception provided to children under 13 years of age must show a data-based need within the specific population.
    - The education provided does not include demonstrations, simulations, or distribution of contraceptive devices.
- Be based on adolescent learning and developmental theories for the age group receiving the education and be culturally appropriate, recognizing the experiences of youth from diverse communities, backgrounds, and experiences.
- Provide formal training for program leaders and educators on the program's approach, and factors that affect youth's sexual risk avoidance.
    - This training must be led by experts and professionals who can give ongoing support to facilitators.
- Connect program participants to other services, local community partners, and agencies that support the health, safety, and well-being of program participants.

Your program must exclusively provide education on sexual risk avoidance, defined by statute as voluntarily refraining from nonmarital sexual activity (42 U.S.C. 710(b)(1)).

According to the Title V SRAE legislation (42 U.S.C. 710)(b)(3)), you must address the following A-F topics, ensuring that the unambiguous and primary emphasis for each topic is a message to youth that normalizes the optimal health behavior of avoiding nonmarital sexual activity:

A. The holistic individual and societal benefits associated with personal responsibility, self-regulation, goal setting, healthy decision-making, and a focus on the future.
B. The advantage of refraining from nonmarital sexual activity to improve the future prospects and physical and emotional health of youth.
C. The increased likelihood of avoiding poverty when youth attain self-sufficiency and emotional maturity before engaging in sexual activity.
D. The foundational components of healthy relationships and their impact on the formation of healthy marriages and safe and stable families.
E. How other youth risk behaviors, such as drug and alcohol usage, increase the risk for teen sex.
F. How to resist and avoid, and receive help regarding, sexual coercion and dating violence, recognizing that even with consent teen sex remains a youth risk behavior.

We encourage you to review evidence-based programs and their components (activities that make up programs) to see if they can be adapted, as long as copyright rules allow. Make sure interventions can be faithfully carried out and follow the key curriculum elements required for this award.

Success sequence for poverty prevention

To further these statutory goals, we encourage you to incorporate promoting the Success Sequence for Poverty Prevention in your program.

The Success Sequence teaches youth the importance and benefits of achieving three core steps to ensure successful financial, physical, and emotional outcomes in adulthood.

The steps include:

1. Graduating high school.
2. Getting a full-time job.
3. Getting married before having children.

Youth may receive age-appropriate information on parenting and adoption, along with available supports, to promote responsible decision-making and an understanding of the long-term implications of family formation. By strengthening youths' capacity to develop healthy relationships, practice self-regulation, and align their behaviors with their personal goals, SRAE programming supports improved outcomes for both youth and their future families.

Evidence-based interventions and strategies

Your program should use interventions, strategies, approaches, and/or program models that:

- Have been evaluated using rigorous evaluation design and have demonstrated positive impacts for youth, families, and communities.
- Evaluations may include randomized controlled or high-quality, quasi-experimental trials.
- Bring together the best available research, professional expertise, and input from youth and families to identify and deliver services that have promise to achieve positive outcomes for youth, families, and communities.

Referrals and connections to youth-friendly health care and other services

You may provide referrals within the scope of the Title V SRAE program. Your program should make connections and referrals to health care and other services easy for youth to access but may not pay for the services themselves with FYSB grant funding. Include referrals and service documentation to youth-friendly services that do not normalize sexual activity outside of marriage, such as:

- Educational services (such as tuition for formal K-12 or General Education Diploma classes).
- Career development.
- Counseling services such as:
    - Substance use disorder treatment.
    - Tobacco cessation.
    - Mental health counseling.
    - Intimate partner violence counseling.

Referrals may be to local faith-based or community organizations, health care providers, or other entities providing relevant services.

All referrals made with federal funds under this award or during program activities funded under this award must be related to activities authorized under the award.

Abortion referrals and services are prohibited

Funds awarded under this NOFO may not be used to fund abortion-related services, including referrals.

Partnering agencies

Agencies that you partner with should share a commitment to implementing grant funds to emphasize optimal health outcomes that do not normalize sexual activity outside of marriage.

Partnering agencies must:

- Choose programs and/or program elements that research shows effectively produce positive behavior changes for the group being served, such as preventing:
  - Unmarried teen pregnancies.
  - Sexually transmitted infections (STIs).
  - Nonmarital sexual activity.
- Select curricula that are medically accurate and complete, age-appropriate, and culturally appropriate.
- Select curricula that address healthy relationships, life skills, and decision-making with a positive youth development (PYD) approach.
- Make sexual risk avoidance education the focus of their SRAE funded project.

Chosen partners and agencies cannot use grant funds to perform abortions or provide abortion referrals.

Other requirements

Title V Competitive SRAE programs funded under this NOFO must also:

- Be based on medically accurate and complete information.
- Be age and culturally appropriate.
- Use a PYD approach.
- Measure and report on project performance and ensure continuous quality improvement.
- Be sustainable after the award period ends.

You must also be fully staffed and able to carry out this project within 90 days of award.

Medically accurate and complete

This means that project materials:

- Must be verified or supported by the weight of research conducted in compliance with accepted scientific methods.
- Must be either published in peer-reviewed journals, where applicable, or comprise information that leading professional organizations and agencies with expertise in the field recognize as accurate, objective, and complete.

Age appropriate

This means that:

- Projects must provide age-appropriate information and activities. Age-appropriate means suitable (in terms of topics, messages, and teaching methods) to the developmental and social maturity of the particular age or age group of children or adolescents, based on developing cognitive, emotional, and behavioral capacity typical for the age or age group.
- Topics, messages, and teaching methods must be age-appropriate for children and adolescents.

Culturally appropriate

This means that projects must use culturally appropriate interventions that recognize the experiences of youth from diverse communities, backgrounds, and experiences.

Reaching youth from diverse communities, backgrounds, and experiences

You may not carry out diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives that prioritize services for youth of one race, color, or national origin of youth participant over any other.

Your program must ensure there is no prioritization of any race, color, or national origin of youth when accessing Title V Competitive SRAE funded services.

Youth participation is voluntary.

Using a positive youth development (PYD) approach

Incorporate a positive youth development (PYD) approach that ensures a young person has a sense of self-worth, belonging and membership, safe and structured settings, closeness in interpersonal relationships, positive adult role models, skills development, and opportunities to serve others. Any PYD approach utilized, including in any project curricula, products, or resources, must not be used in a way that conflicts with the ACF Vision, Mission, Values, Priorities, or Guiding Principles unless authorized by law, including any relevant court orders.

Trauma-informed care

- SRAE programs should consider the trauma and mental health needs of young people who have experienced physical or sexual maltreatment, abuse, or violence.
- Projects should include trauma-informed and resilience focused approaches. You should train staff to recognize the signs and symptoms of trauma in youth, including survival mechanisms or coping behaviors stemming from past experience with childhood sexual abuse or current trauma (from abusive or predatory relationships). You should build organizational and staff capacity to fully include knowledge about trauma into policies, procedures, and practices to be able to refer to appropriate treatment or services and to avoid re-traumatizing youth.
- For youth who have experienced trauma, you should consider addressing and providing support for youth to develop underlying skills, competencies, responsibilities, and attitudes that improve basic functioning across key life moments. For example, effective programming that supports mental health, developing coping strategies, and increasing protective factors in a youth's life can minimize negative risk-taking behaviors and increase their capacity to thrive.

Human trafficking universal education

Per 22 U.S.C. 7102(11), the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 as amended, 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.

Recipients must provide universal education on human trafficking to all program participants. Universal education means giving everyone information, safety messages, and connections to resources to help reduce risk across the population served. This approach normalizes getting support, reduces stigma, and people to connect to services early.

Program staff must offer resources to all participants, even if a person does not share or disclose a trafficking experience. Universal education should not be used to pressure or require anyone to disclose.

Recipients must include information on human trafficking in all youth programs. The curriculum must be based on research and theory; focus on building knowledge and skills; and give participants chances to practice what they learn. 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

Federal law (Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, Pub. L. 93-247) defines human trafficking of children (both labor and sex trafficking) as a form of child abuse and neglect.

If a recipient identifies possible human trafficking involving a child, they must follow all federal, state, tribal, and local reporting requirements. This includes reporting to the appropriate authorities, such as child welfare agencies or law enforcement, just as they would for other forms of child abuse or neglect.

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, health care 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	Health care setting
Short Screen for Child Sex Trafficking		X	Ages 12–18; sex trafficking only	Health care setting

Performance measurement

Performance measures are a set of indicators that reflect program performance.

If you receive an award, you'll be expected to continuously improve the quality of the program and report on performance measures semi-annually. These performance measures provide information based upon three categories of data collection:

- Structure, cost, and support for program implementation.
- Attendance, reach, and dosage.
- Participant entry and exit surveys (which capture characteristics, behaviors, program experiences, and perceptions of effects).

You're expected to:

- Check local and state laws, policies, and procedures to ensure the practical collection of data.
- Obtain any necessary permissions (e.g., formal agreements with partners, Institutional Review Board approval, copies of school district approvals).
- Ensure all subrecipients and implementation sites collect and submit the SRAE performance measures data.

FYSB will train you on how to conduct data collection and data submission.

FYSB will ask you to collect specific indicators. You may also:

- Use FYSB's Office of Management and Budget (OMB)-approved questions related to program performance, and include additional, non-OMB-approved items to the end of the entry or exit surveys.
- Collect additional service satisfaction feedback from youth participants entry and exit surveys.

For more information about the SRAE performance measures, including definitions, survey instruments, and data collection tools, please see the SRAE Performance Analysis Study website.

Local evaluation (optional)

You have the option to conduct a program evaluation, referred to as a local evaluation, of your project.

SRAE local evaluations are:

- Separate from performance measurement.
- Designed to answer recipient-driven research questions that assess the program's effectiveness, impact, implementation, and participant outcomes.

- An opportunity to assess areas of improvement.
- A way to contribute to the evidence base for SRAE programming.

The local evaluation must answer one or more recipient-specific evaluation questions related to your program.

In accordance with the legislation, the Title V Competitive SRAE evaluation that you opt to conduct must be:

- Rigorous.
- Evidence-based.
- Designed and conducted by independent evaluators who have experience in conducting and publishing research in peer-reviewed outlets.

The independent, local evaluators who design and conduct the local evaluation must have experience in conducting evaluations of youth-focused programs in the community. They should match the type of methodology to the proposed local evaluation. Local evaluators may be from universities, research organizations, evaluation consultancies, or other institutions with experience in conducting high-quality evaluations of community programs.

Not including a local evaluation will not decrease your funding level. If you do conduct a local evaluation, you may set aside up to 20% of your annual funding allocation or evaluation activities.

Methodology

If you opt to conduct a local evaluation, you can use any of these methodologies:

- **Impact evaluations**: Effectiveness studies that have a control group that receives no services or different, distinctive services from the intervention group.
  - These studies should also evaluate behavioral outcomes beyond the period directly following the end of programming.
- **Comprehensive needs assessments**: Systematic investigations that:
  - Identify needs and challenges around a given issue.
  - Determine root causes.
  - Identify current barriers to addressing the need.
  - Set priorities for future actions.
- **Descriptive studies**: Studies that document and link program implementation and participant outcomes.
  - Descriptive evaluations generate knowledge or understanding about the programs and populations served and do not have a control group.

Technical assistance

If you conduct a local evaluation, we will provide technical assistance and training to you and your local evaluator. This support will focus on planning, implementation, analysis, reporting, and dissemination. You may have to complete standardized forms and templates, describe your evaluation plans, and submit evaluation updates.

Planning your evaluation

Well-conducted evaluations require time for planning, implementation, analysis, reporting, and dissemination activities. We advise you to carefully consider, based on the study selected, whether you have enough time and resources to conduct your evaluation. We also recommend that you review the current SRAE evaluation resources to inform your evaluation plan.

We will review your evaluation plan before you start evaluation activities. We may suggest improvements including revisions to the evaluation design and funding.

National evaluation

We will conduct a national, descriptive study with recipients. We may invite a subset of projects to participate in a rigorous, federal evaluation. Federal evaluations are subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act, and ACF/FYSB will receive all approvals prior to launching any evaluations.

Project sustainability

You’re expected to collaborate with subrecipients and partners to carry out a sustainability plan that ensures the project continues after the period of federal funding ends.

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.
- Service provision, including those arranged through the program.
- To replace current public or private funding.
- To replace existing, ongoing, or usual activities of any organization involved in the project.
- To pay for any health care or related services that grant recipients or subcontractors may have made on behalf of youth.

You must also abide by the following rule:

- No more than 20% of the allocated funds can be used for the optional evaluation.

Indirect costs

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

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

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

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

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

Subawards

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

Monitoring your subrecipient's activities alone as described in 2 CFR 200.332 is not a substantive role.

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

All subrecipients must have a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) through the System for Award Management (SAM.gov).

Subrecipients must meet the eligibility requirements of this NOFO.

Salary rate limitation

The salary rate limitation in the current appropriations act applies to this program. You may not use awarded funds to pay a salary at a higher rate than the rate for Executive Level II.

For the Executive Level II salary, please see the Office of Personnel Management information on executive and senior level employee pay.

The salary limitation reflects a person's base salary (including any portion of the salary that is paid with indirect costs). It does not include fringe benefits or any income the person is allowed to earn outside of the duties of the applicant organization.

This salary limitation also applies to subawards, contracts, and subcontracts under an ACF grant or cooperative agreement.

Program income

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

Use of E-Verify

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

Step 2:
Get Ready to Apply

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
☐ Legal proof of for-profit status	Yes
☐ Legal proof of small business	Yes
☐ Additional eligibility documentation	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: 100 pages

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

Accepted file formats

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

Document formats

Paper size: 8 ½ inches x 11 inches
Margins: 1 inch all around
Language: English

If possible, include page numbers.

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

Fonts

Font: Times New Roman
Color: Black
Size: 12-point font

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

Spacing

Table of contents: Must be single-spaced
Project summary: Must be single-spaced
Project narrative: Must be double-spaced
Logic model: Must be single-spaced
Line-item budget and budget narrative: Can be single-spaced
Attachments: Can be single-spaced
Tables and footnotes throughout: Can be single-spaced

See disqualifying factors to understand what may disqualify your application from consideration.

File one

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

This file includes:

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

Table of contents

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

Project summary

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

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

Project narrative

The project narrative is where you address all your proposed activities. It is a critical section of your application, which we evaluate using merit review criteria and rank based on application scores.

Remember that substance and measurable outcomes are more important than length. We are particularly interested in project narratives that convey strategies for achieving intended performance.

In it, you must:

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

Purpose and need

Geographic location

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

Please see locality restrictions for guidance.

Need for assistance

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

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

Objectives

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

Response

Approach

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

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

Describe how your program will include referrals and other connections to youth-friendly services and how FYSB grant funding will not be used to pay for these services. Include details about the referral resources you will use, how you make referrals to other services, and how you will follow-up on and track referrals, when needed.

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 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.

Your logic model should provide **up to six outcomes** that clearly state expected results or benefits of the intervention proposed and link them with the goals.

Proposed outcomes must be SMART:

- Specific.
- Measurable.
- Achievable.
- Realistic.
- Time-framed.

Impact

Project performance evaluation plan

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

- How you will monitor ongoing activities and progress toward the project's goals and objectives.
- The inputs, key activities, and expected outcomes of the funded activities. Inputs 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.
- How you will collect and report on OMB-approved program performance measures.

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.
- Describe the recruitment, retention, professional development, and training plan for staff throughout the project period. Describe how each proposed position is appropriate and relevant to the successful implementation of the proposed project.
- Describe the organizational executive leadership and the existing staffing structure or a proposed staffing plan that will support full program implementation **within 90 days of award.**
- Provide a succinct plan to monitor the effective management and coordination of activities by any partners, contractors and subcontractors, and consultants, if applicable
- Provide some supporting information in the organizational capacity supporting information section of your attachments.

Current and pending funding support

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

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

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

Plan for oversight of federal award funds and activities

You must ensure proper award oversight. The regulation that governs this oversight is 2 CFR part 200. It includes standards for:

- Financial and program management.
- Property management.
- Procurement.
- Performance and financial monitoring and reporting.
- Subrecipient monitoring and management.
- Record retention and access.
- Remedies for noncompliance.
- Prior written approval.

Describe your framework to make sure that your federal funds and activities have proper oversight. Include:

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

Project sustainability plan

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

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

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

Protection of sensitive or confidential information

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

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

For more information, see 2 CFR 200.303(e).

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.
- Include a line-item budget for subawards.
- Budget costs for two key staff members to attend the Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention (APP) Program Grantee Annual Training
- Budget Costs for two staff members to attend a minimum of one of two topical training sessions offered in each year of the 24-month project period.
- Staff members with significant involvement in day-to-day project management or working directly with youth should be encouraged and allowed to attend these trainings as appropriate.

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.

Legal proof of for-profit status

If your organization is a for-profit, including a small business, you need to attach proof.

Include documentation establishing your organization's power to enter into contractual relationships or accept awards. This might include your articles of incorporation or bylaws.

Legal proof of small businesses

In addition to the proof that your organization is for-profit required in the previous section, small businesses must submit a certification signed by the chief executive officer or designee that states that the entity qualifies as a small business under 13 CFR 121.101-121.201.

Additional eligibility documentation

To be eligible for funding, an entity must possess an IRS registration within the eligible state, crediting the entity as a legal and registered taxpayer in that state. IRS registration must be submitted with application.

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.
- Copy or description of your organization's fiscal control and accountability procedures.
- Evidence that your organization, and any partnering organizations, have relevant experience and expertise with administration, development, implementation, management, and evaluation of programs similar to that offered under this funding opportunity.

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.
- If the agreement covers a loan transaction, include:
    - The purposes for the loan.
    - Interest rates and other fees.
    - Terms of the loan.
    - Repayment schedules.
    - Collateral security.
    - Default and collection procedures.
    - The signatures of the authorized officials of the lender and the borrower.
- If the agreement covers an equity investment, include the:
    - Purposes of the equity investment.
    - Type of equity transaction, for example a stock purchase.
    - Cost per share and basis on which the cost per share is derived.
    - Number of shares being purchased.
    - Percentage of ownership in the business.
    - Term of duration of the agreement.
    - Number of seats on the board, if applicable.
    - Signatures of the authorized officials of the applicant and third-party organization.

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 points = 110
1. Purpose and need	20 points
2. Response	45 points
3. Impact	10 points
4. Resources and capabilities	20 points
5. Line-Item budget and budget narrative	5 points
6. ACF priority alignment	10 points

Scoring criteria

Purpose and need

Maximum points: 20

The reviewer will assess how well you:

(0 to 4 points)

- Clearly define the geographic areas to be served by your project.
- Explain why you chose those areas.
- List data to support the selection of your service areas.

(0 to 2 points)

- Clearly describe a compelling need for the proposed project including the nature and scope of the problem.
- Document relevant data including:
    - Unmarried teen birth data.
    - STI rates.
    - Youth risk behavior data.
        - Other relevant data from planning studies or needs assessments (you may refer to them in the endnotes or footnotes).

(0 to 4 points)

Demonstrate a thorough understanding of the population's needs and justify the number of participants you will serve:

- Number of youth served.

- Age groups or grades.
- Other descriptive factors, as applicable.

(0 to 10 points)

Clearly and thoroughly describe the objectives, activities, and outcomes of the project, reflecting the overall goal and objectives of Title V Competitive SRAE.

Response

Maximum points: 45

The reviewer will assess how well you:

(0 to 6 points)

Describe in detail how you will ensure the following:

- All project materials are medically accurate and complete.
- Your project:
  - Provides age-appropriate information and activities.
  - Is culturally appropriate to youth served.
  - Addresses the needs of youth served.
  - Serves youth from different communities, backgrounds, and experiences.
  - Provides voluntary education and services.

(0 to 19 points)

- Describe a detailed plan to implement education exclusively on sexual risk avoidance, through teaching the A-F topics required by the legislation, which includes the Success Sequence for Poverty Prevention. **(0 to 6 points)**
- Describe the curriculum modules, interventions, and activities that will be conducted and how they align with the SRAE statutory program requirements. **(0 to 3 points)**
- Describe the rationale for choosing the selected curriculum, citing evidence that demonstrates how the curriculum and overall proposal apply the key program elements and positively influence youth behavior change, namely delaying initiation of sexual activity until marriage. **(0 to 3 points)**
- Describe the process and tools that you will use to monitor program how closely the program is carried out according to design, and, if adaptations are planned, provide a clear rationale for the proposed adaptations. **(0 to 2 points)**
- Describe any project design or technological innovations you propose to use to reach more youth and how they will support the project. **(0 to 1 point)**

- Describe how the program will incorporate a PYD approach (including targeting risk and protective factors) and demonstrate the ways you plan to incorporate meaningful youth engagement. **(0 to 4 points)**

(0 to 20 points)

- Clearly describe your participant recruitment and retention plan for youth ages 10 to 19. The approach described must be specific for the population served and include how you will successfully recruit and retain said population. **(0 to 3 points)**
- Explain methods you will use to ensure facilitators/educators who will deliver the program have been or will be formally trained in the proposed SRAE program model and/or strategies. **(0 to 4 points)**
- Describe thoroughly how your project will include referrals and connections to youth-friendly services. The description identifies referral resources and includes information about how referrals will be made to other services and details on how you will follow up on and track referrals, when appropriate. **(0 to 6 points)**
- Describe a clear, detailed process for conducting all your proposed functions or activities identified in your application, including the following **(0 to 3 points)**:
    - Major milestones.
    - Target dates.
    - A timeline that:
        - Covers the full period of performance.
    - Is sufficient.
        - Includes time for planning, implementation, analysis, and reporting and dissemination activities, as applicable.
- Include a well-defined logic model that demonstrates a reasonable and significant relationship between planned Title V Competitive SRAE project activities and intended outcomes and outputs. **(0 to 2 points)**
- Describe a plan for project sustainability that details how the project will create self-sufficiency, which ensures the project activities will continue after federal funding has ended. The plan thoroughly addresses how program participants, family members, and community leaders will be involved with making recommendations to improve and sustain the program. **(0 to 2 points)**

Impact

Maximum points: 10

The reviewer will assess how well you:

- Indicate your agreement to collect and report on OMB-approved program performance measures. **(0 to 2 points)**
- Clearly describe the use of data collection methods that determine if the project outcomes are being achieved. **(0 to 4 points)**
- Describe in detail how the data collected will be used to engage in continuous quality improvement of the Title V Competitive SRAE program. **(0 to 4 points)**

Resources and capabilities

Maximum points: 20

The reviewer will assess how well you:

- Clearly describe the organization's relevant experience in providing SRAE Services and the experience of any partner organizations identified in the MOU or MOA. **(0 to 5 points)**
- Clearly describe organizational executive leadership and the existing staffing structure, or a proposed staffing plan that will support full program implementation within 90 days of award. You should provide a succinct plan to monitor the effective management and coordination of activities by any partners, contractors, subcontractors, and consultants. **(0 to 3 points)**
- Include a clearly defined organizational chart, Board of Directors list, and governance structure. **(0 to 2 points)**
- Describe the duties of the proposed Project Director and how key project staff demonstrate relevant knowledge and experience (as demonstrated by a resume or curriculum-vitae) in SRAE to effectively institute and manage a project of this focus, scope, cost, and complexity. **(0 to 4 points)**
- Describe the role, responsibilities, and time commitments for each proposed project staff position, including partners, consultants, and contractors and/or subcontractors, and demonstrate that each proposed position is appropriate and relevant to the successful implementation of the proposed project. **(0 to 2 points)**
- Describe in detail your fiscal controls and how your accounting procedures will ensure prudent use, proper and timely disbursement, and accurate accounting of federal funds received under this NOFO. **(0 to 2 points)**
- Detail a plan for how facilitators and educators will be recruited and retained and receive professional training and development throughout the project period. **(0 to 2 points)**

Line-Item budget and budget narrative

Maximum points: 5

The reviewer will assess how well you:

- Include a proposed line-item budget and narratives that are feasible, reasonable, and aligned with the requirements of the NOFO (including not allocating more than 20% of your budget toward conducting a local evaluation, if you opt to conduct one). **(0 to 2 points)**
- Include a detailed budget justification of project costs and demonstrate how cost estimates were derived. Calculations must include estimation of methods, quantities, and unit costs. **(0 to 3 points)**

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 Work and Self-Sufficiency, Promoting Marriage and Family Formation, Gold-Standard Research, 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: Promoting Work and Self-Sufficiency, Promoting Marriage and Family Formation, Gold-Standard Research, 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 continuous quality improvement.

We do not consider voluntary cost sharing during merit review.

Risk review

Before making an award, we review the risk that you will mismanage federal funds or fail to complete the project objectives. We need to make sure you've handled any past federal awards well and demonstrated sound business practices.

We use SAM.gov Responsibility/Qualification and Exclusions to check this history for all awards likely to be over $250,000.

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

For more details, see 2 CFR 200.206.

Selection process

When making funding decisions, we consider:

- Merit review and scoring results, including the ten points for Alignment with *ACF Vision, Mission, Values, Priorities, and Guiding Principles* to the extent permitted by law. These are key in making decisions but are not the only factor.
- 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 Monday, August 17, 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:

Chéri Thompson
Administration for Children and Families
FYSB Grant Operation Center
ATTN: Title V Competitive SRAE NOFO HHS-2026-ACF-ACYF-TS-0013
1401 Mercantile Lane, Suite 401
Largo, MD 20774

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

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 sections 503 (relating to payment), 507 (relating to criminal penalties for false statements), and 508 (relating to nondiscrimination) of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. 703, 707, and 708.

SRAE post-award requirements

By accepting this NOFO's federal funds, recipients must comply with the following requirements:

- Have the program fully functioning within 90 days following the NoA for the grant.
- Have facilitators and educators formally trained in the program model or elements of the program model by professionals who can provide follow-up technical assistance.
- Include a description of the types of participants by age groups or grades, and other descriptive factors.

- Budget the annual costs of sending at least two key staff members to attend the 3-day Annual Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Program Grantee Training to be held Summer 2027, location TBD.
- Budget the annual costs for at least two staff members to attend a minimum of one of two topical training sessions offered each year of the 2-year project period in areas such as Washington, DC, Portland, Oregon, or Boston, Massachusetts, or through a virtual platform.
- Collect and report on all OMB-approved federal SRAE performance measures for recipients, partners, and subrecipients.
- For states and subrecipients conducting local evaluations, participate in training and technical assistance provided by the federal government and follow related guidance provided by ACF/FYSB.
- Participate in a new grant recipient orientation webinar. The webinar is expected to be held shortly after the official award date.
- Develop a sustainability plan with any proposed subrecipients and collaborating partners to create self-sufficiency and continue program activities after federal funding ends.
- Agree to participate in the national evaluation, if selected.
- Participate in a medical accuracy review of selected curricula and program materials sponsored by ACF/FYSB.

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

Chéri Thompson
fysb.nofo.csrae@acf.hhs.gov
202-205-8173

Grants management

David Lee
fysb.nofo.csrae@acf.hhs.gov
202-401-5461

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
- Search Institute
- The Exchange
- Family and Youth Service Bureau | Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention
- Title V State Sexual Risk Avoidance Education Fact Sheet

Please note that providing these links does not constitute an endorsement by ACF or any of its employees of the sponsor of these sources or of the information or products presented on these sites.

ACF cannot attest to the accuracy of the information provided by linked websites.

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.

Appendix

Glossary of terms

The terms “age-appropriate,” “rigorous,” “medically accurate,” and “youth” are defined according to the legislation at 42 U.S.C. 710(e). All other terms are defined by applicable research for the purposes of this NOFO.

Continuous quality improvement – A continuous and ongoing effort to achieve measurable improvements in the efficiency, effectiveness, performance, accountability, outcomes, and other indicators of quality in services or processes.

Dating violence – The type of intimate partner violence that occurs between two young people who are, or who were, once in an intimate relationship.

Effectiveness – The impact of a program under conditions that are likely to occur in a real-world implementation.

Goal setting – The process of deciding what to accomplish and devising a plan to achieve the desired results.

Healthy relationships – Peer, romantic, marriage, family, and other interactions that are based on trust, honesty, and respect and allow adolescents to feel supported, connected, and independent. In healthy relationships, key elements are communication, appropriate boundaries, empathy, effective conflict resolution, and resistance of peer pressure.

Self-regulation – The act of managing thoughts and feelings to enable goal-directed actions, including a variety of actions necessary for success in school, relationships, and the workplace.

Youth-friendly – Youth-friendly services are those that attract young people, respond to their needs, and retain young people for continuing care. Youth-friendly services are based on a comprehensive understanding of what young people want and need (rather than being based only on what providers believe youth need).

Modifications

Modification Description	**Updated Date**
This NOFO is modified. Changes are made to Step 1: Review the Opportunity, Eligibility: Locality restrictions. The state of New Hampshire was added.	07-27-2026

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 ↑