



National Research Center for Promoting Work and Strong Families

Opportunity number: HHS-2026-ACF-OFA-PG-0059



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Before you begin

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

SAM.gov registration (this can take several weeks)

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

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

Grants.gov registration (this can take several days)

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

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

Apply by the application due date

Applications are due by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on Monday, August 31, 2026.



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



Step 1:

Review the Opportunity

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Basic information

Administration for Children and Families (ACF)

Office of Family Assistance

Establish a national research center and fellowship program to promote the dignity of work, economic self-sufficiency, and family stability policy-relevant research and dissemination.

Summary

The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) invites applicants to establish a National Research Center for Promoting Work and Strong Families.

The purpose of this NOFO is to improve the effectiveness of federal and state policies that promote the dignity of work, economic self-sufficiency, and family stability through marriage, responsible fatherhood, child care, and reduced dependency on public assistance. The Center will support rigorous, policy-relevant research and build stronger connections between researchers and policymakers in human services programs.

The Center will carry out three core activities to achieve its goals:

- **Fellowship program:** Support in-residence fellows placed within ACF and other HHS offices to provide policy-relevant research expertise on work, earnings, family stability, child care, and human services programs.
- **Extramural research grants:** Oversee a competitive grant program to fund timely, actionable research aligned with ACF priorities. These priorities include: promoting the dignity of work, economic self-sufficiency, and family stability.
- **Knowledge building and communication:** Host in-person and virtual events. Produce policy-focused materials to make sure that research findings are accessible and actionable for federal, state, tribal, and local policymakers.

The Center will emphasize research that promotes the dignity of work as a means to economic self-sufficiency and strong and stable families. This research will ideally help identify redundancies across government welfare programs and make sure that taxpayer dollars are used efficiently to help individuals and families rely less on public assistance.

Activities must align with the four statutory authorities supporting this NOFO. The recipient must be able to show, and ACF must be able to monitor, that funds



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

Key facts

Opportunity name:

National Research Center for Promoting Work and Strong Families

Opportunity number:

HHS-2026-ACF-OFA-PG-0059

Federal assistance listing:

93.595; 93.647; 93.239; 93.575

NOFO version: Original

Key dates

Application submission

deadline: August 31, 2026

Expected project start

date: September 30, 2026

See [intergovernmental review](#) for other submission processes that may apply to this NOFO.

appropriated were spent on activities that can be directly attributed to those required and allowed by each funding source.

Funding details

Type: Cooperative agreement

Expected total program funding: \$2,900,000 (Year 1)

Total expected awards: 1

Minimum award amount for the first budget period (award floor): \$2,700,000

Maximum award amount for the first budget period (award ceiling): \$2,900,000

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

Continuation awards are subject to satisfactory performance, federal funds availability, and alignment with ACF priorities.

Statutory Authority	Federal assistance listing	Estimated Annual Funding	Anticipated Use	Requires Cost-Sharing Match?
Social Security Act section 413 (42 U.S.C. 613)	93.595	\$1,200,000	Fellowship Program	No
Social Security Act section 413 (42 U.S.C. 613)	93.595	\$700,000	Extramural Research Grants & Knowledge Building and Communication	No
Social Security Act section 1110 (42 U.S.C. 1310)	93.647	\$200,000	Fellowship Program	Yes
Public Health Service Act section 304 (42 U.S.C. 242b)	93.239	\$600,000	Fellowship Program	No
Child Care and Development Block Grant Act section 658O(a)(5) (42 U.S.C. 9858m(a)(5))	93.575	\$200,000	Fellowship Program	No

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

Eligibility

Eligible applicants

Eligibility for this opportunity is unrestricted.

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.

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

A portion of this program's statute requires recipients to pay part of the cost of the project. Specifically, the funds authorized by Social Security Act section 1110 [42 U.S.C. 1310(a)(1)] require cost sharing. As a result, we require recipients to contribute at least 1% of the Section 1110 share of the project's cost during the project period.

You can calculate this cost-sharing requirement by:

- **Calculation:** Divide the amount of Section 1110 federal funds requested by 99.
- **For example:** Divide \$200,000 by 99. This equals a match of \$2,020.

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.

Cost-sharing waiver

We waive cost sharing up to \$199,999 for awards to the governments of American Samoa, Guam, the Virgin Islands, and the Northern Mariana Islands (except for the consolidated awards under 45 CFR part 97). You must meet any amount of cost sharing over \$199,999. See 48 U.S.C. 1469a(d) Congressional declaration of policy respecting "Insular Areas."

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 by:

- [Social Security Act section 413 \(42 U.S.C. 613\)](#)
- [Social Security Act section 1110 \(42 U.S.C. 1310\)](#)
- [Public Health Service Act section 304 \(42 U.S.C. 242b\)](#)
- [Child Care and Development Block Grant Act section 658O\(a\)\(5\) \(42 U.S.C. 9858m\(a\)\(5\)\)](#)

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 and purpose

ACF has a long-standing commitment to supporting rigorous research that informs policies which promote personal responsibility, the dignity of work, and marriage. Building on prior federal poverty research centers funded by the HHS Office of the Assistance Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, this initiative refocuses research on promoting the dignity of work, economic self-sufficiency and reduced dependence on public assistance, family stability through marriage, child care, and child well-being.

Given the crosscutting nature of this initiative, this NOFO is directly related to many of the ACF Priorities described in the prior section. This NOFO addresses the **Promoting Work and Self-Sufficiency, Promoting Marriage and Family Formation** and the **Gold-Standard Research** priorities. Through this work, the NOFO will advance these priorities by building the evidence base of Gold-Standard Research focused on programs and policies that promote work and self-sufficiency and promote marriage and strong families.

The Center must:

- Support emerging and established scholars focused on work and family outcomes.
- Provide timely, policy-relevant research to ACF, and make sure that findings are translated into actionable policy insights.
- Encourage collaboration between academic researchers and policymakers.

For purposes of this NOFO, the “dignity of work” refers to the role of employment as the main way that individuals and families achieve economic self-sufficiency, reduce long-term reliance on public assistance, and support their children’s well-being. Work is not only a source of income, but a way to build responsibility, stability, and a path toward greater independence.

Consistent with this definition, activities that promote the dignity of work include those that:

- Support individuals in obtaining employment, maintaining employment, and advancing in the labor market.
- Increase earnings and long-term economic stability.
- Strengthen individuals’ ability to support themselves and their families.
- Help people move away from depending on assistance and towards sustained self-sufficiency.

Core activities

1. Fellowship program

The Center will manage a fellowship program placing scholars in residence at ACF and other HHS offices. The fellowship program supports the dual public purpose of providing early career scholars with policy-relevant professional experience and advancing the research field on topics related to promoting the dignity of work, economic self-sufficiency and reduced dependence on public assistance, family stability through marriage, child care, and child well-being. By establishing a fellowship program wherein fellows are working in residence at ACF and HHS offices, fellows will be exposed to federal policy environments and gain skills and expertise for conducting policy-relevant research. The public will benefit from the increased availability of researchers with experience in conducting program and policy-relevant research.

Fellows may include:

- Post-doctoral scholars.
- Senior scholars.
- Intergovernmental Personnel Act (IPA) assignees.

To be eligible, fellows must:

- Hold an advanced degree in a relevant field such as economics, public policy, sociology, or related social science.
- Have a strong academic or professional research record.
- Be able to successfully complete Homeland Security Presidential Directive 12 (HSPD-12) credentialing.

During the fellowship, fellows must work on research areas aligned with the requirements of the statutory authority that provides funding for their placement.

- Any fellows funded by Social Security Act section 413 (42 U.S.C. 613) must work on research and evaluation projects on the effectiveness of state Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) programs.
- Any fellows funded by Social Security Act section 1110 (42 U.S.C. 1310) must work on research and demonstrations relating to the prevention and reduction of dependency, or those which will aid in effective coordination between private and public welfare agencies or those that improve the effectiveness of programs.
- Any fellows funded by Public Health Service Act section 304 (42 U.S.C. 242b) must conduct and support statistical and epidemiological activities for the purpose of improving the effectiveness, efficiency, and quality of health services in the United States.

- Any fellows funded by Child Care and Development Block Grant Act section 658O(a)(5) (42 U.S.C. 9858m(a)(5)) must work on research, demonstration, and evaluation projects on increasing access to child care services and improving the safety and quality of child care services.

The Center must:

- Develop and carry out a national recruitment plan that:
 - Advertises opportunities broadly, including through academic networks and professional associations.
 - Establishes clear, objective selection criteria aligned with ACF research priorities.
 - Is reviewed and updated annually to improve reach and quality of the applicant pool.
- Work with ACF to match fellows with placements based on research expertise, available assignments, and funding.
- Make sure that fellows are clearly informed during recruitment that final placements depend on their qualifications, mutual interest, and available funding, and that the number of placements may vary from year to year.
- Serve as the employer of record for all fellows and be responsible for determining and paying fellow salaries or stipends, benefits, and other fellowship-related expenses.
- Provide supervision of fellows. ACF staff will provide mentorship and policy guidance but will not supervise fellows directly.
- Provide structured professional development for fellows, which must include supporting fellows in advancing their academic and professional interests, academic mentoring opportunities, and peer networking opportunities among fellows and with the broader research community.
- Provide access to relevant workshops, lectures, and conferences, including reimbursement for attendance where appropriate.
- Help create connections between leading researchers and policymakers focusing on work, family, and human services issues.
- Coordinate closely with ACF on fellow placement and priorities.
- Track and report fellowship expenses separately from other Center activities, with budgets and financial reporting that clearly reflect this breakdown.

The Center should plan to support approximately 8 to 12 fellows per year, though the exact number will depend on funding availability and the quality of the applicant pool. Each fellowship is for one year, with the possibility of a second or third year at ACF's and the Center's discretion and subject to available funding. Fellows may need to

relocate to the Washington, DC, area, pending interest from their placement office. During the first budget period the awardee is expected to continue to support two existing fellows as well as develop and widely publicize an announcement of the fellowship program with residence at ACF or HHS for appointments beginning in the summer or fall of 2027. The fellowship program supports the dual public purpose of providing early career scholars with policy-relevant experience and advancing the research field on topics related to promoting the dignity of work, economic self-sufficiency and reduced dependence on public assistance, family stability through marriage, child care, and child well-being.

2. Extramural research grant program

The Center will administer a competitive grant program to fund policy-relevant research aligned with ACF priorities. The extramural research grant program supports public purpose of advancing and stimulating research on topics related to promoting the dignity of work, economic self-sufficiency and reduced dependence on public assistance, family stability through marriage, child care, and child well-being.

The Center will:

- Develop research solicitations in consultation with ACF.
- Manage peer review processes.
- Provide technical assistance to sub-grantees.
- Make sure that funded projects produce actionable findings for policymakers.

Allowable research topics may include:

- Strategies to promote the dignity of work.
- Strategies to increase employment and earnings, reducing reliance on government assistance.
- Promoting marriage and stable families.
- Child well-being and parental engagement.
- Program effectiveness and cost-effectiveness.
- Administrative data and evaluation innovations.
- Protecting the integrity of public benefits.
- Other topics in support of the relevant statutory authority.

3. Knowledge building and communication

The Center will:

- Host policy-focused convenings (in-person and virtual).
- Produce briefs and reports for federal audiences.
- Translate research findings into accessible formats.
- Coordinate with ACF to guarantee alignment with administration and communications priorities.

The Center must demonstrate strong capacity in planning executive-level events and engaging federal policymakers.

Cooperative agreement— Description of ACF's involvement

ACF will have substantial involvement in:

- Setting annual research priorities.
- Collaborating with the Center on fellow placements and providing mentorship and policy guidance to placed fellows, while day-to-day supervision remains the Center's responsibility.
- Reviewing research solicitations.
- Participating in dissemination events.
- Ensuring funds are spent in accordance with the requirements of the respective statutory authority.
- Monitoring progress and deliverables.

ACF staff will provide consultation, technical assistance, and feedback to ensure alignment with departmental priorities.

Consistent with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, 44 U.S.C. 3501-3521, under this NOFO, ACF will not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information covered by such Act, displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number, or fewer than 10 people are asked to respond.

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 cases, 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 cases, 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 are allowable only with prior written approval and must be necessary, reasonable, and allocable.

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.

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.

Salary rate limitation

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

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

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

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



Step 2:

Get Ready to Apply

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Find the application package

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

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

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

Get registered

SAM.gov

You must have an active account with SAM.gov to apply. SAM.gov registration can take several weeks. Begin that process today.

To register:

- Go to [SAM.gov Entity Registration](#) and select Get Started. From the same page, you can also select the Entity Registration Checklist for the information you will need to register.
- You must agree to the [financial assistance general certifications and representations \[PDF\]](#) specifically. Those for contracts are different.

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

Once you register:

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

Grants.gov

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

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

Learn more

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



Step 3:

Build Your Application

In this step

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Application checklist

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

File one: Narratives

Use the Project Narrative Attachment form.

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

File two: Attachments

Insert each in a single Other Attachments form.

Component	Included in page limit?
☐ ACF priorities alignment attestation	No
☐ Indirect cost agreement	Yes
☐ Legal proof of nonprofit status	Yes
☐ Legal proof of for-profit status	Yes
☐ Legal proof of small businesses	Yes
☐ Organizational capacity supporting information (including organization chart)	Yes
☐ Protection of human subjects certification	No

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.

Additionally, applicants must:

- Demonstrate a clear understanding of the policy context related to promoting the dignity of work, economic self-sufficiency and reduced dependency on public assistance, and family stability through marriage
- Demonstrate understanding of the policy context related to child support and responsible fatherhood, child well-being, child care, and human services program effectiveness.
- Describe current gaps in knowledge, data, and evidence that limit policymakers' ability to meaningfully improve economic self-sufficiency and family stability through marriage.
- Explain why a national research center model is necessary to advance policy-relevant research and coordination between researchers and ACF.

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.

Fellowship program

Propose a comprehensive, feasible, and policy-aligned plan to carry out all required activities. Specifically:

- Propose a clear, transparent, and rigorous process for recruiting, selecting, placing, and mentoring fellows that meet the requirements of this NOFO. This should include a process for continuing to support the three existing fellows as well as a plan to develop and widely publicize an announcement of the fellowship program with residence at HHS for appointments of up to two years beginning in the summer or fall of 2027.
- Demonstrate how fellows will directly support ACF policy and research priorities with a primary emphasis on promoting the dignity of work, identifying effective strategies to reduce reliance on government assistance, and strengthening family stability through marriage.
- Provide a strong plan for ongoing mentorship, supervision, integration into ACF or HHS offices, and professional development.

Extramural research grant program

- Describe a structured and objective process for developing research funding opportunities in consultation with ACF.
- Present a rigorous, fair, and transparent peer review process for selecting sub-awardees.
- Demonstrate capacity to manage subawards, provide technical assistance, and guarantee production of timely, actionable findings for policymakers on topics relevant to ACF's priorities.

Knowledge building and communication

- Present a clear plan for translating research findings into actionable policy insights for federal audiences and coordinating with ACF to guarantee alignment with administration and communications priorities.
- Demonstrate experience hosting in-person and virtual events for executive-level or policymaker audiences.

- Provide a realistic strategy for making sure that findings reach federal, state, tribal, and local decision-makers in an accessible format.

Impact

Expected outcomes

Identify the outcomes you plan to achieve from the project. Outcomes should relate to the overall program as described in the [program description section](#). If research is part of the proposed work, outcomes must include hypothesized results and implications of the proposed research.

- Clearly define expected short-term and long-term outcomes for the Center.
- Demonstrate how activities will strengthen policy-relevant research related to promoting work and strong families.
- Describe measurable outputs and performance indicators for fellowship, grant, and knowledge sharing.

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.
- Demonstrate that proposed leadership (Director/Principal Investigator) has strong policy-relevant research and management experience.
- Show that key staff have appropriate expertise in:
 - Labor economics.
 - Family policy.
 - Evaluation.
 - Human services research.
 - Data analysis.
 - Grant management.

- The history and evolution of U.S. human services and public assistance programs, including major reforms and their impact.
- Prove that there's organizational capacity to manage a large cooperative agreement, including fellows and subawards, and the ability to track and report fellowship expenses separately by funding source from other Center activities.
- Demonstrate institutional commitment, including administrative support and relevant infrastructure.
- Provide some supporting information in the organizational capacity supporting information section of your [attachments](#).

Plan for oversight of federal award funds and activities

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

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

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

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

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](#).
- The recipient must be able to show, and ACF must be able to monitor, that funds appropriated were spent on activities that can be directly attributed to those required and allowed by each funding source.

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.
- Present a detailed, reasonable, and well-justified budget aligned with proposed activities.
- Clearly allocate resources by source of funding and by key activity among fellowship activities, extramural grants, dissemination, and administration.
- In addition, in the SF-424A, show the amounts estimated for each Assistance Listing Number
- Demonstrate cost efficiency and appropriate use of federal funds.
- Demonstrate the ability to continue to support the three existing fellows in the first budget period.

Proprietary or personally identifiable information

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

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

File two: Attachments

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

This file includes all attachments.

ACF priorities alignment attestation

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

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

I hereby attest and certify that:

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

Insert Date of Signature:

Print Name and Title of the 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 Internal Revenue Service's (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](#).

Organizational capacity supporting information

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

- Organizational charts, including all partners.
- Resumes, biographical sketches, or curricula vitae for all key personnel.
- Job descriptions for each vacant key position.
- College transcripts for graduate student research fellows.
- List of your board of directors.
- Financial statements adhering to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles, if available, for up to the two most recently completed fiscal years (this requirement does not apply to start-up organizations).
- Audit reports or statements from certified public accountants or licensed public accountants, if available, for up to the two most recently completed fiscal years (this requirement does not apply to start-up organizations).
- Audit summary report including auditor's opinion, if applicable.
- Copy or description of your organization's fiscal control and accountability procedures.
- Copy or description of your organization's personnel policies.

- For construction projects, the names of payment and performance bond carriers you use.
- Child-care licenses and other documentation of professional accreditation.
- Information on compliance with federal, state, and local government standards.

Protection of human subjects certification

Not included in the page limit.

You must attach a Protection of Human Subjects: Assurance Identification/Certification/Declaration of Exemption form. You can find this form at the [Office of Human Research Protections Forms](#) website.

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

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	<u>38</u>
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Application review

Initial review

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Merit review process

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

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

Criteria summary

Criterion	Total number of points = 110
1. Purpose and need	10 points
2. Response	35 points
3. Expected outcomes	15 points
4. Resources and capabilities	25 points
5. Support requested	15 points
6. ACF Priority Alignment	10 points

Scoring criteria

1. Purpose and need

Maximum points: 10

The reviewer will assess how well you:

- Demonstrate a clear understanding of the policy context related to promoting the dignity of work, economic self-sufficiency and reduced dependency on public assistance, and family stability through marriage. **(0 to 5 points)**
- Demonstrate a clear understanding of the policy context related to child support and responsible fatherhood, child well-being, child care, and human services program effectiveness. **(0 to 2 points)**
- Describe current gaps in knowledge, data, and evidence that limit policymakers' ability to strengthen work and families. **(0 to 2 points)**
- Explain why a national research center model is necessary to advance policy-relevant research and coordination between researchers and ACF. **(0 to 1 points)**

Higher scores will go to applications that clearly connect identified needs to proposed fellowship activities, research investments, and knowledge sharing strategies focused on the dignity of work, strengthening marriage and family stability, and transitions from government assistance to employment.

2. Response

Maximum points: 35

The reviewer will assess how well you:

- Propose a comprehensive, feasible, and policy-aligned plan to carry out all required activities. This will be divided into three parts, [as detailed in the Program description](#). Specifically:

Fellowship program (15 points)

The reviewer will assess how well you:

- Propose a clear, transparent, and rigorous process for recruiting, selecting, placing, and mentoring fellows that meet the requirements of this NOFO. **(0 to 6 points)**
- Demonstrate how fellows will directly support ACF and HHS policy and research priorities with a primary emphasis on promoting the dignity of work, identifying effective strategies to reduce reliance on government assistance, and strengthening marriage, family formation, and stability. **(0 to 6 points)**
- Provide a strong plan for ongoing mentorship, supervision, integration into ACF or HHS offices, and professional development. **(0 to 3 points)**

Applications that show a clear system for aligning fellowship activities with ACF's policy priorities will receive higher scores.

Extramural research grant program (10 points)

The reviewer will assess how well you:

- Describe a structured and objective process for developing research solicitations in consultation with ACF. **(0 to 3 points)**
- Present a rigorous, fair, and transparent peer review process for selecting sub-awardees. **(0 to 3 points)**
- Demonstrate capacity to manage subawards, ensure protection of sensitive or confidential information, provide technical assistance, and ensure production of timely, actionable findings for policymakers on topics relevant to ACF's priorities. **(0 to 4 points)**

Applications that demonstrate prior experience administering competitive research grant programs will receive higher scores.

Knowledge building and communication (10 points)

The reviewer will assess how well you:

- Present a clear plan for translating research findings into actionable policy insights for federal audiences and coordinating with ACF to guarantee alignment with administration and communications priorities. **(0 to 4 points)**
- Demonstrate experience hosting in-person and virtual events for executive-level or policymaker audiences. **(0 to 3 points)**
- Provide a realistic strategy for making sure that findings reach federal, state, tribal, and local decision-makers in an accessible format. **(0 to 3 points)**

Applications that demonstrate strong prior experience in executive-level events and policy translation will receive higher scores.

3. Expected outcomes

Maximum points: 15

The reviewer will assess how well you:

- Clearly define expected short-term and long-term outcomes for the Center. **(0 to 5 points)**
- Demonstrate how activities will improve evidence-based policymaking related to promoting work and strong families. **(0 to 5 points)**
- Describe measurable outputs and performance indicators for fellowship, grant, and knowledge sharing. **(0 to 5 points)**

Applications that provide concrete, measurable milestones and performance targets will receive higher scores.

Resources and capabilities

Maximum points: 25

The reviewer will assess how well you:

- Demonstrate that proposed leadership (Director/Principal Investigator) has strong policy-relevant research and management experience. **(0 to 5 points)**
- Show that key staff have appropriate expertise in labor economics, family policy, evaluation, human services research, data analysis, and grant management. **(0 to 5 points)**
- Show that key staff have appropriate expertise in the history and evolution of U.S. human services and public assistance programs, including major reforms and their impact. **(0 to 2 points)**

- Prove that there's organizational capacity to manage a large cooperative agreement, including fellows and subawards, and the ability to track and report fellowship expenses by funding source separately from other Center activities and funding sources. **(0 to 8 points)**
- Demonstrate institutional commitment, including administrative support and relevant infrastructure. **(0 to 5 points)**

Applications that demonstrate experience managing federal cooperative agreements and research portfolios similar in scale will receive higher scores.

4. Support requested

Maximum points: 15

The reviewer will assess how well you:

- Present a detailed, reasonable, and well-justified budget aligned with proposed activities. **(0 to 4 points)**
- Clearly allocate resources across fellowship activities, extramural grants, dissemination, and administration. **(0 to 4 points)**
- Demonstrate cost efficiency, appropriate use of federal funds, and a plan for oversight of federal award funds and activities. **(0 to 4 points)**
- Demonstrate the ability to track and report fellowship expenses separately by funding source and separately from other Center activities. **(0 to 3 points)**

Budgets that are clearly connected to the project narrative and demonstrate sound management of federal resources will receive higher scores.

We do not consider voluntary cost sharing during merit review.

5. Alignment with ACF vision, mission, values, priorities, and guiding principles

Maximum points: 10

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.

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: (1) Promoting Work and Self-Sufficiency, (2) Promoting Marriage and Family Formation, and (3) Gold-Standard Research.

Reviewers will assess the extent to which the application:

- Aligns performance measures and expected outcomes with identified priorities.
- Includes evaluation methods or performance indicators that reflect those priorities.
- Describes how data will be used for continuous quality improvement.

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.
- Fund applications out of rank order.
- Choose not to fund applicants with management or financial problems.
- Designate your application as “approved but unfunded” if it was successful but there was not sufficient funding to make an award. You may receive funding if additional funds become available within the fiscal year.
- Choose to fund no applications under this NOFO.

We will not fund:

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

Award notices

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

The NoA is the only official award document. The NoA tells you about the amount of the award, important dates, and the terms and conditions you need to follow. Until you receive the NoA, you have not received an award. Project costs that you incur before you receive a NoA are at your risk.

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

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



Step 5:

Submit Your Application

In this step

Application submission and deadlines

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Application submission and deadlines

Application

Deadline

Due on Monday, August 31, 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:

National Research Center for Promoting Work and Strong Families

c/o ICF

1902 Reston Metro Plaza

Reston, VA 20190

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 [50](#)

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 Administrative and National Policy Requirements](#), 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 at Title IV-A: Block Grants to States for the Temporary Assistance of Needy Families [42 U.S.C. 613]; Social Security Act section 1110 [42 U.S.C. 1310]; Child Care and Development Block Grant Act section 658O(a)(5) [42 U.S.C. 9858m(a)(5)]; and Public Health Service Act section 304 [42 U.S.C. 242b].

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

The recipient must be able to track and report on the SF-425 and in the PPR that funds were only spent on activities that can be directly attributed to those required and allowed by each funding source.



Contacts and Support

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Agency contacts

Program

Amelia Popham

Amelia.Popham@acf.hhs.gov

202-401-5322

Grants management

Telina Bennett-Reed

ACF-OGM_EI@acf.hhs.gov

202-401-4609

Help with systems

Grants.gov

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

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

SAM.gov

If you need help, you can:

- Call 866-606-8220.
- Live chat with the [Federal Service Desk](#).

Reference websites

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

Paperwork Reduction Act disclaimer

As required by the Paperwork Reduction Act, 44 U.S.C. 3501-3521, the public reporting burden for the project description (project narrative, line-item budget, and justification) is estimated to average 60 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering, and maintaining the data needed, and reviewing the collection information.

The project description information collection is approved under OMB control number 0970-0139, which expires April 30, 2029. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Modifications

Modification Description	Updated Date