

Administration for Children and Families

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

Regional Partnership Grants to Increase the Well-Being of, and to Improve the Permanency Outcomes for, Children and Families Affected By Opioids and Other Substance Abuse

HHS-2022-ACF-ACYF-CU-0094

Application Due Date: 07/08/2022

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Funding Opportunity Title:
Regional Partnership Grants to Increase the Well-Being of, and to Improve the Permanency Outcomes for, Children and Families Affected By Opioids and Other Substance Abuse

Announcement Type:
Initial

Funding Opportunity Number:
HHS-2022-ACF-ACYF-CU-0094

Primary CFDA Number:
93.087

Due Date for Applications:
07/08/2022

Executive Summary

Notice:

- **Applicants are strongly encouraged to read the entire notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) carefully and observe the application formatting requirements listed in *Section IV.2. Content and Form of Application Submission*. For more information on applying for grants, please visit "How to Apply for a Grant" on the ACF Grants & Funding Page at** https://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/how-apply-grant.

The purpose of this funding opportunity is to establish, by cooperative agreement, Regional Partnership Grants (RPG) projects designed to increase well-being, improve permanency, and enhance the safety of children who are in, or at risk of, an out-of-home placement as a result of a parent's or caregiver's opioid or other substance misuse. These RPG projects will provide activities and services through interagency collaboration and integration of programs. Successful applicants will have a collaborative infrastructure in place capable of building the region's capacity to meet a broad range of needs as for families involved with child welfare systems, substance use disorder treatment, courts, and other related service organizations while addressing race equity and support for underserved communities.

The RPG program aims to build evidence on the effectiveness of targeted approaches that improve outcomes for children and families affected by opioids and other substance use disorders. To this end, recipients will evaluate their local program; monitor ongoing activities and the progress towards the goals and objectives of the project; select and report on performance indicators that align with proposed program strategies and activities; and participate in a national cross-site evaluation that will describe outcomes for children, adults, and families enrolled in RPG projects as well as the outcomes of the partnerships.

Prospective applicants should carefully review this funding opportunity, and consider the level of effort necessary to meet the purpose of the funding, the legislatively required project phases (Planning and Implementation), and the evaluation-related requirements. Prospective applicants should note the requirements for a non-federal match throughout the project and that a minimum of 20 percent of grant funds will be spent on evaluation elements of this funding opportunity,

including the satisfactory collection and evaluation of the data necessary for monitoring the proposed performance indicators.

I. Program Description

Statutory Authority
Title IV, part B, subpart 2-Promoting Safe and Stable Families, Section 437(f) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 629g(f)).

Description
BACKGROUND
Families of children who come in contact with the child welfare system often face several difficult challenges, many often deeply associated with poverty, such as underemployment, a lack of secure housing, and other social determinants of health. Such challenges can be exacerbated or caused by mental health concerns, Substance Use Disorders (SUDs), domestic violence, and several other complex societal issues. Parental SUDs are a key factor underlying the abuse or neglect experienced by many of the children who enter foster care or are at risk of entering foster care. In the United States, about 1 in 8 children ages 17 or younger are living in households with at least one parent who has a substance use disorder. While these 8.7 million children will not all experience abuse or neglect, they are at increased risk for child maltreatment and child welfare involvement compared to other children (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration [SAMHSA], 2020).

According to Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) data, parental alcohol or drug use was the reason for removal for almost 38.9 percent of children entering foster care in fiscal year (FY) 2019, with several states exceeding 60 percent (National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare [NCSACW], 2021). At this same point in time approximately 86, 694 children were removed from their homes due to a parent's issue with drug abuse (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services [HHS], 2020a) this data emphasizes the intersection of SUDs and child welfare and underscores the impact of SUD on families and communities.

Furthermore, in a review of race and disproportionality for families of color and other diverse groups affected by child abuse or neglect and SUDs, NCSACW notes the prevalence of SUD and challenges associated with disproportionality and disparities in service systems. For example, the rate of Black/African American drug overdose deaths between 2015 and 2016 was 40 percent compared to the overall population increase at 21 percent. This exceeded all other racial and ethnic population groups in the United States (SAMHSA, Office of Behavioral Health Equity, 2020). Contributing factors include substantially lower access to SUD treatment and limited access to medication-assisted treatment for opioid use disorders (SAMHSA, 2020). The RPG program, through its collaborative cross-systems approach, is well-positioned to address institutional inequities and advance work in this area.

The Children's Bureau's (CB) vision for child welfare is to support families and strengthen communities in ways that will prevent maltreatment and keep children with their families and in their communities. To achieve this vision, families must be able to access comprehensive, evidence-based, and evidence-informed programming, as well as basic supports and resources with their communities through their local-child and family serving agencies and other key

public and private partners.

RPGs

The Child and Family Services Improvement Act of 2006 reauthorized the Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF) program and provided funding over 5 years to implement a targeted grant program to improve permanency outcomes for children affected by methamphetamine and/or substance abuse. This legislation was in direct response to the recognition that parental substance abuse is a key factor underlying the abuse or neglect experienced by many children in the child welfare system.

In 2018, the President signed the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-123) into law, reauthorizing the RPG program through 2021. As part of the reauthorization, several changes were made to the RPG program, primarily including a change in the required mandatory partners and the addition of a Planning Phase -- not to exceed 2 years with a funding disbursement of $250,000.

RPG projects seek to expand the evidence base of programs and practices in the broader fields of child welfare and substance use disorder treatment. The RPG program does so by: (1) requiring recipients to identify and use appropriate practices that are indicated by evidence to be well-supported, supported, promising, or emerging practices (See *Appendix C*), (2) encouraging recipients to consider adapting these practices for their target populations if needed, and (3) incorporating local and cross-site evaluation into the grant program to expand the evidence base on services for families involved in the child welfare and substance use disorder treatment systems. By collecting and analyzing multiple sources of data, ACF will be able to provide information on the effectiveness of the RPG program.

RPG projects support a variety of services aimed to support parents and children outside of the child welfare system as well as family focused interventions to families involved with child welfare. Since 2007, the RPG program has served 37,678 children, 27,917 adults, and 22,452 families. In the most recently published Report to Congress, findings from the national evaluation of Round 2 RPG projects show that child safety and permanency improved after their families participated in RPG services. The rates at which children experienced behavioral problems fell, and adult mental health as well as parenting attitudes, improved significantly from program entry to exit. Adult use of all substances declined, and more adults participated in substance use disorder treatment than before RPG. Opioid users, whose needs were more severe than other adults, also improved significantly (HHS, 2020b).

Specifically, for families in the RPG 2 projects, rates of substantiated maltreatment declined significantly after enrollment in the RPG program. In addition, removals from the home were less common in the year after RPG enrollment than in the year before (HHS, 2020b). A pooled impact study of Round 3 RPG demonstrated the following two favorable impacts on adult outcomes: reduced trauma symptoms and depressive symptoms. Additionally, the study showed children enrolled in RPG had reduced behavior problems and reduced executive functioning deficits (Cole, R., Burnett, A., and Strong, D., 2021). These positive outcomes suggest the success of previous RPG projects to impact collaborative efforts to address fragmentation, service gaps, and service implementation.

PROJECT REQUIREMENTS
The remainder of this section highlights the requirements of recipients in several areas:

Target Area and Population
The target area and population of the project should include communities in which there are a number of children in out-of-home placements or who are at risk of being placed in an out-of-home placement due to the impact of opioid and other substance misuse and seek to reach underserved populations/communities. Communities of focus may have limited availability of resources for addressing the needs of children, adults, and families affected by substance use disorders.

Collaboration
Mandatory partners for regional partnerships include the state child welfare agency that is responsible for the administration of the state plan under title IV-B or title IV-E of the Social Security Act and the state agency responsible for administering the substance abuse prevention and treatment block grant provided under subpart II of part B of title XIX of the Public Health Service Act 42 U.S.C. 629(f)(2)(A). In addition, if the partnership will serve children in an out-of-home placement due to child abuse and neglect, the collaboration must include the Juvenile Court or Administrative Office of the Courts.

Collaborations are required to include signed memoranda of agreement/understanding. In addition, collaborations may include the following components:

1. Routine consultation and interaction with other agencies;
2. Joint accountability and shared outcomes clearly documented;
3. Cross-training and staff development;
4. Processes for communication and information sharing;
5. Willingness and agreement to share administrative data for program evaluation and/or research;
6. Addressing how partners' values and principles help or hinder the collaboration; and
7. Having agreements about shared costs and budgets.

The recipient acknowledges its obligation to comply with 45 CFR Part 87, "Equal Treatment For Faith-Based Organizations." For more information on this requirement please see: https://www.acf.hhs.gov/administrative-and-national-policy-requirements#chapter-2.

Program Strategies and Activities
Recipients will implement, in coordination with CB and CB-supported contractors, specific services and activities that address: increasing child and family well-being, improving treatment outcomes for parents, and supporting the implementation of the Family First Prevention Services Act of 2018 (FFPSA), along with the more traditional goals of enhancing safety and improving permanency for children who are in, or at risk of being placed in an out-of-home placement as a result of a parent or caretaker's substance misuse.

All recipients of these cooperative agreements must select and report on performance indicators to measure the improvement of child, adult, and/or family outcomes that align with their

proposed program strategies and activities. Examples of activities that recipients will engage in, or integrate into existing service delivery systems, include the following:

- Services and activities for children and youth that address child well-being and trauma, including screening and assessment of child well-being, enhancing identification and services to substance-exposed newborns, access to appropriate mental and behavioral health services, and early intervention and preventive services;
- Quality substance use disorder treatment for parents and families including access to comprehensive substance use disorder treatment programs where children can live on-site with parents (often the mother). The programs are designed to meet the needs of the entire family by providing access to medication-assisted treatment, in-home substance use disorder treatment, trauma-specific services, and continuing care and recovery support;
- Services designed to specifically address violence and trauma-related symptoms and reactions; and
- Services for parents and children that improve parenting capacity and family functioning, including efforts to build or enhance parental protective factors, parenting skills training programs to address relational problems and concerns, training for foster or relative care providers, services and interventions to improve family functioning and assist with reunification, and ancillary services for families to support securing needed services including housing, transportation, and child care.

Please see *Appendix A* for a further list of potential project services and activities.

Using Well-Supported, Supported, Promising, and/or Emerging Practices
Recipients will build upon and strengthen existing collaborative practices and fund services or practices that are indicated by evidence to be well-supported, supported, or promising, as well as those emerging practices that are appropriate and culturally responsive for the population of focus; and shown to be effective in achieving the outcomes of the grant. Recipients are required to: (1) identify the well-supported, supported, promising, and/or emerging (evidence-informed) practices they plan to use; (2) provide evidence that shows the practices to be effective; (3) commit and support the implementation of practices; and (4) provide a rationale for using the practices in the identified community with the identified target population. "Indicated by evidence" refers to approaches that are validated by some form of documented research evidence.

Resources to assist recipients in selecting practices that are well-supported, supported, promising, and/or emerging practices are available in *Appendix C.*

Planning and Implementation Phases
Funding for this grant program includes a legislative requirement to be disbursed in two phases: a Planning Phase and an Implementation Phase. The Planning Phase is not to exceed 2 years and funds in the Planning Phase may not exceed $250,000. CB is open to flexibilities regarding the length of a planning period up to 2 years and is committed to supporting recipients in the most effective strategies for the implementation of the proposed projects. Dependent on the readiness of an individual program and the complexity of the proposal, CB anticipates variation in the lengths of the project's Planning Phase. A recipient may complete a Planning Phase in less than

12 months and begin the Implementation Phase. The award is comprised of a 60-month project period and five 12-month budget periods. Applicants may and are encouraged to apply for and be awarded up to $600,000 in each of the five 12-month budget periods. For the first 12-month period, expenditure of funds beyond $250,000 is contingent on successful completion of the Planning Phase.

During the Planning Phase, recipients will engage in intensive assessment and planning activities in which recipients will build on their proposed project plan that was clearly described in their applications to further refine and finalize their implementation and local evaluation plans, as well as finalize their performance data indicator selections. Projects will work with a federally funded, cross-site evaluation and technical assistance team to further develop and refine the strongest possible evaluation plans for the Implementation Phase of the project. Such efforts will also include work to align local evaluation designs with the cross-site evaluation, including design, methodologies, and measures. The degree to which such alignment is possible will be determined throughout the Planning Phase. Adjustments to implementation and evaluation plans may be necessary upon further refinement of the target population and in consultation with CB and technical assistance providers.

The purpose of the planning period is to:

- Finalize all outstanding partnership agreements necessary to support the successful implementation of the regional partnership project;
- Further define the target population and finalize program eligibility and referral and recruitment plans to ensure the project meets goals for targeting underserved populations/communities and targeted numbers served to optimize the success of the program and the rigorous local evaluation;
- Ensure the appropriateness and fit of the selected program(s), models, interventions, and/or services for the targeted children and their families;
- Assess the capacity and readiness of the lead agency and key partnering agencies for the implementation of RPG services;
- Further refine the evaluation plan to be as rigorous as possible;
- Finalize performance indicators and outcome selections;
- Ensure the final evaluation plan is reviewed by the relevant Institutional Review Board(s) (IRB), and their approval is obtained, or ensure a sound plan is in place to obtain IRB approval; and
- Ensure the necessary data-sharing agreements are in place to secure the administrative data needed to support both the local and cross-site evaluation.

Based upon the results of the comprehensive set of activities undertaken during the Planning Phase, recipients will develop a detailed, revised implementation and evaluation plan to guide the Implementation Phase of their projects. This revised plan will be submitted to CB during the ninth month of the Planning Phase, to be reviewed and approved by CB. The revised plan will include details of the governance and management structure guiding their regional partnership; the target population, projections for numbers served, eligibility criteria and referral and recruitment processes; RPG programs and strategies to be implemented; work plan for the Implementation Phase; a revised logic model that outlines an overall theory of change for the

regional partnership (which may include a review of their states' Child and Family Services Plan (CFSP), and when appropriate, seeking opportunities to engage with relevant state-level efforts); a plan for a rigorous local evaluation and participation in the cross-site evaluation, including a detailed data collection plan; and sustainability and dissemination plans.

The Implementation Phase of the project cannot begin until the revised implementation and evaluation plan has been approved by CB. After the revised implementation and evaluation plan is approved by CB, recipients are required to have the project and the implementation of services fully functioning as described in their timeline. Upon completion of the Planning Phase and approval of the implementation and evaluation plan, recipients may expend funds beyond the $250,000 Planning Phase.

Evaluation

ACF expects that projects funded under this funding opportunity will help build the evidence base for interventions that will enhance well-being and improve outcomes for children and families affected by a parent or caretaker's substance misuse. The evaluation and reporting on performance measures for this cooperative agreement are intricate and require a concerted effort. Recipients will adopt and fully implement specific, well-defined, and quality program services, and activities that are indicated by evidence and/or evidence informed. Recipients are to conduct a rigorous site-specific local evaluation that analyzes the implementation, including evaluation to improve processes and services, performance, and outcomes, including demonstrating linkages between proposed interventions and improved outcomes of the grant project. ACF is specifically interested in determining the impact of these programs on improving outcomes for children and families in the key areas of increased well-being, improved permanency, enhanced safety, recovery, and family stability. Also, ACF is interested in the use of rigorous rapid cycle evaluation methodologies, specifically in the area of referrals, recruitment, and retention of clients to RPG services, to identify successful strategies that improve the ability to direct referrals to available and appropriate services and engage clients to participate in such services. Recipients must implement a local evaluation plan of sufficient rigor to assess impacts on service delivery and outcomes for the targeted population and contribute to the evidence base for approaches that improve well-being and functionality for families affected by substance use disorders. Pilot testing or rapid cycle learning evaluation may be a part of the local evaluation during the Planning Phase, but the start of such efforts must be approved by CB. Results from pilot testing or rapid cycle learning that occurs during the Planning Phase should inform the implementation and evaluation plan developed and finalized during the Planning Phase, as well as further work on the project.

In addition to conducting a local evaluation, recipients must participate fully in a national cross-site evaluation in which an ACF-supported contractor analyzes the performance and/or outcomes of multiple projects that are funded under the grant program. Recipients must devote a minimum of 20 percent of their project budget to data collection and evaluation activities. The cross-site evaluation will describe outcomes for children, adults, and families enrolled in RPG projects and the outcomes of the partnerships. Recipients must collect and submit the required information and performance indicator data for the national cross-site evaluation. For more information about current and past cross-site evaluations, including cross-site evaluation design reports, Reports to Congress, and other related publications, please

visit: https://www.mathematica.org/projects/regional-partnership-grants-national-cross-site-evaluation

Per the legislative requirements, recipients are required to evaluate their local program, finalize their performance indicator selections with the assistance of the CB-supported contractor, and report on those selections. The recipient's proposed program strategies and activities must align with their selection of proposed performance indicators. Please see *Appendix A* for a list of potential outcomes, performance indicators, and measures. Legislation requires that ACF report on recipients' success in meeting performance indicators and addressing the needs of families with substance use disorder. To meet this requirement, ACF will review and analyze several data sources collected and reported by recipients.

ACYF/CB recognizes that when our discretionary grant recipients can access relevant child welfare data from child welfare agencies for the children and family participants in their grant projects, they are better able to assess performance and outcomes or complete their required evaluations. Recipients are encouraged to review Information Memorandum (IM) ACYF-CB-IM- 13-02, which encourages child welfare agencies to share relevant child welfare data on the families and children served with CB discretionary grant recipients and related federally funded grant projects for program evaluation, performance measurement, or research purposes.

In cases where CB is directly involved in the creation of data collection activities under this NOFO, data collection will be conducted consistent with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, (44 U.S.C. 3501-3521) and display a valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number. OMB-related efforts pertaining to required data collection will be conducted by a CB-supported contractor. CB will not conduct or sponsor --- and a person is not required to respond to --- a collection of information covered by the PRA, unless it displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number.

Skilled Evaluator

Projects are required to have a skilled evaluator to conduct the local evaluation of the project and support their participation in the cross-site evaluation. If the recipient does not have the in-house capacity to conduct an objective and comprehensive evaluation of the project, the recipient must contract with a third-party evaluator specializing in social science or evaluation or a university or college to conduct the evaluation. In either case, it is important that the evaluator demonstrate the necessary independence from the project to ensure objectivity. In addition, projects and their evaluators are required to work closely with the designated cross-site evaluation and evaluation technical assistance contract provider, as well as CB, in activities that support projects in conducting their evaluation, participation in the cross-site evaluation, as well as other federally led evaluation activities.

The evaluator must have sufficient experience with research and/or evaluation design and methods, including continuous quality improvement, understand the target population and have experience in obtaining and analyzing child welfare data. The evaluator must have experience successfully implementing human services evaluations utilizing research designs similar to the proposed effort. A skilled evaluator must be able to help develop a logic model, assist in the design, and provide rigorous evaluation strategies that are appropriate given the goals and

objectives of the proposed project. Other important experiences to demonstrate include selecting measures, using existing data systems as a source of evaluation information, and collecting data that are reliable and valid.

Additional assistance may be found in a document titled, "Program Manager's Guide to Evaluation." A copy of this document can be accessed at: https://www.acf.hhs.gov/opre/report/program-managers-guide-evaluation-second-edition.

Well-being as a Special Consideration
One key intent of this funding opportunity is to ensure that the well-being of all target populations will improve as a result of the programs and services offered by the recipients. CB anticipates that recipients will rely on existing theory and evidence-based knowledge to guide their activities and that the results of the evaluations will contribute to the body of evidence that demonstrates the impact of services that address SUDs and their effects on child and family well-being. CB recognizes that there are a variety of projects that can be responsive to this funding opportunity and that recipients will represent a diverse set of activities and strategies that are intended to impact several outcomes. Nonetheless, this funding opportunity requires that, at a minimum, each recipient work to achieve at least one well-being measure indicator for children and one well-being indicator for adults (either proximal or distal).

The well-being of both children and parents, or caretakers should improve as a result of the programs and services offered by the recipients. CB recognizes that well-being can be defined in a variety of ways (physical, social/emotional, cognitive, etc.), but recipients are required to give particular focus on the social/emotional well-being of their target population. This may include, but is not limited to, projects that target activities that will result in improvement in the following proximal outcomes: child and family functioning, parenting skills, developmental functioning, or protective factors such as resiliency, attachment, social connections, and/or concrete supports for parents.

CB expects that recipients will be able to logically link, and empirically support the connection between project activities that are designed to mitigate the effects of parental/caretaker substance use disorder, and the improved well-being of children in the child welfare system. Measuring the improvement of well-being could mean that a treatment group fared better on a proximal outcome than a control group or comparison group with similar characteristics that did not receive the benefits of the program provided by the recipient. It also could mean that graduation rates increase in the geographic area identified (a distal indicator). For the data collection and reporting of well-being measures, recipients are required to use valid and reliable instruments and to report case-specific baseline and subsequent data measurement points (e.g., pre-and post-scores) to demonstrate the results of their services and activities. Potential measurement tools that are included in the existing cross-site evaluation are listed in *Appendix B*.

Race Equity as a Special Consideration
As called for by the Executive Order On Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government, ACF is pursuing a robust approach to advancing equity across programs and processes, with a focus on people of color, and others who have been historically underserved, marginalized, and adversely affected by persistent poverty and

inequality (definitions for equity, focus populations, and additional terms are detailed within the Executive Order). Cross-system collaborative approach attuned to and actively addressing institutional inequities in services, and differences among populations are necessary to meet the complex needs of children and families across programming and under this funding opportunity.

CB recognizes that there are a variety of projects serving a diverse population that can be responsive to this funding opportunity and that recipients will propose to target various populations to impact several outcomes. Efforts in this area may vary given the geographic location and proposed target population, but recipients are encouraged to give particular focus on the issue of disparity and inequity within their communities. This may include, but is not limited to, projects that target serving children and families who may be historically underserved, marginalized, and adversely affected by persistent poverty and inequality; recruiting and retaining staff to support these families, and selecting services and programs with evidence to support their use serving children and families of color. Efforts may focus on inequities in the provision of treatment and treatment facilities as it relates to enrollment and completion of recovery services. This current round of RPG funding presents an opportunity for applicants to support work to collaboratively address equity, disparity, and as it relates to substance use disorder, within child welfare and partner systems.

Dissemination
Recipients will be expected to work throughout their grants with federal project officers, the relevant CB training and technical assistance providers, and other grants in this program to complete the following:

- Finalize individual grant dissemination goals, objectives, and strategic plans;
- Identify and engage with target audiences for dissemination;
- Produce detailed procedures, materials, and other products based on the program evaluation and the needs of identified target audiences; and
- Develop and disseminate summarized/synthesized information about the grant.

Project Sustainability Plan
ACYF is interested in ensuring that the most effective program strategies, services, and interventions can be sustained. Recipients are required to establish a plan to address how they will maintain the identified strategies and activities initiated under this grant that should and can be sustained after the end of the project period. Such a plan may include the use of prevention services and programs as outlined under FFPSA within division E, title VII of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, and other funds provided to the state for child welfare and substance abuse prevention and treatment services.

II. Federal Award Information

Funding Instrument Type:
CA (Cooperative Agreement)

Estimated Total Funding:
$10,800,000

Expected Number of Awards:
18

Award Ceiling:
$600,000
Per Budget Period

Award Floor:
$250,000
Per Budget Period

Average Projected Award Amount:
$600,000
Per Budget Period

Anticipated Project Start Date:
09/30/2022

Length of Project Periods:
60-month project period with five 12-month budget periods

Additional Information on Project Periods and Explanation of 'Other'
60-month project period with five 12-month budget periods. This includes two phases: a Planning and an Implementation Phase.

Additional Information on Awards:
Awards made under this funding opportunity are subject to the availability of federal funds.

Applications requesting an award amount that exceeds the *Award Ceiling* per budget period, or per project period, as stated in this section, will be disqualified from competitive review and funding under this funding opportunity. This disqualification applies only to the *Award Ceiling* listed for the first 12-month budget period for projects with multiple budget periods. If the project and budget period are the same, the disqualification applies to the *Award Ceiling* listed for the project period. Please see *Section III.3. Other, Application Disqualification Factors.*

Note: For those programs that require matching or cost sharing, recipients will be held accountable for projected commitments of non-federal resources in their application budgets and budget justifications by budget period or by project period for fully funded awards, even if the projected commitment exceeds the required amount of match or cost share. **A recipient's failure to provide the required matching amount may result in the disallowance of federal funds.** For more information on these requirements, see *Section III.2. Cost Sharing or Matching.*

Recipients must spend no more than $250,000 in the Planning Phase. The Planning Phase may vary in length dependent on the project's readiness for implementation but may not exceed 2 years. Upon completion of the Planning Phase and the approval of the project's implementation and evaluation plan recipients may expend funds beyond the $250,000 limit. (Take, for example, a grant that is awarded $600,000 for the first 12-month budget period. If the recipient completes their Planning Phase, and receives CB approval of their implementation and evaluation plan in 6 months, they would have completed their Planning Phase and would be eligible to expend funds beyond the $250,000 Planning Phase limit. Once in the Implementation Phase, this recipient may expend funds beyond the $250,000 and up to the $600,000 awarded for the budget period.

Applicants should anticipate spending up to $600,000 for each budget period once in the Implementation Phase of the project.

Recipients are required to commit a minimum of 20 percent of their project budget to program evaluation.

Description of ACF's Anticipated Substantial Involvement Under the Cooperative Agreement Award

A cooperative agreement is a specific method of awarding federal assistance in which substantial federal involvement is anticipated. A cooperative agreement clearly defines the respective responsibilities of CB and the awardee prior to the award. CB anticipates that agency involvement will produce programmatic benefits to the recipient otherwise unavailable to them for carrying out the project. The involvement and collaboration include the following:

- CB review and approval of planning stages of the activities before implementation phases may begin;
- CB and recipient collaboration in the performance of key programmatic activities (i.e., strategic planning, implementation, information technology enhancements, training and technical assistance (T/TA), publications or products, and evaluation); and
- Close monitoring of the requirements stated in this announcement that limit the awardee's discretion concerning scope of services offered.

III. Eligibility Information

III.1. Eligible Applicants

The Secretary has the authority to make grants to regional partnerships. As required by the legislation, regional partnership means a collaborative agreement (which may be established on an interstate, state, or intrastate basis) entered into by mandatory and optional partners.

Applicants must identify a primary applicant responsible for administering the grant. Any member of the Regional Partnership is eligible to be a lead applicant provided that: (1) the partner is one of the eligible entities described below and, (2) the member agency or organization has the capacity to sufficiently monitor program activities or services, funding, and reporting requirements described in this funding opportunity.

Mandatory Partners

- The state child welfare agency responsible for the administration of the state plan under title IV-B and title IV-E of the Social Security Act (must be included in the partnership unless it is a Regional Partnership entered into by Indian tribes or tribal consortia (section 437(f)(2)(D)(i));
- The state agency responsible for administering the substance abuse prevention and treatment block grant provided under subpart II of part B of title XIX of the Public Health Service Act; and
- The Juvenile Court or Administrative Office of the Court that is most appropriate to oversee the administration of court programs in the region and to address the population of families who come to the attention of the court due to child abuse or neglect, only *when the partnership is proposing to serve children in out-of-home placement.*

Optional Partners

- An Indian tribe or tribal consortium (federally recognized);
- Non-profit or for-profit child welfare service providers;
- Community health service providers, including substance use disorder treatment providers;
- Community mental health providers;
- Local law enforcement agencies;
- School personnel;
- Tribal child welfare agencies (or consortia of the agencies);
- Any other providers, agencies, personnel, officials, or entities that are related to the provision of child and family services under a State plan approved under subpart 2-PSSF of title IV-B of the Social Securities Act.

While institutions of higher education (e.g., universities) are neither specifically named as eligible applicants, nor listed as one of the organizations that may be the primary applicant responsible for administering the grant, please note that the above-bulleted list includes the following, "School personnel" and "Any other providers, agencies, personnel, officials, or entities that are related to the provision of child and family services under a state plan approved under this subpart 2 - PSSF of title IV-B of the Social Securities Act." If an applicant can demonstrate that their organization meets either of these descriptions, then that organization can be an eligible applicant and may operate as a lead agency.

Additional Partner Information
While the relevant court and court offices are mandatory partners *only when the partnership is proposing to serve children in out-of-home placement,* CB strongly encourages the participation of courts, judicial offices, judges, court personnel, and juvenile justice officials in regional partnerships.

If the regional partnership is located in a state-supervised, county-administered state, the county child welfare agency satisfies the administration of the state plan requirement. In such a regional partnership, the state agency that is ultimately responsible for state plan compliance under title IV-B and title IV-E is not required to be a partner in the regional partnership but also is not precluded from participating as a member of the regional partnership. In a state-administered system, a local office of the state child welfare agency can participate in the regional partnership and satisfy this statutory requirement.

As required by the legislation, if an Indian tribe or tribal consortium is the lead applicant for a regional partnership, the Indian tribe may (but is not required to) include the state child welfare agency as a partner in the collaborative agreement. If the regional partnership is an Indian tribe or tribal consortia, they may not enter into a collaborative agreement only with tribal child welfare agencies (or a consortium of such agencies). The Indian tribe or tribal consortium applicant should enter into a collaborative agreement with at least two of the parties listed above. If the partnership proposes to serve children in out-of-home placements, the partnership may include tribal court organizations in lieu of other judicial partners.

See *Section IV.2*., *Content and Form of Application* for documentation required to support eligibility.

Applications from individuals (including sole proprietorships) and foreign entities are not eligible and will be disqualified from competitive review and funding under this funding opportunity. See *Section III.3. Other, Application Disqualification Factors.*

Faith-based and community organizations that meet the eligibility requirements are eligible to receive awards under this funding opportunity. Faith-based organizations may apply for this award on the same basis as any other organization, as set forth at and, subject to the protections and requirements of 45 CFR Part 87 and 42 U.S.C. 2000bb *et seq.*, ACF will not, in the selection of recipients, discriminate against an organization on the basis of the organization's religious character, affiliation, or exercise.

III.2. Cost Sharing or Matching

Cost Sharing / Matching Requirement:
Yes
For all federal awards, any shared costs or matching funds and all contributions, including cash and third-party in-kind contributions, must be accepted as part of the recipient's cost sharing or matching when such contributions meet all criteria listed in 45 CFR § 75.306.

For awards that require matching by statute, recipients will be held accountable for projected commitments of non-federal resources in their application budgets and budget justifications by budget period, or by project period for fully funded awards, even if the projected commitment exceeds the amount required by the statutory match. **A recipient's failure to provide the statutorily required matching amount may result in the disallowance of federal funds. Recipients will be required to report these funds in the Federal Financial Reports.**

For awards that do not require matching or cost sharing by statute, where "cost sharing" refers to any situation in which the recipient voluntarily shares in the costs of a project other than as statutorily required matching, recipients will be held accountable for projected commitments of non-federal resources in their application budgets and budget justifications by budget period, or by project period for fully funded awards. These include situations in which contributions are voluntarily proposed by a recipient or subrecipient and are accepted by ACF. Non-federal cost sharing will be included in the approved project budget so that the recipient will be held accountable for proposed non-federal cost sharing funds as shown in the Notice of Award (NoA). **A recipient's failure to provide voluntary cost sharing of non-federal resources that have been accepted by ACF as part of the approved project costs and that have been shown as part of the approved project budget in the NoA, may result in the disallowance of federal funds. Recipients will be required to report these funds in the Federal Financial Reports.**

FEDERAL/RECIPIENT SHARE

12-Month Period	Federal Share	Recipient Share
9/30/2022 – 9/29/2023	85%	15%
9/30/2023 – 9/29/2024	85%	15%
9/30/2024 – 9/29/2025	80%	20%

9/30/2025 – 9/29/202680% 20%
9/30/2026 – 9/29/202775% 25%
Applicants are to detail the match amount, as well as detail the proposed match source.

A match can be calculated by using the Federal Share (award) divided by the percentage of Total Project Cost minus Federal Share. A sample is as follows:
With a match of 15 percent, and a Federal Share of 85 percent, a $1,000,000 federal grant:
$1,000,000 divided by 85 percent = $1,176,470
$1,176,470 minus $1,000,000 = $176,470

Applicants must fully identify and document the specific costs or contributions proposed to meet the matching requirement, the source of the funding or contribution, and how the valuation was determined. Additionally, applicants are advised that funded projects will be required to meet the matching requirement on an annual basis. In keeping with good business practices, a recipient may wish to consider providing its required matching in proportion to its expenditure of the federal share of the total annual budget.

Applicants are further advised that if an applicant proposes cost-sharing at a level in excess of a cost-sharing requirement, and the proposed cost-sharing is accepted as part of the approved budget, and project, it becomes an award requirement enforceable through the Notice of Award (NOA). Therefore, the excess is included in the amount of the total approved budget, and the percentage for the non-federal share in block 17a of the NOA will adjust accordingly.

Matching Waiver Pursuant to 48 U.S.C. 1469a(d)
Matching requirements (including in-kind contributions) of less than $200,000 (up to $199,999) are waived under grants made to the governments of American Samoa, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (other than those consolidated under other provisions of 48 U.S.C. 1469) pursuant to 48 U.S.C. 1469a(d). This waiver applies whether the matching required under the grant equals or exceeds $200,000.

III.3. Other

Award Floor Disqualification
Applications that request an award amount that is below the *Award Floor* per budget period, as stated in *Section II. Federal Award Information* will be disqualified from competitive review and from funding under this announcement. This disqualification applies to the *Award Floor* listed for each 12-month budget period.

The statutory authority for this funding opportunity specifies that the grants be for amounts no less than $250,000 per grant per FY. Therefore applications should be for amounts no less than $250,000. Any lesser amount would be in violation of the statutorily mandated minimum amount of $250,000 per year and thus would not be eligible for award (42 U.S.C. 629g(f)(3)(A)).

Application Disqualification Factors
Applications from individuals (including sole proprietorships) and foreign entities are not eligible and will be disqualified from competitive review and funding under this funding opportunity.

Award Ceiling Disqualification

Applications that request an award amount that exceeds the *Award Ceiling* per budget period or per project period ("per project period" refers only to fully funded awards), as stated in *Section II. Federal Award Information,* will be disqualified from competitive review and funding under this funding opportunity. This disqualification applies only to the *Award Ceiling* listed for the first 12-month budget period for projects with multiple budget periods. If the project and budget period are the same, the disqualification applies to the *Award Ceiling* listed for the project period.

Required Electronic Application Submission

ACF requires electronic submission of applications at Grants.gov. **Paper applications received from applicants that have not been approved for an exemption from required electronic submission will be disqualified from competitive review and funding under this funding opportunity.**

Applicants that do not have an internet connection or sufficient computing capacity to upload large documents to the internet may contact ACF for an exemption that will allow the applicant to submit applications in paper format. Information and the requirements for requesting an exemption from required electronic application submission are found in "ACF Policy for Requesting an Exemption from Electronic Application Submission."

Missing the Application Deadline (Late Applications)

The deadline for electronic application submission is 11:59 pm ET on the due date listed in the *Overview* and in *Section IV.4. Submission Dates and Times.* Electronic applications submitted to Grants.gov after 11:59 pm ET on the due date, as indicated by a dated and time-stamped email from Grants.gov, will be disqualified from competitive review and funding under this funding opportunity. That is, applications submitted to Grants.gov, on or after 12:00 am ET on the day after the due date will be disqualified from competitive review and funding under this funding opportunity.

Applications submitted to Grants.gov at any time during the open application period, and prior to the due date and time, which fail the Grants.gov validation check, will not be received at, or acknowledged by ACF.

Each time an application is submitted via Grants.gov, the submission will generate a new date and time-stamp email notification. Only those applications with on-time date and time stamps that result in a validated application, which is transmitted to ACF will be acknowledged.

The deadline for receipt of paper applications is 4:30 pm ET on the due date listed in the *Overview* and in *Section IV.4. Submission Dates and Times*. Paper applications received after 4:30 pm ET on the due date will be disqualified from competitive review and funding under

this funding opportunity. **Paper applications received from applicants that have not received approval of an exemption from required electronic submission will be disqualified from competitive review and funding under this funding opportunity.**

Notification of Application Disqualification
Applicants will be notified of a disqualification determination by email or by USPS postal mail within 30 federal business days from the closing date of this NOFO.

IV. Application and Submission Information

IV.1. Address to Request Application Package

CB Operations Center
C/O LCG, Inc.
ATTN: HHS-2022-ACF-ACYF-CU-0094
6000 Executive Boulevard, Suite 410
Rockville
MD
20852

Application Packages

Electronic Application Submission:

The electronic application submission package is available in the NOFO's listing at Grants.gov.

Applications in Paper Format:
For applicants that have received an exemption to submit applications in paper format, Standard Forms (SFs), assurances, and certifications are available in the "Select Grant Opportunity Package" available in the NOFO's Grants.gov Synopsis under the Package tab at Grants.gov. See *Section IV.2. Request an Exemption from Required Electronic Application Submission* if applicants do not have an Internet connection or sufficient computing capacity to upload large documents (files) to Grants.gov.

Federal Relay Service:
Hearing-impaired and speech-impaired callers may contact the Federal Relay Service (FedRelay) for assistance at www.gsa.gov/fedrelay.

IV.2. Content and Form of Application Submission

FORMATTING APPLICATION SUBMISSIONS
Each applicant applying electronically via Grants.gov is required to upload only two electronic files, excluding SFs and Office of Management and Budget (OMB)-approved forms. No more than two files will be accepted for the review, and additional files will be removed. SFs and OMB-approved forms will not be considered additional files.

FOR ALL APPLICATIONS:

Authorized Organization Representative (AOR)
AOR is the designated representative of the applicant/recipient organization with authority to act on the organization's behalf in matters related to the award and administration of grants. In

signing a grant application, this individual agrees that the organization will assume the obligations imposed by applicable Federal statutes and regulations and other terms and conditions of the award, including any assurances, if a grant is awarded.

Point of Contact
In addition to the AOR, a point of contact on matters involving the application must also be identified. The point of contact, known as the Project Director or Principal Investigator, should not be identical to the person identified as the AOR. The point of contact must be available to answer any questions pertaining to the application.

Application Checklist
Applicants may refer to *Section VIII. Other Information* for a checklist of application requirements that may be used in developing and organizing application materials.

Accepted Font Style
Applications must be in Times New Roman (TNR), 12-point font, except for footnotes, which may be TNR 10-point font. Pages that contain blurred text, or text that is too small to read comfortably, will be removed.

English Language
Applications must be submitted in the English language and must be in the terms of United States (U.S.) dollars. If applications are submitted using another currency, ACF will convert the foreign currency to U.S. currency using the date of receipt of the application to determine the rate of exchange.

Page Limitations
Applicants must observe the page limitation(s) listed under "PAGE LIMITATIONS AND CONTENT FOR ALL SUBMISSION FORMATS:." Page limitation(s) do not include SFs and OMB-approved forms.

All applications must be double-spaced. An application that exceeds the cited page limitation for double-spaced pages in the Project Description file or the Appendices file will have extra pages removed, and those pages will not be reviewed.

Application Elements Exempted from Double-Spacing Requirements
The following elements of the application submission are exempt from the double-spacing requirements and may be single-spaced: the table of contents, the one-page Project Summary, required Assurances and Certifications, required SFs, required OMB-approved forms, resumes, logic models, proof of legal status/non-profit status, third-party agreements, letters of support, footnotes, tables, the line-item budget and/or the budget justification.

Adherence to NOFO Formatting, Font, and Page Limitation Requirements
Applications that fail to adhere to ACF's NOFO formatting, font, and page limitation requirements will be adjusted by the removal of page(s) from the application. Pages will be removed before the objective review and will not be made available to reviewers.

Applications that have more than one scanned page of a document on a single page will have the page(s) removed from the review.

For applicants that submit paper applications, double-sided pages will be counted as two pages. When the maximum allowed number of pages is reached, excess pages will be removed and will not be made available to reviewers.

NOTE: Applicants failing to adhere to ACF's NOFO formatting, font, and page limitation requirements will receive a letter from ACF notifying them that their application was amended. The letter will be sent after awards have been issued and will specify the reason(s) for removal of page(s).

Corrections/Updates to Submitted Applications
When applicants make revisions to a previously submitted application, ACF will accept only the last on-time application for pre-review under the Application Disqualification Factors. The Application Disqualification Factors determine the application's acceptance for competitive review. See *Section III.3. Other, Application Disqualification Factors* and *Section IV.2. Application Submission Options*.

Copies Required
Applicants must submit one complete copy of the application package electronically. Applicants submitting electronic applications need not provide additional copies of their application package.

Applicants submitting applications in paper format must submit one original and two copies of the complete application, including all SFs and OMB-approved forms. The original copy must have original signatures.

Signatures
Applicants submitting electronic applications must follow the registration and application submission instructions provided at Grants.gov.
The original of a paper format application must include original signatures of the authorized representatives.

Accepted Application Format
With the exception of the required SFs and OMB-approved forms, all application materials must be formatted so that they are 8 ½" x 11" white paper with 1-inch margins all around.

If possible, applicants are encouraged to include page numbers for each page within the application.

ACF generally does not encourage submission of scanned documents as they tend to have reduced clarity and readability. If documents must be scanned, the font size on any scanned documents must be large enough so that it is readable. Documents must be scanned page-for-page, meaning that applicants may not scan more than one page of a document onto a single page. Pages with blurred text will be removed from the application.

PAGE LIMITATIONS AND CONTENT FOR ALL SUBMISSION FORMATS:

With the exception of (SFs) and forms approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), the application submission is limited to 100 pages in its entirety. The two files applicants must submit are:
The **Project Description** file must include the following items:

- Table of Contents
- Abstract
- Objectives and Need for Assistance
- Approach
- Evaluation
- Organizational Capacity
- Logic Model
- Line-Item Budget and Budget Justification

The **Appendices** file must include the following items:

- Documentation related to collaboration (see *Section IV.2., Project Description, Approach, Collaboration)*
- Certifications and Assurances
- Proof of Legal Status (if applicable)
- Third-party Agreements
- Staff and Position Data (e.g., resumes, job descriptions, organizational charts)
- Indirect Cost Rate Letter (if applicable)

ELECTRONIC APPLICATION SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS
Applicants are required to submit their applications electronically unless they have received an exemption that will allow submission in paper format. See *Section IV.2. Application Submission Options* for information about requesting an exemption**.**

Electronic applications will only be accepted via Grants.gov. **ACF will not accept applications submitted via email or via facsimile.**

Each applicant is required to upload ONLY two electronic files, excluding SFs and OMB-approved forms.

File One: Must contain the entire Project Description, and the Budget and Budget Justification (including a line-item budget and a budget narrative).

File Two: Must contain all documents required in the Appendices.

Adherence to the Two-File Requirement
No more than two files will be accepted for the review. Applications with additional files will be amended and files will be removed from the review. SFs and OMB-approved forms will not be considered additional files.

Application Upload Requirements
ACF strongly recommends that electronic applications be uploaded as Portable Document Files (PDFs). One file must contain the entire Project Description and Budget Justification; the other file must contain all documents required in the Appendices. Details on the content of each of the two files, as well as page limitations, are listed earlier in this section.

To adhere to the two-file requirement, applicants may need to convert and/or merge documents together using a PDF converter software. Many recent versions of Microsoft Office include the ability to save documents to the PDF format without need of additional software. Applicants using the Adobe Acrobat Reader software will be able to merge these documents together. ACF recommends merging documents electronically rather than scanning multiple documents into one document manually, as scanned documents may have reduced clarity and readability.

Applicants must ensure that the version of Adobe Acrobat Reader they are using is compatible with Grants.gov. To verify Adobe software compatibility please go to Grants.gov and click on "Applicants" at the top bar menu and select "Adobe Software Compatibility", which is listed under "Applicant Resources." The Adobe verification process allows applicants to test their version of the software by opening a test Workspace PDF form. Grants.gov also includes guidance on how to download a supported version of Adobe, as well as troubleshooting instructions for use, if an applicant is unable to open the test form.

The Adobe Software Compatibility page located on Grants.gov also provides guidance for applicants on filling out a Workspace PDF form. In addition, it addresses local network and/or computer security settings and the impact this has on use of Adobe software.

Required SFs and OMB-approved Forms
SFs and OMB-approved forms are uploaded separately at Grants.gov. These forms are submitted separately from the Project Description and Appendices files. See *Section IV.2. Required Forms, Assurances, and Certifications* for the listing of required SFs, OMB-approved forms, and required assurances and certifications.

Naming Application Submission Files
Carefully observe the file naming conventions required by Grants.gov. Limit file names to 50 characters (characters and spaces). Please also see https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/submitting-utf-8-special-characters.html.

Use only file formats supported by ACF
Applicants must submit applications using only the supported file formats listed here. While

ACF supports all of the following file formats, **we strongly recommend that the two application submission files (Project Description and Appendices) are uploaded as PDFs in order to comply with the two-file upload limitation.** Documents in file formats that are not supported by ACF will be removed from the application and will not be used in the competitive review. This may make the application incomplete, and ACF will not make any awards based on an incomplete application.

ACF supports the following file formats:

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

Do Not Encrypt or Password-Protect the Electronic Application Files
If ACF cannot access submitted electronic files because they are encrypted or password protected, the affected file will be removed from the application and will not be reviewed. This removal may make the application incomplete, and ACF will not make awards based on an incomplete application.

FORMATTING FOR PAPER APPLICATION SUBMISSIONS:
The following requirements are only applicable to applications submitted in paper format. Applicants must receive an exemption from ACF in order for a paper format application to be accepted for review. For more information on the exemption, see "*ACF Policy for Requesting an Exemption from Required Electronic Application Submission'" at* *www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/howto#chapter-6*.

Format Requirements for Paper Applications
All copies of mailed or hand-delivered paper applications must be submitted in a single package. If an applicant is submitting multiple applications under a single NOFO, or multiple applications under separate NOFOs, each application submission must be packaged separately. The package(s) must be clearly labeled with the NOFO title and Funding Opportunity Number.

Applicants using paper format should download the application forms package associated with the NOFO's Synopsis on Grants.gov under the Package tab.

Applicants are advised that the copies of the application submitted, not the original, will be reproduced by the federal government for review. **All application materials must be one-sided for duplication purposes. All pages in the application submission must be sequentially numbered.**

Addresses for Submission of Paper Applications
See *Section IV.7. Other Submission Requirements* for addresses for paper format application submissions.

Required Forms, Assurances, and Certifications

Applicants seeking an award under this funding opportunity must submit the listed SFs, assurances, and certifications with the application. All required SFs, assurances, and certifications are available in the Application Package posted for this NOFO at Grants.gov.

Forms/Assurances/Certifications	Submission Requirement	Notes/Description
Protection of Human Subjects Assurance Identification / IRB Certification / Declaration of Exemption (Common Rule)	Submission of the required information and forms is due with the application package by the due date listed in the *Overview* and *Section IV.4. Submission Dates and Times*. If the information is not available at the time of application, it must be submitted prior to the award of a grant.	Form is available at http://www.hhs.gov/ ohrp/ assurances/ forms/index.html. General information about the HHS Protection of Human Subjects regulations can be obtained at http://www. hhs.gov/ ohrp/ . Applicants may also contact OHRP by email (OHRP@HHS.gov) or by phone (240-453-6900).
SF-424 - Application for Federal Assistance	Submission is required for all applicants by the application due date.	Required for all applications.
Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) and System for Award Management (SAM) registration.	Required of all applicants. Applicants must have a UEI and maintain an active SAM registration throughout the application and project award period. Obtain a UEI and SAM registration at: http://www.sam.gov.	See *Section IV.3. Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) and System for Award Management (SAM)* for more information.

Forms/Assurances/Certifications	Submission Requirement	Notes/Description
SF-424 Key Contact Form	Submission is required for all applicants by the application due date.	Required for all applications.
Certification Regarding Lobbying (Grants.gov Lobbying Form)	Submission required of all applicants with the application package. If it is not submitted with the application package, it must be submitted prior to the award of a grant.	Submission of the certification is required for all applicants.
SF-424A - Budget Information - Non- Construction Programs and SF-424B - Assurances - Non- Construction Programs	Submission is required for all applicants when applying for a non-construction project. SFs must be used. Forms must be submitted by the application due date. By signing and submitting the SF-424B, applicants are making the appropriate certification of their compliance with all Federal statutes relating to nondiscrimination.	Required for all applications when applying for a non-construction project.
SF-Project/Performance Site Location(s) (SF-P/PSL)	Submission is required for all applicants by the application due date.	Required for all applications. In the SF-P/PSL, applicants must cite their primary location and up to 29 additional performance sites.

Forms/Assurances/Certifications	Submission Requirement	Notes/Description
SF-LLL - Disclosure of Lobbying Activities	If submission of this form is applicable, it is due at the time of application. If it is not available at the time of application, it may also be submitted prior to the award of a grant.	If any funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a member of Congress in connection with this commitment providing for the United States to insure or guarantee a loan, the applicant shall complete and submit the SF-LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying," in accordance with its instructions.

Additional Required Assurances and Certifications

Mandatory Grant Disclosure

All applicants and recipients are required to submit, in writing, to the awarding agency and to the HHS Office of the Inspector General (OIG), all information related to violations of federal criminal law involving fraud, bribery, or gratuity violations potentially affecting the federal award. (Mandatory Disclosures, 45 CFR § 75.113)

Disclosures must be sent in writing to:

The Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Grants Management, ATTN: Grants Management Specialist, 330 C Street, SW., Switzer Building, Corridor 3200, Washington, DC 20201

And to:

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General, ATTN: Mandatory Grant Disclosures, Intake Coordinator, 330 Independence Avenue, SW., Cohen Building, Room 5527, Washington, DC 20201

Fax: (202) 205-0604 (Include “Mandatory Grant Disclosures” in subject line) or

Email: grantdisclosures@oig.hhs.gov

Non-Federal Reviewers

Since ACF will be using non-federal reviewers in the review process, applicants have the option of omitting from the application copies (not the original) specific salary rates or amounts for individuals specified in the application budget as well as Social Security Numbers, if otherwise required for individuals. The copies may include summary salary information. If applications are

submitted electronically, ACF will omit the same specific salary rate information from copies made for use during the review process.

The Project Description

The Project Description Overview

General Expectations and Instructions
The Project Description provides the information by which an application is evaluated and ranked in competition with other applications for financial assistance. It must address all activities for which federal funds are being requested and all application requirements as stated in this section. The Project Description must explain how the project will meet the purpose of the NOFO, as described in *Section I. Program Description*. As a reminder, reviewers will be evaluating this section in accordance with *Section V.1. Criteria*.

The Project Description must be clear, concise, and complete. ACF is particularly interested in Project Descriptions that convey strategies for achieving intended performance. Project Descriptions are evaluated on the basis of substance and measurable outcomes, not length.

Cross-referencing should be used rather than repetition. Supporting documents designated as required must be included in the Appendix of the application.

Letter of Intent
Applicants are strongly encouraged to notify ACF of their intention to submit an application under this funding opportunity. Please submit a letter of intent by the deadline date listed in *Section IV.4. Submission Dates and Times*. The letter of intent should include the following information: number and title of this funding opportunity; the name and address of the applicant organization; and the name, phone number, fax number and email address of a contact person.

Letter of intent information will be used to determine the number of expert reviewers needed to evaluate applications. **The letter of intent is optional**. Failure to submit a letter of intent **will not** impact eligibility to submit an application and **will not** disqualify an application from competitive review.

Table of Contents
List the contents of the application including corresponding page numbers. The table of contents may be single spaced.

Project Summary
Provide a summary of the application project description. It must be clear, accurate, concise, and without cross-references to other parts of the application. The summary must include a brief description of the proposed grant project including the needs to be addressed, the proposed services, and the population group(s) to be served.

Please place the following at the top of the Project Summary:

- Project Title
- Applicant Name
- Address
- Contact Phone Numbers (Voice, Fax, Cell)

- Email Address
- Website Address, if applicable

The Project Summary must be single-spaced, Times New Roman 12-point font, and limited to one page in length. Additional pages will be removed and will not be reviewed.

Geographic Location
Describe the precise physical location of the project and boundaries of the area to be served by the proposed project.

Non-Profit Organizations

Proof of Non-Profit Status Options:

Option 1: 501(c)(3) and non-501(c)(3) non-profit organizations are eligible
Non-profit organizations applying for funding are required to submit proof of their non-profit status. Proof of non-profit status is any one of the following:

- A reference to the applicant organization's listing in the IRS's most recent list of tax-exempt organizations described in the IRS Code.
- A copy of a currently valid IRS tax-exemption certificate.
- A statement from a state taxing body, state attorney general, or other appropriate state official certifying that the applicant organization has non-profit status and that none of the net earnings accrue to any private shareholders or individuals.
- A certified copy of the organization's certificate of incorporation or similar document that clearly establishes non-profit status.
- Any of the items in the subparagraphs immediately above for a state or national parent organization and a statement signed by the parent organization that the applicant organization is a local non-profit affiliate.

Unless directed otherwise, applicants must include proof of non-profit status in the *Appendices* file of the application submission.

Applicants must also address the requirements regarding demonstrating established partnerships as outlined in *Section IV.2., Project Description, Approach, Collaboration.*

Any documentation should be provided in the Appendix file of the application.

Need for Assistance
Clearly identify the physical, economic, social, financial, institutional, and/or other problem(s) requiring a solution. The need for assistance, including the nature and scope of the problem, must be demonstrated. Supporting documentation, such as letters of support and testimonials from concerned parties, may be included in the Appendix. Any relevant data based on planning studies or needs assessments should be included or referred to in the endnotes or footnotes. Incorporate demographic data and participant/beneficiary information, as available.

Objectives
Clearly state the principal and subordinate objectives of the project. Applicants must address how the objectives stated relate to the overall purpose of the program and describe how objectives will be achieved.

Expected Outcomes
Identify the outcomes to be achieved from the project. Outcomes should relate to the overall program as described in *Section I. Program Description*. If research is part of the proposed work, outcomes must include hypothesized results and implications of the proposed research.

Approach
Outline a plan of action that describes the scope and detail of how the proposed project will be accomplished. Applicants must account for all functions or activities identified in the application.

Cite potential obstacles and challenges to accomplishing project goals and explain strategies that will be used to address these challenges.

Applicants should include a description of the goals (i.e., the intended end products of an effective project), objectives (i.e., measurable steps for reaching these goals) and outcomes to be achieved in the partnership region during the funding period for the grant that will (1) enhance the well-being of children, parents, and families receiving services or taking part in activities conducted with funds provided under the grant; (2) lead to improved safe and permanent caregiving relationships for such children; (3) improve the substance use disorder treatment outcomes for parents including retention in treatment and successful completion of treatment; (4) facilitate the implementation, delivery, and effectiveness of prevention services and programs under the Family First Prevention Services Act of 2018, as appropriate; (5) decrease the number of out-of-home placements for such children; and (6) increase the reunification rates for children who have been place in out-of-home care or decrease the number of children who are at risk of being placed in an out-of-home placement.

Target Area and Population; Need for Services
Applicants must describe, define, and justify their proposed target area and population and provide evidence, including child welfare data, of the following:

- The substantial impact SUDs experienced by parents or caregivers have had on the number of out-of-home placements for children, or on the number of children who are at risk of being placed in an out-of-home placement in the partnership region;
- Definition of the target population including whether it will include children who are in out-of-home placement and/or children who are at risk of being placed in out-of-home care;
- The limited availability of resources for addressing the needs of children, adults, and families affected by substance use disorders;
- The target area's lack of capacity for or access to comprehensive family treatment services for adults, children, youth, and other family members to be served in the target population, and the need to improve/expand those services;
- Data from the target area child welfare agencies and other sources, as appropriate, that identify and describe the size, characteristics, and needs of the populations of the children/youth and their families to be served;
- Data from applicable sources used to determine inclusion/exclusion criteria of adults, children/youth, and families to be served, including how they will be identified and recruited, and an initial projection of the numbers to be served; and
- How the applicant will be culturally responsive to the target population, including ensuring specific attention to advancing equity. Applicants should ensure that services

and practices provided are culturally relevant and appropriate with a focus on services for underserved populations/communities and individuals who have been adversely affected by persistent poverty and inequality.

Identifying, and fully understanding the target population is critical to understanding what interventions are appropriate, and needed, and how to best work to recruit, fully engage, and retain clients. Applicants must describe how, during the Planning Phase of the grant, they will work to expand their current understanding of their target population and seek to reach underserved populations/communities through data analysis in their community and specifically with partnering agencies and organizations to determine who and how many there are of their target population, their demographic characteristics, and their needs. Applicants must be able to demonstrate their comprehensive knowledge of the data available, the limitations, and the factors that will speed or hinder analysis at the time of application. This work is critical to ensure the alignment of the target population with the most effective services and interventions.

Collaboration

Applicants must demonstrate the existence of an established partnership that has the capacity, resources, and commitment to fully implement the proposed project. Applicants must describe how the partnership is supported by a collaborative infrastructure that is in place between the child welfare agency, the SUD treatment agency, mental health agencies, the courts, and other eligible service organizations in the following areas:

- Routine consultation and interaction with other agencies;
- Joint accountability and shared outcomes among agencies in memorandums of agreement/understanding;
- Cross-training and staff development;
- Processes for communication and information sharing;
- Willingness and agreement to share administrative data for program evaluation and/or research;
- Addressing how partners' values and principles help or hinder the collaboration; and
- Having agreements about shared costs and budgets.

To demonstrate the collaborative infrastructure, applicants must:

- Describe the strategies for integrating programs and services determined to be appropriate for the child and, where appropriate, the child's family;
- Describe the strategies for collaborating with the state or local child welfare agency and substance use disorder treatment agency, and consulting with state judicial agencies, as appropriate, when any of the agencies listed here are not the lead applicant;
- Describe the planned referral process and enrollment criteria, including naming the referral partners, identifying how referrals will be provided/received, and describing anticipated outreach strategies with particular attention to engaging underserved populations/communities;
- Describe the joint services and activities to be funded in whole, or in part, with the funds provided under the grant, including the sequencing of activities proposed to be conducted under the funding period for the grant; and

- Describe management procedures, communication protocols, roles and responsibilities, positions and functions that will effectively manage and coordinate activities carried out by staff and any partners, subcontractors, and consultants.

Applicants must provide signed Memoranda of Understanding (MOU)/Memoranda of Agreement (MOA) outlining, for example, referral agreements, services to be provided, the level and intensity of resources committed, and data to be shared from the primary collaborating organizations including all applicable required partners. Simply providing a letter of support from proposed primary partners is not sufficient to meet this requirement of documented agreements with organizations. These documents must be provided in the application appendices file to be considered for an award.

The primary applicant, when not any of the following type of agencies, must document a strong partnership with the following required partners: the state or local child welfare agency(ies) with responsibility for administering the child welfare program(s) in the partnership region and the state agency responsible for administering the substance abuse prevention and treatment block grant in the partnership region(s), and the court(s) or administrative office of the court(s) having jurisdiction over the targeted child welfare population when the partnership proposes to serve children in out-of-home placements. This documentation should include the following:

- Signed letter(s) of commitment or MOU(s)/MOA(s), that describe in detail the roles and responsibilities of each collaborating organization, from the relevant state or local child welfare agency(ies), the state agency responsible for administering the substance abuse prevention and treatment block grant in partnership region(s), court(s) or administrative office of the court(s) having jurisdiction over the targeted child welfare population when the partnership proposed to serve children in out-of-home placement, and other primary collaborating organizations;
- Evidence that the relevant state or local child welfare, state SUD treatment agency(ies), the court(s) (when required) and other primary collaborating organizations fully understand and are fully committed to the proposed project and demonstrate a willingness to be fully engaged in the activities that are described in the application;
- Evidence that the relevant state or local child welfare agency(ies) and state SUD treatment agency(ies) are fully committed to sharing the relevant administrative data for the local and cross-site evaluation;
- Evidence that the relevant state or local child welfare agency(ies), state substance abuse treatment agency(ies), the court(s) (when required), and other primary collaborating organizations are committed to following through on these commitments, regardless of changes in administration, economic status, or other foreseeable factors; and
- Any other evidence that would demonstrate the full commitment of the relevant state or local child welfare state agency(ies), SUD treatment agency(ies) and court(s) (when required), and other primary collaborating organizations, as appropriate, to making the proposed project a success. CB strongly encourages the participation of courts, judicial offices, court personnel, the state's Court Improvement Program, and/or juvenile justice officials in all Regional Partnerships. This includes the following coordination of services:
    - Share information across systems with appropriate releases of confidential information;

- Share administrative data for program evaluation and/or research;
- Ensure consistent data collection and data sharing across systems; and
- Monitor outcomes.

Applicants must demonstrate that they, and any partnering organizations have the relevant experience and expertise in the administration, development, implementation, management, and evaluation of similar projects related to addressing the impact of parental substance use disorder on the social-emotional, behavioral, and mental health of children; in improving parenting skills; in reducing SUD; and in supporting collaboration among the child welfare, substance use disorder treatment, courts, and other relevant agencies. This includes demonstrating that key staff proposed for the RPG project, including the proposed Project Director and/or Principal Investigator and others, have the relevant experience and expertise as outlined above to support the successful implementation of the project. Additionally, applicants must demonstrate that each participating organization (including partners and/or subcontractors) possesses the organizational capability to fulfill its assigned roles and functions effectively with appropriate time allocations to do so.

See *Third Party Agreements* later in this section.

See *Section III.1. Eligible Applicants* for more information regarding the composition of the partnership.

Program Strategies and Activities
Applicants must propose specific services and activities to increase the well-being of children and their families as part of their joint responsibilities. The program strategies and activities that address well-being outcomes should be targeted to the specific population identified and reflect the most appropriate evidence supported and/or emerging practices. See *Section I. Description Program Strategies and Activities* and *Appendix A* for suggested program strategies and activities.

Using Well-Supported, Supported, Promising, and/or Emerging Practices
Applicants must identify practices that are indicated by evidence to be well-supported, supported, promising, and/or emerging practices; provide evidence that shows the practices are shown to be effective, when implementing the interventions; and provide a rationale for using the practice in the identified community with the identified target population that is culturally appropriate and responsive with specific attention to advancing equity.

To address the proposed practices, applicants must:

- Identify the practices to be implemented for the specific population. Identify and discuss the evidence that shows that the practice(s) is (are) effective in achieving the outcomes identified in the project logic model. If more than one practice is proposed, clearly identify which service modality and population of focus each practice will support. Applicants should consider implementing no more than three interventions; and
- Discuss the population(s) for which the practice(s) has (have) been shown to be effective and show that it (they) is (are) appropriate and culturally responsive for the target population(s) of focus.

CB recognizes that evidence-supported practices have not been developed for all populations and/or service settings. For example, certain interventions for American Indians/Alaska Natives, rural or isolated communities, or recent immigrant communities may not have been formally evaluated and, therefore, have a limited or nonexistent evidence base. In addition, other interventions that have an established evidence base for certain populations, or in certain settings, may not have been formally evaluated with other subpopulations or within other settings. Applicants proposing to serve a population with an intervention that has not been formally evaluated with that population are required to provide other forms of evidence that the practice(s) they propose is (are) appropriate for the population of focus. Evidence for these practices may include unpublished studies, preliminary evaluation results, clinical (or other professional association) guidelines, findings from focus groups with community members, etc. Applicants may describe their experience either with the population of focus or in managing similar programs. In selecting emerging or promising programs, applicants must:

- Document the evidence that the practice(s) chosen is (are) appropriate for the outcomes to be achieved;
- Document how the proposed activities and implementation will be consistent with research or evaluations demonstrating that such practices and approaches are most effective for the target population;
- Explain how the selected practice meets the purpose of this grant program (see *Section I. Program Description*);
- Describe any modifications/adaptations to the proposed practice(s) that are necessary to meet the goals of the proposed project and why the changes will improve the outcomes;
- If applicable, justify the use of multiple interventions. Applicants must discuss in the required logic model and related narrative how uses of multiple interventions are to be integrated into the program while maintaining an appropriate level of fidelity for each practice. Applicants must describe how the effectiveness of each intervention is to be quantified in the performance assessment of the project; and
- Discuss training needs or plans for training to successfully implement the proposed intervention.

CB expects the well-supported, supported, promising, and/or emerging practice(s) to be implemented in a way that maintains fidelity to the original service(s)/practice(s).

However, ACYF understands that minor adaptations to the service(s)/practice(s) to meet the needs of the target population of focus or targeted program may be necessary to be more efficient. Applicants must describe any adaptations to the proposed service(s)/practice(s) that are (are) necessary for these purposes and provide documentation that the applicant has worked closely with the original model developer regarding any proposed adaptation. Regional Partnerships may describe their experience with the population of focus or in managing similar programs. However, applicants must provide sufficient justification for the changes.

Planning and Implementation Phases
Applicants must clearly and concisely describe their initial project plans, and how they will further assess, refine, and finalize this proposed plan during the Planning Phase. This description should include how the applicant proposes to meet the purpose, goals, and objectives of the Planning Phase (*see Section I. Program Description, Project Requirements*), including how they

will work with their proposed evaluator to further refine the evaluation design, and provide a detailed timeline for the Planning Phase. Applicants must clearly describe any challenges or barriers that might hinder the implementation of the proposed project and how they intend to manage these factors. In addition, applicants should describe any aspects of their proposed project that may be assets and speed the project implementation.

Project Sustainability Plan
Applicants must address how they will maintain the involvement of partners on an ongoing basis in the planning and operation of their program. Applicants also must address how they will approach sustainability planning to continue the proposed program at the conclusion of federal funding, including through the use of prevention services and programs, as outlined under the FFPSA, and other funds provided to the state for child welfare and substance use disorder prevention and treatment services.

Applicants also may include the following:

- How they will integrate the proposed project's activities into the recipient's ongoing practices with the goal of continuous data-informed partnerships;
- Approaches for institutionalizing necessary program strategies and activities into organizational policy and infrastructure; and
- Information on plans to secure additional financial resources.

Applicants should review the additional text on the *Project Sustainability Plan* later in this section.

Project Timeline and Milestones
Provide quantitative monthly or quarterly projections (for the entire project period) of the accomplishments to be achieved for each function or activity, in such terms as the number of people to be served and the number of activities accomplished. Data may be organized and presented as project tasks and subtasks with their corresponding timelines during the project period. When accomplishments cannot be quantified by activity or function, list them in chronological order to show the schedule of accomplishments and their target dates.

Organizational Capacity
Provide the following information on the applicant organization and, if applicable, on any cooperating partners:

- Organizational charts.
- Resumes.
- Biographical Sketches (short narrative description).
- Copy or description of the applicant organization's fiscal control and accountability procedures.
- Evidence that the applicant 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.

- Evidence that each participating organization, including partners, contractors and/or subrecipients, possess the organizational capability to fulfill their role(s) and function(s) effectively.
- Information on compliance with federal/state/local government standards.
- Job descriptions for each vacant key position.

Program Performance Evaluation Plan
Applicants must describe a plan for the program performance evaluation that will contribute to continuous quality improvement. The program performance evaluation must monitor ongoing activities and the progress towards the goals and objectives of the project. Include descriptions of the inputs (e.g., organizational profile, collaborative partners, key staff, budget, and other resources), key activities, and expected outcomes of the funded activities. The plan must explain how the inputs, activities, and outcomes will be measured; how the resulting information will be used to inform improvement of funded activities; and any processes that support the overall data quality of the performance outcomes.

Applicants must describe the organizational systems and processes that will effectively track performance outcomes, including a description of how the organization will collect and manage data (e.g., assign skilled staff, data management software, data integrity, etc.) in a way that allows for accurate and timely reporting of performance outcomes. Applicants must describe any potential obstacles for implementing the program performance evaluation and how those obstacles will be addressed. Applicants must include a timeline for how information from the quality improvement evaluation will be reviewed and applied to the ongoing project.

Funded Activities Evaluation Plan
Applicants must describe the plan for rigorous evaluation of funded activities. The evaluation must assess activities and progress towards the goals and objectives of the project, and whether the project is having the expected effects and impacts. The evaluation plan must specify expected outcomes and any research questions, as well as how the results of this evaluation will provide greater understanding and improvement of the funded activities. The plan must include a valid and reliable measurement plan, detailed timeline, and sound methodological design.

Details regarding the proposed data collection activities, the participants, data management, data integrity, and analyses plans must be described. Applicants must describe any potential obstacles foreseen in implementing the evaluation and how those obstacles will be addressed.

Applicants must commit a minimum of 20 percent of their project budget, to be spent on the required evaluation elements of this funding opportunity, including the local evaluation, participation in the national cross-site evaluation, and to satisfactorily collect and evaluate the data necessary for monitoring the proposed performance indicators.

Initial Local Evaluation Plan
The applicant must propose a clear and comprehensive evaluation plan that explains the primary goals/purpose of the evaluation, lists the primary research questions, and describes how information and findings will be used. Applicants are encouraged to review the Information

Memorandum (IM) ACYF-CB-IM-19-04 Evaluation Plan Development Tip Sheet in the development of their evaluation plan.

For the implementation (process) evaluation, the applicant must define the procedures to be employed to determine whether the project is being implemented in a manner consistent with the work plan presented and discuss the impact of the project's various activities that address the project's effectiveness. For an outcome and impact evaluation, applicants must provide a narrative addressing how the conduct of the project and its results will be evaluated. In addressing the evaluation of results, the applicant must state what measures will be used to determine the extent that the project achieved its stated objectives and the extent that the accomplishment of objectives can be attributed to the project. The applicant must discuss the criteria to be used to evaluate results, explain the methodology that will be used to determine if the identified need are being met, and explain if the project results and benefits are being achieved. The evaluation plan must detail the systems in place, or be created, for collecting tracking, analyzing, and reporting.

Applicants must provide a narrative about how they will manage the following:

- Conduct a rigorous evaluation to assess their effectiveness in providing through interagency collaboration and integration of programs, activities and services that are designed to increase well-being, improve permanency outcomes, and enhance the safety of children who are in an out-of-home placement or are at risk of being placed in an out-of-home placement as a result of a parent's or caretaker's opioid or other substance misuse. The evaluation should address research questions related to the Regional Partnership, the target population, implementation of the proposed project, and outcomes;
- Ensure recruitment and retention of participants needed to meet the target sample (as identified by the applicant) to enroll in the project. Identify what strategies will be employed to address challenges to securing the target sample;
- Propose an evaluation plan with a detailed sampling plan including (but not limited to) descriptions of the sample recruitment strategy and inclusion/exclusion criteria;
- Evaluate the implementation of the project and the results of the project, including how the proposed performance indicators and outcome measures are tracked and how performance data are collected;
- Determine the extent to which the accomplishment of objectives can be attributed to the project. Applicants should include a discussion of the criteria to be used to evaluate results and explain the methodology used to determine if the needs identified are being met and if the project results and benefits are being achieved for the children and families served by the project. Applicants should describe a periodic assessment of program progress that can be used to modify the program, as necessary, and serve as a basis for program adjustments. Applicants should include process and outcome analyses for assessing the effectiveness of program strategies and the implementation process;
- Determine whether the project is being conducted in a manner consistent with the plan presented, and discuss the impact of the proposed project's various activities that address effectiveness. Toward that end, applicants should address the level of coordination between the proposed project and other programs with similar systems/services or that serve the same clients;

- Include a detailed and appropriate data analysis plan to address the identified research questions including (but not limited to) the description of specific statistical methods to be used to analyze data discussion of strategies to address missing/incomplete data, and plans to ensure results are presented in a balanced and objective manner; and identification of potential confounding factors and efforts; and
- Articulate the study limitations including (but not limited to) a description of any potential weakness or limitations of the selected research design and/or data collection and analysis methods (e.g., small sample sizes, selection bias, potential design contamination if a comparison group receives similar services); and discussion of how any anticipated limitations will be addressed in advance or minimized.

Applicants should propose and select performance indicators and measures that are consistent with the focus and goals of the project they plan to implement and evaluate. Applicants must demonstrate how each of the proposed performance indicators selected is an appropriate outcome of their proposed program strategies and activities and relate them to the goals identified in their logic model. For previous RPG recipients, the cross-site evaluation outcome measures were also used as the RPG performance indicators. It is anticipated that this will be the same for recipients awarded in FY 2022.

Applicants should also consider the existing cross-site evaluation outcome measures in their planning (see *Appendix B*). Please see *Section I. Program Description, Project Requirements, Program Strategies, and Activities,* and *Appendix A* for suggested program strategies and activities.

Applicants should propose how they will examine the implementation of the proposed strategies and activities of their project to enable a better understanding of the factors associated with the successful implementation of the project and any barriers or challenges that impede implementation. The description should include implementation and fidelity measures that will be used.

Cross-Site Evaluation Participation
Applicants must describe their plan for working with the cross-site evaluator and how they will comply with the requirements of the cross-site evaluation design. This plan should also consider the following ACF goals:

1. ACF seeks to add to the knowledge base about effective models for improving the well-being, permanency, and safety of children; facilitating adult recovery from SUD; and supporting family functioning and stability for the target groups served by the RPG program.
2. ACF is interested in the factors associated with the successful implementation of evidence-supported and/or emerging practices, the potential for sustaining them, their suitability for replication, and the effects of the RPG projects on participant outcomes.

When possible, the applicants are encouraged to align elements of their local evaluation with the cross-site evaluation to decrease burden. The following are potential cross-site evaluation research questions:

- Who is involved in each RPG project and how do the partners work together?

- Who are the target populations of the RPG project? Do RPG projects reach their intended target populations?
- Which well-supported, supported, promising, and/or emerging (evidence-informed) practices are selected as the primary focus of the RPG project? How well did they align with the RPG project's target populations and goals?
- What procedures, infrastructure, and supports were in place to facilitate implementation of the evidence-supported and/or emerging (evidence-informed) practices?
- How are the evidence-supported and/or emerging (evidence-informed) practices going to be implemented? What services are provided?
- What are the well-being, permanency, and safety outcomes of children, and the recovery outcomes of adults who received services from the RPG project?

See *Section I. Evaluation* for additional information regarding the national cross-site evaluation.

Skilled Evaluator
Applicants must demonstrate sufficient in-house capacity to conduct an objective comprehensive evaluation of the project and support participation in the cross-site evaluation, or provide a sound plan for contracting with a third-party evaluator specializing in social science or evaluation or a university or college to conduct the evaluation. The applicant must demonstrate that the proposed evaluator has sufficient experience with research and/or evaluation design and methods, including continuous quality improvement; understands the population of interest, including child welfare populations; experience with evaluation related to the proposed performance indicators; has experience in obtaining and analyzing child welfare data; and has experience successfully implementing human services evaluations utilizing research designs similar to the proposed effort. Other important experiences to demonstrate include selecting measures using existing data systems as a source of evaluation information and collecting data that are reliable and valid.

Comparison Group
The applicant must include an appropriate, contemporaneous comparison group for determining the influence of the project activities on outcomes when applicable. At a minimum, each applicant must demonstrate that their plans for identifying and obtaining data regarding the comparison group are realistic. The comparison group and the program/treatment group are assigned at random or matched on key characteristics. If not assigned at random or matched on key characteristics, the applicant provides a reasonable explanation of how it will identify and address pre-existing differences between the comparison group and treatment group. Applicants may use another type of evaluation research design, but they must include an adequate description and justification that the proposed design is the most rigorous design possible for addressing the questions of interest. Please see *Section V.1., Criteria, Evaluation, Part 1* for additional information on how applications will be evaluated based on their proposed comparison group.

IRB
Applicants must have a sound plan for securing informed consent and implementing an IRB review. Any evaluation collecting information from program participants or staff will require an IRB review; given this grant program's requirement for collecting and reporting data on

performance measures, it is expected that this will include all applicants. The applicant should identify the IRB it expects to use and should demonstrate a familiarity with that IRB's procedures and review requirements.

Please note that when experimental designs involving random assignment to treatment and control groups are used for determining the intervention impacts, applicants need to describe how participant protections are adequately addressed. When random assignment is used, applicants also must provide adequate information on alternative services for families not selected for the services provided. General information about the HHS Protection of Human Subjects regulations can be obtained at http://www.hhs.gov/ohrp/.

Logic Model
For this funding opportunity, applicants must include a logic model that clearly states what outcomes are to be achieved, what program strategies are to be used to specifically impact proximal and distal outcomes, and what data and instrumentation are to be used to measure those outcomes. Information on logic models is included later in this section.

Performance Indicators and Measures for Outcomes
Applicants must explain how proposed performance indicators align with their proposed program model/design and identify the data sources from which they can obtain the needed data elements.

Applicants must justify the use of the measures and demonstrate evidence of the technical soundness of the measures and their alignment with the existing cross-site evaluation measures. When appropriate, applicants are encouraged to propose using potential cross-site evaluation measures to reduce the burden. Applicants must clearly demonstrate the following:

- The selection of appropriate indicators to match their goals (applicants must demonstrate the appropriateness of each selected indicator in assessing the performance of proposed grant-funded activities or services);
- The proposed project's capacity to report on the selected indicators (applicants must comment on their capacity to track the indicators through standard sources or special data collection procedures; e.g., surveys or completion of certain questionnaires or other instruments); and
- The inclusion of at least one well-being indicator for children and one well-being indicator for adults (either proximal or distal) that is to be achieved as a result of its proposed project. Indicators must have a focus on the social/emotional or appropriate developmental well-being of participants.
- Applicants should justify any additional measures planned for use with this project

Appendix B contains lists of suggested potential outcomes, indicators, and measurement tools that are being used in the cross-site evaluation and have been found useful by past recipients. Applicants may choose some of these from the list provided in *Appendix B*. If others are proposed, the applicant must supply background information on the measures and provide a convincing argument for using them. In any case, applicants should explain their measurement choices and why they are the best measures to meet the needs of their programs.

Note: the subscales of some instruments may be appropriate to a program's measurement needs, but not the whole instrument. If this is the case, the applicant will need to explain that fact.

These lists are not intended to be comprehensive, and the applicants are expected to use discretion in their selections depending on the goals of the program. However, it is unlikely that an applicant using none of the listed indicators and measures would be considered responsive to this funding opportunity. CB also encourages recipients to consider using one or more of the measures in *Appendix A* that would be most applicable to the proposed project to help support the national cross-site evaluation effort supported by CB. In addition, CB recognizes that additional appropriate indicators and technically sound measures could be added if they reflect the specific needs of the proposed project.

Logic Model
Applicants must submit a logic model for designing and managing their projects. A logic model is a diagram that presents the conceptual framework for a proposed project and explains the links among program elements. Logic models must target the identified objectives and goals of the grant program. While there are many versions of logic models, for the purposes of this funding opportunity, the logic model may include connections between the following items:

- Inputs (e.g., additional resources, organizational profile, collaborative partner(s), key staff, budget);
- Target population (e.g., the individuals to be served, identified needs);
- Activities, Mechanisms, Processes (e.g., evidence-based practices, best practices, approach, key intervention and evaluation components, continuous quality improvement efforts);
- Outputs (i.e., the immediate and direct results of program activities);
- Outcomes (i.e., the expected short and long-term results the project is designed to achieve, typically described as changes in people or systems), and
- Goals of the project (e.g., overarching objectives, reasons for proposing the project).

Project Sustainability Plan
Applicants must propose a plan for project sustainability after the period of federal funding ends. Recipients are expected to sustain key elements of their grant projects, e.g., strategies or services and interventions, which have been effective in improving practices and outcomes.

Describe the approach to project sustainability that will be most effective and feasible. Provide a description of key individuals and/or organizations whose support will be required. Address the types of alternative support that will be required to maintain the program. If the proposed project involves key project partners, describe how their cooperation and/or collaboration will be maintained after the end of federal funding.

Protection of Sensitive and/or Confidential Information
Provide a description of how protected personally identifiable information and other information that is considered sensitive, consistent with applicable federal, state, local and tribal laws regarding privacy and obligations of confidentiality, will be collected and safeguarded. The applicant must provide the methods and/or systems that will be used to ensure that confidential and/or sensitive information is properly handled and if applicable, address the process for

subrecipient(s) and/or contractors. Also, provide a plan for the disposition of such information at the end of the project period.

Dissemination Plan
Applicants must propose a plan to disseminate reports, products, and/or grant project outputs so that project information is provided to key target audiences. Dissemination plans must include:

- Dissemination goals and objectives;
- Strategies to identify and engage with target audiences;
- Allocation of sufficient staff time and budget for dissemination purposes;
- A preliminary plan to evaluate the extent to which target audiences have received project information and have used it as intended, and
- The timeline for dissemination.

Third-Party Agreements

Third-party agreements include Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) and Letters of Commitment. Letters of Commitment and MOUs must both clearly describe the roles and responsibilities for project activities and the support and/or resources that the third-party (i.e., subrecipient, contractor, or other cooperating entity) is committing. The Letters of Commitment and MOUs must be signed by the person in the third-party organization with the authority to make such commitments on behalf of their organization. General letters of support are **not** considered to be third-party agreements.

Applicants must provide Letters of Commitment or MOUs between recipients and third-parties (i.e., subrecipients, contractors, or other cooperating entities).

Collaboration/consortia applicants must provide Letters of Commitment or MOUs identifying the primary applicant and all collaborators that are responsible for project activities.

The Project Budget and Budget Justification

All applicants are required to submit a project budget and budget justification with their application. The project budget is entered on the Budget Information SF, either SF- 424A or SF-424C. Applicants are encouraged to review the form instructions in addition to the guidance in this section. The budget justification consists of a budget narrative and a line-item budget detail that includes detailed calculations for "object class categories" identified on the Budget Information Standard Form. Applicants must indicate the method they are selecting for their indirect cost rate. See Indirect Charges for further information.

Project budget calculations must include estimation methods, quantities, unit costs, and other similar quantitative detail sufficient for the calculation to be duplicated. If cost sharing or matching is a requirement, applicants must include a detailed listing of any funding sources identified in Block 18 of the SF-424 (Application for Federal Assistance). See the table in *Section IV.2. Required Forms, Assurances, and Certifications* listing the appropriate budget forms to use in this application.

Special Note: *The Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2022 and Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022,*

(Division H, Title II, Sec. 202), limits the salary amount that may be awarded and charged to ACF grants and cooperative agreements. Award funds issued under this funding opportunity may not be used to pay the salary of an individual at a rate in excess of Executive Level II. For the Executive Level II salary, please see "Executive & Senior Level Employee Pay Tables" under https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/pay-leave/salaries-wages/. The salary limitation reflects an individual's base salary exclusive of fringe benefits, indirect costs and any income that an individual may be permitted to earn outside of the duties of the applicant organization. This salary limitation also applies to subawards and subcontracts under an ACF grant or cooperative agreement.

Provide a budget using the SF-424A and/or SF-424C, as applicable, for each year of the proposed project.

Provide a budget justification, which includes a budget narrative and a line-item detail, for each year of the proposed project. The budget narrative should describe how the categorical costs are derived. Discuss the necessity, reasonableness, and allocation of the proposed costs.

On the SF-424 (Field #18, Estimated Funding), applicants should request the total federal amount for the first 12–month budget period, including both Planning and Implementation Phases, as applicable. On the SF-424A, (Section B-Budget Categories), applicants should indicate the total Year 1 request for each line item on the form, separating federal and non-federal sources of funds. The budget justification, including a budget narrative and a line-item detail, should break out the anticipated expenditures for the Planning and Implementation Phases, for each year of the project period.

Applicants must allocate sufficient funds in the budget to support the following meeting requirements, should the meetings be convened in person, typically in Washington, DC:

- Within 6 months after the award, the Project Director, Evaluator, and/or other key partners, such as representatives from child welfare agency(ies), SUD treatment (agency(ies), and key staff must attend a 2- to 3-day kick-off meeting.
- The Project Director, Evaluator, and/or other key partners, such as representatives from child welfare agency(ies), SUD treatment agency(ies), and key staff must attend the annual grant recipient meeting, usually held in the spring or summer.

Applicants must:

- Commit a minimum of 20 percent of their project budget to be spent on required evaluation elements of this funding opportunity including local evaluation, participation in the national cross-site evaluation, and satisfactory collection and evaluation of the data necessary for monitoring the proposed performance indicators.
- Plan to spend no more than $250,000 in the Project Planning Phase. Recipients may be awarded up to $600,000 for each of the 12-month budget periods. However, expenditure of funds above $250,000 within the first 12-month budget period is contingent upon successful completion of the Planning Phase and movement into the Implementation Phase in less than 12 months.

General

Use the following guidelines for preparing the project budget and budget justification. The budget justification includes a budget narrative and a line-item detail. Applications should only include allowable costs in accordance with 45 CFR Part 75 Subpart E.

Personnel

Description: Costs of employee salaries and wages. See 45 CFR § 75.430 for more information on allowable personnel costs. Do not include the personnel costs of consultants, contractors and subrecipients under this category.

Justification: For each position, provide: the name of the individual (if known), their title; time commitment to the project in months; time commitment to the project as a percentage or full-time equivalent; annual salary; grant salary; wage rates; etc. Identify the project director or principal investigator, if known at the time of application.

Fringe Benefits

Description: Costs of employee fringe benefits are allowances and services provided by employers to their employees in addition to regular salaries and wages. For more information on Fringe Benefits please refer to 45 CFR § 75.431. Do not include the fringe benefits of consultants, contractors, and subrecipients.

Typically, fringe benefit amounts are determined by applying a calculated rate for a particular class of employee (full-time or part-time) to the salary and wages requested. Fringe rates are often specified in the approved indirect cost rate agreement. Fringe benefits may be treated as a direct cost or indirect cost in accordance with the applicant's accounting practices. Only fringe benefits as a direct cost should be entered under this category.

Justification: Provide a breakdown of the amounts and percentages that comprise fringe benefit costs such as health insurance, Federal Insurance Contributions Act taxes, retirement, taxes, etc.

Travel

Description: Costs of project-related travel (i.e., transportation, lodging, subsistence) by employees of the applicant organization who are in travel status on official business. Travel by non-employees such as consultants, contractors or subrecipients should be included under the Contractual line item. Local travel for employees in non-travel status should be listed on the Other line. Travel costs should be developed in accordance with the applicant's travel policies and 45 CFR § 75.474.

Justification: For each trip show: the total number of travelers; travel destination; duration of trip; per diem; mileage allowances, if privately owned vehicles will be used to travel out of town; and other transportation costs and subsistence allowances. If appropriate for this project, travel costs for key project staff to attend ACF-sponsored workshops/conferences/recipient orientations should be detailed in the budget justification.

Equipment

Description: "Equipment" means an article of nonexpendable, tangible personal property (including information technology systems) having a useful life of more than one year and a per unit acquisition cost that equals or exceeds the lesser of: (a) the capitalization level established by the organization for the financial statement purposes, or (b) $5,000. (Note: Acquisition cost means the net invoice unit price of an item of equipment, including the cost of any modifications, attachments, accessories, or auxiliary apparatus necessary to make it usable for the purpose for which it is acquired. Ancillary charges, such as taxes, duty, protective in-transit insurance, freight, and installation, shall be included in, or excluded from, acquisition cost in accordance with the organization's regular written accounting practices.) See 45 CFR §75.439 for more information.

Justification: For each type of equipment requested provide: a description of the equipment; the cost per unit; the number of units; the total cost; and a plan for use on the project; as well as use and/or disposition of the equipment after the project ends.

Supplies

Description: Costs of all tangible personal property, other than included under the Equipment category. This includes office and other consumable supplies with a per-unit cost of less than $5,000. See 45 CFR § 75.453 for more information.

Justification: Specify general categories of supplies and their costs. Show computations and provide other information that supports the amount requested.

Contractual

Description: Cost of all contracts and subawards except for those that belong under other categories such as equipment, supplies, construction, etc. Include third-party evaluation contracts, if applicable, and contract or subawards with secondary recipient organizations (with budget detail), including delegate agencies and specific project(s) and/or businesses to be financed by the applicant. Costs related to individual consultants should be listed on the Other line. Recipients are required to use 45 CFR §§ 75.326-.340 procurement procedures, and subawards are subject to the requirements at 45 CFR §§ 75.351-.353.

Justification: Demonstrate that all procurement transactions will be conducted in a manner to provide, to the maximum extent practical, open, and free competition. Applicants must justify any anticipated procurement action that is expected to be awarded without competition and exceeds the simplified acquisition threshold stated in 48 CFR § 2.101(b). Recipients may be required to make pre-award review and procurement documents, such as requests for proposals or invitations for bids, independent cost estimates, etc., available to ACF.

Indicate whether the proposed agreement qualifies as a subaward or contract in accordance with 45 CFR § 75.351. Provide the name of the contractor/subrecipient (if known), a description of anticipated services, a justification for why they are necessary, a breakdown of estimated costs, and an explanation of the selection process. In addition, for subawards, the applicant must provide a detailed budget and budget narrative for each subaward, by entity name, along with the same justifications referred to in these budget and budget justification instructions.

Other

Description: Enter the total of all other costs. Such costs, where applicable and appropriate, may include, but are not limited to: consultant costs, local travel, insurance, food (when allowable), medical and dental costs (non-personnel), professional service costs (including audit charges), space and equipment rentals, printing and publications, computer use, training costs (such as tuition and stipends), staff development costs, and administrative costs. Please note costs must be allowable per 45 CFR Part 75 Subpart E.

Justification: Provide a breakdown of costs, computations, a narrative description, and a justification for each cost under this category.

Indirect Charges

Description: Total amount of indirect costs. This category has one of two methods that an applicant can select. An applicant may only select one.

1. The applicant currently has an indirect cost rate approved by HHS or another cognizant federal agency.

   Justification: An applicant must enclose a copy of the current approved rate agreement. If the applicant is requesting a rate that is less than what is allowed under the program, the authorized representative of the applicant organization must submit a signed acknowledgement that the applicant is accepting a lower rate than allowed. Choosing to charge a lower rate will not be considered during the objective review or award selection process.

2. Per 45 CFR § 75.414(f) Indirect (F&A) costs, "any non-Federal entity [i.e., applicant] that has never received a negotiated indirect cost rate, ... may elect to charge a *de minimis* rate of 10% of modified total direct costs (MTDC) which may be used indefinitely. As described in Section 75.403, costs must be consistently charged as either indirect or direct costs, but may not be double charged or inconsistently charged as both. If chosen, this methodology once elected must be used consistently for all Federal awards until such time as the non-Federal entity chooses to negotiate for a rate, which the non-Federal entity may apply to do at any time."

   Justification: This method only applies to applicants that have never received an approved negotiated indirect cost rate from HHS or another cognizant federal agency. Applicants awaiting approval of their indirect cost proposal may request the 10 percent *de minimis* rate. When the applicant chooses this method, costs included in the indirect cost pool must not be charged as direct costs to the grant.

Commitment of Non-Federal Resources

Description: Amounts of non-federal resources that will be used to support the project as identified in Block 18 of the SF-424. This line should be used to indicate required and/or voluntary committed cost sharing or matching, if applicable.

For all federal awards, any shared costs or matching funds and all contributions, including cash and third-party in-kind contributions, must be accepted as part of the recipient's cost sharing or matching when such contributions meet all of the criteria listed in 45 CFR § 75.306.

For awards that require matching or cost sharing by statute, recipients will be held accountable for projected commitments of non-federal resources (at or above the statutory requirement) in their application budgets and budget justifications by budget period, or by project period for fully funded awards. **A recipient's failure to provide the statutorily required matching or cost sharing amount (and any voluntary committed amount in excess) may result in the disallowance of federal funds. Recipients will be required to report these funds in the Federal Financial Reports.**

For awards that do not require matching or cost sharing by statute, recipients are not expected to provide cost sharing or matching. However, recipients are allowed to voluntarily propose a commitment of non-federal resources. If an applicant decides to voluntarily contribute non-federal resources towards project costs and the costs are accepted by ACF, the non-federal resources will be included in the approved project budget. The applicant will be held accountable for all proposed non-federal resources as shown in the Notice of Award (NoA). **A recipient's failure to meet the voluntary amount of non-federal resources that was accepted by ACF as part of the approved project costs and that was identified in the approved budget in the NoA, may result in the disallowance of federal funds. Recipients will be required to report these funds in the Federal Financial Reports.**

Justification: If an applicant is relying on cost share or match from a third-party, then a firm commitment of these resources (letter(s) or other documentation) is required to be submitted with the application. Detailed budget information must be provided for every funding source identified in Item 18. "Estimated Funding ($)" on the SF-424.

Applicants are required to fully identify and document in their applications the specific costs or contributions they propose in order to meet a matching requirement. Applicants are also required to provide documentation in their applications on the sources of funding or contribution(s). In-kind contributions must be accompanied by a justification of how the stated valuation was determined. Matching or cost sharing must be documented by budget period (or by project period for fully funded awards).

Applications that lack the required supporting documentation will not be disqualified from competitive review; however, it may impact an application's scoring under the evaluation criteria in *Section V.1. Criteria* of this funding opportunity.

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 is estimated to average 60 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and reviewing the collection of information. The Project Description information collection is approved under OMB control number 0970-0139, which expires 03/31/2025. 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.

Application Submission Options

Electronic Submission via Grants.gov

This section provides the application submission and receipt instructions for ACF program applications. Please read the following instructions carefully and completely.

Electronic Delivery

ACF is participating in the Grants.gov initiative to provide the grant community with a single site to find and apply for funding opportunities. ACF applicants are required to submit their applications online through Grants.gov.

How to Register and Apply through Grants.gov

Read the following instructions about registering to apply for ACF funds. Applicants should read the registration instructions carefully and prepare the information requested before beginning the registration process. Reviewing and assembling the required information before beginning the registration process will alleviate last-minute searches for required information.

Organizations must have an active System for Award (SAM) registration which provides a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI), and Grants.gov account to apply for grants.

Creating a Grants.gov account can be completed online in minutes, but SAM registration may take several weeks. Therefore, an organization's registration should be done in sufficient time to ensure it does not impact the entities ability to meet required application submission deadlines.

Organization applicants can find complete instructions here: https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/organization-registration.html

***Register with SAM*:** All organizations (entities) applying online through Grants.gov must register with SAM. Failure to register with SAM will prevent your organization from applying through Grants.gov. SAM registration must be renewed annually. For detailed instructions for registering with SAM, refer to: https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/organization-registration.html

***Create a Grants.gov Account*:** The next step in the registration process is to create an account with Grants.gov. Follow the on-screen instructions provided on the registration page.

***Add a Profile to a Grants.gov Account*:** A profile in Grants.gov corresponds to a single applicant organization the user represents (i.e., an applicant). If you work for or consult with multiple organizations, you can have a profile for each organization under one Grants.gov account. In such cases, you may log in to one Grants.gov account to access all your grant profiles. To add an organizational profile to your Grants.gov account, enter the UEI for the organization in the UEI field. For detailed instructions about creating a profile on Grants.gov, refer to: https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/registration/add-profile.html

EBiz POC Authorized Profile Roles: After you register with Grants.gov and create an Organization Applicant Profile, the applicant's request for Grants.gov roles and access is sent to the EBiz POC. The EBiz POC is then expected to log in to Grants.gov and authorize the appropriate roles, which may include the AOR role, thereby giving you permission to

complete and submit applications on behalf of the organization. You will be able to submit your application online any time after you have been assigned the AOR role. For detailed instructions about creating a profile on Grants.gov, refer to: https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/registration/authorize-roles.html

***Track Role Status*:** To track your role request, refer to: https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/registration/track-role-status.html

When applications are submitted through Grants.gov, the name of the organization's AOR that submitted the application is inserted into the signature line of the application, serving as the electronic signature. The EBiz POC must authorize individuals who are able to make legally binding commitments on behalf of the organization as a user with the AOR role; this step is often missed and is crucial for valid and timely submissions.

How to Submit an Application to ACF via Grants.gov

Grants.gov applicants can apply online using Workspace. Workspace is a shared, online environment where members of a grant team may simultaneously access and edit different webforms within an application. For each NOFO, you can create individual instances of a workspace.

For an overview of applying on Grants.gov using Workspaces, refer to: https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/workspace-overview.html

***Create a Workspace*:** Creating a workspace allows you to complete an application online and route it through your organization for review before submitting.

***Complete a Workspace*:** Add participants to the workspace to work on the application together, complete all the required forms online or by downloading PDF versions, and check for errors before submission. The Workspace progress bar will display the state of your application process as you apply. As you apply using Workspace, you may click the blue question mark icon near the upper-right corner of each page to access context-sensitive help.

***Adobe Reader*:** If you decide not to apply by filling out webforms you can download individual PDF forms in Workspace. The individual PDF forms can be downloaded and saved to your local device storage, network drive(s), or external drive(s), then accessed through Adobe Reader.

NOTE: Visit the Adobe Software Compatibility page on Grants.gov to download the appropriate version of the software at: https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/adobe-software-compatibility.html

***Mandatory Fields in Forms*:** In the forms, you will note fields marked with an asterisk and a different background color. These fields are mandatory fields that must be completed to successfully submit your application.

***Complete SF-424 Fields First*:** These forms are designed to fill in common required fields across other forms, such as the applicant name, address, and SAM UEI. Once it is completed, the information will transfer to the other forms.

***Submit a Workspace*:** An application may be submitted through Workspace by clicking the Sign and Submit button on the Manage Workspace page, under the Forms tab. Grants.gov

recommends submitting your application **at least 24-48 hours prior to the close date** to provide you with time to correct any potential technical issues that may disrupt the application submission.

***Track a Workspace*:** After successfully submitting a Workspace application, a Grants.gov Tracking Number (GRANTXXXXXXXX) is automatically assigned to the application. The number will be listed on the Confirmation page that is generated after submission. Using the tracking number, access the Track My Application page under the Applicants tab or the Details tab in the submitted workspace.

For additional training resources, including video tutorials, refer to: https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/applicant-training.html

Grants.gov provides applicants 24/7 support via the toll-free number 1-800-518-4726 and email at support@grants.gov. For questions related to the specific funding opportunity, contact the number listed in the application package of the grant you are applying for.

If you are experiencing difficulties with your submission, it is best to call the Grants.gov Support Center and get a ticket number. The Support Center ticket number will assist ACF with tracking and understanding background information on the issue.

Timely Receipt Requirements and Proof of Timely Submission

All applications must be received by 11:59 pm ET on the due date established for each program. Proof of timely submission is automatically recorded by Grants.gov. An electronic date/time stamp is generated within the system when the application is successfully received by Grants.gov. The applicant AOR will receive an acknowledgment of receipt and a tracking number (GRANTXXXXXXXX) from Grants.gov with the successful transmission of their application. Applicant AORs will also receive the official date/stamp and Grants.gov Tracking number in an email serving as proof of their timely submission.

When ACF successfully retrieves the application from Grants.gov, and acknowledges the download of submission, Grants.gov will provide an electronic acknowledgment of receipt of the application to the email address of the applicant with the AOR role. Again, proof of timely submission shall be the official date and time that Grants.gov receives your application.

Applications received by Grants.gov after the established due date for the program will be considered late and will not be considered for funding by ACF.

Applicants with slow internet connections should be aware that transmission can take some time before Grants.gov receives your application. Therefore, applicants should allow enough time to prepare and submit the application before the package closing date.

Grants.gov will provide either an error or a successfully received submission message in the form of an email sent to the applicant with the AOR role.

Issues with Federal Systems

For any systems issues experienced with Grants.gov or SAM.gov, please refer to ACF's "Policy for Applicants Experiencing Federal Systems Issues" document for complete guidance.

Request an Exemption from Required Electronic Application Submission

To request an exemption from required electronic submission, please refer to ACF's "Policy for Requesting an Exemption from Required Electronic Application Submission" document for complete guidance.

Paper Format Application Submission

An exemption is required for the submission of paper applications. See the preceding section on "*Request an Exemption from Required Electronic Application Submission.*"

Applicants with exemptions that submit their applications in paper format, by mail or delivery, must submit one original and two copies of the complete application with all attachments. The original and each of the two copies must include all required forms, certifications, assurances, and appendices, be signed by the AOR, and be unbound. The original copy of the application must have original signature(s). See *Section IV.7. Other Submission Requirements* of this funding opportunity for address information for paper format application submissions. Applications submitted in paper format must be received by 4:30 pm ET on the due date.

Applicants may refer to *Section VIII. Other Information* for a checklist of application requirements that may be used in developing and organizing application materials. Details concerning acknowledgment of received applications are available in *Section IV.4. Submission Dates and Times* in this funding opportunity.

IV.3. Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) and System for Award Management (SAM)

All applicants must have a UEI and an active registration with SAM (https://www.sam.gov) prior to applying to a funding opportunity.

All applicants are required to maintain an active SAM registration until the application process is complete. If a grant is awarded, the SAM registration must be active throughout the life of the award. Your SAM registration must be renewed every 365 days to keep it active.

Plan ahead. Allow at least 10 business days after you submit your registration for it to become active in SAM and at least an additional 24 hours before that registration information is available in other government systems, i.e., Grants.gov.

This action should allow you time to resolve any issues that may arise. Failure to comply with these requirements may result in your inability to submit your application through Grants.gov or prevent the award of a grant. Applicants should maintain documentation (with dates) of their efforts to request a UEI, register for, or renew a registration, at SAM.

Please see the "Help" tab at https://sam.gov/content/help for more information and assistance with this process.

HHS requires all entities that plan to apply for, and ultimately receive, federal grant funds from any HHS Agency to:

- Be registered in SAM prior to submitting an application or plan;
- Maintain an active SAM registration with current information at all times during which it has an active award or an application or plan under consideration by an OPDIV;
- Provide its UEI in each application or plan it submits to the OPDIV; and

- Ensure any proposed subrecipient(s) have obtained and provided to the recipient their UEI(s) prior to making any subawards (**Note:** Subrecipients are not required to complete full SAM registration.).

ACF is prohibited from making an award until an applicant has complied with these requirements. At the time an award is ready to be made, if the intended recipient has not complied with these requirements, ACF:

- May determine that the applicant is not qualified to receive an award; and
- May use that determination as a basis for making an award to another applicant.

IV.4. Submission Dates and Times

Due Date for Letter of Intent

Number of Days from Publication 15

05/24/2022

Due Dates for Applications

Number of Days from Publication 60

07/08/2022

Explanation of Due Dates

The due date for receipt of applications is listed in the *Overview* section and in this section. See *Section III.3. Other, Application Disqualification Factors*.

Electronic Applications

The deadline for submission of electronic applications via Grants.gov is 11:59 pm ET on the due date. Electronic applications submitted at 12:00 am ET on the day after the due date will be considered late and will be disqualified from competitive review and funding under this funding opportunity.

Applicants are required to submit their applications electronically via Grants.gov unless they received an exemption through the process described in *Section IV.2. Request an Exemption from Required Electronic Application Submission.*

ACF does not accommodate transmission of applications by email or facsimile.

Instructions for electronic submission via Grants.gov are available at: www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/apply-for-grants.html.

Applications submitted to Grants.gov at any time during the open application period prior to the due date and time that fail the Grants.gov validation check will not be received at ACF. These applications will not be acknowledged.

Mailed Paper Format Applications

The deadline for receipt of mailed, paper applications is 4:30 pm ET on the due date. Mailed paper applications received after the due date and deadline time will be considered late and will be disqualified from competitive review and funding under this funding opportunity.

Paper format application submissions will be disqualified if the applicant organization has not received an exemption through the process described in *Section IV.2. Request an Exemption from Required Electronic Application Submission*.

Hand-Delivered Paper Format Applications
Hand-delivered applications must be received on, or before, the due date listed in the *Overview* and in this section. These applications must be delivered between the hours of 8:00 am ET and 4:30 pm ET Monday through Friday (excluding federal holidays).

Applications should be delivered to the address provided in *Section IV.7. Other Submission Requirements*.

Hand-delivered paper applications received after the due date and deadline time will be considered late and will be disqualified from competitive review and funding under this funding opportunity.

Hand-delivered paper format application submissions will be disqualified if the applicant organization has not received an exemption through the process described in *Section IV.2. Request an Exemption from Required Electronic Application Submission*.

No appeals will be considered for applications classified as late under the following circumstances:

- Applications submitted electronically via Grants.gov are considered late when they are dated and time-stamped after the deadline of 11:59 pm ET on the due date.
- Paper format applications received by mail or hand-delivery after 4:30 pm ET on the due date will be classified as late and will be disqualified.
- Paper format applications received from applicant organizations that were not approved for an exemption from required electronic application submission under the process described in *Section IV.2. Request an Exemption from Required Electronic Submission* will be disqualified.

Emergency Extensions
ACF may extend an application due date when circumstances make it impossible for an applicant to submit their applications on time. Only events such as documented natural disasters (floods, hurricanes, tornados, etc.), or a verifiable widespread disruption of electrical service, or mail service, will be considered. The determination to extend or waive the due date, and/or receipt time, requirements in an emergency situation rests with the Grants Management Officer listed as the Office of Grants Management Contact in *Section VII. HHS Awarding Agency Contact(s)*.

Acknowledgement of Received Application

Acknowledgement from Grants.gov

Applicants will receive an initial email upon submission of their application to Grants.gov. This email will provide a **Grants.gov Tracking Number**. Applicants should refer to this tracking number in all communication with Grants.gov. The email will also provide a **date and time stamp**, which serves as the official record of the application's submission**.** Receipt of this email does not indicate that the application is accepted or that it has passed the validation check.

Applicants will also receive an email acknowledging that the received application is in the **Grants.gov validation process**, after which a third email is sent with the information that the submitted application package has passed, or failed, the series of checks and validations.

Applications that are submitted on time that fail the validation check will not be transmitted to ACF and will not be acknowledged by ACF.

Acknowledgement from ACF of an electronic application's submission:

Applicants will be sent additional email(s) from ACF acknowledging that the application has been retrieved from Grants.gov by ACF. Receipt of these emails is not an indication that the application is accepted for competition.

Acknowledgement from ACF of receipt of a paper format application:
ACF will not provide acknowledgement of receipt of hard copy application packages submitted via mail or courier services.

IV.5. Intergovernmental Review

This program is covered under Executive Order (E.O.) 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs," and 45 CFR Part 100, "Intergovernmental Review of Department of Health and Human Services Programs and Activities." Under the Executive Order, States may design their own processes for reviewing and commenting on proposed Federal assistance under covered programs.

Applicants should go to the following URL for the official list of the jurisdictions that have elected to participate in E.O. 12372 https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/SPOC-4-13-20.pdf.

Applicants from participating jurisdictions should contact their SPOC, as soon as possible, to alert them of their prospective applications and to receive instructions on their jurisdiction's procedures. Applicants must submit all required application materials to the SPOC and indicate the date of submission on the SF-424 at item 19.

Under 45 CFR § 100.8(a)(2), a SPOC has 60 days from the application due date to comment on proposed new awards.

SPOC comments may be submitted directly to ACF at: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Grants Management, 330 C St. SW, 3rd Floor, Washington, DC 20201.

Entities that meet the eligibility requirements of this funding opportunity are still eligible to apply for a grant even if a State, Territory or Commonwealth, etc., does not have a SPOC or has chosen not to participate in the process. Applicants from non-participating jurisdictions need take no action with regard to E.O. 12372. Applications from Federally-recognized Indian Tribal governments are not subject to E.O. 12372.

IV.6. Funding Restrictions

Costs of organized fund raising, including financial campaigns, endowment drives, solicitation of gifts and bequests, and similar expenses incurred to raise capital or obtain contributions are

unallowable. Fund raising costs for the purposes of meeting the Federal program objectives are allowable with prior written approval from the Federal awarding agency. (45 CFR § 75.442)

Proposal costs are the costs of preparing bids, proposals, or applications on potential Federal and non-Federal awards or projects, including the development of data necessary to support the non-Federal entity's bids or proposals. Proposal costs of the current accounting period of both successful and unsuccessful bids and proposals normally should be treated as indirect (F&A) costs and allocated currently to all activities of the non-Federal entity. No proposal costs of past accounting periods will be allocable to the current period. (45 CFR § 75.460)

Pre-award costs are not allowable.

Construction is not an allowable activity or expenditure under this award.

Purchase of real property is not an allowable activity or expenditure under this award.

IV.7. Other Submission Requirements

Submit paper applications to one of the following addresses. Also see *ACF Policy for Requesting an Exemption from Required Electronic Application Submission at www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/howto#chapter-6*.

Submission by Mail
CB Operations Center
C/O LCG, Inc.
ATTN: HHS-2022-ACF-ACYF-CU-0094
6000 Executive Boulevard, Suite 410
Rockville
MD
20852

Hand Delivery
Same as Above

Electronic Submission
See *Section IV.2.* for application requirements and for guidance when submitting applications electronically via Grants.gov.

For all submissions, see *Section IV.4. Submission Dates and Times*.

V. Application Review Information

V.1. Criteria

Please note: With the exception of the notice of funding opportunity and relevant statutes and regulations, reviewers must not access, or review, any materials that are not part of the application documents. This includes information accessible on websites via hyperlinks that are referenced, or embedded, in the application. Though an application may include web links, or embedded hyperlinks, reviewers must not review this information as it is not considered to be part of the application documents. Nor will the information on websites be taken into consideration in scoring of evaluation criteria presented in this section. Reviewers must evaluate and score an application based on the documents that are presented in the application and must not refer to, or access, external links during the objective review.

Applications competing for financial assistance will be reviewed and evaluated using the criteria described in this section. The corresponding point values indicate the relative importance placed on each review criterion. Points will be allocated based on the extent to which the application proposal addresses each of the criteria listed. Applicants should address these criteria in their application materials, particularly in the project description and budget justification, as they are the basis upon which competing applications will be judged during the objective review. The required elements of the project description and budget justification may be found in *Section IV.2. The Project Description* of this funding opportunity.

Budget and Budget Justification **Maximum Points:** 5

In reviewing the budget and budget justification, reviewers will consider the extent to which:

1. The applicant provides a detailed line-item budget and narrative budget justification for each year of the project, which projects the costs and duration of a Planning Phase no higher than $250,000 and no longer than 2 years.
2. The applicant provides a budget that includes the costs associated with travel to attend the required grantee meetings (kickoff and annual) in Washington, DC, as outlined in this funding opportunity, including the costs for attendance by the Project Director, Evaluator, and other key partners and staff.
3. The description or copy of the applicant's fiscal controls and accounting procedures includes documented evidence of sound fiscal past performance that would indicate prudent use, proper and timely disbursement, and accurate accounting of funds received under this funding opportunity.
4. The applicant allocates at least 20 percent of the project budget and details the use of funds for the required evaluation elements of this funding opportunity, including the local evaluation, participation in the national cross-site evaluation, and satisfactorily collect and evaluate the data necessary for monitoring the proposed performance indicators.

Objectives and Need for Assistance **Maximum Points:** 10

In reviewing the objectives and need for assistance, reviewers will consider the extent to which:

1. The applicant presents a clear and appropriate vision for the proposed project that demonstrates the need for collaboration between child welfare agencies, SUD treatment agencies, the courts, mental health agencies, and other relevant child and family serving agencies to increase well-being, improve permanency outcomes, and enhance child safety.
2. The applicant demonstrates the impact of substance use disorder by parents or caregivers in the target area. The applicant includes child welfare data on the number of out-of-home placements for children or the number of children who are at risk of being placed in out-of-home placement due to substance misuse.
3. The applicant demonstrates that the target area has limited resources for addressing the needs of children and families affected by substance use disorder and lacks the capacity for or access to comprehensive family treatment services, with a particular focus on underserved populations/communities.

Approach **Maximum Points:** 40

In reviewing the approach, reviewers will consider the extent to which:

1. The applicant presents a clear description of the proposed project, including a clear statement of the goals (i.e., the intended end products of an effective project) and objectives (i.e., measurable steps for reaching these goals) of the proposed project. The applicant provides sufficient detail on a plan to develop and implement the proposed project to achieve proposed goals and objectives.
2. The applicant clearly demonstrates how the proposed activities and implementation will be consistent with research or evaluations demonstrating that such practices and approaches are effective for the target population. The applicant outlines proposed project plans to implement activities, services, and strategies that are indicated by evidence to be well-supported, supported, promising and/or emerging practices related to the intersection of SUD and child welfare.
3. The applicant demonstrates knowledge of best practices that are appropriate and culturally responsive to the identified target population with specific attention to advancing equity as appropriate. Applicants should ensure that services and practices provided are culturally relevant and appropriate with a focus on services for persons of color and others who have been historically underserved, marginalized, and adversely affected by persistent poverty and inequality.
4. The applicant provides a detailed description of the target population, including relevant child welfare and substance use and treatment data, and possesses a working knowledge of the comprehensive data available to be used to complete the target population analysis during the Planning Phase of the grant.
5. The applicant outlines a reasonable plan for the project's referral process and participant enrollment criteria. This may include naming referral partners, identifying how referrals will be provided/received, and describing anticipated outreach strategies.
6. The applicant demonstrates how each of the applicable required partners will be involved in the collaborative activities of the regional partnership (required partners are defined within this funding opportunity).
7. The proposed project will involve the collaboration of appropriate partners for maximizing the effectiveness of collaborative service delivery. The applicant provides clear detail on how the primary partner organizations will take an active role in the project throughout the entire length of the project, including: (1) routine consultation and interaction with other agencies, (2) joint accountability and shared outcomes amongst agencies, (3) cross-training and staff development, (4) processes for communication and information sharing, (5) willingness and agreement to share administrative data for program evaluation and/or research, (6) addressing how partners' values and principles help or hinder the collaboration, and (7) having agreements about shared costs and budgets.
8. The applicant clearly describes how they will meet the purpose and objectives of the Planning Phase including how they will work with their proposed evaluator to further refine the evaluation design.
9. The applicant provides a reasonable and appropriate timeline for implementing the proposed project, including major milestones and target dates for the Planning and Implementation Phase of the project. This should include the proposed length of the Planning Phase, which can be less than 12 months but cannot exceed 24 months.

10. The applicant describes the factors that could speed or hinder project implementation and explains how these factors would be managed.
11. The applicant provides a well-defined logic model to guide the proposed project. The logic model demonstrates strong links between proposed inputs and activities and intended short and long-term outcomes.
12. The applicant presents a detailed and sound plan for strategically and effectively disseminating project information and findings. The proposed dissemination plan is appropriate in scope and budget.
13. There is a sound sustainability plan for continuing this project beyond the period of federal funding under this funding opportunity. The proposed project would be integrated into the recipient's ongoing practices with the goal of continuous data-informed partnerships to improve outcomes for the target population.

Evaluation **Maximum Points:** 25

In reviewing the evaluation, reviewers will consider the extent to which the application meets the criteria in Part 1 and Part 2 as described below.

Part 1 (15 points)

In reviewing the evaluation, reviewers will consider the extent to which:

The applicant proposes a clear and convincing plan for evaluating the project that satisfies the requirements for evaluation published in this funding opportunity including a detailed description of data management and collection and proposed analyses methods.

1. The methods of evaluation proposed are feasible, comprehensive, and appropriate to the goals, objectives, and context of the project.
2. The applicant describes a rigorous evaluation to assess the effectiveness of their proposed project and that addresses the proposed research questions related to the regional partnership, the target population, and the implementation and outcomes of the proposed project.
3. The applicant describes the methods to be used for project evaluation, ensuring objectives have been accomplished to determine the extent to which accomplishments of objectives can be attributed to the project. This should include process and outcome analyses for assessing the effectiveness of program strategies and the implementation process.
4. The applicant provides a detailed and reasonable plan to ensure the recruitment and retention of participants to meet the target sample (as identified by the applicant), and describes the proposed strategies that will be employed to address any challenges in meeting the target sample size.
5. The applicant provides a detailed and reasonable plan to ensure the recruitment and retention of participants to meet the target sample (as identified by the applicant) and describes the proposed strategies that will be employed to address any challenges in meeting the target sample size.
6. The applicant describes a plan for working with the designated evaluator to safeguard data and protect participants that includes (but is not limited to) procedures and protocols for maintaining the security and confidentiality of both electronic and hard-copy data sources (e.g., password-protected computer files, methods for the secure storage of case

records); procedures for obtaining informed consent from research participants; and the process/procedures for obtaining IRB approval, and tribal review, if applicable.

7. There is an appropriate plan for working with the RPG national cross-site evaluator and complying with the requirements of the cross-site evaluation design.
8. The applicant demonstrates that the proposed evaluator has sufficient experience with research and/or evaluation to complete a comprehensive evaluation of the project (including work related to the proposed performance indicators), has experience conducting evaluations with child welfare populations, and has experience obtaining and analyzing child welfare data.
9. The evaluation plan provides an appropriate plan for how the evaluation will include the periodic performance assessment of program progress that can be used to modify the program, as necessary, and serve as a basis for program adjustments.
10. The applicant proposes an evaluation plan with a detailed and appropriate data analysis plan to address the identified research questions including (but not limited to) the description of specific statistical methods to be used to analyze data; discussion of strategies to address missing/incomplete data, and plans to ensure results are presented in a balanced and objective manner; and identification of potential confounding factors and efforts.
11. The applicant thoroughly addresses the following points related to performance indicators and describes how the performance indicators selected will be incorporated into the evaluation. Selects a set of performance indicators (which may be from those provided in *Appendix A*) that it proposes to use to track the outcomes of its project. Select performance indicators relevant to their proposed grant-funded activities or performance indicators that would best assess their achievement in the three categories of outcomes (child/youth, adult/family, and regional partnership/service capacity).

    - Demonstrates how each of the indicators selected is an appropriate measure of their proposed activities and services and relates them to the outputs and outcomes identified in the logic model provided in this funding opportunity.
    - Demonstrates the capacity to collect and report on the selected performance indicators, for instance by describing the regional partnership's capacity to track the indicators through standard sources or special data collection procedures such as surveys or completion of certain questionnaires or other instruments. The applicant justifies any additional measures planned for use with this project.
    - Includes among its chosen performance indicators at least one well-being indicator for children and one well-being indicator for adults. While other approaches to well-being are permissible, a focus on the social/emotional well-being of all participants is expected. When such an approach will not work for infants and children, a standard developmental milestone measure is substituted as appropriate.
    - Adequately discusses the criteria used to evaluate results and how the performance indicators selected will be incorporated into the evaluation.

<u>Part 2 (10 points)</u>

1. The applicant's evaluation plan includes an appropriate comparison group for determining the influence of the project activities on outcomes, when applicable. The

comparison group and the program/treatment group are assigned at random or matched on key characteristics. If not assigned at random or matched on key characteristics, the applicant provides a reasonable explanation of how it will identify and address pre-existing differences between the comparison group and treatment group.

2. The applicant provides a detailed and feasible plan for implementing their identified comparison group and how they will collect or access comparison group data. Applications should be awarded points based upon the following:

   - Applications proposing a contemporaneous comparison group are eligible to receive the full 10 points.
   - Applications proposing a historical comparison group may receive no more than 5 of 10 points.
   - Applications with evaluation designs without a comparison group are not eligible for any points in Part 2, Evaluation.

Organizational Capacity **Maximum Points:** 20

1. The applicant and partnering organizations have relevant experience and expertise in the administration, development, implementation, management, and evaluation of similar projects (related to addressing the impact of parental substance misuse on children; improving parenting skills; addressing substance use disorder; preventing child abuse and neglect; and supporting collaboration among agencies). The applicant demonstrates that each participating organization (including partners and/or subrecipients) possesses the organizational capability to fulfill its assigned roles and functions effectively.
2. The proposed project director and key project staff possess sufficient expertise experience, and capabilities (e.g., resume) to effectively institute and manage a project of this size, scope, and complexity. The roles, responsibilities, and time commitments of each proposed project staff position, including consultants, subrecipient, and/or partners, are clearly defined (e.g., job description) and appropriate to the successful implementation of the proposed project.
3. The proposed project includes a sound management plan that clearly describes the effective management and coordination of activities carried out by staff and any partners, subrecipients and consultants for successfully achieving the objectives of the proposed project.
4. The applicant demonstrates a strong collaborative partnership with all required partners (as outlined in this funding opportunity) as well as other relevant key partners. The application includes a signed letter(s) of commitment or MOU(s)/MOA(s) that describe in detail the identified roles and responsibilities of the project partners and includes evidence that the relevant partners understand and are committed to the proposed project (including participation in all Phases as appropriate and a commitment to share administrative data for program evaluation and/or research).
5. The applicant demonstrates both the existence of a collaborative infrastructure as well as the ability to engage in additional successful partnerships to support coordinated practices and service delivery to support the target population of this funding opportunity.

V.2. Review and Selection Process

No grant award will be made under this funding opportunity on the basis of an incomplete application. No grant award will be made to an applicant that does not have a UEI and an active SAM registration. See *Section IV.3. Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) and System for Award Management (SAM)*.

Initial ACF Screening

Each application will be screened to determine whether it meets any of the disqualification factors described in *Section III.3. Other, Application Disqualification Factors*.

Disqualified applications are considered to be "non-responsive" and are excluded from the competitive review process. Applicants will be notified of a disqualification determination by email or by USPS postal mail within 30 federal business days from the closing date of this NOFO.

Objective Review and Results

Applications competing for financial assistance will be reviewed and evaluated by objective review panels using only the criteria described in *Section V.1. Criteria* of this funding opportunity. Each panel is composed of experts with knowledge and experience in the area under review. Generally, review panels include three reviewers and one chairperson.

Results of the competitive objective review are taken into consideration by ACF in the selection of projects for funding; however, objective review scores and rankings are not binding. Scores and rankings are only one element used in the award decision-making process. If identified in *Section I. Program Description*, ACF reserves the right to consider preferences to fund organizations serving emerging, unserved, or under-served populations, including those populations located in pockets of poverty. In addition, ACF reserves the right to evaluate applications in the larger context of the overall portfolio by considering geographic distribution of federal funds (e.g., ensuring coverage of states, counties, or service areas) in its pre-award decisions.

ACF may elect not to fund applicants with management or financial problems that would indicate an inability to successfully complete the proposed project. In addition, ACF may elect to not allow a prime recipient to subaward if there is any indication that they are unable to properly monitor and manage subrecipients.

Applications may be funded in whole or in part. Successful applicants may be funded at an amount lower than that requested.

ACF may elect not to fund applicants and/or partnering organizations that have previously demonstrated an inability to adhere to ACF reporting requirements.

Funds awarded under this competition are for new projects, and will not be awarded to proposals identical to currently active RPG projects.

Federal Awarding Agency Review of Risk Posed by Applicants

ACF is required to review and consider any information about the applicant that is in the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System (FAPIIS), www.fapiis.gov/, before making any award in excess of the simplified acquisition threshold over the period of performance. An applicant may review and comment on any information about itself that a federal awarding agency has previously entered into FAPIIS. ACF will consider any comments by the applicant, in addition to other information in FAPIIS, in making a judgment about the applicant's integrity, business ethics, and record of performance under federal awards when completing the review of risk posed by applicants as described in 45 CFR § 75.205(a)(2) Federal Awarding Agency Review of Risk Posed by Applicants.

Non-Federal Reviewers Reference
Please refer to *Section IV.2. Required Forms, Assurances, and Certifications* of this funding opportunity for information on non-federal reviewers in the review process.

Approved but Unfunded Applications
Applications recommended for approval in the objective review process, but not selected for award may receive funding if additional funds become available in the current Fiscal Year. For those applications determined as "approved but unfunded," notice will be given of the determination by email.

V.3. Anticipated Announcement and Federal Award Dates

Announcement of awards and the disposition of applications will be provided to applicants at a later date. ACF staff cannot respond to requests for information regarding funding decisions prior to the official applicant notification.

VI. Federal Award Administration Information

VI.1. Federal Award Notices

Successful applicants will be notified through the issuance of a NoA that sets forth the amount of funds granted, the terms and conditions of the grant, the effective date of the grant, the budget period for which initial support will be given, the non-federal share to be provided (if applicable), and the total project period for which support is contemplated. The NoA will be signed by the Grants Officer and transmitted via email or by GrantSolutions, or the Head Start Enterprise System (HSES), whichever is
relevant.

Following the finalization of funding decisions, organizations whose applications will not be funded will be notified by letter signed by the cognizant Program Office head. Any other correspondence that announces to a Principal Investigator, or a Project Director, that an application was selected is not an authorization to begin performance.

Information on allowable pre-award costs and the time period under which they may be incurred is available in *Section IV.6. Funding Restrictions,* if applicable. Project costs that are incurred prior to the receipt of the NoA are at the recipient's risk.

Recipients may translate the Federal award and other documents into another language. In the event of inconsistency between any terms and conditions of the Federal award and any translation into another language, the English language meaning will control. Where a significant portion of the recipient's employees who are working on the Federal award are not fluent in

English, the recipient must provide the Federal award in English and in the language(s) with which employees are more familiar.

VI.2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

Awards issued under this funding opportunity are subject to 45 CFR Part 75 - Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for HHS Awards currently in effect or implemented during the period of award, other Department regulations and policies in effect at the time of award, and applicable statutory provisions. The Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) is available at www.ecfr.gov. Unless otherwise noted in this section, administrative and national policy requirements that are applicable to discretionary grants are available at: www.acf.hhs.gov/administrative-and-national-policy-requirements.

An application funded with the release of federal funds through a grant award does not constitute or imply compliance with federal regulations. Funded organizations are responsible for ensuring that their activities comply with all applicable federal regulations.

Please review all HHS regulatory provisions for Termination at 2 CFR § 200.340.

HHS Grants Policy Statement

The HHS Grants Policy Statement (HHS GPS) is the Department of Health and Human Services' single policy guide for discretionary grants and cooperative agreements. ACF grant awards are subject to the requirements of the HHS GPS, which covers basic grants processes, standard terms and conditions, and points of contact, as well as important agency-specific requirements. The general terms and conditions in the HHS GPS will apply as indicated unless there are statutory, regulatory, or award-specific requirements to the contrary that are specified in the NoA. The HHS GPS is available at https://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/discretionary-post-award-requirements#book_content_0.

VI.3. Reporting

Performance Progress Reports:
Semi-Annually

Reporting Requirements

Recipients under this funding opportunity will be required to submit performance progress and financial reports periodically throughout the project period. Information on reporting requirements is available on the ACF website at www.acf.hhs.gov/discretionary-post-award-requirements#chapter-2.

For planning purposes, the frequency of required reporting for awards made under this funding opportunity are as follows:

Financial Reports:
Semi-Annually

VII. HHS Award Agency Contact(s)

Program Office Contact

Elaine
Stedt

Children's Bureau
Administration on Children, Youth and Families
Administration for Children and Families
C/O LCG, Inc.
6000 Executive Boulevard, Suite 410
Rockville
MD
20852
CB@grantreview.org

Office of Grants Management Contact

Bridget
Shea Westfall
Administration for Children and Families
Office of Administration
Office of Grants Management
C/O LCG, Inc.
6000 Executive Boulevard, Suite 410
Rockville
MD
20852
CB@grantreview.org

Federal Relay Service:

Hearing-impaired and speech-impaired callers may contact the Federal Relay Service (FedRelay) at www.gsa.gov/fedrelay.

VIII. Other Information

Reference Websites

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) www.hhs.gov/.

Administration for Children and Families (ACF) www.acf.hhs.gov/.

ACF Funding Opportunities Forecasts and NOFOs www.grants.gov/.

ACF "How To Apply For A Grant" https://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/how-apply-grant.

ACF Property Guidance https://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/real-property-and-tangible-personal-property

Grants.gov Accessibility Information www.grants.gov/ web/grants/accessibility-compliance.html.

Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) http://www.ecfr.gov/.

United States Code (U.S.C.) http://uscode.house.gov/.

Additional Information

Cole, R., Burnett, A., Strong, D. (2021). The impact of the Regional Partnership Grant program on adult recovery and well-being, and child safety, permanency, and well-being outcomes. Child

Abuse & Neglect, 117:105069. doi: 10.1016/j.chiabu.2021.105069.

Exec. Order No. 13985, 86 Fed Reg. 7009 (January 25, 2021). Executive Order On Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government. The White House. https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/01/20/executive-order-advancing-racial-equity-and-support-for-underserved-communities-through-the-federal-government/

Information Memorandum (IM) ACYF-CB-IM- 13-02 https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/cb/im1302.pdf

Information Memorandum (IM) ACYF-CB-IM-19-04 https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/policy-guidance/im-19-04

NCSACW https://ncsacw.samhsa.gov/research/child-welfare-and-treatment-statistics.aspx

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. (2020). The Opioid Crisis and the Black/African American Population: An Urgent Issue. Publication No. PEP20-05-02-001. Office of Behavioral Health Equity. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. https://store.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/SAMHSA_Digital_Download/PEP20-05-02-001_508%20Final.pdf

HHS, ACF, ACYF, CB (2020). AFCARS Report (27), preliminary estimates as of June 23, 2020. Available from https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/research-data-technology/statistics-research/afcars

HHS (2020b). 2012 RPGs to increase the well-being of, and to improve the permanency outcomes for, children affected by substance abuse: Fifth Annual Report to Congress. Washington, DC: ACF, ACYF, CB.

Application Checklist

Applicants may use this checklist as a guide when preparing an application package.

What to Submit	Where Found	When to Submit
Protection of Human Subjects Assurance Identification / IRB Certification / Declaration of Exemption (Common Rule)	Referenced in *Section IV.2. Forms, Assurances, and Certifications*. See http://www.hhs.gov/ ohrp/ assurances/ forms/ index.html for additional information. This form is available in the NOFO's forms package at www.Grants.gov	Submission of the required information and forms is due with the application package by the due date listed in the *Overview* and *Section IV.4. Submission Dates and Times*. If the information is not available at the time of application, it must be submitted prior to the award of a grant.

What to Submit	Where Found	When to Submit
SF-424 - Application for Federal Assistance	Referenced in *Section IV.2.Required Forms, Assurances, and Certifications.* This form is available in the NOFO's forms package at www.Grants.gov in the Mandatory section.	Submission is due by the application due date found in the *Overview* and in *Section IV.4. Submission Dates and Times.*
Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) and System for Award Management (SAM) registration.	Referenced in *Section IV.3. Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) and System for Award Management (SAM)* in the funding opportunity. To obtain a UEI and SAM registration, go to http://www.sam.gov.	A UEI and registration at SAM.gov are required for all applicants. Active registration at SAM must be maintained throughout the application and project award period.
SF-424 Key Contact Form	Referenced in *Section IV.2. Required Forms, Assurances, and Certifications.* This form is available in the NOFO's forms package at www.Grants.gov.	Submission is due with the application by the application due date found in the *Overview* and in *Section IV.4. Submission Dates and Times.*
Certification Regarding Lobbying (Grants.gov Lobbying Form)	Referenced in *Section IV.2. Required Forms, Assurances, and Certifications.* This form is available in the NOFO's forms package at www.Grants.gov.	Submission is due with the application package or prior to the award of a grant.
SF-424A - Budget Information - Non-Construction Programs and SF-424B - Assurances - Non- Construction Programs	Referenced in *Section IV.2. Required Forms, Assurances, and Certifications.* These forms are available in the NOFO's forms package at www.Grants.gov in the Mandatory section. They are required for applications that include only non-construction activities.	Submission is due by the application due date found in the *Overview* and in *Section IV.4. Submission Dates and Times.*

What to Submit	Where Found	When to Submit
SF-Project/Performance Site Location(s) (SF-P/PSL)	Referenced in *Section IV.2.Required Forms, Assurances, and Certifications.* This form is available in the NOFO's forms package at www.Grants.gov.	Submission is due by the application due date found in the *Overview* and in *Section IV.4. Submission Dates and Times.*
SF-LLL - Disclosure of Lobbying Activities	"Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying" is referenced in *Section IV.2. Required Forms, Assurances, and Certifications.* This form is available in the NOFO's forms package at www.Grants.gov.	If submission of this form is applicable, it is due at the time of application. If not available at the time of application, it may also be submitted prior to the award of a grant.
Table of Contents	Referenced in *Section IV.2. The Project Description*.	Submit with the application by the due date found in the *Overview* and in *Section IV.4. Submission Dates and Times*.
Project Summary	Referenced in *Section IV.2. The Project Description.* The Project Summary is limited to one single-spaced page.	Submission is due by the application due date found in the *Overview* and in *Section IV.4. Submission Dates and Times*.
The Project Budget and Budget Justification	Referenced in *Section IV.2. The Project Budget and Budget Justification*.	Submission is required in addition to submission of SF-424A and / or SF-424C. Submission is required with the application package by the due date in the *Overview* and in *Section IV.4. Submission Dates and Times*.
The Project Description	Referenced in *Section IV.2. The Project Description*.	Submission is due by the application due date found in the *Overview* and in *Section IV.4. Submission Dates and Times*.

Appendix

Appendix A: Examples of Services and Activities to Engage In or Integrate Into Existing Service Delivery Systems

Below is a list of examples of services and activities for applicants to consider including as a part of their proposed project to engage in or integrate into existing service delivery systems.

- Services and activities for children and youth that address child well-being and trauma:
    - Screening and assessment of child well-being: In infancy and early childhood, this would reflect development in four general domains: (1) language development and communication, (2) intellectual ability and cognitive functions, (3) physical development and motor skills, and (4) socio-emotional functioning. In middle childhood, well-being involves the assessment of socio-emotional functioning and general social competence, academic achievement, peer relationships, social skills, a developing sense of identity, and the nature of social support. In adolescents, emotional health, social adaptation, academic achievement, and preparation for adult roles and responsibilities are evaluated. Please see *Section IV.2., Project Description, Funded Activities Evaluation Plan, Performance Indicators and Measures for Outcomes* for additional information;
    - Services to newborns exposed to substances to enhance identification and intervention with infants identified as exposed to substances at birth and coordination/enhancement of services to be delivered. This could include programs such as home visiting services or referrals and linkages for medical and/or developmental follow-up with pediatric specialists knowledgeable about fetal alcohol spectrum disorder and exposure to other commonly abused drugs. Additionally, the services could address the increase of babies born with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome and preventive prenatal services to pregnant women, including the use of medication-assisted treatment;
    - Access to appropriate mental and behavioral health services for children involved in the child welfare system, including, but not limited to, services to address experiences of trauma. These might include evidence-supported and emerging trauma-focused interventions (e.g., trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy), psychological first aid and de-escalation, development of coping strategies, relaxation and self-control and regulation strategies, encouragement of expression of feelings, services that address relationship concerns, and other approaches;
    - Early intervention and preventive services for children and adolescents to provide access to participation in evidence-supported and emerging programs, and services for children and adolescents to address the increased risk for intergenerational abuse and dependence on alcohol and other drugs. Examples of potential programs include programs such as those offered by the National Association of Children of Alcoholics or the Betty Ford Children's Program; and
    - SUD treatment for adolescents that provide developmentally appropriate services to adolescent family members who, like their parent(s), have a diagnosable SUD.

- SUD treatment for parents and families:
    - Timely access to comprehensive substance use disorder treatment to ensure that families in the child welfare system have priority access to comprehensive substance use disorder treatment services and concurrent mental health services as needed that meet the needs of the entire family, including:
        - Long-term residential treatment programs where children can live on-site with mothers and where the children's father and/or the mother's partner

are served as well (in residence or not). Services and interventions to improve family functioning are provided for all family members, including access to family based interventions (e.g., Functional Family Therapy, Parent-Child Interaction Therapy) and individual care plans for the adult and child members of the family intensive out-patient treatment with or without a housing component (i.e., sober living homes). Services and interventions to improve family functioning and increase parenting capacity are provided for family members, including access to family counseling and individual care plans for the adult and child members of the family;

- Access to medication-assisted treatment, especially for pregnant and post-partum women;
- Access to in-home SUD treatment and recovery supports;
- Continuing care and recovery support services to support the ongoing recovery of parents after residential or intensive outpatient treatment through ongoing connections to treatment and community support services, such as Alcoholics Anonymous or Narcotics Anonymous, and ongoing case management; and
- Timely access to trauma-specific services for parents and family members when appropriate.

- Services designed to specifically address violence and trauma-related symptoms and reactions.
- Services for parents and children that improve parenting capacity and family functioning include the following:
    - Examples of evidence supported, and emerging practices include Seeking Safety; Helping Women Recover; Helping Men Recover, Beyond Trauma, Addiction and Trauma Recovery Integration Model; and Trauma Recovery and Empowerment;
    - Services are provided in a trauma-informed environment that acknowledges the pervasiveness of the trauma experience for persons with a substance use disorder and in which staff are trained to create a safe, non-retraumatizing environment where services are received;
    - Parenting skills training (as part of substance use disorder treatment or stand-alone) to provide evidenced supported and emerging strategies to promote the parenting abilities of parents who are receiving in-home child welfare services, or whose children have been removed with goals of reunification. Examples include: Celebrating Families and Strengthening Families, Nurturing Parent Program, Parents as Teachers, and Triple P;
    - Access to programs to address relational problems and concerns, including such programs as Parent-Child Interaction Therapy, Brief Strategic Family Therapy, Familias Unidas, Child-Parent Psychotherapy, and Functional Family Therapy;
    - Training for foster parents, relatives, and other substitute caretakers about the special needs of children and youth who have suffered from abuse or neglect and whose parents have a SUD;

- Services and interventions to improve family functioning and assist with the reunification of families when children have been in out-of-home placements, such as Multi-Systemic Family Therapy; and
- Ancillary services for families to assist in securing needed services, such as safe and drug-free housing, transportation, employment, and child care.

Appendix B: Potential Measures and Measurement Tools and Indicators

CB expects that applicants will propose a diverse set of activities and strategies that are intended to impact several different well-being, permanency, and/or safety outcomes. Given this expected diversity, CB understands that applicants will have the discretion to choose from a variety of potential outcomes, indicators, and measurement tools. It is anticipated that the RPG cross-site evaluation study will examine child and family outcomes in the following five areas of high interest: (1) child well-being, (2) child permanency, (3) child safety, (4) family functioning and stability, and (5) adult recovery from substance use disorders. The current RPG outcomes and specific cross-site evaluation measures are highlighted below.

Appendix B is not intended to be comprehensive or limited to the applicant in any way but is offered as an illustration of the importance of and the logic behind connecting outcomes to indicators to measures. It also highlights several measurement tools that have been used successfully by existing grant recipients and/or have been reviewed by the Mental Measurements Yearbook.

Potential Outcomes, Indicators, and Measures

Child Well-being

- Improve developmental functioning (e.g., gross or fine motor skills):
  - Potential measurement tool: Ages and Stages Questionnaires (ASQ)
- Decrease internalizing/externalizing behaviors (e.g., aggressiveness, sleep problems):
  - Potential measurement tool: Child Behavior Checklist (CBCL) (current cross-site measure)
- Improve social and adaptive functioning (e.g., eating habits, staying away from danger)
- Assess sensory processing (i.e., profiling the effect of sensory processing on functional performance in a child's daily life):
  - Potential measurement tool: The Infant-Toddler Sensory Profile (current cross-site measure)
- Improve executive functioning:
  - Potential measurement tool: Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths Assessment (CANS);
  - Increase school success (e.g., attendance, graduation); and
  - Potential indicators: rates of attendance or graduation (administrative data, school district data)
- Increase post-secondary education (e.g., college, vocational school)
- Improve child health
- Decrease youth risk behaviors:

    - Potential measurement tool: Ages and Stages Questionnaires: Social-Emotional (ASQ: SE); The Socialization Subscale, Vineland Adaptive Behavior Scales, Second Edition, Parent-Caregiver Rating Form (current cross-site measure); and
    - Potential measurement tool: Behavior Rating Inventory of Executive Function and the Behavior Rating Inventory of Executive Function-Preschool (BRIEF-P) (current cross-site measure)

- Improve protective factors (e.g., resiliency, attachment):
    - Potential measurement tool: Protective Factors Survey (PFS) Reduce trauma symptoms (e.g., avoidance behavior, numbing response);
    - Potential indicators: percent of youth who attain a degree/ certification (self-report surveys, administrative data);
    - Potential indicators: percentage of children classified as obese (National Center for Health Statistics); and
    - Potential indicators: percentage of youth who report illicit drug use (youth risk behavior surveys, administrative data).

Improve Permanency

- Decrease length of stay in foster care
- Decrease re-entry into foster care within predetermined time periods
- Increase timeliness of reunification of children removed from the home due to parental or caretaker experiencing substance use disorder within predetermined time periods:
    - Potential indicators: Average length of stay in foster care from the date of most recent entry to date of discharge AFCARS administrative data);
    - Potential indicators: Of all children removed from the home due to parental or caretaker substance use disorder and subsequently discharged from foster care to reunification, percent who re-enter foster care in less than 6, 12, or 18 months (AFCARS, administrative data); and
    - Potential indicators: Of all such children discharged from foster care to reunification, the percent who are reunified in less than 6 or 12 months from the date of the most recent entry into foster care (AFCARS, administrative data)

- Increase timeliness of adoption or guardianship of children removed from the home due to parental or caretaker experiencing substance use disorder within predetermined time periods:
    - Potential indicators: Of all such children discharged from foster care to a finalized adoption or legal guardianship, the percent who are discharged in less than 12 or 24 months from the date of the most recent entry into foster care

Enhance Safety

- Reduce out-of-home placements for children associated with a substantiated or indicated finding of maltreatment that is at risk of placement due to parental or caretaker experiencing substance use disorder;
- Potential indicators: Of all such in-home children, percent who safely remained with a parent or caretaker through treatment completion (administrative data);

- Reduce incidence of child maltreatment for children with a parent or caretaker experiencing substance use disorder;
- Potential indicators: Percent of such children who have an initial finding of a substantiated or indicated occurrence of maltreatment during the participation in the program NCANDS administrative data;
- Reduce recurrence of child maltreatment of children with a parent or caretaker experiencing substance use disorder within predetermined time periods; and
- Potential indicators: Percent of all such children associated with a substantiated or indicated finding of maltreatment that have a subsequent substantiated or indicated finding of maltreatment within 6 or 12 months (NCANDS, administrative data).

Adult/Family Recovery

- Decrease substance use disorder addiction severity (e.g., abstinence maintained for predetermined time periods post-treatment):
    - Potential measurements: Addiction Severity Index (ASI) (current cross-site measure), administrative data; and
    - Potential indicators: percentage of parents completing substance use disorder treatment who maintained abstinence for 3, 6, 12, or 18 months post treatment ((Treatment Episode Data Set (TEDS), administrative data, urine screenings)

- Assessing parent trauma:
    - Potential measurement tool: The Trauma Symptom Checklist-40 (current cross-site measure) Reduce the incidence of subsequent births of substance-exposed newborns; and
    - Potential indicators: rate of substance-exposed newborns per 1,000 newborns in an identified time period (health care data, self-report surveys, administrative data)

- Decrease in criminal behavior (e.g., arrests, parole/probation violations in predetermined time periods post-intervention):
    - Potential indicators: percentage of program participants who are arrested within 3, 6, or 12 months post-intervention (administrative court or police data); and
    - Potential measurement sources/tools: percentage of program participants who are arrested (administrative court or police data)

Family Functioning and Stability

- Decrease parental stress (e.g., depression, feelings of isolation):
    - Potential measurement tools: Parental Stress Index (PSI), Center for Epidemiological Studies Depression Scale (CESD) (current cross-site measures)

- Increase parenting skills (e.g., discipline, empathy, supervision):
    - Potential measurement tools: North Carolina Family Assessment Scale (NCFAS); Adult-Adolescent Parenting Inventory (AAPI) (current cross-site measure)

- Improve systems-wide, data-driven decision making:
    - Potential indicators: percent of administrative staff who access and use data dashboards to guide daily practice (survey self-report, administrative data);

percent of multi-disciplinary team meetings that result in increased timeliness of reunification (administrative data)

- Improve systems-wide service and organizational capacity:
    - Potential indicators: percent of strategic plan goals achieved (administrative data, staff survey data); visible and active stable relationships and interactions among external partners (organizational capacity assessment tools)

List of Potential Measurement Tools and Indicators

Child/Youth Well-being Outcomes

- Behavior Rating Inventory of Executive Function and the Behavior Rating Inventory of Executive Function Preschool (BRIEF and BRIEF-P) (current cross-site evaluation measure);
- (CBCL) (versions for ages 1.5 to 5 and 6 to 18) (cross-site evaluation measure)
- The Infant-Toddler Sensory Profile (current cross-site evaluation measure);
- The Socialization Subscale, Vineland Adaptive Behavior Scales, Second Edition, Parent-Caregiver Rating Form (current cross-site evaluation measure);
- (ASQ);
- (ASQ:SE) Greenspan Social-Emotional Growth Chart;
- Child Abuse Potential Inventory (CAPI);
- (NCFAS);
- North Carolina Family Assessment Scale General Services (NCFAS-G) North Carolina Family Assessment Scale Reunification (NCFAS-R);
- CANS

Child Safety and Permanency (based on child welfare child maltreatment and foster care data)

- Removals from the family of origin
- Placements
- Type of placement Discharge
- Screened-in referrals
- Type of allegation
- Disposition of allegation

Adult Recovery Outcomes

- ASI (current cross-site evaluation measure)
- The Trauma Symptom Checklist-40 (current cross-site evaluation measure) Beck Depression Inventory-II (BDI-II)

Family/Relationship Outcomes

- AAPI-2 (current cross-site evaluation measure);
- Parenting Stress Index (PSI) (current cross-site evaluation measure);
- Center for Epidemiologic Studies Depression Scale short form (CES-D) (current cross-site evaluation measure);
- CAPI;

- NCFAS; and
- (NCFAS-G) (NCFAS - R) (PFS)

Regional Partnership/Service Capacity Outcome

- Collaborative Values Inventory (CVI);
- Collaborative Capacity Instrument (CCI);
- Interagency Collaboration Activities Scale (ICAS);

In selecting measurement instruments for children and youth, the applicant may want to consider these factors:

- The age of the child. Babies, young children, older children, and youth will have different needs, and the indicators of what is healthy and normal will vary by age;
- Type of assessment will depend on the goals of the program and the desired impact on the children/youth. Is the goal to assess the needs of the clients? Is it to assess progress in meeting program goals? and
- The cost of the instruments, the type of personnel needed to adequately administer and score the measures, and how much time would be needed to do the assessments.

This list is not a complete list of possible measures.

Appendix C: Using Well-Supported, Supported, Promising, and/or Emerging Practices

The following resources may assist recipients in selecting practices that are well-supported, supported, promising, and/or emerging practices:

- National Child Traumatic Stress Network Empirically Supported Treatments and Promising Practices http://nctsn.org/training-guidelines
- Evidence-Based Mental Health Therapies (Child Welfare Information Gateway) https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/systemwide/bhw/collaboration/mh/
- Home Visiting Evidence of Effectiveness https://homvee.acf.hhs.gov/
- California Evidence-Based Clearinghouse for Child Welfare http://www.cebc4cw.org
- SAMHSA Evidence-Based Practices Resource Center https://www.samhsa.gov/ebp-resource-center [Please note that the National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices (NREPP) has been discontinued and is no longer available.]
- Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse https://preventionservices.abtsites.com/
- Mathematica Policy Research Serving Child Welfare Families with Substance Abuse Issues: Grantees' [RPG] Use of Evidence-Based Practices and the Extent of Evidence https://www.mathematica-mpr.com/our-publications-and-findings/publications/serving-child-welfare-families-with-substance-abuse-issues-grantees-use-of-evidencebased-practices

The preceding sources do not list all available well-supported, supported, promising, and/or emerging practices. Recipients may use information from other sources, e.g. unpublished studies or documents describing formal consensus among recognized experts.