

funds. Failure to provide the required match will result in a disallowance of Federal funds.

Duration of Project: This announcement solicits applications for Basic Center programs of up to three years duration (36-month project periods). Initial grant awards, made on a competitive basis, will be for one-year (12-month) budget periods. Applications for noncompetitive continuation grants beyond the one-year budget periods, but within the 36-month project periods, will be entertained in subsequent years, subject to the availability of funds, satisfactory progress of the grantee and determination that continued funding would be in the best interest of the government.

B. Transitional Living Program (Competitive Grant Area B, CFDA#93.550)

Program Purpose, Goals and Objectives: The overall purpose of the Transitional Living Program (TLP) for homeless youth is to establish and operate transitional living programs for homeless youth. This program is structured to help older, homeless youth achieve self-sufficiency and avoid long-term dependency on social services. Transitional living programs provide shelter, skills training, and support services to homeless youth ages 16 through 21 for a continuous period not exceeding 18 months.

Transitional Living Programs are required to provide services in residential settings for at least four (4) youth and no more than twenty (20) youth. Transitional Living Program funds are to be used for the purpose of enhancing the capacities of youth-serving agencies in local communities to effectively address the service needs of homeless, older adolescents and young adults, including pregnant and parenting homeless youth. Goals, objectives and activities that may be maintained, improved and/or expanded through a TLP grant must include, but are not necessarily limited to:

- Providing stable, safe living accommodations while a homeless youth is a program participant;
- Providing the services necessary to assist homeless youth in developing both the skills and personal characteristics needed to enable them to live independently;
- Providing education, information and counseling aimed at preventing, treating and reducing substance abuse among homeless youth;
- Providing homeless youth with appropriate referrals and access to medical and mental health treatment;

- Providing the services and referrals necessary to assist youth in preparing for and obtaining employment;

- Providing the services and referrals necessary to assist youth in preparing for and obtaining secondary, and where feasible, post-secondary education and/or vocational training; and

- Providing the services and referrals necessary to assist pregnant and parenting homeless youth with the skills and knowledge necessary to become a more effective parent and lead productive and independent lives.

Background: It is estimated that about one-fourth of the youth served by all runaway and homeless youth programs are homeless. This means that the youth cannot return home or to another safe living arrangement with a relative. Other homeless youth have "aged out" of the child welfare system and are no longer eligible for foster care.

These young people are often homeless through no fault of their own. The families they can no longer live with are often physically and sexually abusive and involved in drug and alcohol abuse. They cannot meet the youth's basic human needs (shelter, food, clothing), let alone provide the supportive and safe environment needed for the healthy development of self-image and the skills and personal characteristics which would enable them to mature into a self-sufficient adult.

Homeless youth, lacking a stable family environment and without social and economic supports, are also at high risk of being involved in dangerous lifestyles and problematic or delinquent behaviors. More than two-thirds of homeless youth served by ACF-funded programs report using drugs or alcohol and many participate in survival sex and prostitution to meet their basic needs.

Homeless youth are in need of a support system that will assist them in making the transition to adulthood and independent living. While all adolescents are faced with adjustment issues as they approach adulthood, homeless youth experience more severe problems and are at greater risk in terms of their ability to successfully make the transition to self-sufficiency and to become a productive member of society.

Pregnant and parenting homeless youth are likely to face poverty, low levels of educational attainment, and long-term dependence on public assistance. Research indicates that children of teenage mothers are more likely to be born prematurely and to be of low birth weight than children born to women who are older. Compared to children born to older women, children

of adolescent mothers, in general, do not do as well in school, have higher reported incidences of abuse and neglect, have higher rates of foster care placement, and are more apt to run away from home. As these children get older, the boys are 2.7 times more likely to be involved in criminal behavior, and the girls are 33 percent more likely to become teenage mothers themselves, increasing the likelihood that they will rely on public assistance.

The Transitional Living Program for Homeless Youth specifically targets services to homeless youth and affords youth service agencies with an opportunity to serve homeless youth in a manner which is comprehensive and geared towards ensuring a successful transition to self-sufficiency. The TLP also improves the availability of comprehensive, integrated services for homeless youth, which reduces the risks of exploitation and danger to which these youth are exposed while living on the streets without positive economic or social supports.

Eligible Applicant

- Public agencies—any State, unit of local government, Indian tribes and tribal organizations, and/or combinations of such units;
- Private nonprofit agencies; and
- Community-based and faith-based organizations.

Current TLP grantees (including subgrantees) with project periods ending on or after September 30, 2003, and all other eligible applicants not currently receiving TLP funds may apply for a new competitive TLP grant under this announcement for awards in FY 2004.

Current TLP grantees (including subgrantees) with one or two years remaining on their current awards and the expectation of continuation funding in Fiscal Year 2003 may not apply for a new TLP grant under this announcement. These grantees will receive instructions from their respective Administration on Children and Families (ACF) Regional Office Youth Contact on the procedures for applying for non-competitive continuation grants. Current grantees, which have questions regarding their eligibility to apply for new funds, should consult with the appropriate Regional Office Runaway and Homeless Youth Contact, listed in part V, appendix B, of the full official Program Announcement to determine if they are eligible to apply for a new grant award.

Funding: Depending on the availability of funds, the Family and Youth Services Bureau expects to award up to \$7,900,000 for up to 42 new