

engaged in the mentoring process, through visits, phone conversations or letters, reunification is a natural process with realistic expectations. Mentors can help facilitate a smooth reentry by helping parents reconnect with their child and are often invited to continue to be a supportive resource well after the return of the parent.

What Is the Family and Youth Services Bureau?

For over thirty years, the Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB) within the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) has provided grants at the local level to faith-based organizations and community-based organizations serving a population of vulnerable youth, including runaway, homeless, and street youth.

General Information

Preference for Geographic Distribution

A wide geographic distribution of applicants will be considered, including applicants from urban, suburban, rural and tribal communities, in addition to the rank order of scored applications.

Eligibility

Those eligible to apply for funding under this grant competition include faith and community-based organizations, tribal governments or consortia, and state or local governments where substantial numbers of children of prisoners live. Applicants must apply to establish new programs or to expand existing programs utilizing a network of public and private community entities to provide mentoring services for children of prisoners. Collaboration among eligible entities is strongly encouraged. All eligible organizations, including faith-based organizations, are eligible to compete on equal footing for Federal financial assistance used to support social service programs. No organization may be discriminated against on the basis of religion in the administration or distribution of Federal financial assistance under social service programs. Faith-based organizations are eligible to compete for Federal financial assistance while retaining their identity, mission, religious references, and governance. However, faith-based organizations that receive funding may not use Federal financial assistance, including funds, to meet any cost-sharing requirements, to support inherently religious activities, such as worship, religious instruction, or prayer. In addition, any participation in these activities by beneficiaries must be voluntary.

Project Period

This announcement invites applications for project periods of up to three years. Awards will be made on a competitive basis for a one-year budget period, although project periods may be for up to three years. Applications for continuation grants funded under these awards beyond the one-year budget period, but within the three-year project period, will be entertained in subsequent years on a noncompetitive basis, subject to the availability of funds, satisfactory progress of the grantee, and a determination that continued funding would be in the best interest of the Government.

Estimated Range of Awards

The Family and Youth Services Bureau expects to award approximately \$9,500,000 for new competitive grants for Fiscal Year 2003. Grants will range from \$100,000 to \$1,000,000 depending on the scope of the project and the availability of funds. The ceiling on funding was lowered from the authorizing legislation because of a reduced appropriation. If a program shows a significant growth in the second year, and depending on fund availability, supplemental funds may be added to the existing award. Please note that an automatic increase of funds is not implied, nor are any additional funds guaranteed.

Applicant Share of Project Cost

For the first and second years of the grant, grantees must provide at least 25 percent of the approved project cost. After the second year of the grant, the amount that the grantees must provide increases to 50 percent. The total approved cost of the project is the sum of the Federal share and the non-Federal share. For example if the total project cost of a program is \$200,000 then the applicant must demonstrate a commitment of at least a \$50,000 match and request funding of \$150,000 from the Federal government. The Federal share may be matched by cash or in-kind contributions, although applicants are encouraged to meet their requirement through cash contributions. In determining the amount of the non-Federal share, the fair market value will be attributed to goods, services (excluding mentoring time and services) and facilities contributed from non-Federal sources. Grantees will be held accountable for commitments of required non-Federal funds. Failure to provide the required match will result in disallowance of Federal funds.

Application Requirements

To be considered for a grant, each application must be submitted in accordance with the guidance provided below. The application must be signed by an individual authorized to act for the applicant agency and to assume responsibility for the obligations imposed by terms and conditions of the grant award. If more than one agency is involved in submitting a single application, one entity must be identified as the applicant organization that will have legal responsibility for the grant.

Statutory Priority

This grant competition focuses exclusively on projects designed to meet the statutory priority in Title I, subtitle B, section 121 as amended by the Act known as "Promoting Safe and Stable Families Amendments of 2001".

Program Guidance

To be eligible for funding, a project must propose mentoring programs and activities to serve the children of prisoners in areas with a comparative severity of need for mentoring services, taking into consideration data on the numbers of children (and in particular of low-income children) with an incarcerated parent (or parents) in the service area.

Projects funded under this program must:

1. Link children with mentors who have:
 - Received training and support in mentoring;
 - Completed screening and reference checks, including child and domestic abuse records checks and criminal background checks;
 - Expressed an interest in working with children in disadvantaged situations.
2. Incorporate the elements of Positive Youth Development by providing youth with:
 - Safe and trusting relationships;
 - Healthy messages about life and social behavior;
 - Guidance from a positive adult role model;
 - Increased participation in, and enhanced their ability to benefit from, education;
 - Participation in civic service and community activities;
3. Develop a plan for the whole family:
 - Connect the child with the imprisoned parent with permission from other spouse or guardian when appropriate;
 - Plan to provide support services to siblings and families when appropriate;