

refresher training, and other recertification services; (ii) to provide training in English where necessary (regardless of whether the refugees are employed or receiving cash or other assistance); and (iii) to provide where specific needs have been shown and recognized by the Director, health (including mental health) services, social services, educational and other services.

Funding Availability

This program announcement governs the availability of, and award procedures for, the Refugee Family Enrichment Program, which will be funded using FY 2003 discretionary social service funds.

Category 1—Refugee Marriage Enrichment Projects through one cooperative agreement for approximately \$1 million to one public or private non-profit agency with extensive knowledge of and comprehensive experience in working with refugees through reception and placement services and ongoing resettlement activities.

Category 2—Refugee Marriage Enrichment Projects through two to four cooperative agreements of approximately \$400,000–\$750,000 each to two to four public or private non-profit agencies with extensive knowledge of, and comprehensive experience in, working with, refugee community-based organizations.

Category 3—Refugee Family Enrichment Projects for Elderly and Youth through an estimated twenty grants ranging from \$75,000 to \$100,000 each to faith-based or community organizations and public agencies.

CFDA Number—93.576.

Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants for these funds include public or private non-profit agencies, including faith-based and community organizations and public agencies. Applicants in all three categories must demonstrate, in detail, their relationship to the refugee communities they seek to serve and how those communities will participate in the proposed services. Also, applicants to category 1 and category 2 of this announcement should demonstrate their knowledge of and relationship to family enrichment activities.

Any non-profit organization submitting an application must submit proof of its non-profit status at the time of submission. The non-profit agency can accomplish this by providing a copy of the applicant's listing in the Internal Revenue Service's (IRS) most recent list of tax-exempt organizations described in Section 501(c)(3) of the IRS code, or by providing a copy of the currently valid IRS tax exemption certificate, or by

providing a copy of the articles of incorporation bearing the seal of the State in which the corporation or association is domiciled, or by providing a certified copy of the organization's certificate of incorporation or similar document that clearly establishes non-profit status, or any of the items 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. Private, nonprofit organizations are encouraged to submit with their applications the optional survey located under "Grant Manuals & Forms" at <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofs/forms.htm>.

Project and Budget Periods

This announcement is inviting applications for project periods up to three years. Awards, on a competitive basis, will be for a one-year budget period. 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 availability of funds, satisfactory progress of the grantee and a determination that continued funding would be in the best interest of the Government. No matching or cost sharing is required.

Background

The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) is currently supporting several initiatives that promote and encourage healthy marriages and strengthen families. This program announcement reflects ORR's participation in these initiatives as they relate to refugee populations. The cultures of most refugee populations are built upon successful and stable family life. This strength is worthy of preservation and ORR seeks, through this announcement, to support activities toward that end. ORR believes that refugee couples face unique difficulties because of their flight from persecution and long periods of insecurity and that marriage education is a social service that can help refugees cope with these difficulties. ORR also believes that there are benefits to marriage that extend to children, adults and to all society. Thus ORR is committed to promoting policies and programs that help strengthen marriage as an institution and help refugee parents raise their children in positive and healthy environments.

Many refugee families have endured persecution or torture, trauma, abrupt flight from war, and separation from, or

death of, friends and family members. Furthermore, the relationships in refugee families may become strained before arrival because of suffering and deprivation endemic to the refugee condition. Refugees in the U.S. face many challenges. The pressures of their new American environment may weaken the strong, positive family relationships that refugees have brought with them to the United States.

Family relationships may undergo strain and transformation when refugees resettle in the U.S. Strong authoritarian and sometimes patriarchal family structures may provoke conflicts when members take on new roles as they adapt to American culture. For example, school/parent relationships may differ from those in their home countries and may produce miscommunication and tension; refugee parents may have concerns or object to the range of freedom American youth are afforded; and the physical disciplinary practices between a husband and wife or between parents and children may differ from what is the norm or legal in the U.S. The low wages of entry-level jobs may force both adults to work outside the home, thereby disrupting traditional roles. Typically, low incomes force refugee households to locate in neighborhoods with high crime rates. Poor public transportation adds to time spent away from family members and complicates efforts to access services and participate in community activities. The resulting strain from these difficulties may damage refugee marriages, families and communities.

Marriage education can help refugee couples strengthen and adjust relationship skills and help them cope with the difficulties of their new American environment with the result of improving the quality of family life. Along with the skills that enable couples to communicate more effectively, manage conflict and work together as a team, marriage education can also teach the benefits that can be obtained from identifying future challenges in their relationships so that these challenges can be successfully negotiated when they arise.

Research reveals that the benefits of healthy marriages are particularly beneficial for children. On average, children raised by parents in healthy marriages are less likely to fail at school, suffer an emotional or behavioral problem requiring psychiatric treatment, be victims of child abuse and neglect, get into trouble with the law, use illicit drugs, smoke cigarettes, abuse alcohol, engage in early and promiscuous sexual activity, grow up in poverty or attempt suicide. On average, children raised by