

Applications hand carried by applicants, applicant couriers, or by other representatives of the applicant shall be considered as meeting an announced deadline if they are received on or before the deadline date, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., EDT, Monday through Friday (excluding Federal holidays) at the above address. (Applicants are cautioned that express/overnight mail services do not always deliver as agreed.)

ACF cannot accommodate transmission of applications by fax or through other electronic media, regardless of date or time of submission and receipt. Therefore, applications transmitted to ACF electronically will not be accepted.

Late Applications: Applications that do not meet the criteria stated above are considered late applications. ACF will notify each late applicant that its application will not be considered in the current competition.

Extension of Deadlines: ACF may extend an application deadline for applicants affected by acts of God such as floods and hurricanes, when there is widespread disruption of mail service, or for other disruptions of services, such as a prolonged blackout, that affect the public at large. A determination to extend or waive deadline requirements rests with the Chief Grants Management Officer.

Notice of Intent to Submit an Application: If you intend to submit an application, you are strongly encouraged to notify the Child Care Bureau by fax at (202) 690-5600 at least three weeks prior to the submission deadline date. Your fax should be sent to Ms. Taryonka Reid and include the following information: The number and title of this announcement; the name and address of the Local Council; and your contact person's name, phone number, fax number, and e-mail address. The information will be used to determine the number of expert reviewers needed to evaluate applications and to update the mailing list for future program announcements.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: A copy of this Program Announcement and the necessary forms can be obtained by calling 1-800-351-2293. Copies of this Program Announcement can also be downloaded approximately 10 days after publication in the **Federal Register** from the Child Care Bureau's Web site at <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ccb/>. There are standard forms that must be submitted along with your application. All of the necessary standard forms to accompany your application can be downloaded from the

following Web site: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofs/forms.htm#apps>.

To ask questions about the application process, you are encouraged to call the ACYF Operations Center at 1-800-351-2293. If you have programmatic questions about the ELOA discretionary grant program, you may contact Carol L. Gage, Federal Project Officer at (202) 690-6243 or cgage@acf.hhs.gov or Sylvia Johnson, Grants Officer at (202) 401-4524 or syjohnson@acf.hhs.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The contents of the ACF Uniform Discretionary Grant Application for this program as well as preparation instructions are contained in this program announcement.

This Supplementary Information section contains all the instructions needed to apply for a grant under this announcement.

The Supplementary Information section consists of six parts and four appendices. Part I includes background information on the Child Care Bureau, general information about the Early Learning Opportunities Act program, a description of the goals and priorities related to this announcement, and relevant definitions. Part II contains key program information and requirements such as project duration, allowable activities, funding requirements, and eligibility. Part III contains the general instructions for preparing the Uniform Project Description. Part IV contains the evaluation criteria upon which applications will be reviewed and evaluated. Part V describes the application and selection process. Part VI provides the required contents of the application as well as instructions for submission. *Appendix A* is a sample Letter of Designation of the Local Council by an Entity of Local Government. *Appendix B* is a sample Letter of Designation of the Local Council and Identification of the Fiscal Agency by an Entity of Local Government. *Appendix C* is a sample format for providing information about the composition of the Local Council. *Appendix D* is a list of the Fiscal Year 2001 ELOA grantees and the geographic areas they serve. *Appendix E* is a list of the Fiscal Year 2002 ELOA grantees and the geographic areas they serve.

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Part I. General Information

A. The Child Care Bureau

The Child Care Bureau was established in 1995 to provide leadership to efforts to enhance the quality, affordability, and supply of child care. The Child Care Bureau administers the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF), a \$4.8 billion child care program that includes