

succeeding 12-month budget period. The maximum Federal share is 90 percent of total project costs.

#### *F. Matching Requirements*

The successful applicant must provide a non-Federal match of 10 percent of total project costs. The total approved project cost is the sum of the Federal share and the non-Federal share. Therefore, a project requesting \$1,500,000 in Federal funds must include a match of at least \$166,667 for a total project cost of \$1,666,667. (To compute the non-Federal share divide the Federal share by .90 and subtract the Federal share from that amount.) Applicants are encouraged to contribute resources beyond the required match. Funding partnerships that significantly extend the scope and reach of the project are especially encouraged. Applicants should provide letters of commitment from organizations or agencies verifying the actual amount of non-Federal support to the project. Grantees will be held accountable for commitments of non-Federal resources even if over the amount of the required match. Failure to provide the amount will result in disallowance of Federal match.

#### *G. Federal Role*

A cooperative agreement is Federal assistance in which substantial Federal involvement in project activities is anticipated. Responsibilities of Federal staff and the successful applicant are negotiated prior to award. The Child Care Bureau and the grantee will work collaboratively on the development of products such as work plans, technical assistance materials, summaries or literature reviews, decisions about data sets to be archived, and other technical matters. The Bureau will also participate in the Technical Work Group and will work closely with the grantee to promote partnerships and collaborative research, both within the Child Care Policy Research Consortium and with other potential partners. In addition, the Bureau will assist with technical assistance activities as appropriate and needed.

#### *H. Project Description*

The Child Care Research Collaboration and Archive (CCRCA) is the national research knowledge management system of the Child Care Bureau. The developmental phase of the CCRCA is being carried out through Contract Number 90-00-0009 by BRI Consulting Group, Inc. (BRI) and their subcontractor, the National Center for Children in Poverty (NCCP). This contract will end on September 30,

2003, at which time all products, hardware and software will be transferred to the organization awarded the cooperative agreement under this announcement.

During the operational phase, the CCRCA will be publicly launched and marketed to a range of contributors, users, and partners. Functions established in the developmental phase will be continued and enhanced. New functions and activities will be developed to respond to the emerging needs of stakeholders.

A project description and conceptual design of the CCRCA are available through the ACYF Operations Center at the address above.

#### *Goals*

The CCRCA has five interrelated goals that link its three functional components:

1. Operating a state-of-the-art, web-based child care and early education research archive with ongoing development of background content, ready access to data sets for secondary analysis, technical assistance for contributors and users, strong linkages with other archives and information systems, and ongoing synthesis of data into useful information and knowledge.
2. Promoting collaboration and partnership building for child care and early education research and policy analysis to facilitate information-sharing and use of research findings by researchers, policy makers, and other key stakeholders.
3. Developing and providing technical assistance to assist data contributors, technical analysts, and end users of research information.
4. Making sound child care research findings available to researchers and the public in accessible language and formats.
5. Encouraging the use of research-based information by policy makers, practitioners, providers, parents, and others with an interest in child care and early education issues.

#### *Functional Components*

The CCRCA consists of three functional components: (1) An interactive web-site through which the public can gain easy access to research reports, summaries, and other related documents designed for end-users of research; (2) a topical archive of data sets from major child care research and evaluation studies with related metadata elements and other technical features; and (3) a technical assistance and support system to improve the quality of data, assist researchers in developing analytic skills, facilitate collaboration,

and create a stronger research infrastructure.

#### *Component 1. The Interactive Web Site*

The most visible component of the CCRCA will be the interactive web site. The largest group of web-site users will be individuals or organizations whose primary functions and goals relate to child care research. Important categories of users include child care providers and administrators; legislators and policy analysts; child development specialists and educators; psychologists and pediatricians; economists and community planners; professors and students; community child care organizations such as resource and referral agencies; parents and consumer groups; and businesses and civic planners.

Given the large number and diversity of end users from beyond the research community, the CCRCA must be concerned with ensuring that findings on a wide variety of topics are easily searchable and accessible in formats that meet the needs of different constituencies. In addition to published technical reports and articles, selected findings must be translated into user-friendly formats such as special charts, briefing papers, on-line newsletters, and other summaries that are accessible to non-technical audiences.

Researchers who wish to conduct secondary analyses of archival data sets, and have a variety of technically oriented information needs, will be able to download data through the web-site, join electronic theme groups, and participate in a variety of research networks, along with other researchers around the country. This group will be supported through the CCRCA components described below.

#### *Component 2. The Research Database and Data Archive*

The primary function of the CCRCA is to maintain and further develop a web-based database of research and related products. This database is intended to improve access to child care and related early education data, promote the use of archival data for analysis, and facilitate the utilization of research findings by policy makers, practitioners, academics, parents and other stakeholders. A prominent feature of the archive is that products will reside in the CCRCA's content database or in other locations, but will be accessible in a seamless manner through the CCRCA web site. These relationships with other archives and information systems also form part of the infrastructure for collaboration and networking among the various stakeholders.