

and pre-doctoral level graduate student research partnership development projects (Priority Area 1.02) to develop ongoing research partnerships with Head Start programs.

SUMMARY: The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation (OPRE) announces the availability of funds for Head Start Graduate Student Research Grants to support field-initiated research activities.

CFDA #: The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance number for all priority areas is 93.600

DATES: The closing time and date for receipt of applications is 5 p.m. (Eastern Time Zone) August 12, 2003. Regardless of the method by which they are delivered, applications must be received on or before the deadline date.

Late Applications. Applications that do not meet the criteria stated above, will be considered late applications. The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) will notify each late applicant that its application will not be considered in the current competition.

Extension of Deadline. 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 disruption of services that affect the public at large (such as prolonged electrical blackout). Authority to waive or extend deadline requirements rests with the Chief Grants Management Officer.

Mailing and Delivery Instructions: Applications may be sent through the U.S. Postal Service, delivered by private courier, or hand delivered to the ACF Operations Center at the address below. Applications delivered by hand must be received by the Operations Center during the normal working hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday and no later than 5 p.m. Eastern Time Zone on the deadline date. Applicants will receive a confirmation postcard upon receipt of applications. Head Start Research Support Team, 1749 Old Meadow Road, Suite 600, McLean, VA 22102.

All packages should be clearly labeled as follows: Application for Head Start Graduate Student Research Grants: Priority Area (indicate 1.01 or 1.02).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: The Head Start Research Support Technical Assistance Team (1-877) 663-0250, is available to answer questions regarding application requirements and to refer you to the appropriate contact person in ACF for programmatic questions. You may e-mail your questions to: hsr@xtria.com.

Grants Management Contact: William Wilson, Grants Management Officer, Room 2220 Switzer Building, 330 C Street SW., Washington, DC 20447. Telephone Number (202) 205-8913 or e-mail WWilson@acf.hhs.gov.

In order to determine the number of expert reviewers that will be necessary, if you are going to submit an application, *you must send a post card, call or e-mail at least two weeks prior to the submission deadline date with the following information: the name, address, telephone and fax number, e-mail address of the principal investigator, and the name of the university or non-profit institution to:* Head Start Research Support Team, 1749 Old Meadow Road, Suite 600, McLean, VA 22102, (1-877) 663-0250, E-mail hsr@xtria.com.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Supplementary Information section consists of four parts. Part I provides general information about the Head Start research activities, authorities, funding priorities, and the application process. Part II describes the Head Start Graduate Student Research Grants (Priority Area 1.01). Part III describes the Head Start Graduate Student Partnership Development Grants (Priority Area 1.02). Part IV includes two appendices that include all requirements for applications. Appendix 1 provides detailed instructions for preparing and submitting applications. Appendix 2 contains the OMB-approved Uniform Project Description.

Part I. General Information

A. Purpose of Announcement

The purpose of this announcement is to announce the availability of funds for Head Start Graduate Student Research Grants to support field-initiated research activities in partnership with Head Start programs and to develop ongoing research partnerships with Head Start programs.

B. Background

Priority Area 1.01 and 1.02: Head Start Graduate Student Research Grants and Research Partnership Development Grants

Since 1991, ACF has explicitly supported the relationship between established Head Start researchers and their graduate students by awarding research grants, on behalf of specific graduate students, to conduct research in Head Start communities. As many previously funded Head Start graduate students have continued to make significant contributions to the early

childhood research field as they have pursued their careers, this funding mechanism is an important research capacity-building effort. To ensure that future research is responsive to the changing needs of low-income families, graduate students need strong and positive role models. Therefore, Head Start's support of the partnership between students and their mentors is essential. The unique partnership that is forged between mentor and student, within the Head Start research context, serves as a model for the establishment of other partnerships within the community (e.g., researcher-Head Start staff, researcher-family, etc.). This foundation helps foster the skills necessary to build a graduate student's trajectory of successful partnership-building and contributions to the scientific community. Within this nurturing and supportive relationship, young researchers are empowered to become autonomous researchers, learning theory, as well as the process of interacting with the various members and relevant organizations within their communities.

ACF further recognizes that effectively developing new research partnerships between researchers and Head Start communities requires considerable planning, effort, and commitment. In order to encourage the development of such new research partnerships, and to facilitate the entry of new mentor/student teams to the field of Head Start research, it is also essential to support the process of partnership development and research conceptualization. Therefore, a new priority area has been added this year for that purpose.

Thus, the goals of the two priority areas within the Head Start Graduate Student Research Grant program can be summarized as follows:

1. Provide direct support for graduate students as a way of encouraging the conduct of research with Head Start populations, thus contributing to the knowledge base about the best approaches for delivering services to diverse, low-income families and their children;

2. Promote mentor-student relationships which support students' graduate training and professional development as young researchers engaged in policy-relevant, applied research;

3. Emphasize the importance of developing true working research partnerships with Head Start programs and other relevant entities within the community, thereby fostering skills necessary to build a student's trajectory of successful partnership-building and