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## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Administration for Children and Families

[Program Announcement No. ACYF/HS-2003-16]

#### Fiscal Year 2003 Discretionary Announcement for Head Start—Higher Education Hispanic/Latino Service Partnerships: Availability of Funds and Request for Applications

**AGENCY:** Administration on Children, Youth and Families (ACYF), Administration for Children and Families (ACF), DHHS.

**ACTION:** Announcement of the availability of funds and request for applications for professional development and training grants for institutions of higher education in partnership with Head Start and Early Head Start programs to improve services to Hispanic/Latino children and their families.

**CFDA #:** The catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number is 93.600.

**SUMMARY:** The Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Administration on Children, Youth and Families (ACYF) announces the availability of up to \$1,500,000 in funds for institutions of higher education with experience and capability in educating and preparing professionals to work effectively with Hispanic/Latino young children and families, in partnership with Head Start and Early Head Start programs. The purpose is to improve the quality and long-term effectiveness of Head Start and Early Head Start program services to Hispanic/Latino children and their families by developing academic and other training models and forming partnerships between institutions of higher education and Head Start and Early Head Start programs.

**DATES:** The closing date and time for receipt of application is 4:30 p.m. (Eastern Standard Time), August 18, 2003. Applications received after the closing date and time will be classified as late.

**ADDRESSES:** Mailed and hand-carried applications will be received at the following address: ACYF Operations Center, Head Start-Higher Education Hispanic/Latino Service Partnerships

(HS-HEHLSPs), 1150 Connecticut Avenue, NW., Suite 1100, Washington, DC 20036, Telephone: 1-800-351-2293, E-mail: [HSB@esilsg.org](mailto:HSB@esilsg.org).

All packages should be clearly labeled as follows: Application for Head Start-Higher Education Hispanic/Latino Service Partnerships (HS-HEHLSPs). **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** The Head Start Discretionary Grant Support Team (1-800-351-2293-ACYF) is available to answer questions concerning application requirements. You may e-mail your questions to: [HSB@esilsg.org](mailto:HSB@esilsg.org). When contacting ACYF directly with programmatic questions send to William Wilson, Grants Officer, 330 C Street, SW., Washington, DC 20447, (202) 205-8913, [wwilson@acf.hhs.gov](mailto:wwilson@acf.hhs.gov).

If you are interested in submitting an application please send a post card or call at least two weeks prior to the submission deadline with the following information: the name, address, telephone and fax numbers, and e-mail address of the principle investigator and the name of the institution. This information will be used to determine the number of expert reviewers needed to evaluate applications. Send the declaration of interest information to: ACYF Operations Center, Head Start-Higher Education Hispanic/Latino Service Partnerships (HS-HEHLSPs), 1150 Connecticut Avenue, NW., Suite 1100, Washington, DC 20036, Telephone: 1-800-351-2293. E-mail: [HSB@esilsg.org](mailto:HSB@esilsg.org).

Copies of the program announcement, necessary application forms and appendices can be obtained by contacting the above address, and/or visiting the ACYF Web site at <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/hsb/grant/fundingopportunities/fundopport.htm>.

#### Fiscal Year 2003 Discretionary Announcement for Head Start—Higher Education Hispanic/Latino Service Partnerships

##### Part I. Purpose and Background

###### A. Purpose

Through this announcement, the Administration on Children, Youth and Families (ACYF) is making available up to \$1,500,000 annually for each of five (5) years to support Head Start "Higher Education Hispanic/Latino Service Partnerships (HS-HEHLSPs), which will be awarded through a competitive process. The HS-HEHLSPs initiative was developed in response to the White House Initiative on Hispanic Education. The purpose of HS-HEHLSPs is to improve the quality and long term effectiveness of Head Start and Early Head Start programs by developing

academic and other training models through partnerships between institutions of higher education and Head Start/Migrant Head Start/Early Head Start agencies. The institutions of higher education that will be funded under this initiative, together with currently funded HS-HEHLSPs, will form a consortium to share methods, approaches, experiences, and lessons learned. The consortium is a partner of the Head Start National Training and Technical Assistance (T&TA) network in providing assistance to Head Start/Migrant Head Start/Early Head Start grantees. Proposed partnership agreements are expected to be designed to benefit both the institutions of higher education and the participating Head Start/Migrant Head Start/Early Head Start grantees. Moreover, proposed partnerships are expected to reflect the unique training needs of participating Head Start grantees, including the provision of training that is accessible and responsive to trainees.

###### B. Background

The overall goal of Head Start is to enhance the healthy development and school readiness of children from low-income families. In order to accomplish this goal, Head Start provides comprehensive services to low-income children and their families. Head Start enhances children's physical, intellectual, social, and emotional development. It supports parents in their efforts to fulfill their parental roles and provides for their involvement in implementing the Head Start program.

In an attempt to ensure quality services to low-income children and their families, Head Start has conducted many demonstration projects, provided grantees with training and technical assistance, and given grantees funds to implement their own training efforts. For example, Head Start supported the creation of the Child Development Associate (CDA) credential designed for early childhood development teaching staff. Head Start also implemented the Head Start Partnerships with Historical Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), the Head Start Partnerships with Tribally Controlled Land Grant Colleges and Universities (TCUs), and other innovative training and staff development projects.

In the 1998 reauthorization of the Head Start Act, a key priority of Congress and the Administration was to continue to improve Head Start program quality and accountability. A number of provisions were included in the new law to achieve these goals, including new education performance standards and measures, expansion of program