

applications for professional development and training grants Tribally Controlled Land Grant Colleges and Universities (TCU) in partnership with Head Start and Early Head Start programs to improve services to American Indian and Alaska Native children and their families.

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 Tribally Controlled Land Grant Colleges and Universities (TCU) 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 American Indian and Alaska Native children and their families by developing academic and other training models and forming partnerships between the TCUs and Head Start and Early Head Start programs.

**CLOSING DATE:** The closing time and date for receipt of application is 4:30 p.m. (Eastern Time) on August 20, 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 Partnerships with Tribally Controlled Land Grant Colleges/Universities (TCUs), 1150 Connecticut Avenue, NW., Suite 1100, Washington, DC 20036, Telephone: 1-800-351-2293, e-mail: [HSB@esilsg.org](mailto:HSB@esilsg.org).

Hand delivered, courier or overnight delivery applications are accepted during the normal working hours of 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, on or prior to the established closing date. All packages should be clearly labeled as follows: Application for Head Start Partnerships with Tribally Controlled Land Grant Colleges/Universities (TCUs).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** The Head Start Discretionary Grant Support Team (1-800-351-2293) is available to answer questions concerning application requirements and to refer you to the appropriate contact person in ACYF for programmatic questions. You may e-mail your questions to: e-mail: [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 four weeks prior to the submission deadline with the following information: The name, address, telephone and fax numbers, and e-mail address of the principal 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, 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 Partnerships With Tribally Controlled Land Grant Colleges/Universities (TCUs)**

#### **Part I. Purpose and Background**

##### *A. Purpose*

This announcement of financial assistance, to be competitively awarded to Tribally Controlled Land Grant Colleges and Universities (TCUs), is to utilize the capabilities of these institutions of higher education to improve the quality and long-term effectiveness of Head Start and Early Head Start programs. This will be achieved by providing academic training and forming partnerships between the TCUs and Head Start grantees and delegate agencies funded through the American Indian and Alaskan Native Programs Branch (AIANPB) of the Head Start Bureau. The institutions of higher education that will be funded under this announcement, together with those TCUs currently funded under this initiative, 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 AIANPB Head Start grantees.

Throughout this announcement, the term Head Start program or Head Start agency refers to both AIANPB funded Head Start and Early Head Start grantees or delegate agencies unless otherwise specifically noted.

##### *B. Background*

The overall goal of Head Start is to ensure that children of low-income families nearing the end of the preschool period and entering school

are ready for school success. In order to accomplish this goal, Head Start provides comprehensive services to the 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. Another goal of Head Start is to strengthen community supports for families with young children while they are working towards employment and self-sufficiency.

In an attempt to ensure quality services to children and their low-income 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 and implemented the Head Start Teaching Centers and other innovative projects.

The Head Start-Tribally Controlled Land Grant Colleges/Universities Partnerships are closely aligned with the Head Start tradition of creating innovative programs and working with low-income children and their families. From 1999 to 2001, ACF awarded grants to 16 TCUs to form partnerships with Head Start programs funded through AIANPB and to provide training and education to Head Start staff members. A list of these 16 institutions can be found in Appendix A. This announcement will fund additional partnerships between AIANPB Head Start programs and TCUs.

In the 1998 reauthorization of the Head Start Act, a key priority of Congress 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 monitoring to incorporate evidence of progress on outcomes-based measures, expanded funding to upgrade program quality and staff compensation, and higher education standards for Head Start teachers. Among these provisions is the requirement that, by September 30, 2003, at least half of all Head Start teachers in center-based programs must have an AA, BA, or advanced degree in Early Childhood Education (ECE) or in a related field with preschool teaching experience. A degree in a field related to early childhood education means a program of study that includes six or