

private agencies in promoting collaboration among refugee communities, the network of refugee resettlement services, and children and youth services including child protective services, to promote the well-being of children in refugee families.

Refugee families residing in U.S. communities may encounter significant differences in child rearing practices compared to the ethnic or national customs of their country of origin, due to the following or related reasons: (1) Traditional cultures with strict parental roles may frequently conflict with the more egalitarian American family, resulting, for example, in differences in refugee youths' desire for early independence; (2) refugee families may experience trauma as a result of the persecution or flight, the effects of which may be destabilizing to family life; (3) refugee families may need income from both parents, unlike the practice in their home country, to adequately provide for their needs; (4) single refugee parent families face similar stresses that U.S. single parent families face in addition to the trauma from their refugee experiences; and (5) refugees may end up living in low-income neighborhoods with high crime rates and without the benefit of an ethnic community to provide information, guidance, and support.

Due to these factors and others, refugee families may encounter child protective services and other agencies of the judicial system. These experiences may not be easily understood by the refugee communities. As a result, refugee communities may become insecure and/or distrusting of the U.S. child welfare and child protective systems. This distrust or insecurity may result in difficulties for refugee families in their effort to establish homes that promote the well-being of the family members and where parents are secure in their role of providing a nurturing and educational environment for their children. These issues may also force children to face conflicts in meeting the expectations of their parents, fitting in with their peers, and developing a sense of belonging in their schools and social groups.

It has become clear over time that a productive relationship with child welfare services, child protective services, youth shelters, and other youth transitional and recreational services may be needed to promote refugee families' capacity to care for their children and/or youth in their new communities.

ORR is interested in supporting a national technical assistance cooperative agreement to promote

collaboration among refugee families, refugee service providers and the children and youth service agencies that promote the welfare of refugee families, refugee youth, and children. This cooperative agreement is also intended to promote cultural and linguistic services or access to services for refugee families. Approximately \$500,000 has been allocated for this program area.

Through this cooperative agreement, the grantee will submit a technical assistance plan for child welfare services for refugee families and communities that include the following: (1) Site visit locations and schedules; (2) written materials proposed for dissemination to the field; (3) workshop locations, topics, formats and agendas; and (4) technical support intended to strengthen the content and the delivery of the technical assistance being provided. ORR intends to review and approve technical assistance plan for child welfare services for refugee families and communities in these areas and other activities proposed by the grantee related to the allowable activities listed below. ORR will also provide direction and feedback in implementation of the critical elements of the technical assistance activities approved under this plan.

#### Allowable Activities

Applicants may propose all or some combination of the following, as well as other innovative strategies justifying their usefulness for technical assistance for the designated area:

- Provision of technical assistance to refugee communities, refugee service providers, school systems, school counselors, and refugee youth clubs, and child welfare and youth services agencies both in writing and through telephone consultation;
- Facilitating the electronic exchange of refugee child welfare information through a network website and listserve;
- Providing on-site group training or technical assistance meetings and workshops, drawing on positive traditions and community strengths to the extent practical;
- Promoting refugee families as foster parents;
- Identifying and disseminating youth coping skills in schools, communities and among families with deliberate focus on ORR funded youth and family related projects;
- Locating or developing training curricula and materials;
- Conducting on-site reviews of refugee child welfare services; and
- Providing technical assistance regarding guardianship to

Unaccompanied Refugee Minor programs and service providers assisting children eligible for ORR services.

#### Review Criteria—Refugee Child Welfare Services

*1. Organizational Profiles.* The capacity of the applicant to achieve the project's objectives is clearly demonstrated. Organizational expertise and experience in the provision of technical assistance and information sharing to assist parents and organizations in enhancing and promoting the well-being of refugee children and youth. (30 points)

*2. Approach.* The technical assistance plan is clearly described and appropriate, and the proposed activities and time frames are reasonable. The technical assistance plan describes clearly and in detail the manner in which the applicant will assess the need for technical assistance, the proposed activities, and how the proposed activities are expected to address known technical assistance needs of organizations and individuals caring for refugee children and youth. (20 points)

*3. Staff and Position Data.* Staff qualifications are clearly presented and are appropriate to achieving the project's objectives. The description of staff qualifications demonstrates experience in providing technical assistance to organizations and individuals assisting and caring for refugee children and youth. (20 points)

*4. Results or Benefits Expected.* The results or benefits expected are clearly explained and are appropriate to the technical assistance activities proposed. (15 points)

*5. Budget and Budget Justification.* The budget is clearly presented and is detailed, reasonable, and cost effective. (15 points)

#### Program Area 6—Technical Assistance to Promote Refugee Housing Opportunities

##### Purpose and Scope

The primary goal of refugee resettlement is to assist refugees in becoming self-sufficient. One factor critical to achieving this goal is access to affordable and decent housing. ORR proposes to award one cooperative agreement to assist an agency in the development of a project that will provide technical assistance to ORR service providers in the provision of this essential service.

This program area is intended to assist both service providers and refugees in gaining access to affordable and decent housing for refugee